

+ to *The company's alarm system is linked up to a twenty-four hour security service.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **join up, connect**

### link-up

**link-up** *n* [C]  
a connection between two or more computers or electronic systems: *Our hotel has twenty-six bedrooms, each with its own colour TV and video link-up.*

### 3 link up

to meet someone in order to do something or go somewhere with them

+ with *David drove north to link up with his Liverpool team-mates.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **meet up, join up**

## LIQUOR

### be liquored up

#### be liquored up

AmE *informal* to be drunk: *The fans were all liquored up after the game*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be drunk, be tanked up** *informal*

## LISTEN

*listened, listened, listening*

### listen for

#### listen for sth

to listen carefully so that you will hear a sound that you are expecting or hoping to hear: *I lay awake for a while, listening for the sound of his steps on the stairs.* | *Marcus picked up the phone and listened for the dialling tone.*

### listen in

### 1 listen in

to secretly listen to someone's private conversation, especially on the telephone: *Peter had picked up the other phone and was listening in when I got the news.*

+ on *As children, we used to creep downstairs and listen in on what the adults were saying.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **eavesdrop**

### 2 listen in

to listen to a radio programme, especially one involving conversation

+ to *I often listen in to the 'Today' programme on my way into work.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **listen**

### listen out for

#### listen out for sth

to listen carefully in order to hear something that you are expecting or hoping to hear: *She*

*lay in bed listening out for the sound of his feet on the stairs.* | *Farmers are being urged to listen out for flood warnings.*

## LITTER

### be littered with

### 1 be littered with sth

to be covered with a lot of something in an untidy way: *The ground was littered with corpses.* | *The cracked tiles beneath his feet were littered with cigarette butts.*

### 2 be littered with sth

to contain a lot of something, especially mistakes or examples of something bad that has happened: *Even at university, students' essays are often littered with spelling mistakes.* | *The history of the game is littered with cases of players who wasted their talents.*

## LIVE

*lived, lived, living*

### live by

#### live by sth

NOT PASSIVE

to follow carefully particular rules or beliefs that guide or affect your behaviour: *Clare lives by the philosophy that you can do anything if you are determined enough.* | *He refuses to live by anyone else's rules.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **abide by** *formal*

### live down

#### live sth down

#### live down sth

NOT PASSIVE

if you say that someone will not live something down, you mean that they will never make people forget about something silly or embarrassing that they have done: *I don't think he'll ever live this down!* | *The next morning I woke up and remembered what I'd done. How could I ever live it down?*

### live for

#### live for sth/sb

NOT PASSIVE

if you live for something or someone, they are so important to you that you feel they are your main reason for living: *All through the football season, I lived for Saturdays.* | *He seemed to be one of those boring old professors who live for their work.*

**have something/everything/nothing to live for** (=have something etc that makes life seem good and worth living) *At last Ben got engaged to a girl called Jane. This gave him something to live for.* | *Nobody could understand why she had killed herself. She had had everything to live for.*

**live in****1 live in**

if someone who is employed in a house or school lives in, they live at the place where they work: *Does your nanny live in?*

**live-in** ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

a live-in servant lives at the place where they work: *a live-in maid*

**2 live in**

especially BrE if students live in, they live in one of the buildings that belong to the university, college etc: *Most of the students live in during their first year.*

**live off****1 live off sth** NOT PASSIVE

to get money from something and use it in order to live: *Burley stopped working when he was sixty and spent the rest of his life living off his investments.*

**live off the land** (=live by growing and catching your own food) *Most of the people on the island live off the land.*

**2 live off sb** NOT PASSIVE

to get the money that you need to live from someone else, especially when you do not do any work yourself: *She can't go on living off her parents forever.* | *Students were just lazy good-for-nothings, who lived off the taxpayers' money.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sponge off**

**3 live off sth**

to only eat a particular kind of food: *Many teenagers tend to live off hamburgers and fries.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **live on**

**live on****1 live on sth** NOT PASSIVE

if you live on a particular amount of money, you have that amount of money available to buy the things you need to live: *At that time we were living on \$50 a week.*

**not have/make enough to live on** (=not have or earn enough money to buy the things you need) *A lot of artists can't make enough to live on.*

**2 live on sth** NOT PASSIVE

to only eat a particular kind of food: *Most of the population live on a diet of rice.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **live off**

**3 live on**

to continue to exist or live, especially for a long time or for longer than expected: *Great music lives on – long after the composer is*

*dead.* | *Many of the old traditions still live on.* | *A growing number of people live on into their eighties or nineties.*

**live out****1 live out your life/days/years**

to live for the rest of your life in a particular place or situation

+ **in** *Edward Lear lived out his life in Italy, a sick and lonely old man.* | *Too many old people live out their years in poverty.*

**2 live out sth** NOT PASSIVE

to do or experience something that you have always wanted to do or imagined yourself doing: *The money they won made it possible for them to live out their dreams.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fulfil, realize** formal

**3 live out**

BrE if a student or a person who is employed in a house or school lives out, they do not live in the place where they study or work: *A lot of second-year students decide to live out and share a house.*

**live through****live through sth** NOT PASSIVE

to experience a very difficult situation or event, often one that continues for a long time: *My grandfather lived through two World Wars.* | *We've lived through some very hard times together.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **endure** formal

**live together****live together**

if two people live together, they share a house and have a sexual relationship, but they are not married: *Mary and Alec had already lived together for several years before they decided to get married.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cohabit** formal

**live up****live it up**

to spend time doing exciting and enjoyable things, especially things that cost a lot of money: *My brother always liked living it up at expensive hotels and night clubs.* | *Hank looked at his wife. "Honey," he said, "it's time you started to live it up a bit."*

**live up to****live up to sth**

to be as good as people expect or hope: *Patisier lived up to her reputation, and easily won the women's event.* | *A lot of holiday resorts claim that you'll have a wonderful*

time – but I've found one that really lives up to its promises.

**live up to expectations** The result of the negotiations did not live up to expectations.

\* SIMILAR TO: **match up to**

### live with

#### 1 live with sb NOT PASSIVE

to share a house and have a sexual relationship with someone, without being married: Frank had asked her to come and live with him, but she wasn't sure.

\* SIMILAR TO: **shack up with sb** *informal*

#### 2 live with sth NOT PASSIVE

to accept something unpleasant as part of your life, because there is nothing you can do to change it or get rid of it: There was no treatment for the disease, and so Rebecca learnt to live with it. | I don't think I can live with these constant arguments.

\* SIMILAR TO: **put up with, tolerate**

## LIVEN

*livened, livened, livening*

### liven up

#### 1a liven up sth liven sth up

to make something become more interesting or exciting: You could always liven up the room with some colourful curtains and cushions. | Miller was great to have at parties. He quickly livened things up.

\* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up**

#### 1b liven up

to become more interesting and exciting: The game didn't liven up until midway through the second half.

\* SIMILAR TO: **come alive**

#### 2a liven sb up liven up sb

to make someone more cheerful and full of energy: He could do with a couple of drinks to liven him up!

\* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up, cheer up**

#### 2b liven up

to become more cheerful and full of energy: When people started arriving, he seemed to liven up.

\* SIMILAR TO: **brighten up, cheer up**

## LOAD

*loaded, loaded, loading*

### load down

#### 1 be loaded down with sth

to be carrying or holding a lot of things or people: We were all loaded down with

luggage, so we took a taxi to the airport. | A truck, loaded down with refugees, was fleeing from the fighting. | The table was loaded down with jellies and ice cream.

\* SIMILAR TO: **weigh down**

#### 2 load sb down load down sb

USUALLY PASSIVE

to give someone a lot of work, duties etc, especially more than they can deal with

+ **with** Everyone in the department is loaded down with work at the moment.

\* SIMILAR TO: **weigh down, be snowed under**

### load up

#### 1 load up sth load sth up load up

to put a lot of things into a vehicle or onto an animal before you start a journey: Dad loaded up the car the night before we left, so that we could leave early the next day.

+ **with** Apparently the plane was loaded up with £25,000 worth of marijuana, and then flown to South Florida. | Everyone on the expedition had to load up with enough food and water for two weeks.

\* SIMILAR TO: **pack**

#### 2 load up sth load sth up load up

BrE if a computer loads up a program, it goes through the processes that are necessary for you to use it: He read through his faxes while waiting for his computer to load up the programme. | This computer's very slow. It takes almost five minutes to load up.

### load up on

ALSO **load up with** *AmE*

#### load up on/with sth

to get or buy a lot of something that you need or want: Mum's always going to the store to load up with health foods. | We'll need to load up on alcohol well before Christmas.

\* SIMILAR TO: **stock up**

## LOAF

*loafed, loafed, loafing*

### loaf around

ALSO **loaf about** *BrE*

#### loaf around/about (sth)

*informal* to spend your time being lazy or doing nothing, often because you cannot find anything to do: Gary could only find a part-time job. The rest of the time he just loafed around. | If young people had more to occupy them, they wouldn't spend so much time loafing about the streets.

\* SIMILAR TO: **hang around, laze around, hang about** *BrE*

## LOAN

loaned, loaned, loaning

### loan out

loan sth/sb out    loan out sth/sb

to lend something or someone to another person, organization etc for a period of time: *Some of the paintings were loaned out to the museum by private collectors.* | *West Ham's manager was not prepared to loan out any of his players.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lend**

## LOCK

locked, locked, locking

### lock away

1 lock sth away    lock away sth

to put something in a safe place and lock the door, so that no one else can get or take it: *The police are advising people to lock their cars away at night.* | *Barry knew that the bottles of white pills were locked away in the school secretary's cupboard.*

● COMPARE: **lock up**

2 lock sb away    lock away sb

to put someone in prison or in a hospital for people who are mentally ill: *"You're a thief, Devlin," said Pearce. "And it's my job to catch thieves and lock them away."* | *That brother of yours, he's crazy. He should be locked away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lock up, put away** *informal*

3 lock yourself away

to go somewhere in order to be quiet or get away from other people: *The singer has now locked herself away in her Florida home and is refusing to speak to the press.* | *He used to lock himself away in the garden shed in order to do his writing.*

**be locked away** *She's been locked away in her office all afternoon.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shut away, hide away**

4 lock sth away    lock away sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

to keep information, feelings etc secret or hidden from people: *I was happy to keep the events of that night locked away in my head.* | *Liddy seemed really depressed, as if all her emotions were locked away inside her.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **suppress** *formal*

### lock in

lock sb in    lock in sb

to prevent someone from leaving a room or building by locking the door: *The guard locked him in, then sat down outside the door.*

**be locked in** (=be unable to get out of a room or building because you cannot open the door) *Help! I'm locked in!*

### be locked in/into

be locked in/into sth

to be involved in an argument, fight etc with someone, especially one that it is difficult to get out of: *The couple, now divorced, are locked in a long battle over their children.*

**get/become locked into sth** *Neither side wants to get locked into a long civil war.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be embroiled in** *formal*

### lock in on

ALSO **lock onto**

lock in on sth    lock onto sth NOT PASSIVE

if a missile locks in on the object it is aimed at, it finds its position and moves straight towards it in order to destroy it. A missile is an explosive weapon which is fired through the air: *Unfortunately the missile had already locked in on its target, and there was nothing the pilot could do to stop it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **home in on**

### lock out

1 lock sb out    lock out sb

to deliberately prevent someone from entering a place, especially their own home, by locking the door: *The court heard that Simms had beaten his wife and locked her out.*

2 lock yourself out

to leave your keys inside a building, room, car etc by mistake, with the result that you cannot get back inside it after the door has shut: *Oh no! I've locked myself out of my room!* | *We always leave a spare key with our neighbours now, in case we lock ourselves out.*

3 lock sb out    lock out sb

if the employers at a place of work lock out the workers, they prevent the workers from coming in until the workers agree to what the employers want: *The banks locked out employees on February 1st for refusing to handle inter-bank payments.*

**lockout** *n* [C]

when employers prevent workers from coming to work until the workers agree to what the employers want: *When the miners went on strike, management responded with a lockout.*

### lock up

1 lock sth up    lock up sth    lock up

to lock all the doors and windows of a building or a car so that no one can get in: *When we arrived, the house was all locked up and there*



was no sign of anyone. | Did you remember to turn off the lights and lock up?

### lock-up N [C]

BrE a garage that someone rents and that can be locked safely, often one that is used for storing things: *Underhill stopped in front of a lock-up on Dale Street, opened the door and carried the boxes inside.* | a lock-up garage

### 2 lock sb up lock up sb

to put or keep someone in prison, or in a hospital for people who are mentally ill: *The governor argued that tougher laws and locking up criminals had helped to lower the crime rate.* | *Mansell's wife described her husband as a sick man. "He should be locked up," she said.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lock away, put away** informal

### lockup N [C]

a prison, especially a small one, or a room in a prison: *On Friday night there were already five guys inside the lockup at the police station.*

### 3 lock sth up lock up sth

to put something in a safe place and lock the door: *The silver knives and forks were always locked up when they weren't in use.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lock away**

### 4 be locked up

if your money is locked up, you have put it into a financial plan or a business in order to make more money, and you cannot take it out and use it for a specific period of time

+ in *If your money is locked up in an investment plan while interest rates are low, it could be the wrong choice.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be tied up**

## LOG

logged, logged, logging

### log in/on/into/onto

#### log in/on log into/onto sth

to do the things that are necessary to start using a computer system, for example by typing in particular words: *Someone else had logged in under my name and used my password.* | *When I logged onto my computer I found dozens of e-mails waiting for me.*

**log onto the Internet** *These days children can log onto the Internet and find out information about anything they want.*

● OPPOSITE: **log off, log out**

### log-in, log-on N [C]

the name or special word needed to start using a computer system, or the action of starting to use a computer system by typing a name or special word: *Normally the person's log-in is not known to anyone else*

*except for the network administrator.* | *The system records all log-on attempts in a special file.*

## log off/out

### log off log out log off sth

to finish using a computer system by typing in a special word or instruction: *Make sure you save your work on a back-up disc before you log off.* | *I logged out and switched off my machine.*

● OPPOSITE: **log in/on/into/onto**

## LOLL

lollled, lollled, lolling

### loll about/around

#### loll around/about loll around/about sth

BrE to sit or lie somewhere in a very lazy or relaxed way, doing very little, especially when you should be doing something else: *Her husband spends the evenings lolling around on the sofa watching television, whilst she does all the housework.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **loaf around, laze around**

## LONG

longed, longed, longing

### long for

#### long for sth

to want something or someone very much, especially when it seems unlikely that you will get what you want or when you have been waiting for a long time: *After 20 years of marriage she was longing for a little more excitement in her life.* | *The king and queen had always longed for a child.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hanker after/for, yearn for**

## LOOK

looked, looked, looking

### look after

#### 1 look after sb

to spend time with someone and make sure that they are safe and have the things they need, especially a child or someone who is sick: *Her husband looks after the children while she's at work.* | *More and more people started bringing me injured birds to look after.* | *The doctors there are very good, and I'm sure you'll be well looked after.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take care of**

#### 2 look after sth

to keep something in good condition or make sure that something does not get broken,

damaged, or stolen, especially something that belongs to someone else: *Who is responsible for looking after the college gardens?* | *The neighbours are looking after the house for us while we're away.* | *Can you look after my bags while I go up to the bar?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take care of**

### 3 look after sth

to be responsible for dealing with something over a period of time: *Hugh looks after the financial side of the business.* | *Her eldest son was appointed to look after her affairs after her death.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take care of**

### 4 look after yourself

spoken used when you are saying goodbye to someone in a friendly way: *"See you, Tony."* | *"Yeah, you look after yourself!"*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take care**

### 5 be able to look after yourself

to not need anyone else to keep you safe or to help you: *Don't worry about Joanna – she's perfectly able to look after herself.*

## look ahead

### look ahead

to think about what will happen in the future so that you can make plans or talk about what is likely to happen: *Looking ahead to the 21st century, do you think the US will be able to keep its position as the dominant world superpower?* | *It's important to look ahead and make sufficient provision financially for your retirement.*

**look ahead** N [SINGULAR]

if you have a look ahead, you think or talk about what will happen in the future: *He finally, a quick look ahead to what's on Channel 4 this weekend.*

## look around

ALSO **look round** BrE

### 1 look around/round

#### look around/round sth

to walk around a place looking at the various things there: *They spent the morning looking around the old part of the city.* | *Welcome to your new home! Would you like to look around while I make some coffee?*

**look around** ALSO **look round** BrE N

[SINGULAR]

*Do you mind if I have a quick look around, just to make sure that everything's OK?*

### 2 look around/round

to try to find something by looking in different places, asking people etc: *She spent several months looking around, trying to find a better job.*

+ for *Tom began to look around for a place to live.*

**look around** ALSO **look round** BrE N

[SINGULAR]

if you have a look around, you try to find something by looking in different places, asking people etc, usually for a short period of time: *They had a look around at the back of the house, but there was no sign of any cat to be seen.*

## look at

### 1 look at sth

to examine something carefully, especially to find out what is wrong with it or to find out more about it – use this especially about a doctor, engineer, or other trained person examining something: *He took the car to his nearest garage so that a mechanic could look at it.* | *Scientists are looking at the genetic structure of certain types of worm.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **examine**

### 2 look at sth

to study and consider something, especially in order to decide what to do about it: *The company is currently looking at ways in which it can improve its image.* | *A national advisory group has been appointed to look at the question of prison reform.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **look into, examine, investigate**

### 3 look at sth

to read something, especially quickly and not very carefully: *Have you had time to look at your e-mail this morning?* | *Marjorie asked him to look at the report for her before she sent it out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **read/look through, look over**

### 4 look at sth

to consider something in a particular way: *You'll look at things differently when you get to my age.* | *Studying oriental medicine has changed the way that these western doctors look at healing.* | *The way I look at it, I might be poor, but at least I'm doing what I want to do.*

### 5 look at sb/sth

spoken used when you are mentioning someone or something as an example to prove what you have just said: *You don't have to be young to be a popstar. Look at Cliff Richard.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take sb/sth for example**

### 6 not look at sb/sth

especially spoken to not want to accept an offer because it is much too low, or not be interested in someone or something because they are not the right type: *"How much do you think they want for the house?" "I don't think they'll look at anything under \$200,000."*

**not look twice at sb/sth** *especially spoken*  
(=not be even slightly interested in something or someone) *I'm old enough to be her father. She wouldn't look twice at me.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **consider**

## look away

### look away

to turn your eyes away from someone or something so that you cannot see them: *When the old man asked her for money she just looked away and ignored him. | It was a gruesome sight and Theresa looked away.*

+ **from** *Shirley looked away from the road in front of her for a second, and the next thing she knew she was in the hospital.*

## look back

### 1 look back

to think about or remember a situation that happened in the past: *Looking back, I wish I hadn't said some of those things. I must have seemed incredibly rude.*

+ **on** *Whenever Ellen looked back on her childhood in Wales, she was filled with happy memories.*

+ **to** *In his latest novel, he looks back to the early 1970s.*

### 2 sb hasn't looked back (since)

used to say that someone has continued to be successful since a particular time: *He won his first Wimbledon title when he was only 20, and hasn't looked back since.*

## look down on

### 1 look down on sb

to think you are better than someone else, for example because you are more successful, or of a higher social class than they are: *People tend to look down on housewives these days and think they should have careers. | Adam always felt that we looked down on him because he hadn't been to university.*

### 2 look down on sth

to think that something is not very good because it is of poor quality, or has nothing interesting in it. Use this when you disagree with people who think in this way: *Some people look down on Marlow, but it's actually quite a nice place to live. | Romantic novels are generally looked down on by serious literary scholars.*

## look for

### 1 look for sb/sth

to try to find someone or something, for example because you need them or have lost

them: *He said he was looking for a place to stay for a few weeks. | Karen went back to look for her husband, but he was nowhere to be seen. | Scientists believe they have finally found the answer they've been looking for.*

**the police are looking for sb** (=they are trying to find someone who may have been involved in a crime) *The police are looking for a man in his early twenties, who was seen running away from the scene of the crime.*

### 2 be looking for sb

be trying to find a particular kind of person for a job: *I'm sorry, but we're looking for someone with more experience.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **search for, seek** *formal*

## look forward to

### look forward to sth

to be excited and happy about something good that is going to happen and think about it a lot

**look forward to doing sth** *I'm really looking forward to seeing my family again.*

**look forward to sth** *It had been a long day, and he was looking forward to a nice hot shower when he got home. | old people with nothing much left to look forward to in their lives*

## look in

### look in

*especially spoken* to visit someone for a short time, usually when you are going somewhere else, especially to find out if they are all right

+ **on** *I thought I'd look in on Michael on my way home.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drop in** *formal*, **call in** *BrE*

## look into

### 1 look into sth

to try to find out the facts about something such as a crime, a problem, or an accident, so that it can be dealt with: *Police authorities say they will look into the matter. | A special committee was appointed to look into allegations of public corruption following the Watergate affair.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **investigate**

### 2 look into sth

to find out more about something by getting all the necessary information: *It sounds like an interesting idea for a holiday – I'll definitely look into it.*

**look on**SEE ALSO **look on/upon****look on**

to watch something while it is happening but not take part in it or try to stop it: *Reporters looked on in horror as the man was dragged away and beaten to death.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **watch****onlooker** N [C]

someone who watches something while it happens, without being involved in it: *A crowd of curious onlookers had gathered around the building where the hostages were being held.*

**look on/upon**

● **Look upon** is more formal than **look on** and is mostly used in writing.

**look on/upon** sb/sth

to consider someone or something in a particular way, or as a particular kind of person or thing

+ **as** *We've always looked on Jack as one of the family. | Instead of being pleased, he appeared to look on the offer as an insult.*

+ **with** *There are places where a video camera is looked upon with great suspicion.*

**look kindly/favourably on sb/sth** (=have a good opinion of someone or something and want to support them) *Congress is expected to look favourably on the plan.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **consider****look out****1 look out!**

spoken use this to warn someone that they are in danger and that they must do something to avoid it: *Look out! There's a train coming!* | *"Look out!" yelled Willie. "He's got a gun!"*

\* SIMILAR TO: **watch out****lookout** N [C]

someone whose duty is to watch carefully to see if anyone comes or for other signs of danger: *One of the lookouts saw a column of tanks approaching in the distance.*

**lookout** N [C]

a high place where people can watch to see if anyone is coming or for other signs of danger: *a mountain lookout*

**2 look out sth** **look sth out**

BrE spoken to try to find something that is stored away somewhere, especially in order to show it to someone: *I've got a photograph of them somewhere. I can look it out if you're interested.*

**look out for****1 look out for** sb/sth NOT PASSIVE

to look carefully and pay close attention in order to try to see someone or something: *We kept looking out for him, but there was no sign at all. | If you're visiting the Toshogu Shrine in Nikko, look out for the carving of the Sleeping Cat.*

**be on the lookout for sb/sth**

to watch a place or situation continuously in order to find something you want or to be ready for problems or opportunities: *Police were on the lookout for anyone behaving suspiciously. | We're always on the lookout for new business opportunities.*

**2 look out for** sb

to do what is best for someone, protect them, and make sure that they have as many advantages as possible: *We were a close group of friends, and we all looked out for each other.*

**look out for yourself** *No one else is going to help you get to the top. You have to look out for yourself.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **look after****look over****look sth over** **look over sth**

to quickly examine someone or something, to see if there is anything wrong with them or to see what they are like: *Jarrell held the gun up to his eyes and looked it over carefully. | The girl looked him over coldly and laughed. "A writer! That's the funniest thing I've heard all week."*

**look round** BrESEE **look around****look through****1 look through** sth

to look for something among a pile of paper, in a drawer, in someone's pockets etc: *FBI agents are looking through her apartment for fingerprints. | Patrick and I carefully looked through Bob's drawer to see if there was anything to show where he could have gone.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go through****2 look through** sth

to read something quickly and not very carefully: *Can you look through the report and tell me what you think of it? | Mr Firtchel looked through his diary and announced that he would be busy until the New Year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **look at****3 look through** sb

to look at someone and seem not to notice

them or pretend not to recognize them, because you are thinking about other things or because you are angry with them

**look straight/right through sb** *I waved to her in the street, but she just looked straight through me.*

## look to

### 1 look to sb/sth

to depend on someone or something to provide you with help, advice etc, or hope that they will do this

+ **for** *People are already looking to the Internet for all of their shopping needs.* | *European artists like Gauguin and Cezanne looked to the East for their inspiration.*

**look to sb to do sth** *Arab states looked to Russia to support them against the United States.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon, rely on/upon, turn to**

### 2 look to sth

to pay attention to something so that it affects the way you behave or what you decide to do: *We need to stop thinking about the past and start looking to the future.* | *Companies tend only to look to short term profits.* | *American military planners should look to the lessons that were learned in Vietnam.*

## look up

### 1 look up sth look sth up

to try to find information about something in a book, in a list, in computer records etc: *If you don't know what the word means, look it up in a dictionary.* | *She looked up his number in the phonebook.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **consult** *formal*

### 2 look sb up look up sb

to visit someone, especially someone that you have not seen for a long time, when you are visiting the area where they live: *If you're ever in Atlanta, look me up.* | *He thought he'd stay on a few more days and try to look up a few old friends.*

### 3 look up USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a situation is looking up, it is improving and you are starting to feel more hopeful about the future: *In Cuba the economy is looking up.*

**things are looking up** (=the situation is improving) *They had a lot of problems last year, but now things are looking up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **improve, get better**

## look upon

SEE **look on**

## look up to

### look up to sb

to admire or respect someone a lot, for example because they are older than you and have a lot of experience or knowledge: *The player I used to look up to when I was younger was John McEnroe.* | *"You know I've always looked up to you as my father-figure," she said.*

## LOOM

*loomed, loomed, looming*

## loom ahead

### loom ahead

if an unpleasant or worrying situation looms ahead, it is going to happen soon and people are worried or frightened: *With economic difficulties looming ahead, people are cutting down on their spending and keeping their money in the bank.*

## loom up

### loom up

if something looms up, it suddenly appears as a large unclear shape as you come close to it: *The city's skyscrapers loom up out of the mist.* | *A huge truck loomed up in front of them.*

## LOOSE

*loosed, loosed, loosing*

## loose off

### loose off sth loose sth off

BrE to fire bullets, bombs etc: *The soldiers loosed off a few rounds of ammunition over the heads of the crowd.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fire**

## loose on/upon

### loose sth on sb/sth

### loose sth upon sb/sth USUALLY PASSIVE

*literary* to allow something very dangerous to harm people or destroy something: *Although no one realised it at the time, a deadly disease had been loosed on the public.* | *The power of the bomb was loosed on Nagasaki on August 9th.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **unleash**

## LOOSEN

*loosened, loosened, loosening*

## loosen up

### 1 loosen up

to become more relaxed and stop being serious, worried, or nervous when you are with

other people: *After a couple of drinks she began to loosen up a little.* | "Come on honey, loosen up!" his wife said to him.

\* SIMILAR TO: **relax**

## 2 loosen up sth    loosen sth up

### loosen up

to make your muscles more relaxed, usually by doing exercises, for example before playing a sport: *The players were loosening up before the game*

\* SIMILAR TO: **limber up** especially BrE

## LOP

lopped, lopped, lopping

### lop off

## 1 lop off sth    lop sth off

to quickly cut off a part of something such as a branch of a tree or a part of someone's body by hitting it hard with a sharp tool: *He picked up the axe and began lopping off branches from a nearby tree for firewood.* | *Thieves are liable to have their hands lopped off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chop off**

## 2 lop off sth    lop sth off

to reduce something by a particular amount, especially a large amount – used especially in newspaper and television reports: *\$10 billion has been lopped off the defense budget.*

## LORD

lorded, lorded, lording

### lord over

#### lord it over sb

if someone lords it over you they behave in a way that shows they think they are much more important than you and they keep telling you what to do in a way that is very annoying and unreasonable: *She seemed to enjoy lording it over the other members of her team.*

## LOSE

lost, lost, losing

### lose in

## 1 be lost in sth

to be thinking about something so much that you do not pay attention to what is happening around you: *Kerry was sitting in her armchair, lost in a book.* | *a dreamy child who was lost in his own little world*

**lost in thought** *I walked slowly back to my office, lost in thought.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be absorbed in sth, be engrossed in sth**

## 2 lose yourself in sth

to become so involved in what you are doing that you do not think about anything else: *When Warren left her, she tried to lose herself in her work.*

### lose out

#### lose out

to not get an advantage that someone else has, or that someone else succeeds in getting instead of you: *Single people could lose out financially under the new tax system.*

**lose out to sb** (=another person, organization etc succeeds in getting something instead of you) *US firms are losing out to foreign competitors, due to the high value of the dollar compared to other currencies.*

**+ on** *Shell has lost out on an oil bonanza worth at least \$1 billion.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **miss out**

## LOUNGE

lounged, lounged, lounging

### lounged around

ALSO **lounged about** especially BrE

#### lounged around/about

#### lounged around/about sth

to spend time doing very little in a relaxed and lazy way, usually lying or sitting down: *They spent most of the first week lounging around the hotel pool.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **laze around, doss about/around** BrE informal

## LOUSE

loused, loused, lousing

### louse up

#### louse sth up    louse up sth

informal to do something very badly, especially by making a lot of careless mistakes: *Don't give the job to Ted – he'll only louse it up.* | "How did you do in your test?" "I really loused it up."

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

## LOVE

### be loved up

#### be loved up

informal to feel very friendly to other people, especially because you have taken drugs: *It was great at the festival. Everyone was really loved up, including Mick.*



**LUCK**

lucked, lucked, lucking

**luck into****luck into** sth

AmE to get something you want without expecting to get it: *Reed lucked into a simple TV role that led to his successful acting career.*

**luck out****luck out**

AmE informal to be very lucky: *"I lucked out," said Eric Reinholm, whose house wasn't damaged in the fire.*

**LULL**

lulled, lulled, lulling

**lull into****lull sb into** sth

to deceive someone and make them feel safe or confident, so that they are completely surprised when you attack them or when something bad happens to them

**lull sb into a false sense of security** *United lulled their opponents into a false sense of security, and then scored three goals in the last 15 minutes.*

**lull sb into doing sth** *The police managed to lull Newall into believing that no one knew about his activities.*

**lull sb into sth** *Japanese companies, lulled into a mood of complacency by Japan's economic miracle, are delaying cost-cutting and becoming increasingly inefficient.*

**LUMBER**

lumbered, lumbered, lumbering

**lumber with****be lumbered with** sth/sb

BrE informal if you are lumbered with something or someone, you have to deal with them or accept them, even though you do not want to because they are difficult, annoying, expensive etc: *I'm sorry you got lumbered with the bill. | She's probably the most boring person I've ever met – I don't like the idea of being lumbered with her all evening.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be saddled with sth**

**LUMP**

lumped, lumped, lumping

**lump together****lump sb/sth together**

to consider two or more different people or things as a single type or group, and not treat them separately – used especially when you think that it is wrong to do this: *They were all lumped together as troublemakers and kept under close watch by the police. | A great many plants are lumped together under the label of herbs.*

**LUNGE**

lunged, lunged, lunging

**lunge at****lunge at** sb/sth

to suddenly jump towards a person or animal in order to attack them: *The man lunged at her with a knife. | Flashman lunged at the photographer, grabbed his camera, and smashed it on the ground.*

**LUST**

lusted, lusted, lusting

**lust after****1 lust after** sb

to feel very attracted to someone and want to have sex with them very much – often used humorously: *Apparently Jane had been secretly lusting after Michael for years.*

**2 lust after** sth

informal to want something very much, especially something that is very expensive or difficult to get – often used humorously: *A lot of guys spend their lives lusting after Porsches and Jaguars.*

**LUXURIATE**

luxuriated, luxuriated, luxuriating

**luxuriate in****luxuriate in** sth NOT PASSIVE

to spend time enjoying something very much and getting a lot of pleasure from it: *She imagined herself luxuriating in a nice hot bath. | We spent the evenings lying on the deck and luxuriating in the cool breezes wafting off the Nile.*

# M

## MAGIC

magicked, magicked, magicking

### magic away

magic sth away    magic away sth

BrE to make something disappear quickly and without any effort: *The new government was facing a serious political problem which couldn't be magicked away.*

### magic up

magic sth up    magic up sth

to make something appear quickly and without any effort: *The program can magic up facts on any subject within a couple of minutes.*

## MAJOR

majored, majored, majoring

### major in

major in sth

AmE to study something as your main subject at a college or university: *She decided to major in biology.*

● COMPARE: **minor in**

## MAKE

made, made, making

### make after

make after sb/sth NOT PASSIVE

BrE to chase someone or something: *Hencke made after the man, but all he could see was his back in the distance.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chase**

### make away with

- 1 **make away with sth** NOT PASSIVE

BrE informal to steal something and escape with it: *Thieves made away with thousands of dollars worth of jewellery.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **make off with**

- 2 **make away with sb**

BrE old-fashioned to kill someone, especially after deciding to do it and planning it secretly: *Mrs Jonathan now realized that she would never get a divorce. So she decided to make away with him instead.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **kill, do away with** informal

## make for

- 1 **make for sth** NOT PASSIVE

to move towards something: *At last the film finished and we got up and made for the exit.* | *The two pilots made for Barber's Point and awaited instructions for take-off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **head for**

- 2 **be made for each other**

if two people are made for each other, they each seem to be the perfect person for the other to have a happy relationship with: *I'd like to see Seb and Carrie get married. They're made for each other.*

- 3 **make for sth** NOT PASSIVE

to help to cause a particular effect or situation, or to produce a particular result: *The game was played in heavy rain, which made for very dangerous conditions.* | *With restaurants open late into the night, it all makes for a festive atmosphere.* | *The author's description is vivid and thorough, and this makes for a very good read.*

## make into

- 1 **make sth into sth**

to change something in order to use it in a different way or for a different purpose: *Sagan's best-selling book is being made into a movie by director Robert Zemeckis.* | *The assistant showed us how an ordinary-looking sofa could be made into two beds.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn into**

- 2 **make sb into sth**

to change someone so that they become a different sort of person or have a different position in society: *The film made her into a star overnight.* | *Russell had spent a year in prison before he was found not guilty. It had made him into a bitter man.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn into**

## make of

what do you make of sth/sb?

if you ask someone what they make of something or someone, you want to know what their opinion of or reaction to them is: *"I say, what do you make of this?" Martin said, pointing to a small article in that morning's paper.*

**not know what to make of sth/sb** (=not know how to understand or react towards something or someone) *When the company suddenly announced that its regional offices were closing, we didn't know what to make of it.* | *Hudson didn't like children, and never really knew what to make of his son.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **think of**

**make off****make off** ✕

to leave quickly, especially in order to escape: *Detectives believe that the gunmen made off in the direction of Barnwell Park.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

**make off with****make off with** sth NOT PASSIVE

to steal something and escape with it: *Biggs and sixteen others made off with £2.5 million in the Great Train Robbery of 1965.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **make away with**

**make out****1** **make out** sth **make** sth out NOT PASSIVE

if you can make something out, you can see or hear it, but with difficulty: *In the semi-darkness, Delaney could just make out the Russian's face.*

**not be able to make sth out** (=not be able to see or hear something clearly) *The words were in small print and I couldn't quite make them out. | Maurice could hear voices in the kitchen below, but he couldn't make out what was being said.*

**2** **make out** sth **make** sth out NOT PASSIVE,

USUALLY NEGATIVE

if you can make something out, you can understand it although it is difficult to understand: *Nobody could make out exactly what Murphy was trying to say. | I can't make out why she did that, can you?*

**from what sb can make out...** (=according to what someone understands about a situation, although it may not be correct) *From what I can make out, the girl ran straight into the road, without stopping to look.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work out** especially BrE, **figure out**

**3** **make** sth/sb **out** to be sth

to describe something or someone, usually wrongly, as a particular type of thing or person, because you want people to believe that it is true: *He was a good man, but the press made him out to be weak and unimportant. | So what about fox-hunting? Is it really the bloody sport that it's made out to be?*

**4** **make out** (that)

especially BrE to try to make people believe that something is true when it is not: *Don't you make out I'm a liar, Eric, or I'll knock you down! | When Mum came in I was still feeling really annoyed so I made out that I was watching TV.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pretend**

**5** **make out** a cheque/bill etc

to write the necessary information on a cheque, bill etc: *We sat down to wait while the receptionist made out our bill. | I mailed a check for \$30.80, made out to Lakewood Country Club.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **write out**

**6** **can't make** sb out

if you can't make someone out, you cannot understand what kind of person they are, or why they behave as they do: *Dorothy's such a quiet reserved person. I've never been able to make her out at all.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **can't figure sb out, can't work sb out** BrE

**7** **make out**

AmE informal to kiss and touch someone in a sexual way: *A couple of teenagers were making out in the back of the movie theater.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **snog** BrE informal

**8** **how did you make out?**

spoken used to ask if someone was successful: *How did you make out in the race yesterday?*

**make over****make** sth over

BrE to officially give money or property to someone else, so that it legally belongs to them

+ to *When Rose reached sixty, she made over the farm to her son.*

**make towards****make towards** sth

especially BrE to start moving towards something: *Without a word, Bert gently picked up the frightened child and made towards the house.*

**make up****1** **make up** sth USUALLY PASSIVE

if a number of parts or members make up something, they combine together to form it: *Women made up over 40% of the workforce. | the countries that make up the United Nations*

**be made up of** *Indonesia is made up of over 13,000 islands. | The group was made up of a psychologist, a social worker, and myself.*

**make-up** N [U]

the things or people that something consists of: *There have been a lot of changes to the make-up of the team.*

**2** **make up** your mind/make your mind up

to make a definite decision or choice, after thinking about it for a long time: *I wish he'd hurry up and make up his mind. | In the fall of 1945 he made up his mind to quit school.*

+ **what/which/whether** etc *The doctors couldn't make up their minds what to do.*

+ **(that)** *By the time they got home he had already made up his mind that he wanted to marry her.*

**sb's mind is made up** (=they have decided to do something and are determined to do it) *From the moment she saw her first baller her mind was made up. She wanted to be a dancer, and nothing else.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **decide**

### 3 **make up sth**    **make sth up**

to think of a lie, excuse, or story that is not true in order to deceive someone: *Diana's brother accused the press of harassing her and making up stories about her. | I bet he's making it all up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **invent**

**made-up** ADJ

not true and intended to deceive someone: *She just gave them some made-up story about how she needed the money for an emergency.*

### 4 **make up sth**    **make sth up**

to think of something new using your imagination, for example the words for a new song, story etc: *The soldiers used to make up rude songs about him. | He couldn't remember any fairy stories, so he made one up about a magic carpet – the children loved it.*

**make it up as you go along** (=decide how to do something while you are doing it instead of planning it before) *We didn't have any experience when we started the company, so we just made it up as we went along.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **invent**

### 5 **make up sth**    **made sth up**

to prepare or arrange something so that it is ready to be used – use this about lists, beds, sandwiches, or medicines: *My wife's made up a bed for you in the spare room. | Shall I make up some sandwiches?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **prepare, get ready**

### 6 **make up**    **make it up**

if two people who have had an argument make up, they talk to each other and agree to become friends again

+ **with** *Although the father had made up with his daughter, there was still a strain between him and his son-in-law.*

**kiss and make up** *spoken* (=become friendly again with someone after an argument) *Alderson isn't about to kiss and make up with his adversaries soon, and has issued a string of lawsuits against them.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **patch up**

### 7 **make up sth**    **make sth up**

if you make up time that you have taken off work, you spend that time working later: *Janine took the morning off and told her boss that she'll make it up later. | I'm going home early – I'll make up the time tomorrow.*

**make-up test** N [C]

AmE a test in school or college that you do later than other people in the class, because you were not there to do it at the same time

### 8 **make up sth**

to add to an amount or number, so that you have the amount or number that you need in order to do something: *I'm paying £800 towards the car, and my parents say they'll make up the rest of the money. | We need two more players to make up the team.*

**make up the difference** (=pay the remaining money that is needed) *70% of the theatre's costs are covered by ticket sales, with a government grant making up the difference.*

### 9 **make up sb**    **make sb up**

to put coloured creams, powders etc onto someone's face to change the way they look: *She had been made up to look like an old woman.*

**make-up** N [U]

coloured creams, powders etc that people, especially women and actors, put on their face to change their appearance: *I always go for heavy sixties-style eye make-up. | She paused before applying her make-up and stared at the mirror.*

### 10 **make up sth**    **make sth up**

to make a dress, suit etc by cutting and sewing cloth: *We have these suits made up for us in the Far East. | If you have a sewing machine you can save money on clothes by making them up yourself.*

## make up for

### 1 **make up for sth**

if a good situation makes up for a bad one, it makes you forget the bad situation and feel happy again: *Last night's victory made up for all the problems we've had in previous games.*

**more than make up for sth** (=be so good that it makes the bad situation seem unimportant) *She felt exhausted, but the sheer pleasure of having reached the summit more than made up for it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **compensate for**

### 2 **make up for sth** NOT PASSIVE

to do something good for someone after doing something bad to them, so that they forgive you: *Can I buy you lunch to make up for being late? | Mike forgot his wife's birthday – so he took her to Paris to make up for it.*

**3** **make up for sth**

to have so much of a good quality that it is not important that you do not have enough of another quality: *Perhaps Sue lacked natural skill, but she certainly made up for that with her enthusiasm.* | *What the diamonds lacked in size, they apparently made up for in quality.*

**4** **make up for lost time**

**a** to work more quickly or at times when you do not usually work, because something has prevented you from doing your work: *I was ill last week, so I had to work all weekend to make up for lost time.*

**b** to become involved in an activity very eagerly, because you wish you had discovered it earlier in your life: *Ursula didn't start dancing until she was 40, so now she feels she's trying to make up for lost time.*

**make up to****1** **make it up to sb**

to do something good for someone after disappointing them or treating them badly, so that they forgive you: *I'm sorry I haven't seen you much lately, but I'll make it up to you, I promise.*

**2** **make up to sb** NOT PASSIVE

to talk to someone in a very friendly way because you want to have sex with them: *Paul came to the party uninvited, and then started making up to all the women.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chat up** BrE informal

**3** **make up to sb** NOT PASSIVE

BrE old-fashioned to be very friendly to someone in authority because you want them to do something for you: *students who start making up to the teacher just before the exams*

\* SIMILAR TO: **suck up to** informal

**MAP**

mapped, mapped, mapping

**map out**

**map out sth**    **map sth out**

to plan something carefully or to explain carefully what your plans are: *Felicity's future had been mapped out for her by wealthy and adoring parents.* | *The Chancellor mapped out yesterday what he hopes is Britain's road to recovery.*

**MARCH**

marched, marched, marching

**march on**

**march on sth**

to walk to a particular place in a large group in order to attack it or to protest about

something: *Mikael gathered his troops and prepared to march on Addis Ababa.* | *Demonstrators marched on the government in Berlin, and demanded that its leaders answer for their policies.*

**MARK**

marked, marked, marking

**mark as**

**mark sb/sth as sth**

to show or consider that someone or something is a particular type of person or thing: *Townsend's skill and speed mark him as a player of potential.* | *When she first saw Patrick she had marked him as a bully.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mark down as** BrE, **label**

**mark down****1** **mark sth down**    **mark down sth**

to reduce the price of something: *Pentos shares were marked down by 14p to 56p.* | *The store was having its final sale on Friday, with everything marked down by 20%.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

● OPPOSITE: **mark up**

**markdown** N [C]

a reduction in the price of something: *We are offering a 20% markdown on selected products.*

**2** **mark down sth**    **mark sth down**

to write something down, especially in order to keep a record: *As part of the diet, I had to mark down everything I ate each day.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jot down**

**3** **mark sb/sth down**    **mark down sb/sth**

if teachers mark a student or their work down, they give the student a lower score: *Miss Perkovich marked me down three points for beginning a sentence with 'but'.*

**mark down as**

**mark sb/sth down as sth**

BrE to consider someone or something to be a particular type of person or thing: *From the start of his rugby career, Andrew has been marked down as a very exciting player.* | *The Netherlands was marked down as a particularly attractive area for economic expansion.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mark as**

**mark off****1** **mark off sth**    **mark sth off**

to separate an area of ground or show where its border is: *Within the garden, hedges are valuable for marking off special areas and providing shelter.* | *The Voskresenye Gates mark off the north side of Red Square.*

2 **mark sth/sb off** **mark off sb/sth**

to make something or someone different from other things or people of a similar type

+ **from** *Each of the city's districts has its own distinct character that marks it off from its neighbours.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **distinguish** *formal*

3 **mark sth off** **mark off sth**

to put a mark beside or through something that is written on a list, to show that it has been dealt with or chosen etc: *I began to mark the days off on a chart. | He marked off the names of people he could rely on for support.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cross off**, **tick off** *BrE*, **check off**

**mark out**1 **mark sb/sth out** **mark out sb/sth**

*BrE* to make someone or something seem different from or better than other people or things, especially in a very noticeable way: *Felipe was broad-shouldered and slim. He still had that athletic look that had marked him out so long ago.*

+ **as** *Her considerable experience of international law marked her out as exceptional.*

+ **from** *It's the way real ale is produced that marks it out from other beers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **distinguish**

2 **mark out sth** **mark sth out**

to separate a particular area from the area around it, by drawing lines or using other signs: *The area marked out here is intended as a viewing platform for spectators.*

3 **be marked out (for sth)**

if someone is marked out for something, they have special qualities and abilities which make them likely to achieve it

+ **for** *Right from the beginning, he seemed to have been marked out for a career in baseball.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be destined**

**mark up**1 **mark up sth** **mark sth up**

to increase the price of something, especially so that it will sell for more than has been paid for it: *It annoys farmers to see how much their produce has been marked up by the time it reaches the shops. | The market was relieved that the figures were not worse, and marked the shares up 7p.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put up**, **hike up**

● OPPOSITE: **mark down**

**mark-up** *n* [C]

an increase in the price of something, especially the difference between the

amount a store pays for something and the amount it sells it for: *The mark-up on eggs between producer and supermarket is between 160% and 170%.*

2 **mark sth up** **mark up sth**

*BrE* to put a mark beside something that is written on a list, to show that you have dealt with it or chosen it: *It was Lawrie's job to collect the rents and mark them up in a book. | The vehicles are all tested first and their parts are marked up for repair as necessary.*

3 **mark up sth** **mark sth up**

to write any necessary instructions for changes on a piece of writing or music that is intended to be printed: *Text must be checked and marked up for corrections.*

**MARRY**

*married, married, marrying*

**marry above****marry above yourself/  
marry above your station**

*old-fashioned* to marry someone of a higher social class than your own: *In the book, Rose Trelawny is a singer who tries to marry above her station.*

● OPPOSITE: **marry beneath you/yourself** *old-fashioned*

**marry beneath****marry beneath you/yourself**

to marry someone of a lower social class than your own: *People said that Elsie had married beneath her, when she married James Abott, a farm worker.*

● OPPOSITE: **marry above yourself/marry above your station** *old-fashioned*

**marry into****marry into sth**

to marry someone from a particular family or social group, especially a rich or important one, and so become part of it: *Douglas Robinson married into the Roosevelt family of Oyster Bay.*

**marry off****marry off sb** **marry sb off**

*old-fashioned* to arrange for someone, especially a female member of your family, to get married or to marry someone you have chosen: *In country areas it was common for fathers to marry off their daughters when they reached twelve or thirteen.*

+ **to** *The Duke's daughter, Anne, was seized and married off to Charles VIII of France.*



**marry out****marry out**

old-fashioned to marry someone whose religion or social background is different to your own: *A lot of Jewish people were frightened that their children might marry out and raise their children as non-Jews.*

+ of *The film centres on a clever young man who marries out of his working-class background.*

**marry up****marry up** **marry up** sth**marry** sth **up**

BrE old-fashioned if two things marry up or if you marry them up, they join together or connect

+ with *The two halves can then be trimmed and married up. | The new parts should marry up with the old system.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **connect**

**MARVEL**

marvelled, marvelled, marvelling BrE  
marveled, marveled, marveling AmE

**marvel at****marvel at** sth

to be very surprised by something, especially a quality that you admire about something or someone: *Those who watch the programme marvel at the speed of Carole's brain. | Visitors never cease to marvel at the beauty of the Taj Mahal. | One can only marvel at the wisdom of the writers of the US constitution.*

**MASH**

mashed, mashed, mashing

**mash up****mash** sth **up** **mash up** sth

to crush food until it is soft and smooth: *He was busy mashing up vegetables for the baby's lunch.*

**MASK**

masked, masked, masking

**mask off****mask off** sth **mask** sth **off**

to cover a surface, for example with paper, so that you can paint or do something else to the area that surrounds it without affecting the part you have covered: *Remove the door handles and carefully mask off any areas that you do not want to paint.*

**MASQUERADE**

masqueraded, masqueraded, masquerading

**masquerade as****masquerade as** sth/sb USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to pretend or appear to be something or someone different: *I have better things to do than discuss the silly stories that masquerade as news in some local newspapers. | By masquerading as poisonous insects, these flies avoid attacks from birds. | We had a cup of hot brown stuff which masqueraded as tea.*

**MATCH**

matched, matched, matching

**match against****1** **match** sb/sth **against** sb/sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to make two people, teams etc compete against each other to see which one is best: *The two men were matched against each other in Game 3 of the American League Championship series.*

**2** **match** sth **against** sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to compare one thing with another in order to see whether they are the same: *The correct answers can be matched very quickly against each candidate's test. | No fingerprints were found in the car which could be matched against the ones in the flat.*

**match up****1** **match up**

if two things match up, they are similar or suitable for each other in some way

+ with *What other people say does not always match up with our own experience.*

+ against especially BrE *It's important to select employees who match up against a particular job profile.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **match**

**2** **match** sb/sth **up** **match up** sb/sth

to bring together two people or things that seem to be suitable for each other

+ with *She only invited me to dinner to try and match me up with her brother. | When choosing a furnishing fabric, remember to match it up with the other colours in the room.*

**3** **match up**

especially BrE to be of a good enough standard: *If they want to be players on the international scene, their standards will have to match up. | It was fashionable to be incredibly thin and my figure just didn't match up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **measure up**

4 **match up**

especially AmE if a team, player etc matches up with another team, player etc, they play at a similar standard and compete against each other well

+ **against/with** *The Raiders didn't match up well against the Chiefs, who seemed to get all the opportunities they needed.*

**matchup** *N* [C]

AmE a match or competition between two or more teams or people: *In the Clinton-Dole-Powell matchup, Clinton won with nearly 44% of the vote.*

+ **with** *The nation's no.1 team is heading into tonight's Final Four matchup with Kentucky.*

**match up to****match up to** *sth/sb*

to be as good, interesting etc as something or someone else: *I'd already read the book, but the filmed matched up to it in every way.* | *Our neighbours returned from their holiday early, complaining that Rome did not match up to London!*

**match up to your expectations/hopes/ideals etc** (=be as good as you expected, hoped etc) *I was really disappointed by Hollywood. It didn't match up to my expectations at all.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **measure up, live up to**

**MAUL**

mauled, mauled, mauling

**maul around/about****maul** *sth/sb* **around/about**

BrE *informal* to pull something or someone from one position to another in a rough or violent way: *Some of the women complained about the medical examination, saying that they had been mauled about and treated like pieces of meat.*

**MAX**

maxed, maxed, maxing

**max out**1 **max out**

AmE *informal* if you max out on something, you have too much of it and do not want any more

+ **on** *Today's audiences have maxed out on violent movies and are demanding family-oriented films.*

2 **max out**

AmE *informal* to put as much time, effort, money etc as possible into doing something:

*Jordan has been maxing out in every game and keeping up a fast pace.*

**maxed-out** ADJ

AmE *informal* if a system, process, method etc is maxed-out, it is being used to the highest degree possible: *We need to take care of the city's maxed-out sewage system by finding ways to conserve water.*

3 **max out your credit card**

AmE *informal* to spend the highest amount that your credit card will allow: *College students often max out their credit cards and spend years repaying the debt.*

**MEASURE**

measured, measured, measuring

**measure against****measure** *sb/sth* **against** *sb/sth*

to judge how good or bad someone or something is, by comparing them with someone or something else: *With the government's national tests, it is now possible to measure each child against fixed standards.* | *The administration's achievements are less impressive if we measure them against their intentions.*

**measure yourself against sb/sth** *If all musicians measured themselves against Mozart, they would get very depressed.*

**measure off****measure** *sth* **off** **measure off** *sth*

to measure a length of something, especially material and cut it off from a larger piece: *They decided on a dark green material, and the elderly assistant measured off the required length.*

**measure out****measure out** *sth* **measure** *sth* **out**

to weigh or measure a particular amount of something that you want to use, often in order to make something: *I showed the children how to measure out and mix the ingredients for the cake.* | *The shop assistant got down the dress material and measured it out carefully.*

**measure up**1 **measure up** ✕

to be of a good enough standard

**how does sb/sth measure up** (=used when asking what someone or something is like and whether they are good enough) *What happens to teachers who don't measure up?* | *How does your new house measure up?*

+ to I wondered how he would measure up to being chairman. | Some of the college's courses do not measure up to the required standard.

## 2 measure up measure sth up

measure up sth

to measure the exact size of something, for example a room or a piece of furniture: *In most cases, when you buy new carpets, the firm will measure up for you.* | *We hadn't measured up properly, and when the washing machine arrived it wouldn't fit in the space.*

## 3 measure sb up measure up sb

to look at someone carefully in order to decide what your opinion of them is, especially when you first meet them: *The two men shook hands and silently measured each other up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **size up, weigh up**

## measure up against

measure sb/sth up against sb/sth

to compare someone or something with another person or thing, in order to find which is better, bigger etc: *How does the company's performance measure up against the best in the world?*

## measure up to

measure up to sb/sth

to be as good as someone or something else, when you compare them: *According to our research, girls still do not measure up to boys in science subjects.*

## MEET

met, met, meeting

## meet up

### 1 meet up

to meet someone, either because you have arranged to, or by chance: *If you'd like to meet up for a drink sometime, give me a call.* | *The members of the band had all had various music jobs before they met up a year ago.*

+ with *We met up with the rest of the group in Frankfurt.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **meet, get together**

### 2 meet up

if two or more things meet up, they join or come together at a particular place: *A number of paths run down through the woods and meet up at the bottom.*

+ with *She was wearing a tiny white T-shirt that didn't meet up with her jeans.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **join**

## meet with

### 1 meet with sb NOT PASSIVE

to have a meeting with someone in order to discuss or arrange something: *Buchanan will meet with his advisers on Thursday to decide on his next course of action.*

### 2 meet with sth / be met with sth

if something meets with or is met with a particular reaction, that is the way people react to it: *The architect's design did not meet with their approval.* | *A decision to hold the conference in Berlin met with resistance from our colleagues.* | *The government's proposals were met with opposition by all the parties concerned.* | *News of the merger has been met with great excitement in the city.*

### 3 meet with sth NOT PASSIVE

if someone or something meets with success, failure, problems etc, they experience success, failure, problems etc: *The company's efforts to expand met with some success.*

**meet with an accident** (=have an accident)  
*Bill looked serious. "One of our workers has met with an accident," he said.*

## MELLOW

mellowed, mellowed, mellowing

## mellow out

mellow out mellow sb out

AmE *informal* to become relaxed and calm, or to make someone become relaxed and calm: *I just like to go home and mellow out in front of the TV after work.* | *She's really mellowed him out in the two years they've been dating.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **relax, chill out** *spoken informal*

## MELT

melted, melted, melting

## melt away

### 1 melt away

to gradually disappear: *Harman saw her hopes of promotion slowly melt away.* | *He laughed suddenly, and all the irritation in his face melted away.*

+ into *The high rocky cliffs melted away into long stretches of silvery beach.* | *Olivia saw his hard look melt away into tenderness.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fade away**

### 2 melt away

if people melt away, they gradually move away from someone or somewhere, often until they have completely disappeared: *By the time the police appeared, most of the crowd had melted away.*

+ into *He looked back briefly, but Coleman had already melted away into the darkness.*

### 3 melt away melt away sth

#### melt sth away

to melt or to make something melt completely or until it has disappeared: *The next day it was a surprise to wake up and find that the snow had melted away.* | *The hot steam melts away the sticky oils and greases in the carpet, releasing dirt which can be vacuumed up later.*

### melt down

#### melt sth down melt down sth

to heat metal until it becomes a liquid and can be used again: *Silver from this period is rare, as it was melted down in the Revolution to fund wars.* | *The beautiful copper engraving had been melted down to make a tea-kettle.*

#### meltdown N [C,U]

a very dangerous situation in which the material in a nuclear reactor melts and burns through its container, allowing radioactivity to escape. A nuclear reactor is a large machine that produces nuclear energy: *One incident at Greifswald in 1976 nearly caused a meltdown, which would have been a disaster even greater than Chernobyl.*

### melt into

#### 1 melt into sth

to disappear or change and be replaced by something else: *She watched the hope in his face melt into disappointment.* | *The crowd's cheers melted into gasps of admiration and approval.*

#### 2 melt into sth

if people melt into a crowd, a wood etc, they move towards it and into it until they are part of it and cannot be seen: *Lesley said goodbye and watched him melt into the crowds.* | *One of the boys ran straight past and melted into the shadows before anyone could stop him.* | *There was no-one at the party that he knew or wanted to know. He decided to melt into the background.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **disappear**

## MERGE

merged, merged, merging

### merge in

#### merge in

BrE if two or more things merge in, they are so similar in style, colour, appearance etc that you do not notice much difference between them

+ with *I chose very pale curtains that would merge in with the walls.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **blend in**

### merge into

#### 1 merge into sth

to gradually disappear or seem to disappear and become part of something else: *Autumn slowly merged into winter.* | *We followed the track south until it eventually merged into a minor road leading to the village.* | *As night fell, their figures merged into the landscape.*

#### 2 merge into the background

BrE to be in a position in which you are not at all noticeable or important: *Evans went to live among the people of southern Sudan, hoping to merge into the background of their everyday lives.*

## MESS

messed, messed, messing

### mess around

ALSO **mess about** especially BrE

#### 1 mess around/about

informal to behave in a silly way, when you should be working or helping someone: *Stop messing about you two!* | *I used to mess about a lot in class when I was at school.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **muck about/around** BrE informal, **fool around** AmE informal

#### 2 mess around/about

informal to spend your time enjoying yourself and relaxing or playing: *She spends most of her weekends messing around at the beach.*

#### 3 mess sb around/about

BrE informal to treat someone badly, for example by not being completely honest with them or by not doing what you have agreed to do: *Linda's upset because some guy's been messing her around.* | *I still haven't had my money from the insurance company – they've really messed me around.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **muck sb about/around** BrE informal, **mess with**

### mess around with sb

ALSO **mess about with** BrE

#### 1 mess around/about with sth

informal to try to change something in order to try to improve it or make it work better, especially when it would be better if you did not: *I came home to find Mike messing around with the television.* | *It's a lovely song – I just wish people wouldn't mess around with it.* | *The message here is simple – don't mess around with a system that already works perfectly well.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **muck about/around with** especially BrE informal, **mess with** informal

2 **mess around/about with** sb

informal to have a sexual relationship with someone who is married or already has a boyfriend or girlfriend: *I can't stand men who mess around with other people's wives.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fool around with, play around with** informal

3 **mess around with** sb

AmE informal to treat someone badly, for example by not being completely honest with them or by not doing what you have agreed to do: *Cranberg told his attorneys to quit messing around with him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess sb around/about** BrE informal

**mess up**1 **mess up** sth **mess** sth up

informal to spoil something important, especially something that it has taken you a long time to plan or do: *If you make a mistake like that it can easily mess up a whole day's work. | I'm sorry if I messed up all your plans.*

**mess things up** (=spoil someone's plans)

*If we can't get our passports in time it'll really mess things up for the holiday.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cock up** BrE informal, **foul up** informal

2 **mess** sth up **mess up** sth

informal to make something dirty or untidy: *Don't come in here with those muddy boots. You'll mess up the carpet.*

**be messed up** *Her hair was all messed up, as though she'd just gotten out of bed.*

3 **mess up** **mess** sth up

informal to make a mistake or do something badly: *The hardest thing in the world is to stand up and say, "I messed up and it was my fault." | "How did the exam go?" "Terrible. I think I really messed it up."*

**mess up big time** (=make a bad mistake)

*When political figures mess up big time like this, they always make the same excuse.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cock up** BrE informal

4 **mess** sb up **mess up** sb

informal to upset someone badly or to make them have emotional or mental problems: *She had a lot of problems when she was young, which really messed her up in later years.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **screw up** informal

**messed-up** ADJ

someone who is messed-up has serious emotional or mental problems: *When I made the film *Midnight Express*, I had to play a man who was permanently messed-up.*

**mess with**1 **mess with** sth/sb

informal to get involved with something or

someone that may cause problems or be dangerous: *She always told her kids never to mess with drugs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fool with** AmE informal

2 **mess with** sb

spoken informal to annoy or cause trouble for someone, especially someone dangerous: *Just keep your mouth shut. That's Johnny's house. No one messes with him. | "If you mess with me, Deacon," he said in a slow voice, "I'll rip your head off."*

3 **mess with** sth

informal to try to change or improve something that does not look right or is not working well: *I wish you'd stop messing with the TV, I'm trying to watch it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess around with** informal

**METE**

meted, meted, meting

**mete out**

mete sth out **mete out** sth

formal to give someone a punishment, or type of treatment, especially one that is severe or unfair: *Severe punishments are metered out to anyone who dares to oppose the military government.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **deal out, administer** formal

**MILITATE**

militated, militated, militating

**militate against**

militate against sth/sb

formal to make it difficult or unlikely that something will happen or that someone will succeed: *Today's crowded world militates against a sense of community. | It has been suggested that the increasing importance of science and technology in the workplace will militate against women.*

**MILL**

milled, milled, milling

**mill around**

ALSO **mill about** BrE

mill around/about

mill around/about sth

informal if a lot of people mill around, they move around within a place or area, especially slowly, or while waiting for something to happen: *There was chaos outside, with people milling around the body, waiting for an ambulance to arrive. | The guests were milling about the courtyard, with glasses of champagne in their hands.*

## MIND

## mind out

**mind out!** BrE spoken

**a** used to warn someone that they need to be careful: *Mind out! The handle's very hot!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **look out!** spoken, **watch out**

**b** used to ask someone, not very politely, to move so that you can pass them: *Mind out! I need to get something out of the oven.*

## MINISTER

ministered, ministered, ministering

## minister to

minister to sb/sth

formal to look after someone who is ill or who needs help: *During her life she did wonderful work on several continents, ministering to the sick and dying.* | *Altogether the organization operates about eighty centres ministering to the needs of India's poor.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **attend to** formal

## MINOR

minored, minored, minoring

## minor in

minor in sth

AmE to study a second subject at a college or university that is less important for your degree than your main subject: *Business students often minor in a foreign language.*

● COMPARE: **major in**

## MISS

missed, missed, missing

## miss out

- 1 **miss sth/sb out** **miss out sth/sb**

BrE to fail to include something or someone, especially when you are writing or talking: *Read through your application form afterwards to make sure you haven't missed anything out.* | *You've missed out the most vital piece of information on this invitation – where the party is!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **omit**, **leave out**

- 2 **miss out**

to not get the chance to do or have something that you would enjoy or that would be good for you, especially a chance that other people succeed in getting: *We have a great range of holidays available, and at such good prices you really mustn't miss out!*

+ **on** *I didn't want to go abroad at Christmas and miss out on all the fun at home.* |

*Ronnie Massarella was furious last night after his team missed out on the medals.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lose out**

## MIST

misted, misted, misting

## mist over

mist over

if your eyes mist over, they fill with tears so that it is difficult for you to see clearly: *Kathleen felt her eyes misting over as she told her story.*

## mist over/up

mist over/up    mist sth over/up

especially BrE if something made of glass mists over or is misted over, it becomes covered with very small drops of water so that it is difficult to see through it: *Without the engine running, the inside of the car was beginning to mist up.* | *The windows of the small room were misted over with condensation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **steam up**, **fog up**

## MIX

mixed, mixed, mixing

## mix in

- 1 **mix in sth** **mix sth in**

to add one substance to another and combine them – use this especially about food: *When the rice is cooked, gently mix in all the other ingredients.*

- 2 **mixed in**

combined with something else

+ **with** *The movie has lots of action and adventure, mixed in with some comedy.*

## mix up

- 1 **mix sb/sth up** **mix up sb/sth**

to make the mistake of thinking that someone or something is another person or thing: *The hospital has been accused of mixing up two newborn babies.*

**get sb/sth mixed up** (=mix up two people or things) *The interviewer was terrible – he kept getting the names of his guests mixed up.* | *It's funny how dreams and memories sometimes get mixed up.*

+ **with** *"You've got me mixed up with some other guy," Marty said nervously.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **confuse**, **muddle up** BrE

**mix-up** N [C]

a mistake that happens when people understand the details of a situation differently and often wrongly



+ over Sports chiefs were examining claims that there had been a mix-up over the rules. | There's been a bit of a mix-up over it – I thought you were providing the food.

## 2 get mixed up

to become confused about something: *I could see that the old man was getting more and more mixed up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get confused**

### mixed-up ADJ

confused, especially because you have emotional or social problems: *Frankie was a lonely and mixed-up teenager*

## 3 mix sb up mix up sb

AmE to make someone feel confused: *Jerry's directions mixed them up, and they drove around lost for about 30 minutes.* | *Coaches can mix up a player during a game by yelling at him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **confuse**

## 4 mix sth up mix up sth

to change the order of a group of things, with the result that they are not arranged in the proper order: *I've sorted all my clothes into piles, so please don't mix them up.* | *The teacher disconnected all the cables, mixed them up and told us to reconnect them.*

+ with *His money and private letters were all mixed up with the newspapers on his desk.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jumble up, muddle up** BrE

## 5 mix sth up mix up sth

to put different substances together and combine them so that they become one substance: *Put the chopped eggs, butter, salt and pepper in a bowl and mix them all up into a paste.*

## 6 be/get mixed up in sth

to be or become involved in something that is illegal or unpleasant: *Mr Varsov had been mixed up in a number of shady deals in the Middle East.* | *Why didn't you call the police, instead of getting mixed up in the fight?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be/get involved (in)**

## 7 be/get mixed up with sb

to be or become involved with a person or group that has a bad influence on you or that is involved in something illegal: *Davies was anxious that his client might be mixed up with a terrorist organization.* | *Mum and Dad were worried that I was getting mixed up with the wrong crowd.*

## 8 mix it up

a AmE informal to argue or fight angrily with someone: *Football's Lyle Alzado was arrested Tuesday after mixing it up with a police officer.*

b AmE informal to talk and spend time socially with other people, especially people who have a higher social position: *The youngest coach in the league isn't afraid to mix it up with the veterans.*

## mix with

### mix it with sb

BrE informal to compete against someone or to become involved in a fight with them: *The former golden girl of tennis, who was mixing it with the best in the world five years ago, was beaten by Smith yesterday, 7–2.*

## MOCK

mocked, mocked, mocking

### mock up

#### mock sth up mock up sth

to make a simple copy of something that is going to be made or built, in order to show people what the real thing will look like or how it will work: *I showed them a sample I had mocked up of the kind of book they could make.*

### mock-up N [C]

a simple copy of something that shows how it will look or how it will work: *The architect produced a miniature three-dimensional mock-up of the building.*

## MODEL

modelled, modelled, modelling BrE

modeled, modeled, modeling AmE

### model on/upon

● **Model upon** is more formal than **model on** and is mostly used in writing.

## 1 model sth on/upon sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

to base a design or structure on something: *The architecture of the building was modelled on the Doge's Palace in Venice.* | *Reza Khan imposed new laws modeled on western principles.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **base on**

## 2 model yourself on sb

to copy another person's behaviour, style etc, because you admire them: *Lewis admits to having modelled himself on Muhammad Ali.*

## MOLDER

### molder

SEE **moulder/molder**

## MONKEY

monkeyed, monkeyed, monkeying

## monkey around

ALSO monkey about BrE

## monkey around/about

informal to behave in a silly or annoying way: *Tell the kids to stop monkeying around and go to sleep.*

\* SIMILAR TO: fool around, play around, mess around informal

## monkey around with

ALSO monkey about with BrE

## monkey around/about with sth

informal to touch or use something that is not yours or change something that does not need to be changed: *I think all criminals know what to expect if they monkey about with other people's cars.* | *Politicians are always threatening to monkey around with the tax system.*

\* SIMILAR TO: mess about/around with informal, muck about/around with BrE informal

## MOOCH

mooched, mooched, mooching

## mooch around/about

## mooch around/about

## mooch around/about sth NOT PASSIVE

BrE informal to spend your time doing very little and often feeling bored or lazy: *Beth was happy to mooch around for hours in her nightdress, drinking black coffee and watching breakfast television.* | *I spent most of the day mooching around the centre of the town, looking in shop windows.*

\* SIMILAR TO: laze around/about, doss about/around BrE informal

## MOON

mooned, mooned, mooning

## moon around

ALSO moon about BrE

## moon around/about

## moon around/about sth NOT PASSIVE

BrE informal to spend your time doing very little, especially because you feel sad or because you are thinking about someone you love: *She could hardly wait to see him again, but there was no point just mooning around until then.* | *I mooned about the house while my wife was in hospital, not getting on well with my writing at all.*

\* SIMILAR TO: mooch around/about BrE informal

## moon over

## moon over sb

to spend all your time thinking about someone that you are in love with: *I wish Alice would get on with her life, instead of just mooning over Lester Stone.*

## MOP

mopped, mopped, mopping

## mop up

## 1 mop up sth mop sth up mop up

to remove liquid from a surface, using a cloth or something similar: *A waitress rushed forward to mop up the spilt beer and pick up the broken glass.* | *Don't worry. It's only water. It's easily mopped up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: wipe up

## 2 mop up mop up sth mop sth up

to deal with the water, dirt etc that has been caused by a flood or by putting out a fire: *Most of the flames are out, but the fire crews will continue mopping up for several days.* | *Britain was mopping up yesterday after one month's rain fell overnight.* | *People mopping up their homes were warned that heavy rains could continue until the weekend.*

## mopping-up operation N [C]

a mopping-up operation involves dealing with the water, dirt etc caused by a flood or a fire: *Mopping-up operations began as the floods receded, leaving mud inside and out.*

## 3 mop up sth/sb mop sth/sb up

## mop up

especially AmE to succeed in getting or winning something, especially when you are competing against others: *John Liley mopped up all the points in the Pilkington Cup semi-final.* | *"I want you to win all the medals you can. I want you to mop up and do great," Clinton told the American athletes.*

## 4 mop up sth mop sth up

to get up the last food or liquid on your plate using a piece of bread or something similar: *Serve the chicken with plenty of bread to mop up the sauces.*

## 5 mop up sth/sb mop sth/sb up

## mop up

to deal with a problem so that it no longer exists: *It's in the inner cities that the government is most anxious to mop up unemployment.* | *The President's first year in office was mainly spent mopping up after the earlier administrations.*

**6 mop up sth mop sth up**

to kill the remaining soldiers from an enemy army, or to take them as prisoners: *Residents were refused access to the town as the Serbian-dominated army mopped up Muslim opposition.*

**mopping-up operation** N [C]

a mopping-up operation involves killing the remaining soldiers from an enemy army, or taking them as prisoners: *The General described the deployment of troops in the city as the start of a mopping up operation.*

**7 mop up sth mop sth up**

if a large company mops up a smaller company, it buys it and makes it part of the larger company: *The bank has been mopped up by Hong Kong Shanghai and RBS.* | *While it attempts to mop up most of South America's carriers, Iberia is also expanding north of the border.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take over**

**MOPE**

moped, moped, moping

**mope around/about****mope around/about****mope around/about sth**

*informal* to spend your time doing very little, feeling unhappy and thinking about your problems: *Instead of moping around the house all morning, why don't you come out with me?* | *Since he left his job, he's done nothing except mope about and complain.*

**MORPH**

morphed, morphed, morphing

**morph into****morph into sth**

*informal, especially AmE* to change into another person or thing by magic or using special powers – use this about characters in films or on television: *In the movie, Johnson's character had the power to morph into animals.*

**MOULDER** BrE **MOLDER** AmE

mouldered, mouldered, mouldering

**moulder away****1 moulder away**

to decay slowly as the result of not being used or needed: *While some countries are starving, food supplies all over Europe are mouldering away.* | *These beautiful old buildings are far too precious for us to allow them to moulder away.*

**2 moulder away**

*informal* to grow old and waste your life because you always do the same thing and never do anything new or exciting: *I don't want to moulder away in the same old job for years and years.*

**MOUNT**

mounted, mounted, mounting

**mount up****mount up**

if the amount of something mounts up, it increases and becomes very large – use this especially about debts and costs: *The costs can quickly mount up when you buy your own home.* | *The national debt has continued to mount up, growing by \$1 trillion since Clinton took office.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **build up**

**MOUTH**

mouthed, mouthed, mouthing

**mouth off****mouth off**

*informal* to give your opinion about something in a very loud and annoying way, often in order to criticize or complain about something or someone: *Some teenagers had started the trouble at the club, by mouthing off all the time.*

+ **about/at** *Nobody likes it when a player mouths off about an opponent.*

**MOVE**

moved, moved, moving

**move ahead****1 move ahead**

to start or make progress with something that you have planned to do: *Scientists can only move ahead if they win the agreement of a number of their colleagues.*

+ **with** *The committee is moving ahead with plans to help build a new stadium.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go ahead**

**2 move ahead**

if a plan or process moves ahead, it begins to happen or make progress, often after a pause or delay: *Zedillo's proposals for electoral reform are now moving ahead.*

**3 move ahead**

to make faster progress than someone or something else: *Our competitors have been moving ahead during a time of relatively poor progress for us.*

+ of *At that point the Republicans were moving ahead of the Democrats in the polls.*

## move along

### 1 move along

if a story, game, process etc moves along, it develops well and makes good progress: *Meade's characters are first-rate and the story moves along so well it's hard to put the book down.*

### 2 move sth along    move along sth

if someone or something moves a story, game, process etc along, they help it to develop well and make good progress: *The movie is full of lively dialogue that helps to move the action along.*

**move things along** (=make something develop or progress more quickly than before) *"Some delay is to be expected," the manager said, "but I'd like you to move things along now."*

### 3 move along    move sb along

if you are asked to move along, or is someone moves you along, you are asked to leave a particular place and go somewhere else: *Move along, folks, move along there, please. | A policeman was now at the stage door, trying to move the crowd along.*

## move away

### move away

to leave the place where you live and go to live in a different area: *When Anna was nine the family moved away, and the children faced a strange school and strange people.*

+ from *I moved away from home to work in another town a year ago.*

## move away from

### move away from sth

to stop having a particular idea, method, habit etc and to begin to have a different one instead: *Fortunately jazz was slowly moving away from its reputation as old-guy music. | As our eating habits change, we are moving away from a calcium-rich diet of milk, cream and cheese.*

## move in

### 1 move in

to begin living in a new house or apartment: *My parents helped us to buy furniture and carpets and things when we first moved in.*

● OPPOSITE: **move out**

### 2 move in

if one person moves in with another or two

people move in together, they decide to live together and share a house or apartment

+ with *To save on expenses, Susan moved in with her mother in Solana Beach.*

+ together *Stephen and I had been seeing each other for a year when he suggested that we should move in together.*

### 3 move in

to go towards something or someone, often in order to attack them

+ on *Police moved in on Tiananmen Square, but still the number of protesters increased. | Two people started doing some Latin American dancing, and all the guests moved in to witness the spectacle.*

### 4 move in

to become involved in a particular business or activity and to start to influence or control the situation, often in an unfair way: *At that point the big multinationals moved in and started pushing up the prices.*

+ on *I decide to keep my business proposition a secret, so that other people couldn't move in on it.*

● COMPARE: **muscle in**

## move into

### 1 move into sth

to begin living in a new house, apartment, or area: *Joyce was no longer living with his first wife, and had moved into a flat in Chelsea. | More and more foreigners seemed to be moving into the neighbourhood.*

### 2 move into sth NOT PASSIVE

to start to become involved in a particular area of activity or business: *Virgin tycoon Richard Branson is moving into computers. | The company specializes in motor insurance and has been so successful that it is now moving into household insurance too.*

● OPPOSITE: **move out of**

### 3 move into sth

if an army or team of people move into an area, they go there in order to deal with a particular situation, especially a dangerous or difficult one: *20,000 American troops began moving into Bosnia before Christmas. | Volunteer workers moved into the area to set up a water supply and committees of local people to run it.*

### 4 move into sth

to enter a new period of time: *The question is, 'What does it mean to be American as we move into the 21st century?' | The ambulance strike was moving into its eighth week.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **enter**

## move off

### move off

especially BrE to start moving in order to leave a place or to go somewhere: *They picked up their rucksacks and got ready to move off.*

+ **towards/into/along etc** *Kathy sipped her drink, then excused herself and moved off towards the ladies' room.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set off**

## move on

### 1 move on

to leave a place after staying there for some time, in order to continue a journey or go somewhere new: *"Every five years I have to move on," Enrico said. "I just can't settle in one town."*

+ **to** *The exhibition attracted large crowds in New York, and then moved on to other cities on the eastern coast.*

### 2 move on

to stop thinking about something that you have been thinking about for some time, and begin thinking about or doing something new or different: *There's only one way to succeed. You have to learn from your mistakes and then move on.*

+ **to** *It's time to leave the theory behind, and move on to the practical side of the subject.*

### 3 move on

to leave your present job in order to do a new and better one: *I've been doing this job for five years now, so I think it's time to move on.*

+ **from** *Mac was lucky to move on from Lloyds Bank, where he'd been for seventeen years.*

### 4 move on

if people, ideas, methods etc move on, they become more modern or more advanced: *Has the legal profession moved on from those days? Perhaps not a great deal. | The world has moved on since Noel Coward wrote his plays, and some of the ideas seem ridiculously old-fashioned.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **progress**

### 5 move sb on move on sb

if the police or someone in authority moves you on, they order you to leave a particular place: *It's no good just moving these homeless people on - where are they supposed to go?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **move along**

## move out

### 1 move out

to stop living in a particular house, apartment

or area, and go to live somewhere else: *"Actually," Rosemary whispered, "my husband has moved out. I don't know where he is."*

+ **of** *That year Nicholson moved out of London to the countryside, in order to write books and raise children.*

● OPPOSITE: **move in**

### 2 move out

AmE informal to leave: *Okay, kids, we've got to move out by 3:00 sharp. | He ordered the men to get ready to move out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **leave**

### 3 move out

if a vehicle moves out, it moves away from the side of the road in order to join the traffic or pass another vehicle: *Always look in the mirror before moving out.*

+ **into** *I watched him move out into the traffic heading back towards Boston.*

### 4 move sb out move out sb

if someone in authority moves people out of a place, they arrange for them to leave or they make them leave: *Since the project finished, it has taken several years to move the navy out. | As the crisis continued, British diplomats were being moved out of the area.*

## move out of

### move out of sth

to stop being involved in a particular business, especially in order to become involved in a different one: *A lot of farmers are moving out of dairying, and looking for beef cattle instead.*

## move over

### 1 move over USUALLY IN COMMANDS

if you ask someone to move over, you are asking them to change their position or seat so that there is space for you: *He walked round to the driver's side. "Move over," he said, "I'll drive." | I'm right on the edge of the bed. Are you sure you couldn't move over an inch or two?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **move up, scoot over** AmE spoken informal

### 2 move over

to start a new job after leaving one of a similar type or level

+ **to** *Susan Liss, now chief of staff to Deval Patrick is moving over to become chief of staff to Gore.*

+ **from** *Paul Roohani is now general manager of the hotel, moving over from the equivalent position he held at the New York Hilton.*

**3** **move over**

to leave your job or position so that someone else can have it, especially someone younger or with new ideas: *My career is very important to me and I do not intend to move over for anyone else.* | "I know I can win the tournament," Welshman Jackson said, "and it's time the Americans moved over."

\* SIMILAR TO: **step aside**

**4** **move over**

especially BrE to start using a different system or method

+ to *Most companies have moved over to computer-aided design systems.*

**move towards****move towards sth**

to make it more likely that you will do or achieve something: *Europe is moving towards political and monetary union.*

**move towards doing sth** *Community councils are a way of moving towards involving local people in these difficult decisions.*

**move up****1** **move up**

if you ask someone to move up, especially when they are standing or sitting in a row, you want them to move a little so that there is more space for you or other people: *Could you move up a bit – there's just room for Alec if you do.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **move over**

**2** **move up**

if you move up at work or at school, you get a better job or position, or go to a higher class or level

+ **into/to** *Many of the workers were able to move up into better paid, pleasanter and more skilled jobs.* | *By 1995, James too had moved up to the senior school.*

**move up the ladder** (=get a better job or position in society) *I could stay in this job all my life, but if I want to move up the ladder, I'll have to go elsewhere.*

**3** **move sb up** **move up sb**

if someone moves you up at work or at school, they give you a better job or position or move you to a higher class or level

+ **into/to** *Very soon after that, Matilda was moved up into the top class.*

**4** **move up** **move sb up** **move up sb**

if soldiers or policemen move up or are moved up, they are sent to a particular position in order to be ready to act or attack: *The French troops in Saudi Arabia moved up to Hafar al-Batin.* | *The Russians moved troops up to the Turkish frontier.*

**MOW**

*mowed, mown or mowed, mowing*

**mow down****1** **mow down sb/sth** **mow sb/sth down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to kill someone by firing a lot of bullets at them: *The men were mown down as soon as they emerged from their trenches.* | *Captain Westmacott was mown down in a hail of M-60 machine-gun bullets.*

**2** **mow sb down** **mow down sb**

BrE to kill or seriously injure someone by driving into them in a vehicle either deliberately or because you are not controlling the vehicle properly: *The elderly couple were mown down yards from their home by 47-year-old Jill Gunns, who is believed to have had a row with her boyfriend.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run over, knock down**

**MUCK**

*mucked, mucked, mucking*

**muck about/around****1** **muck about/around**

BrE *informal* to behave in a silly way when you should be behaving sensibly: *Stop mucking about, Ben, and come and sit here!* | *I'd been mucking around with my mates so the teacher tried to kick me out of the classroom.*

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

**2** **muck about/around**

BrE *informal* to have fun by doing whatever you want to do, rather than doing anything organized: *We spent most of our time mucking around on the beach.* | *Pupils at Kensington infants' school are having a marvellous time just mucking about.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** *informal*

**3** **muck sb about/around**

BrE *informal* to make things difficult for someone or treat them badly, especially by changing your mind or plans a lot without considering them: *"You ought to be sorry for mucking your family around like that," said Patsy.* | *I'm sorry for mucking you around, but I can't make Friday after all.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess about/around** *informal*

**muck about/around with****muck about/around with sth**

*informal, especially BrE* to touch something that is not yours, or to change something that does not need to be changed: *I wish you wouldn't muck about with the things in my room.* | *They're always mucking about with the bus timetables!*



**muck in****muck in**

BrE *informal* to share whatever work needs doing in order to help get it done, especially in a cheerful way: *The members of a family should share the domestic duties and muck in together.* | *Everybody mucked in and helped clean the place up.*

**muck out****muck out** **muck out sth****muck sth out**

BrE to clean the place where a horse or a farm animal lives: *There's a lot of hard work involved in having a horse – mucking out, feeding and grooming.* | *Charles spent a week working with a farmer – he even mucked out cattle yards and fed the pigs.*

**muck up****1** **muck up sth** **muck sth up**

*informal, especially BrE* to spoil something, especially an arrangement or plan: *When Mark failed to turn up on time, it totally mucked up our plans.* | *Bob had got his own life sorted out by then, and he didn't want Jody coming back and mucking things up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **screw up** *informal*

**2** **muck up sth** **muck sth up**

*informal, especially BrE* to do something very badly, so that you fail to succeed or achieve something: *Lisa aimed the gun carefully, anxious not to muck up her second shot.* | *I was amazed when I got an 'A' in History. I thought I'd really mucked it up.*

**muck-up** N [C]

when someone does something badly or fails to do something: *I made a real muck-up of my French exam.*

**3** **muck up sth** **muck sth up**

BrE *informal* to make something dirty or untidy: *Take those boots off or you'll muck up my clean floor.* | *I don't want to let the house to students – they'll only muck it up.*

**MUDDLE**

*muddled, muddled, muddling*

**muddle along/on****muddle along/on**

to live, work, or do something in a confused and not very successful way, especially without being properly organized or directed: *Students are often left to muddle along. The help they may need is not always available.* | *Some organizations are content to muddle along at quite a low level of performance.*

**muddle through****muddle through** **muddle through sth**

to succeed in doing or dealing with something even though you do not have a proper plan, or know exactly what you are doing: *Our survey found that most people do not know how to manage their money, and just muddle through.* | *We somehow managed to muddle through the crisis.*

**muddle up****1** **muddle up sth/sb** **muddle sth/sb up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to make the mistake of thinking that something or someone is another thing or person: *Is his girlfriend Joanne or Joanna? I keep muddling them up.*

**get sth/sb muddled up** *One area's marked blue on the map, and the other's a dark purple – it's easy to get them muddled up.*

**get muddled up** *Sorry, I got a bit muddled up over the dates.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mix up**

**2** **muddle sth up** **muddle up sth**

BrE to put something in the wrong order or to spoil the order that things are in: *Unfortunately my first and second names were muddled up on the examination certificate.*

**get sth muddled up** *If you had a proper filing system, you wouldn't get all your papers muddled up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mix up**

**MUFFLE**

*muffled, muffled, muffling*

**muffle up****muffle sb up** **muffle up sb**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to dress yourself in a lot of thick clothes in order to keep warm: *It was still very cold, and everyone was muffled up in coats and hats and gloves.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

**MUG**

*mugged, mugged, mugging*

**mug up****mug up sth** **mug sth up**

BrE *informal* to try to learn as much as you can about a subject in a short time, for example before an examination: *Bob wants to mug up as much as he can about Greece before we go there.*

+ on *Plan your revision carefully – it's no good trying to mug up on everything the night before.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **swot up** BrE *informal*

## MULL

*mulled, mulled, mulling*

### mull over

**mull over** sth    **mull** sth **over**

to think about something carefully and for a long time, often in order to make a decision or form an opinion about something

**mull it over** *"I haven't taken a decision yet," Yeltsin told journalists. "I'm mulling it over, thinking." | I think you should take a couple of weeks to mull it over before you decide.*

● COMPARE: **weigh up, ponder** *formal*

## MUSCLE

*muscled, muscled, muscling*

### muscle in/into

**muscle in**    **muscle into** sth

to use your power, influence, or strength to become involved in something that other people, companies etc are involved in, when they do not want you to do this: *Insurance companies are worried that the big banks will muscle in and start taking away their business. | Continental companies are trying to muscle into the UK market.*

**muscle in on sth** *He accused them of muscling in on his territory.*

**muscle in on the act** (=muscle in on a particular business, activity etc that other

people are already involved in, in a way that interferes with what they are doing) *Health foods are now big business, and some of the big food companies are muscling in on the act.*

### muscle out

**muscle out** sb    **muscle** sb **out**

AmE to use your power and influence to force someone to leave a job or an area of business: *Banks are willing to cut fees to muscle out their competitors.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **squeeze out**

## MUSS

*mussed, mused, musing*

### muss up

**muss up** sth    **muss** sth **up**

to make something untidy, especially hair or clothing: *She smiled sweetly, mussing up his hair as she knelt beside him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **ruffle up**

## MUSTER

*mustered, mustered, mustering*

### muster up

**muster up** sth    **muster** sth **up**

if you muster up courage, energy etc, you find enough of it to do something, especially something difficult: *Kim mustered up as much courage as she could, and stood up in front of the audience. | I don't think I can even muster up the energy to go out for a walk today.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **summon up**

# N

N

## NAFF

### naff off

#### naff off!

BrE spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away because they are annoying you: *If he bothers you again, just tell him to naff off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go away, get lost** informal

## NAIL

nailed, nailed, nailing

### nail down

#### 1 nail down sth/sb    nail sth/sb down

to make something final and definite, especially by getting other people to agree about specific details: *So far, we have been unable to nail down a date for the talks.* | *General Morillon is hoping to nail down a ceasefire agreement between the Serbs and the Muslims.*

**nail sb down to sth** (=make someone give you a definite decision or agreement about sth) *Before they start the work, nail them down to a price.*

#### 2 nail down sth    nail sth down

to understand or describe something correctly or exactly, especially after thinking about it carefully for a long time: *It's taken me a long time to nail down the cause of the problem.* | *She had to use a dictionary to nail down the precise meaning of the word.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pin down**

### nail up

#### nail up sth    nail sth up

to fasten a door, window etc with nails, in order to prevent it from being opened: *The door of the shed had been nailed up and the windows boarded over with plywood.*

## NAME

named, named, naming

### name after

ALSO **name for** AmE

#### name sb/sth after sb/sth

#### name sb/sth for sb/sth

to give someone or something the same name as another person, thing, or place:

*When the child was born, we decided to name him after my father. | Mandela had become so famous that streets were named for him in cities all over the world. | They named the aircraft carrier the USS Nimitz, after Admiral Chester Nimitz.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **call after**

## NARROW

narrowed, narrowed, narrowing

### narrow down

#### narrow down sth    narrow sth down

to reduce the number of things you can consider or choose from, by getting rid of those that are not suitable: *There aren't many cars within your price range, so that narrows down your choice considerably.*

**+ to** *Police will continue to go through the list of suspects until they have narrowed it down to one.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reduce, whittle down**

## NESTLE

nestled, nestled, nestling

### nestle down/up

#### nestle down/up

to get into a warm and comfortable position, especially when you are sitting or lying on something soft or near to someone else: *Sally nestled up beside him on the sofa and waited for the programme to begin.* | *The children had already nestled down under the covers, ready for their bedtime story.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **snuggle down**

## NIBBLE

nibbled, nibbled, nibbling

### nibble at

#### nibble at sth

to eat something, taking very small bites: *Emma nibbled at a piece of toast in thoughtful silence.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **peck at, pick at**

### nibble away at

#### nibble away at sth

to gradually reduce a large amount by taking smaller amounts from it: *All these expenses are nibbling away at our savings.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **eat into**

## N

**NOD**

nodded, nodded, nodding

**nod off****nod off**

to begin to sleep when you do not intend to, especially when you are sitting in a chair: *Old Tom had nodded off in front of the television.* | *I missed the end of her lecture – I think I must have nodded off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **doze off** informal, **drop off** informal

**NOSE**

nosed, nosed, nosing

**nose around**ALSO **nose about** BrE**nose around/about****nose around/about** sth

informal to look around a place trying to find out things about people in a way that annoys them: *I found him nosing about in my office, looking at the papers on my desk.* | *We don't want any private detectives nosing around the place.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **poke around/about**, **snoop**

**nose out****1 nose out** sth **nose** sth out

to discover some information that someone else does not want you to discover: *It didn't take him long to nose out where the money was hidden.* | *The media always manage to nose out some interesting facts about a politician's past life.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **uncover**, **find out**, **sniff out**

**2 nose out** sb **nose** sb out

to defeat someone by a very small amount in a race, competition etc: *Lynda Ramsden's horse, Tahitian, almost won, but was just nosed out by Cambrian in a photo finish.* | *Nike nosed out Adidas for the top spot among sports shoe manufacturers.*

**NOTCH**

notched, notched, notching

**notch up****notch up** sth **notch** sth up

to achieve something such as a victory, a number of points in a game, or a number of years in a particular job: *The Houston Astros have notched up another win.* | *the player who notched up 22 goals for us last season* | *Wright*

*and Benson have each notched up 35 years of service with the firm.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **clock up** especially BrE, **chalk up**

**NOTE**

noted, noted, noting

**note down****note down** sth **note** sth down

to quickly write down information that you want to remember so that you can look at it again later: *Note down the dates and times of your exams.* | *I checked all the phone numbers and noted them down in my diary.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **write down**, **jot down**, **make a note of**

**NUMBER**

numbered, numbered, numbering

**number among****number** sb/sth **among** sth**number among**

formal to include someone or something among a particular group, or to be included in such a group: *a beautiful woman who numbered Zola among her many admirers* | *IBM and Hewlett Packard are numbered among Mentat's customers in the US.* | *Welsh numbers among the best of our young writers.*

**number off****1 number off**

BrE if soldiers number off, they call out their number one after the other while standing in a line: *When the cadets were ordered to line up and number off, it became apparent that someone was missing.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **count off** AmE

**2 be numbered off**

if the members of a group are numbered off, especially children, they are each given their own number, starting with the number one: *To start the game, the children stand in a semi-circle and are numbered off.*

**NUZZLE**

nuzzled, nuzzled, nuzzling

**nuzzle up against/to****nuzzle up against/to** sb

to gently press your nose or head against someone in a way that shows you like them: *David's dog, a black cocker spaniel, came and nuzzled up against me.*

## O

**OBJECT**

objected, objected, objecting

**object to****1 object to** sth/sb

to disapprove of something or someone or to feel that something is wrong: *Most of the students strongly object to the new rules.* | *those members of the church who object to women priests* | *What I object to most is the way the book portrays African Americans.*

**object to sb doing sth** *I don't object to people smoking in the privacy of their own homes.*

**2 object to** sth

to say formally and officially that you oppose something or disapprove of it: *The Russian and Chinese delegates objected to the new American proposals.*

**OCCUR**

occurred, occurred, occurring

**occur to****occur to** sb

if an idea or a thought occurs to you, it comes into your mind: *It all seemed so simple – she wondered why the idea hadn't occurred to her before.*

**+ that** *It suddenly occurred to him that maybe his daughter was lying.*

**+ to do sth** *I suppose it never occurred to you to phone the police?*

**OFFEND**

offended, offended, offending

**offend against****offend against** sth

formal to do something that is wrong according to a rule or principle or according to what people feel is right: *If a priest has offended against Church law, he must be punished.* | *behaviour that offends against standards of common decency*

**OFFER**

offered, offered, offering

**offer up****1 offer up a prayer/a sacrifice etc**

to pray to God or give something to God:

*Thomas knelt and offered up a silent prayer of thanksgiving.*

**2 offer up** sth **offer** sth up

to show or suggest something to someone for them to consider, judge, or enjoy: *The annual exhibition is an occasion when young artists offer up their work for the critics to review.* | *a theory that offers up interesting possibilities about the origins of the universe*

\* SIMILAR TO: **present**

**OIL**

oiled, oiled, oiling

**oil up****oil up** sth **oil** sth up

to fill or cover something with oil: *Steve made a thorough inspection of the engine, oiled up the gearbox, and adjusted the brakes.*

**OPEN**

opened, opened, opening

**open into****open into** sth

if a room or door opens into another place, it leads directly into that other place: *The hallway opened into a large well-lit room.* | *At the bottom of the stairs was a door opening into the cellar.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lead into**

**open off****open off** sth

if a room or area opens off another room or area you can enter one directly from the other: *The breakfast room opened off the kitchen.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lead off**

**open onto****open onto** sth

if a room, door, or window opens onto a place, you can enter or look out at that place directly from it: *Patio doors opened onto a sunlit garden.* | *The windows of our apartment opened onto the market square.*

**open out****1 open out**

if a road, path, valley etc opens out, it becomes wider or reaches a wide space: *Beyond Villeneuve the valley begins to open out and you can glimpse the sea in the distance.*

**+ into** *I followed the narrow drive until it opened out into a large paved courtyard.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **widen**

2 **open out**

if a room opens out onto another place, the two areas are connected by doors or windows that you can open

† onto *The hotel lounge opens out into a wide covered terrace.*

3 **open out sth** **open sth out**

to unfold something and spread it into a wide shape: *Opening out the map he traced the line of the river with his finger.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **unfold**

4 **open out**

if something that is folded or closed opens out, it can be unfolded and spread into a wide shape: *The film was speeded up so that you could see the flowers opening out in a few seconds.* | *The small plastic case opens out to reveal a keyboard and an 8-line display screen.* | *a large soaring bird with a broad tail that opens out like a Japanese fan*

5 **open out sth** **open out**

BrE to begin to include a wider variety of things in a discussion, book, programme etc: *Ralph tried to open out the conversation.* "Played much golf this season?" he asked. | *What started as a specific issue involving one hospital has opened out into a full-scale debate about every aspect of the health service.*

**open up**1 **open up** **open up sth** **open sth up**

if a new shop, business etc opens up or is opened up, someone starts it: *Expensive restaurants and nightclubs were opening up all over the city.* | *It was 1946 when Siegel opened up the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start up**

● OPPOSITE: **close down**

2 **open up** **open up sth** **open sth up**

if opportunities open up or a new situation opens them up, they become available or possible: *A whole new life was opening up before her.* | *A move to New York would open up all kinds of exciting possibilities.*

3 **open up sth** **open sth up** **open up**

to make it easier for people travel to a country or area, or to increase the opportunities for business and development there: *They saw the new railroad as a means of opening up the far west of Canada.*

† to *India was ready to open up to foreign investment.* | *MacBrayne's new ferry service has opened the island up to tourism.*

4 **open up sth** **open sth up**

to open something that is closed, locked, or covered: *He opened up his briefcase and took out a photograph.* | *The grave had been opened up and the body removed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **open**

5 **open up sth** **open sth up**

AmE to unfold something and spread it into a wide shape: *I opened up the map to try to find Milwaukee Avenue.*

6 **open up** **open up sth** **open sth up**

to open the door of a building, especially by unlocking it, so that people can enter: *Open up! This is the police.* | *The janitor was the only person authorized to lock and open up the building.*

7 **open up sth** **open sth up**

to start a discussion or argument about a subject: *Diana's death opened up a debate about the future of the Royal Family.* | *When the report is published, it will probably open up the whole issue again.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spark off**

8 **open up**

to start shooting, especially with a large gun: *As our troops moved forward, the enemy opened up with machine guns.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **open fire**

9 **open up**

to stop being shy and say what you really think: *Once she knew she could trust me, Melissa started to open up.*

10 **open up a lead/gap**

if someone competing in a game or race opens up a lead or gap, they increase the number of points or the distance by which they are winning: *Minutes later the Australians scored again and opened up a 12 point lead.*

11 **open up** **open up sth** **open sth up**

if a disagreement opens up, or if something opens up a disagreement between people, it starts to divide them: *A rift has opened up between the President and his political advisers.*

12 **open up** **open up sth** **open sth up**

if a hole, crack etc opens up, or if something opens it up, it appears and becomes wider: *In 1985 an earthquake struck the city and a 20 metre-deep crack opened up in the Plaza Mayor.*

13 **open up sb/sth** **open sb/sth up**

to do a medical operation on a person or animal's body, by cutting it open: *The doctors said they'll have to open him up and remove the damaged tissue.*



## OPPOSE

### be opposed to

#### 1 be opposed to sth

to disagree with something such as a plan, idea, or activity, and try to prevent it from happening or succeeding: *Many Americans were opposed to the war in Vietnam.*

**be totally/violently/resolutely opposed to**  
*Most Tory MPs were resolutely opposed to any change in the law on advertising.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be against**

#### 2 be opposed to sth

if two ideas or opinions are opposed to each other, they are completely different from each other

**be diametrically/directly opposed to sth**  
*The principles of capitalism and communism are diametrically opposed to each other. | His evil ideas were directly opposed to those of a civilized culture.*

## OPT

opted, opted, opting

### opt for

opt for sth

to choose one thing or action instead of another, especially after thinking carefully about all the possibilities: *More and more British drivers are opting for Japanese cars. | an engineering graduate who finally opted for a career in teaching*

\* SIMILAR TO: **choose, plump for** *informal*, especially BrE

### opt in/into

opt in opt into sth

to decide to join a group or take part in a system: *If European Monetary Union proves a success, it is likely that Britain will opt in.*

● OPPOSITE: **opt out**

### opt out

#### 1 opt out

to decide not to join a group or take part in a system: *The company had its own pension plan, but individual employees were given the right to opt out.*

**+ of** *When the Baltic States opted out of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev was unwilling to stop them.*

● OPPOSITE: **opt in/into**

#### 2 opt out

to avoid doing a job or accepting a duty, especially when this causes problems for

other people: *From the first day they completely opted out, just sitting around while we did all the work.*

**+ of** *You can't simply opt out of all responsibility for the child.*

## ORDER

ordered, ordered, ordering

### order around

ALSO **order about** BrE

order sb around/about

if someone orders you around, they keep telling you what to do in an annoying or threatening way, especially when they do not have the right to do this: *She's left her husband - she couldn't stand the way he kept ordering her about. | You've no right to order the children around like that.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **boss around/about, push around/about**

### order in

#### 1 order in sth order sth in

especially AmE to order food that is ready to eat to be delivered to your home or office: *Gloria ordered in sandwiches from the deli.*

#### 2 order sb in order in sb

to order soldiers or police to go into a place to deal with trouble: *When rioting broke out, Governor Wallace ordered the troops in. | Special police units were ordered in from outside the city to deal with the gangs.*

### order off

order sb off

if a player is ordered off in a game of soccer, he is told to leave the field because of bad behaviour: *Four minutes from half-time Morgan was ordered off for punching another player.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **send off**

### order out

order out

AmE to order food that is ready to eat to be delivered to your home or office: *Let's order out tonight.*

**+ for** *We ordered out for pizza and bought a bottle of Chianti.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **send out for**

### order up

#### 1 order up sth order sth up

to ask for food or drinks to be brought to your hotel room: *I went back to my room and ordered up a light supper.*

**2** order up sth    order sth up

to order someone to send soldiers or weapons to the place where there is fighting: *Colonel Warner had already ordered up twelve rocket launchers.*

O

**OWN**

owned, owned, owning

**own to**

## own to sth

*old-fashioned* to admit that something is true even though you are ashamed of it: *I will own to being a coward, but I am not a traitor.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **admit**

**own up**

## own up



to admit that you have done something wrong, especially something that is not serious: *Unless the guilty person owns up, the whole class will be punished*

**own up to (doing) sth** *No one ever owned up to breaking the window.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **confess, admit**

# P

## PACE

paced, paced, pacing

### pace out/off

#### pace out/off sth

to measure a distance by walking with steps of equal length, and counting the number of steps: *The director paced out the length of the stage.* | *Jack paced off two hundred yards of the field and banged a post into the ground.*

● COMPARE: **measure out**

## PACK

packed, packed, packing

### pack away

#### 1 pack sth away pack away sth

to put something back in the box, case etc where it is usually kept, after you have finished using it: *It's time to take down the Christmas decorations and pack them away.* | *We packed away the picnic things and got into the car.*

#### 2 pack away sth pack sth away

informal to eat a large amount of food: *I could pack a meal away before the others had even found their napkins.* | *Billy can really pack it away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put away**

### pack in

#### 1 pack in sth pack sth in

informal to stop doing something, especially a job that you find unpleasant or annoying: *Geraint packed in his job and went travelling in Australia.*

**pack it in/pack it all in** *At times like this I feel like packing it all in. It's ridiculous the amount of work we're expected to do.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jack in** BrE informal, **quit**

#### 2 pack it in!

BrE spoken informal used to tell someone to stop doing something that is annoying you: *"Susan just punched me!" "Well pack it in, both of you!"*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock it off!** spoken informal, **cut it out!** spoken informal

#### 3 pack sb in

BrE to tell a boyfriend or girlfriend that you want to end the relationship: *He's always letting her down – I think she should pack him in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dump, finish with**

#### 4 pack sth in pack in sth

to do a lot of different things, and visit a lot of different places in a short period of time: *Seven days isn't long for a holiday, but you can pack a lot in if you try hard.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cram in**

#### 5 pack sb in pack in sb

if a film, play, performer etc packs people in, large numbers of people come to watch them: *Brad Pitt's latest film has packed in audiences across the country.* | *Dance-pop star Gloria Estefan is packing them in at the Oakland Coliseum.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull in**

### pack into

#### pack sth into sth

to do a lot of different things, and visit a lot of different places in a short period of time: *We managed to pack a lot into our two days in Paris.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cram in/into, fit in/into**

### pack off

#### pack off sb pack sb off

to send someone to a place without asking them if they want to go, and without allowing them to refuse: *As soon as the children were old enough they were packed off to boarding school.*

+ **to** *Mrs Fraser packed me off to bed as soon as she saw I was ill.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **send off**

### be packed out

#### be packed out

BrE if a place, meeting, concert etc is packed out, it is very full of people: *All the bars in Soho are packed out on a Friday night.*

+ **with** *Stratford is packed out with tourists in the summer.*

### pack up

#### 1 pack up pack up sth pack sth up

to put your things into bags, boxes etc, so that you can move them to another place: *She packed up her few belongings and left.* | *I didn't get to the exhibition until late, and people were already starting to pack up.*

#### 2 pack up

to finish working or finish what you are doing at the end of a day: *If business stays slow, you can pack up early.* | *I think it's about time we packed up and went home.*

#### 3 pack up

BrE informal if a machine packs up it stops working: *The bloody washing machine's packed up again!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **break down**

**PAD**

padded, padded, padding

**pad out**

pad out sth    pad sth out ✕

to make a piece of writing, speech or story longer by adding unnecessary words: *Concentrate on the relevant points – don't pad your essay out with waffle.* | *Unfortunately, 'Young Catherine' is a two-hour movie padded out to four.*

**pad up**

pad up    pad sb up

BrE to put on special clothes or equipment to protect yourself when playing a sport, especially cricket: *The players were in the changing room, padding up.*

**PAGE**

paged, paged, paging

**page down**

page down

to press a button on your computer so that you can see the next page of writing: *Page down until you get to the relevant information.*

● OPPOSITE: **page up**

**page through**

page through sth

AmE to turn the pages of a book, magazine etc, but not read it carefully: *Kathy paged through several magazines while waiting for her name to be called.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **thumb through, glance through, flick through**

**page up**

page up

to press a button on your computer so that you can see the previous page of writing: *Can you page up, please? I'd like to look at the introduction.*

● OPPOSITE: **page down**

**PAINT**

painted, painted, painting

**paint in**

paint in sth    paint sth in

to fill a space in a picture or add more details to it using paint: *The figures on the side were painted in at a later date.*

**paint out**

paint out sth    paint sth out

to hide something that has been drawn or painted by covering it with paint: *Volunteers spent two hours picking up trash and painting out graffiti at Dolores Park.*

**paint up**

paint up sth    paint sth up

BrE to paint something so that it looks bright and attractive: *His van was painted up with pictures of dragons and warriors.* | *Fully painted up, the old plane now glinted in the sun.*

**PAIR**

paired, paired, pairing

**pair off****1 pair off**

if people in a group pair off, they start to have a romantic relationship: *Everyone else at the party had paired off, and I was left on my own.*

+ with *I went on holiday with some friends, but within a couple of days they had paired off with Spanish boys they met in a bar.*

**2 pair sb off**

especially BrE to try to get two people to start a romantic relationship with each other

+ with *My mother's always trying to pair me off with 'nice' young men.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fix up**

**3 pair off    pair off sb    pair sb off**

if people in a group pair off or you pair them off, each person gets together with one other person to do a particular job or activity: *Could you all pair off and have a go at exercise 5?*

+ with *I was hoping I'd get paired off with Michael for the scriptwriting session.*

**pair up****1 pair up**

if two people pair up to do a particular job or activity, they get together to do it: *Johnson and Valenzuela paired up to write 'Memphis Time'.*

**2 pair sb up    pair up sb**

if you pair people up in a group, you make them do something together in groups of two

+ with *Miss Buge pairs up students who are doing well in her class with those who are having trouble.*

## 3 pair up

AmE if two people pair up, they start a romantic relationship: *Did Marty and Jessica pair up?*

+ with *I can't believe Amy has paired up with Mike! They are totally different people.*

## PAL

palled, palled, palling

## pal around

## pal around

AmE informal to go to different places and do things with someone as a friend: *Joe Pesci and Danny Glover palled around New York while making their latest movie.*

+ with *We can pal around with my brother and his wife when they're not working.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chum around** AmE informal

## pal up

## pal up

BrE informal to become friends with someone for a short time, while you are doing something together: *She palled up with some other girls she met in the hotel and they went scuba diving together.*

## PALM

palmed, palmed, palming

## palm off

## palm sb off palm off sb

to give someone an explanation or excuse that is not true, but that you hope they will accept

+ with *Clark tried to palm her off with excuses about working late, but deep down she knew that he was having an affair. | Brooks accused the Prime Minister of palming off the British people with a phoney version of the truth.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fob off**

## palm off as

## palm sth off as sth palm off sth as sth

to make people believe that something is better or more valuable than it really is, especially so that they will pay more for it: *Be careful, as some jewellers may try to palm off worthless bits of glass as diamonds.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pass off as**

## palm off on

## palm sth off on sb palm off sth on sb

to get rid of something by giving or selling it to someone else, without telling them about its faults: *When Del discovered that the toys*

*were faulty, he tried to palm them off on a bloke he met in the pub. | I've managed to palm that early morning class off on Mary – she's desperate for work.*

## PAN

panned, panned, panning

## pan out

## 1 pan out

if something that you have planned pans out, it happens or develops in a successful way: *If this trip doesn't pan out, I might go to Indonesia instead.*

## 2 pan out

the way something pans out is the way it develops or the way in which it happens: *"We're waiting to see how the negotiations pan out," DeSoto told reporters at the news conference.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work out**

## PANDER

pandered, pandered, pandering

## pander to

## pander to sb/sth

to do or provide what someone else wants, even though you know it is wrong, in order to get an advantage for yourself: *Even the quality newspapers pander to people's interest in the sex lives of politicians and television actors. | The government is accused of pandering to right-wing extremists, as it brings in new laws to restrict the rights of asylum seekers.*

## PANT

## pant for

## pant for sth

informal to want something very much: *The group's first single was an instant hit – the sort of stuff that makes you pant for more.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **gag for** informal

## PAPER

papered, papered, papering

## paper over

## paper over sth

to try to hide the fact that there is a disagreement or problem because you do not want people to know about it, especially without much success: *The two parties tried to paper over their differences and form a government together.*

**paper over the cracks** Hague tried to paper over the cracks after the leadership contest, but it was clear that the party was bitterly divided.

\* SIMILAR TO: gloss over

## PARACHUTE

parachuted, parachuted, parachuting

### parachute in

parachute in sb    parachute sb in

to bring someone to work in a place or organization where they have not worked before, especially when this is very sudden and annoys the people who live or work there – used especially in news reports: *Welsh people were annoyed when their local Labour candidate was rejected by the party, and a new candidate was parachuted in from London.*

## PARCEL

parcelled, parcelled, parcelling BrE  
parceled, parceled, parceling AmE

### parcel out

parcel out sth    parcel sth out

to divide or share something among several people: *He parcels out the work to team members according to their areas of expertise. | Much of the best land in Egypt was parcelled out among rich landowners.*

\* SIMILAR TO: share out

### parcel up

1 parcel up sth    parcel sth up

BrE to wrap something with paper, string etc so that you can send it somewhere by post: *She left her name and address so that the books could be parcelled up and sent to her.*

\* SIMILAR TO: wrap up, box up

2 parcel up sth    parcel sth up

BrE to divide something into separate parts, especially an area of land or a large company: *The British parcelled up Africa with the help of the other Europeans, and straight lines were drawn on maps to represent the borders of countries.*

\* SIMILAR TO: divide up

## PARE

pared, pared, paring

### pare away/off

pare away/off sth    pare sth away/off

to remove part of something, especially part of a debt: *Engelhard Corporation said the restructuring and sale of businesses would*

*pare away 35 percent of its debt. | Borrowers can choose to repay the loan with 3 or 5 per cent pared off their monthly repayments.*

\* SIMILAR TO: trim down

### pare back

pare back sth    pare sth back

to reduce something, especially in order to save money: *In Mountain View School District, art programs have been pared back but not eliminated. | Several Japanese companies have dramatically pared back their manufacturing investments this year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: cut back

### pare down

pare down sth    pare sth down

to reduce the size of something, by getting rid of what you do not need: *An editor helped Seth to pare the book down to a readable length. | It is likely the company will continue to pare down its workforce over the next few years.*

\* SIMILAR TO: trim down, cut back

**pared-down** ADJ ONLY BEFORE NOUN

reduced in size: *The Senate Foreign Relations Committee accepted a pared-down version of the bill on Wednesday.*

## PARLAY INTO

parlayed, parlayed, parlaying

### parlay into

1 parlay sth into sth

AmE formal to use something that you already have in order to get a new opportunity or make a lot of money: *Liz Taylor will be able to parlay one perfume into millions of pounds.*

2 parlay into sth

AmE formal to develop in a way that gives someone an advantage or opportunity: *Her success on the university volleyball team could parlay into an invitation to try out for the U.S. Olympic team.*

\* SIMILAR TO: develop (into)

## PART

parted, parted, parting

### be parted from

be parted from sb/sth

especially BrE to be separated from someone or something: *My parents were hardly ever parted from each other in thirty years of marriage. | At age 4, Becky refused to be parted from her purple dress even long enough for it to be washed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: be separated (from)



**part with****part with** sth/sb NOT PASSIVE

to give or sell something to someone else, when you do not really want to: *She took the gun from Jack, who parted with it reluctantly.* | *Retail stores will have to work hard this season to persuade shoppers to part with their money.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hand over**● OPPOSITE: **hold onto/hold on to****PARTAKE**

partook, partaken, partaking

**partake in****partake in** sth

formal to take part in an activity or event: *At least 200 kids were there, ready to partake in the annual Giants baseball camp.* | *Jennifer will come back to her parents' house to partake in the Christmas festivities.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **participate in, take part in, partake of** formal**partake of****1 partake of sth**

formal or humorous to eat or drink something, especially something that is offered to you: *Because many of the resort's guests are Japanese, you can partake of miso soup, raw fish and steamed rice for breakfast.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **have****2 partake of sth**

formal to take part in an activity or event: *Organized children's activities will keep the kids happy while you partake of exercise classes or card games.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **participate in, take part, partake in** formal**3 partake of sth**

old-fashioned if something partakes of a particular quality, it has some of that quality in it: *He has a confident manner that partakes of arrogance.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **smack of****PARTITION**

partitioned, partitioned, partitioning

**partition off****partition off** sth **partition** sth **off**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to separate one area from another area using a thin wall, glass, furniture etc: *The foreman's office was partitioned off from the rest of the factory, and through the window he could see the men at work on the machines.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **separate, divide off****PARTNER**

partnered, partnered, partnering

**partner up**ALSO **partner off** especially BrE**partner up/off** **partner** sb **up/off**

to join with someone in order to do something together, such as play a game or dance, or to make someone do this: *Sam and I partnered up for our club's tennis tournament.*

+ **with** *Ezra partnered off with Dana, and we began the game.*\* SIMILAR TO: **pair up, pair off****PASS**

passed, passed, passing

**pass around**ALSO **pass round** BrE**1 pass around/round sth****pass** sth **around/round**

to give something to one person in a group for them to give to the next person, until everyone has had it: *Write your name on this list then pass it round.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pass on****2 pass sth around/round****pass around/round** sth

to offer something to each person in a group: *Carla brought some cakes in and passed them around.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hand around****pass as****1 pass as sb**

to make other people think that you are a type of person that you are not, because you look or seem so much like that type

**sb could pass as sb** *With my hair cut short I could have passed as a boy.* | *Paul's an athletic-looking guy who could easily pass as a gym teacher.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pass for****2 pass as sth**

if one thing passes as another, it is called or considered the second thing even though it is not – used when you do not approve of something: *chocolate-covered granola bars that pass as healthy snacks*

**what passes as** (=what is called or considered) *The houses had no bathrooms, and what passed as running water came through garden hoses.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pass for**

## pass away

### 1 pass away

formal to die – use this when you want to be very polite and avoid using the word 'die': *Colonel Tom Parker passed away last week at the age of 87. | John Hewitt had been ill for some time, and passed away peacefully on 12 April.*

\* SIMILAR TO: die, pass on

### 2 pass away

formal to slowly disappear or stop existing: *We pray that this threat of war may quickly pass away.*

### 3 pass away

when a period of time passes away, it finishes: *Day after day passed away, but still we heard nothing from Kendall.*

\* SIMILAR TO: go by

### 4 pass away sth pass sth away

if you pass a period of time away, you spend time doing something so that you are not bored, especially when you are waiting for something else to happen: *The old men sit outside cafes, and play cards to pass the time away. | I tried to pass away the time by reading a magazine.*

\* SIMILAR TO: while away

## pass between

### 1 pass between sb

if a look passes between two people, they look at each other quickly in a way that shows they have the same feeling or thought: *A look of disgust passed between Jim and his wife. | He saw a quick glance pass between Joanna and Helen, and wondered if they knew his secret.*

### 2 pass between sb

if something passes between people, they talk to each other: *"Did she say anything about the letter?" "Why should I tell you anything that passed between us, Mr Barnett?" | Many sceptical remarks passed between the lips of the girls in Loreto College.*

**not a word passes between sb** (=they do not speak to each other) *Hardly a word passed between them for the rest of the journey.*

## pass by

### 1 pass by pass by sb/sth

to go past someone or something without stopping: *The express train passed by with a deafening noise. | The dog likes to sit in the front garden and bark at anyone who passes by our house.*

\* SIMILAR TO: go by, go (past)

## passer-by N [C]

someone who is walking past when something such as a crime or accident happens in then street: *The fire was reported by a passer-by who saw flames coming from the six-storey complex.*

### 2 pass sb by

if an event passes you by, it happens without your noticing it much or being affected by it: *My mother lived in a remote village, and all the excitement of the 1960s passed her by. | On the whole, the war passed us by in Baldersdale, although we had to put up black-out curtains in the windows.*

### 3 pass sb by

if an opportunity passes you by, you fail to take it when it is available

**let a chance/opportunity pass sb by** *He'll never forgive himself for letting the opportunity of a lifetime pass him by.*

**life/the world passes you by** (=you fail to get any advantage from the opportunities that life offers) *Life can easily pass by if you don't reach out and grab it.*

● COMPARE: miss out

### 4 pass by pass by sth

to go near a place on the way to another place, especially by chance: *If you pass by a store, could you please pick up some milk? | Come in and see us if you happen to be passing by.*

\* SIMILAR TO: go by

## pass down

### pass down sth pass sth down

USUALLY PASSIVE

to give or teach something to people who are younger than you or live after you: *The people of the village perform musical dramas which have been passed down through the generations.*

**+ to** *Grandma Yager passed down to her children and grandchildren a love for reading all kinds of books.*

\* SIMILAR TO: hand down, pass on

## pass for

### 1 could pass for sb

to make other people think you are a type of person that you are not, because you look or seem so much like that type

**sb could pass as sb** *The Mitchell brothers could easily pass for twins. | If you grow your hair any longer, you could pass for a girl.*

\* SIMILAR TO: pass as

2 **pass for sth**

if one thing passes for another, it is called or considered the second thing even though it is not – used when you do not approve of something: *some of the rubbish that passes for music in the popular charts these days* | *Chinese students said they found it difficult to eat what passes for Asian cooking in the UK.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pass as**

**pass off**1 **pass off peacefully/well**

BrE if an event passes off peacefully or well, it is peaceful or a success: *Today's demonstration passed off peacefully, as 5000 people gathered in the capital's main square.* | *The party had passed off rather well, he thought.*

2 **it passes off**

BrE spoken if the effects of an illness pass off, they disappear: *"You're shivering! Have you seen a doctor?" "No, I'm sure it'll pass off."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **disappear**

**pass off as**1 **pass sth off as sth**

to make people believe that something is better or more valuable than it really is, especially so that they will pay more for it: *Keating painted in various styles and passed them off as originals, making a lot of money in the process.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **palm off as**

2 **pass yourself off as sb**

to make people think that you are someone that you are not, especially in order to deceive them: *Kavitz plays someone who manages to survive the war by passing himself off as a German soldier.*

3 **pass off sth pass sth off**

to ignore something, especially a remark, or pretend it is not very serious, because you do not want it to hurt you

† **as** *Laughing lightly, Claire passed it off as a joke.* | *Jennings tried to pass off Hardy's comments as insignificant, but inside he was furious.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shrug off**

**pass on**1 **pass sth on pass on sth**

to tell someone a piece of information that someone else has told you: *If I get any news, I'll pass it on.* | *I left a message with one of her colleagues, but it didn't get passed on.*

† **to** *It was discovered that he had been passing secrets on to the Russians whilst working at the Pentagon.*

2 **pass sth on pass on sth**

to give something, especially a disease or special quality to your children, so that they are born with it

† **to** *Older mothers have a higher risk of passing genetic disorders on to their children.* | *Robin had been a pretty good football player in his youth – a talent that he seems to have passed on to his son.*

3 **pass sth on pass on sth**

to give something such as land or a house to someone younger than you, especially your child, after your death

† **to** *Paul bought the land hoping that one day he could pass it on to his son.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hand down, pass down, leave to**

4 **pass on sth pass sth on**

to teach a skill, knowledge, tradition etc to someone younger than you so that they will have it or know it too

† **to** *It is only natural for immigrant parents to pass on their native language to their children.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hand down**

5 **pass sth on pass on sth**

to give an illness or disease to someone else: *The infected person may suffer no ill health from his disease but is still capable of passing it on to others.* | *There is no evidence that the virus can be passed on to another person through air or water.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give, transmit** *formal*

6 **pass on**

to die – use this when you want to be very polite and avoid using the word 'die': *Mary passed on before his grandchildren were born.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **die, pass away**

7 **pass sth on pass on sth**

to give something to someone else, after you have had it or finished with it first: *Take a cookie and pass the rest on.*

**pass on to**1 **pass sth on to sb pass on sth to sb**

if companies pass on higher or lower costs to their customers, they charge more or less for their goods and services according to how much their own costs increase or decrease: *Supermarkets buy large quantities of produce at reduced prices, and then pass these savings on to their customers.*

2 **pass sb on to sb pass on sb to sb**

to suggest to someone that they should speak to another person, because you think that person will be able to help them: *A woman rang up wanting to know about creative writing courses, so I passed her on to the English department.*

3 **pass on to sth**

BrE to start talking about a new subject: *We haven't got much time, so let's pass on to item two on the agenda.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **move on**

**pass out**1 **pass out** ✓

to become unconscious, usually for a short time: *Kevin drank so much vodka that he passed out on the stairs.* | *Firemen rescued the two workers who had passed out after breathing in smoke.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **black out**

2 **pass out sth** **pass sth out** ✗

to give something to each person in a group: *Jose put on a Santa hat and passed out candy canes to the children.* | *Volunteers have been passing out food to the 100 people who have lost their homes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hand out, give out, distribute**

3 **pass out**

BrE to finish a course of study at a military school or police college: *He passed out of flying school in 1931, and flew with Bomber Command.*

**pass over**1 **pass over sth**

to deliberately not discuss a particular subject or deal with a particular problem: *Many textbooks pass over upsetting details about the war.* | *Let's pass over the budget matter for now, and go on to talk about our new projects.* | *Less serious crimes such as vandalism are passed over, as police struggle to maintain order in this deprived part of the city.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **ignore**

2 **pass sb over** **pass over sb**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are passed over for a job, you do not get it because someone else in the same organization who is less experienced is chosen instead of you, and you think that this is unfair: *Johnson claimed that she was unfairly passed over in favor of a man, and accused the company of sexism.*

**be passed over for promotion** *Three black officers claim they have been passed over for promotion because of racial prejudice.*

**pass to****pass to sb**

formal if something passes to you, you become the owner of it, or you become responsible for it: *If you die without making a will, your property will usually pass to your spouse and children.* | *According to the Treaty,*

*control of the canal passes to Panama in the year 2000.*

**pass up****pass up sth** **pass sth up** OFTEN NEGATIVE

to not take an opportunity when it becomes available: *They're offering me a fantastic salary, so I'd be crazy to pass it up.*

**pass up a chance/opportunity (to do sth)**

*William couldn't pass up the opportunity to work in Hollywood.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn down**

**PAT**

patted, patted, patting

**pat down****pat sb down** **pat down sb**

AmE informal to search someone, especially in order to check if they are carrying a dangerous weapon, illegal drugs etc: *A security guard was patting him down at the airport when he found traces of cocaine in one of his pockets.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **frisk**

**PATCH**

patched, patched, patching

**patch together****patch together sth****patch sth together**

to make or arrange something quickly and carelessly from several different parts or ideas: *A new plan was quickly patched together.* | *Bosnia had to patch together an army, sending soldiers to the front with no formal training, and little more than hunting rifles.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cobble together**

**patch up**1 **patch up sth** **patch sth up**

if you patch up a relationship or argument with someone, you stop arguing with them and agree to be friendly with each other: *Mindy wanted to patch up her marriage after a year of separation.*

**patch things up** *Claire and Jeremy patched things up between them, and now they're getting married.*

**patch up your differences** *Aragon agreed to meet with Campbell to try to patch up their differences.*

2 **patch up sth** **patch sth up**

to repair something by adding a piece of material to it, instead of replacing it with a new one: *We can patch these curtains up and make them look almost new.* | *They patched up the roof – they couldn't afford a new one.*

### 3 patch up sth patch sth up

to give quick and basic medical treatment to someone who is hurt: *Liam fell and hurt his knee, and was sent to the school nurse to patch it up.*

## PATTERN

patterned, patterned, patterning

### pattern after/on

pattern after/on sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to design or make something in a way that is copied from something else: *The new health care plan is patterned on the Medicare program. | Hilger's films have been patterned after her own life experiences.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **model on/upon, base on**

## PAVE

paved, paved, paving

### pave over

pave over sth

to cover a path, road etc with a hard level surface: *Builders have paved over or developed 800,000 acres of open land in the Hayes Valley. | Two years ago this area was paved over to make an expressway to the airport.*

## PAW

pawed, pawed, pawing

### paw at

#### 1 paw at sth

if an animal paws at something, it touches or rubs it again and again with its paws (=feet): *Buster kept pawing at my legs and trying to jump up on my lap. | The horse pawed at the fence, trying to reach the oats on the other side.*

#### 2 paw at sb

to keep touching someone in a rough or sexual way which is very annoying or offensive: *All the guys at the party were completely drunk and pawing at the women. | The kids pawed at me all at once, each one trying to get more attention than the others.*

## PAY

paid, paid, paying

### pay back

#### 1 pay sb/sth back pay back sb/sth

pay sb back sth

to give someone the money that you owe them: *Send me the money for a plane ticket home and I'll pay you back, okay, Mom? | I*

*have ten years to pay back my student loans. | Did I pay you back that £5?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **repay**

#### 2 pay sb back

to do something unpleasant to someone as a punishment, because they have done something unpleasant to you

+ for *Mrs Rustik vowed to find her daughter's killer and pay him back for what he did.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get back**

### pay for

pay for sth

to suffer or be punished for something you have done: *We must make criminals pay for their crimes. | I've paid dearly for mistakes I've made, and tried to learn something from them too.*

### pay in/into

pay sth in pay in sth

pay sth into sth

to put money in your bank account or a savings plan: *Did you remember to pay that cheque in? | I paid \$250 into my savings account.*

### pay off

#### 1 pay off sth pay sth off

to pay all the money you owe someone: *Mendez is working overtime to pay off his debts. | Two years after the accident, the Thompsons have finally paid off their son's hospital bills.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **settle**

#### 2 pay off

if something that you do pays off, it is successful or worth doing: *The band's dedication and practice finally paid off when their single made it to number 1 in the charts. | They took a hell of a risk, but it really paid off in the end.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be worth it, pay dividends**

**payoff** N [C]

informal an advantage or good result you get from something you do: *Managers need to ensure that expensive, long-term projects have an adequate payoff.*

#### 3 pay sb off pay off sb

to give someone money so they will not tell other people about something, especially something illegal or dishonest: *Police are still trying to figure out who paid Trebble off. | City leaders have been accused of paying off people who want to file complaints.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **buy off**

**payoff** N [C]

informal a payment that you make to someone secretly or illegally in order to stop

them from causing you any trouble: *Our main witness is refusing to talk – the gang must have threatened her, or given her a payoff.*

**4** **pay sb off**    **pay off sb**

especially BrE to stop employing a worker after paying them the wages that you owe them: *Fife's biggest firm of solicitors has been forced to pay off the staff because of the recession.* | *Although the engineering firm paid off 90 workers, 700 other jobs have been saved.*

● COMPARE: **lay off**

**payoff** N [C]

informal a payment that you make to someone when you make them leave their job, especially very large sums of money paid to company directors: *Diller received an incredible £15 million payoff after he was forced to resign earlier this year.*

**pay out**

**1** **pay out sth**    **pay sth out**

to pay money to someone because they are owed it, or have earned it, or won it: *\$6 million of prize money is paid out every week.* | *I'm still waiting for the insurance company to pay out.*

**payout** N [C]

a sum of money paid to someone because they are owed it, or have earned it, or won it: *A \$50,000 payout on the insurance policy was to be shared by CenTrust and PaulCo.*

**2** **pay out**    **pay out sth**

to spend a lot of money on something, especially when you do not want to: *I'm sick of paying out all this money on rent.* | *Why pay out £300 for a dress, when you're never going to wear it again?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spend**, **fork out** informal, **shell out** informal

**3** **pay out sth**    **pay sth out**

formal to slowly unwind a piece of rope: *Lance paid out the line, and we secured the boat to the dock.*

**pay over**

**pay over sth**    **pay sth over**

to make an official payment of money to someone

+ to *Clancy's share of the inheritance was paid over to him.*

**pay up**

**pay up**

to pay money that you owe, especially when you do not want to: *In most cases, Fidelity said, people pay up in response to the overdue*

*notice.* | *I've lost my credit card. Will I have to pay up if someone uses it?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cough up** informal

**paid-up** ADJ

a paid-up member is someone who has paid the money necessary to join a club, political party etc: *a paid-up member of the Labour Party*

**PEAL**

pealed, peeled, peeling

**peal out**

**peal out**

literary to make a loud sound which can be heard a long distance away – use this about bells ringing: *The bells pealed out all over the Palace of Westminster.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **ring out**

**PECK**

pecked, pecked, pecking

**peck at**

**1** **peck at sth**

if a bird pecks at something, it tries to eat it with its beak: *Two geese were pecking at some grain in the farmyard.*

**2** **peck at sth**

to eat only a small part of your meal, because you are not very hungry: *Lady Lassiter pecked at her food for a few minutes and then pushed her plate to one side.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pick at**, **nibble at**

**PEE**

peed, peed, peeing

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

**pee down**

**it's peeing down**

BrE spoken informal used to say that it is raining very heavily. This is a rude expression and some people are offended by it.: *As soon as we got out of the car it started peeing down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **it's pouring down**, **it's chucking (it) down** BrE spoken informal

**PEEL**

peeled, peeled, peeling

**peel off**

**1** **peel off sth**    **peel sth off**

to take off clothes, especially when they are wet or tight: *Christina went upstairs to her*



bedroom, peeled off her sticky clothes, and jumped into a cool shower.

\* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

## 2 peel off peel off sth

if something peels off, it comes away from a surface in small pieces – use this especially about paint or dry skin: *Paint was peeling off the faded white walls. | My suntan had all peeled off by the time we got home.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **flake off**

## 3 peel off sth peel sth off

to remove the outside layer from the surface of something: *Boil the potatoes and then peel off the skins. | The old Indian took some chewing gum out of his pocket, and began to peel off the wrapper.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

## 4 peel off

to move away from the group that you have been walking or travelling with, and go in a different direction: *Two soldiers peeled off to the left and saluted the Queen.*

## 5 peel off sth peel sth off

to take some money from a thick pile of paper money that you are holding: *The man peeled off two bank notes from the roll in his pocket.*

## PEG

pegged, pegged, pegging

### peg away

#### peg away

BrE *informal* to work hard at something that is very difficult and takes a long time to get a good result

+ **at** *The South African team kept pegging away at Australia, and managed to get them all out for 230 runs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slog away** BrE *informal*, **plug away** *informal*

### peg out

## 1 peg out sth peg sth out

BrE to fasten clothes or sheets to a line outside, so that they dry: *Can you help me peg these sheets out?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hang out**

## 2 peg out sth peg sth out

to fasten something to the ground using small metal or wooden sticks: *Place the tent on the ground and peg out the four corners.*

## 3 peg out

BrE *old-fashioned informal* to die – used especially humorously: *It was so hot in there – I thought I was going to peg out in the heat.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **die**

## PELT

pelted, pelted, pelting

### pelt down

#### it's pelting down

*informal* used to say that it is raining very heavily: *It's been pelting down all morning.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **it's pouring down**

## PEN

penned, penned, penning

### pen in

## 1 feel penned in

if you feel penned in, you feel that you are too limited by the situation that you are in, and cannot do what you want: *Leonora was fed up with her life in England. She felt bored and penned in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **trapped, be hemmed in**

## 2 pen in sth/sb pen sth/sb in

USUALLY PASSIVE

to shut animals or people in an enclosed area so that they cannot escape: *The sheep were penned in for the night.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pen up**

### pen up

#### pen up sth/sb pen sb/sth up

USUALLY PASSIVE

to shut animals or people in an enclosed area so that they cannot escape: *He kept his victims penned up in his garage. | The bull was dangerous and had to be penned up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pen in**

## PENCIL

pencilled, pencilled, pencilling BrE  
penciled, penciled, penciling AmE

### pencil in

#### pencil sb/sth in pencil in sb/sth

to make an arrangement for someone to do something or something to happen, which is not definite and which may be changed later: *He has a meeting penciled in with the Japanese Prime Minister in May.*

+ **for** *I'll pencil you in for next Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.*

## PENSION

pensioned, pensioned, pensioning

### pension off

## 1 pension sb off pension off sb

to arrange for someone to stop working and receive a pension, because they are old, ill, or

no longer needed. A pension is money that people receive each month from a company or the government after they have stopped working: *The Defence Ministry pensioned off 750 officers including 10 generals* | *In traditional societies the elders directed the affairs of the tribe; in Western societies, the elderly are usually pensioned off.*

**2 pension sth off pension off sth**

especially BrE to get rid of something that you have been using for a long time because it is no longer useful: *The old cruise ship was finally pensioned off and spent the rest of her days as a floating hotel.* | *Coal-fired power stations are being pensioned off and replaced by gas-fired ones, which are less harmful to the environment.*

\* SIMILAR TO: to do away with, get rid of

## PEP

pepped, pepped, pepping

### pep up

**1 pep up sth pep sth up**

to make something more exciting, interesting or more effective: *Adding a little chili powder helps pep up the flavour.* | *Recently the long-running TV drama series has been losing viewers, and scriptwriters have tried to pep it up by introducing some new characters.*

\* SIMILAR TO: liven up, spice up

**2 pep up sb pep sb up**

to give someone more energy and make them feel less tired: *Some aromatherapy oils help you relax, and others pep you up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: perk up

## PEPPER

peppered, peppered, peppering

### pepper with

**1 pepper sth with sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

to include a lot of a particular type of words or phrases in a book, speech etc: *The script, by Frank Clarke, is peppered with four-letter words and modern slang.* | *Her early school reports were peppered with comments such as 'Margaret has a very active imagination' and 'Margaret must learn not to go off into a day-dream'.*

**pepper sth with sth** (=use a lot of a particular type of language in a book, speech etc) *Mussolini peppered his speeches with slogans.*

\* SIMILAR TO: sprinkle (with)

**2 be peppered with sth**

if something is peppered with smaller things, there are a lot of the smaller things all over it:

*The mountainside was steep and peppered with yellow bushes.* | *He had thick black hair, peppered with grey.*

**3 pepper sb/sth with sth**

to fire a lot of bullets or throw a lot of things at someone or something: *Anyone who tried to resist was swiftly peppered with a hail of bullets.*

## PERK

perked, perked, perking

### perk up

**1 perk up perk sb up perk up sb**

to become more cheerful, interested, or have more energy, or to make someone feel like this: *Their faces seemed to perk up a little when she mentioned the subject of money.* | *I like to start the day with a cup of coffee. It helps to perk me up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: liven up

**2 perk up perk up sth perk sth up**

to improve and become more interesting or exciting, or to make something do this: *A run round the park every day can perk up your sex life.* | *The housing market is starting to perk up, and prices have been rising steadily.*

\* SIMILAR TO: liven up, pep up

## PERMIT

permitted, permitted, permitting

### permit of

**permit of sth**

formal to make it possible for something to happen: *His present financial situation did not permit of marriage to a woman of Lady Sarah's rank.* | *Much of the area is mountainous, with only around one-fifth permitting of cultivation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: enable

## PERTAIN

pertained, pertained, pertaining

### pertain to

**pertain to sth** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

formal to be directly connected with a particular subject, event, or person: *In matters pertaining to the soul, woman does not differ from man.* | *Five of the charges pertained to the torture and murder of political prisoners.*

\* SIMILAR TO: be connected with, be concerned with, relate to

**PETER**

*petered, petered, petering especially spoken*

**peter out****1 peter out**

if something **peters out**, there is gradually less and less of it, or it becomes gradually less and less strong, until it stops completely: *The rain will peter out later on in the day.* | *Our conversation began to peter out and I was struggling to think of anything to say.* | *Eventually the clapping petered out and people got up to leave the concert hall.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fizzle out** informal

**2 peter out**

if a path or road **peters out**, it gradually becomes narrower and less clear, until it ends completely: *As they went further into the forest, the path gradually petered out.* | *The street petered out into a country lane.*

**PHASE**

*phased, phased, phasing*

**phase in**

**phase in sth**    **phase sth in** ✕

to gradually introduce something such as a new system or product: *The new taxes will be phased in over a three-year period.* | *Future plans include the phasing in of alternative sources of energy such as wind farms and solar panels.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bring in**

**phase out**

**phase out sth**    **phase sth out** ✕

to gradually stop using something such as a system or product: *The old trains will gradually be phased out over the next 18 months.* | *His party is already committed to phasing out nuclear power stations.* | *Greenpeace is urging governments to speed up the phasing out of ozone-destroying chemicals*

**PHONE**

*phoned, phoned, phoning*

**phone around**

ALSO **phone round** BrE

**phone around/round**

**phone around/round sb**

to telephone several people, companies etc especially in order to find out about something: *Branson spent a frantic evening phoning around friends until he found her.* | *Why don't you phone around and see if you can get a better price somewhere else?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **ring round/around** BrE, **call around** especially AmE

**phone back**

**phone back**    **phone sb back**

**phone back sb**

to telephone someone for a second time or after they have telephoned you: *The woman said she'd phone back straightaway.* | *To my surprise, he phoned me back a few days later, and offered me the job.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **call back** spoken, **ring back** BrE spoken, **return sb's call**

**phone for**

**phone for sth**    **phone sb for sth**

to telephone someone and ask them to provide you with something or send you something: *She phoned for a taxi, which arrived 20 minutes later.* | *Group bookings available, phone for details.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **call for**

**phone in****1 phone in**

BrE to telephone a television or radio company in order to talk during a programme or give your opinions about something: *When 'Brookside' showed Barry Grant kicking a dog, hundreds of viewers phoned in to complain.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **call in**, **ring in** BrE

**phone-in/phone-in programme** N [C]

a radio or television programme in which people telephone the programme to give their opinions, or ask or answer questions: *Julian is currently hosting his own phone-in programme, 'Intimate Contact With Julian Clary'.* | *A gentleman from Peebles called our phone-in to ask for help with whitefly on his lettuces.*

**2 phone in**

to telephone an organization such as the police, a hospital, or your place of work in order to report or ask about something: *Someone phoned in to the hospital to report the accident.* | *A man called Dario Carella phoned in claiming to have seen one of the suspected terrorists.*

**phone in sick** (=telephone your company to say that you are ill and cannot come to work) *I felt awful, so I phoned in sick and went straight to bed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **call in**, **ring in** BrE

**phone round**

SEE **phone around**

## phone through

phone through sth    phone sth through

phone through

to telephone someone to give them a message or order, or to give or ask for information about something: *Simply phone through your order, and the equipment will be delivered to your house the next day.* | *Ted can work out a market price and phone it through to us.*

## phone up

phone up sb    phone sb up

phone up

to telephone someone and speak to them: *I kept phoning her up, asking to see her and the children.* | *Jonathan has just phoned up to say that he'll be late.* | *I phoned up the police and told them about it, but they said there was nothing they could do.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **call up, ring up** BrE

## PICK

picked, picked, picking

### pick at

1 pick at sth

to eat only small amounts of food without showing much interest in it, for example because you are not hungry or you are thinking about something else: *Chantal was picking at the salad without much enthusiasm.* | *Paige was so worried she could only pick at her meal, forcing down a mouthful or two.*

2 pick at sth

to scratch or pull something gently again and again: *Wayne sat on a log, picking at an old scab on his knee.* | *"So," said Andrea, picking at a pool of wax on the table, "why did you come back?"*

3 pick at sb

especially AmE to keep criticizing someone or complaining about things that they do, especially things that are not very important: *My two boys pick at each other all day about stupid little things.*

### pick off

1 pick off sb    pick sb off

to shoot and kill one person or animal in a group, or destroy one plane, ship etc in a group and continue to do this again and again: *The British soldiers wore red tunics, which made it easy for the Boers to pick them off from a distance.* | *They picked off Iraq's mobile Scud missiles one by one and, gradually, the Scuds stopped reaching their targets.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take out**

2 pick off sb    pick sb off

to choose and take the best people or things from a group: *The big clubs are able to pick off rising young stars early in their career.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cherrypick**

### pick on

1 pick on sb/sth

to treat one person badly in a way that seems very unfair, for example because they are the weakest or they are different from the other people in the group: *Marjorie was a shy, quiet girl who was always being picked on and bullied by the other kids at school.* | *The other students have found out that I am gay, and keep picking on me all the time.*

2 pick on sb/sth

BrE to choose one person or thing when you could easily have chosen someone else or a different one: *My son's first word was 'dada', but for some reason my daughter picked on 'toaster'.* | *I don't know why he picked on me; I've never been very attractive.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **choose**

### pick out

1 pick out sth/sb    pick sth/sb out

to choose one particular thing or person from a group: *Sophie naturally picked out the most expensive ring in the whole shop.* | *The judges picked her work out as the best in the show.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **select, single out**

2 pick out sb/sth    pick sb/sth out

to recognize a person or thing from a group: *The watchman was able to pick out his attackers at an identification parade.* | *It was hard to pick out faces that he knew in the crowd.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **identify**

3 pick out sb/sth    pick out sb/sth

to succeed in seeing someone or something, even though this is difficult, for example because it is dark or they are a long distance from you: *My eyes had become accustomed to the dark, so I could pick out shapes about seventy-five yards away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **make out, identify**

4 pick out sth    pick sth out

if a light picks out something, it shines on it or in a way that makes it possible to see it clearly: *The dim light picked out the shadows of his cheekbones.* | *Suddenly the car headlights picked out a cat which was darting across the road in front of them.*

5 pick out sth    pick sth out

USUALLY PASSIVE

if something is picked out, it is in a different colour or material so that it is noticeable

† in *The sign had a cream background, with the lettering picked out in black.* | *His jacket had the words 'Live to Ride' picked out in metal studs across the back.*

## 6 pick out pick sth out

to play a tune on a musical instrument, especially slowly or with difficulty because you cannot remember it clearly or you cannot play well: *Sinead was picking out an old Beatles song on her guitar. I think it was 'Norwegian Wood'.*

## pick over

### 1 pick over sth

to examine a group of things carefully in order to choose the ones you want: *People were picking over piles of old clothes on the market stalls, looking for bargains.* | *The seabirds picked over the debris that washed up on the lake shore, and scrounged food from the tourists.*

\* SIMILAR TO: look through

### 2 pick over sth

to examine or discuss something very carefully, especially paying particular attention to the most unpleasant or embarrassing parts of it: *The weekly magazines have been picking over the details of the trial.* | *She hated the idea of her personal life being picked over by the media.*

\* SIMILAR TO: dissect

## pick through

### pick through sth

to search through things, especially an untidy pile of things, in order to find something: *Rescue workers are picking through the ruins, looking for survivors.*

\* SIMILAR TO: search through, sift through

## pick up

### 1 pick up sth/sb pick sth/sb up

to lift something or someone up, especially with your hands: *Maurin picked up the gun and put it in a pocket.* | *Picking up her bag she rushed out of the room.* | *The little girl's mother laughed and bent down to pick her up.*

**pick up the phone** (=lift up the phone so that you can use it) *The phone rang, and he picked it up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lift (up)

● OPPOSITE: put down

### 2 pick up sb/sth pick sb/sth up

to collect someone from a place where they are waiting for you, or something that is ready to be collected: *I went to pick Corey up from the airport.* | *When she called in at the garage to pick up her car, she was presented with a bill for over £1000.* | *The boys were*

*eventually picked up by a rescue boat and taken by ambulance to Nobles Hospital.*

\* SIMILAR TO: collect

### pick-up<sup>N</sup> [C]

when you go somewhere to collect something that you have arranged to buy or take somewhere else: *Drug dealers used the place for pick-ups of heroin and cocaine.* | *Can you wait in the pick-up area while I bring the car around?*

### pick-up truck/pickup<sup>N</sup> [C]

a small truck with an open area at the back in which goods can be carried

### 3 pick up sb pick sb up

if you pick someone up while you are travelling in a car or other vehicle, you stop so that they can get in with you and travel with you: *We stopped to pick up a couple of hitchhikers, who said they were trying to get to Athens.*

\* SIMILAR TO: give sb a lift

### 4 pick up sth pick sth up

to get or buy something, especially something that you find by chance and buy for a low price: *Did you manage to pick up any bargains in the sales?* | *They both loved the painting. Arnold had picked it up in the sixties for just a few pounds.*

### 5 pick up sth pick sth up

to get or buy something, especially in a place that you have gone to for another purpose: *If you're going into town, can you pick up a magazine for me?*

\* SIMILAR TO: get

### 6 pick up sth pick sth up

to get or win something such as a prize or votes in an election, or something that helps you be successful: *Last year the movie picked up six Academy Awards, including best actor and best screenplay.* | *The Democrats are likely to pick up more than 50% of the votes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: get, win

### 7 pick sth up pick sth up

to learn how to do something by watching or listening to other people or by practising doing it, rather than by being taught: *While I was in Tokyo I picked up quite a bit of Japanese.* | *The system's easy to use. You'll soon pick it up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: learn

### 8 pick sth up pick sth up

to learn about something such as a useful piece of information, an interesting idea, or story about someone: *I went to see Lucy, hoping to pick up some juicy gossip.*

**pick up a tip** (=a useful piece of information) *Here's a useful tip I picked up the other day. Cover the beans in cooking oil before you plant them.*

\* SIMILAR TO: find out

9 **pick up sth** **pick sth up**

to get an infectious disease: *She's got a nasty cough. We think she must have picked it up at school.* | *Charles may have picked up malaria when he was in Africa.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get, catch, contract** formal

10 **pick up sth** **pick sth up**

if you pick up a habit or a way of speaking or behaving, you start to do it because you have spent a lot of time with a particular group of people or in a particular place: *The children had all picked up strong local accents while they were at school.* | *It's said that British soldiers picked up the habit of drinking wine in France during the war.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **acquire** formal

11 **pick up sth** **pick sth up**

to earn a particular amount of money for your work, especially a surprisingly large amount: *Top city lawyers can pick up well over £100,000 a year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **earn**

12 **pick up**

if a situation picks up, it starts to improve after a time when there have been a lot of problems – use this especially about a company's business or the economic situation in a country: *In recent months the economy has started to pick up again.* | *Don't worry. I'm sure things will soon pick up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **improve, get better**

**pick-up** N [SINGULAR]

a time when trade, business, or the economic situation improves: *There's been a pick-up in sales over the last quarter.*

**pick-me-up** N [C]

a drink that makes you feel better and gives you more energy

13 **pick up** **pick up sth** **pick sth up**

to start doing something again from the point where you or someone else stopped before, for example a story, conversation, relationship, or a period of success: *La Plante's new detective thriller picks up at the point where the previous one ended.*

**pick up where sb/sth left off** *When he came back on court, Sampras picked up where he'd left off, and won the match easily.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **resume, take up**

14 **pick up sb** **pick sb up**

to start talking to someone who you have never met before in order to have a sexual relationship with them: *Bridget woke up with some strange man who she'd picked up at a party the night before.* | *He went around picking up half-drunk girls in pubs and spending the night with them.*

**pick-up** N [SINGULAR]

when you start talking to someone you have never met because you want to have a sexual relationship with them: *I was just being friendly, but she thought this was some sort of pick-up.* | *bars and pick-up joints* (=places where people go to meet people so that they can have sex with them)

15 **pick up sb** **pick sb up**

if the police pick up someone, especially a criminal or someone they have been looking for, they stop them and take them somewhere to ask them questions: *Police officers were waiting to pick him up for questioning when he arrived at Moscow airport.* | *Angel was picked up by police half a mile from her home, after her parents had called in to say she was missing.*

16 **pick up sth** **pick sth up**

if electronic equipment picks up sounds, radio signals, or programmes, it receives them and makes it possible for you to listen to them or watch them: *The Titanic's distress signal was picked up by other vessels in the area.* | *If you have a short-wave radio you can pick up the BBC World Service.* | *Microphones tend to pick up a lot of background noise, which then has to be edited out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **receive**

17 **pick up sth** **pick up sth**

to notice a smell or signs that show that someone or something is there or has been there: *The dog picked up the missing child's scent, and followed the trail to some bushes.*

18 **pick up sth** **pick sth up**

to notice a mistake or something that seems odd about something: *Don't worry about spelling mistakes – the spell-checker should pick them up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spot, detect, identify**

19 **pick yourself up**

to get up off the ground and stand after you have fallen down: *Curtis picked himself up and looked around for his wallet.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get up**

20 **pick up the bill/the tab**

to pay a bill for someone: *The government will have to pick up the bill for all the damage.* | *We went out for a meal in a fancy restaurant, and she picked up the tab.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pay**

21 **pick up speed/steam**

if a vehicle or ship picks up speed or steam, it starts to move more quickly: *The car picked up speed and shot off into the distance.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **speed up, accelerate**

● OPPOSITE: **slow down**



**22** pick up sth

AmE informal to make a place tidy: *You can't go out until you pick up your room.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **clean up, tidy up** BrE

**23** the wind picks up

if the wind picks up, it starts to get stronger: *That evening the wind picked up and storm clouds started moving over from the east.*

**pick up after****pick up after sb**

spoken informal to put things back in the right place and make everything neat and tidy, after someone else has taken things out and left them in the wrong place: *All I seem to do is wash, clean, and pick up after the children.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **clean up after sb**

**pick up on****1** pick up on sth

to notice something, especially something that other people do not notice: *Children tend to pick up on your worries and stress, and it's difficult to hide your true feelings from them. | I think Errol was the only one who picked up on my mood.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **notice**

**2** pick up on sth

to notice something and realize that it is important, and take action because of it: *The press were quick to pick up on the story: | "I may have mentioned your name in one of my letters." "Let's just hope she doesn't pick up on it."*

**3** pick up on sth

if you pick up on something that was mentioned earlier, you say more about it or say things that are connected with it: *She smiled, then picked up on his previous question. | To pick up on an earlier theme, there are two main traditions in the history of Western art.*

**4** pick sb up on sth

BrE to tell someone that they have made a mistake or done something that you disapprove of: *Glyn took his remark as an insult, and immediately picked him up on it. | She asked me to pick her up on any mistakes in her English.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **correct**

**pick up with****pick up with sb**

to start meeting someone again and start doing things together as friends: *Amelia was looking forward to picking up with her old friends when she got back home again.*

**PIDDLE**

piddled, piddled, piddling

**piddle around**

ALSO **piddle about** BrE

**piddle around/about**

informal to waste time doing unimportant things: *Can we go soon? I'm fed up with piddling around here all day.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **piss about/around** BrE informal

**PIECE**

pieced, pieced, piecing

**piece out****piece out sth** **piece sth out**

if you piece out the truth or the facts about something, you gradually succeed in finding them out and understanding them: *It took me several days to piece out what had happened to the money.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work out**

**piece together****1** piece together sth **piece sth together**

to put together all the information that you have about a situation in order to try to understand what happened or understand the truth: *Accident investigators are still trying to piece together the events that led up to the crash. | Her story was very muddled and it seemed that she had pieced it together out of various pieces of gossip that she'd picked up here and there.*

**2** piece together sth **piece sth together**

to make something by putting all the parts of it together in the correct order or position: *Although the bowl was badly damaged, they managed to piece it together again. | It's a bit like piecing together an enormous jigsaw.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put together, assemble** formal

**PIG**

pigged, pigged, pigging

**pig out****pig out**

informal to eat a lot of food, especially more than you need or more than is sensible: *I find that if I don't eat breakfast, I'm starving by lunchtime and I pig out.*

+ on *It just isn't possible to pig out on a lot of junk food and still stay slim.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stuff yourself** informal

## PILE

piled, piled, piling

## pile in

## pile in

if a group of people pile in, they all enter a place or vehicle, quickly and not in an organized way: *We were having a quiet drink at the bar when a group of walkers suddenly piled in.* | *Luke opened the door of the battered old Mercedes. "Bunny in!" he said to us all with a smile.*

● OPPOSITE: pile out

## pile into

## pile into sth

if a group of people pile into a place or vehicle, they all enter it, quickly and not in an organized way: *Bunny, Martin and the four girls piled into the taxi amid a lot of shouting and drunken laughter.*

● OPPOSITE: pile out of

## pile on

## 1 pile on sth pile sth on

## pile sth on sth

to give more and more of something, for example pressure, praise, or detail in order to achieve the result or effect that you want: *Lessard's a good writer generally – but she's boring when she piles on endless details about her childhood.* | *The Scots piled on the pressure and achieved a comfortable win.*

## 2 pile it on

to talk about something a lot, especially in a way that makes a situation or something that someone has done seem much worse than it really is: *Nobody pays any attention when I do something right, but they certainly pile it on when I make a mistake.* | *There had been no crying or accusations last night, but George suspected that Marjorie was going to pile it on this morning.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lay it on (thick) informal

## 3 pile on the agony

BrE to make a situation even more difficult for a person or a team than it already is, especially in a game of sport: *Kenny Glasgow missed the goal, which piled on the agony for United, who had already lost two other chances.*

## 4 pile on weight/pounds etc

especially BrE if you pile on weight, you become much fatter and heavier: *Most people pile on some extra weight at Christmas.*

● OPPOSITE: shed weight/pounds etc

## pile out

## pile out

if a group of people pile out, they all leave a vehicle or a place quickly and not in an organized way: *All the people on the coach piled out and started running for shelter from the rain.*

+ of *An alarm went off and everyone began piling out of their rooms in their pyjamas.*

● OPPOSITE: pile in

## pile up

## 1 pile up

if a lot of something piles up, more and more of it collects somewhere and forms a pile: *Dorcas sat at his desk, and stared at the snow piling up against the walls outside.*

\* SIMILAR TO: build up

## 2 pile sth up pile up sth

to put a lot of things on top of each other so that they form a pile: *What's in all those boxes that are piled up in the garage?* | *Helen carefully piled up the logs in front of the stove.*

\* SIMILAR TO: stack up

## 3 pile up

if work, debts, problems etc pile up, they increase in number or amount and you cannot deal with them all: *By that time the business was in serious trouble, and its debts were rapidly piling up.* | *The traffic going out of town is really starting to pile up by five o'clock.*

\* SIMILAR TO: build up, mount up

## 4 pile up sth pile sth up

to make the number or amount of something increase in a way that causes problems for you: *The government has been criticized for piling up financial trouble.* | *The company has piled up losses of over \$20 million.*

\* SIMILAR TO: build up

## 5 pile up

informal, especially AmE if a lot of vehicles pile up, they crash into each other: *It has been a bad week for traffic accidents, with twenty-one cars piling up on the US route 23 between Toledo and Columbus.*

## pile-up N [C]

a road accident in which a lot of vehicles crash into each other: *Several people were injured in a 12-vehicle pile-up on the M25 near Wisley.*

## 6 pile up sb's hair

to tie your hair up on top of your head, instead of letting it hang down around your shoulders: *The old lady's long silver hair was piled up in a bun.*

### 7 **pile up** sth NOT PASSIVE

to succeed in winning a lot of points, goals etc in a game of sport: *San Francisco piled up 413 yards, led by quarterback Terrance Brown. | Kent piled up 603 for eight – their highest total since 1934.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **notch up**, **chalk up**

### 8 **pile up** sth

especially AmE to gradually succeed in making a large amount of money: *If Susan's investments hit a 10% rate of return, she could succeed in piling up \$2.3 million by retirement.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **build up**, **accumulate** formal

## PILOT

piloted, piloted, piloting

### **pilot through**

#### 1 **pilot** sb through sth

to carefully show someone exactly how to do something, or where to go, especially when it is very complicated and confusing: *Part of your job will be to pilot clients through the legal requirements of forming companies. | Students will need to be piloted through the maze of options that are available to them.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **guide** (through)

#### 2 **pilot** sth through **pilot** through sth

**pilot** sth through sth

to be responsible for making sure that a new law or plan is officially accepted by the government or people in authority: *David Mellor, the Home Office minister at that time, piloted the Bill through Parliament.*

## PIN

pinned, pinned, pinning

### **pin down**

#### 1 **pin** down sth **pin** sth down

to understand or explain exactly what something is or what it is like: *The company is keen to review its recent performance and pin down some of the problem areas. | Bobby heard a voice at the door which brought back some distant memory, but he couldn't quite pin it down.*

be difficult/hard/impossible to pin down *It is estimated that there are about 5 million illegal immigrants in the US, but the numbers are impossible to pin down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **identify**

#### 2 **pin** sb down **pin** down sb

to make someone give you exact details or make a definite decision about something, especially when they have been trying to

avoid doing this: *I never know where Bernard is these days – it's impossible to pin him down.*

+ to *They've been promising to meet us for ages, but I can't pin them down to a date.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **nail down**

#### 3 **pin** sb down **pin** down sb

to force someone to stay in a particular position by holding them down so that they cannot move: *He had the child pinned down on the grass.*

#### 4 **pin** down sb **pin** sb down

to prevent enemy soldiers from escaping by surrounding the area where they are: *The plan was to head straight for Kuwait City, and pin down the Iraqis there.*

### **pin on/upon**

● **Pin upon** is more formal than **pin on** and is mostly used in writing.

#### 1 **pin** sth on/upon sb

if you pin the blame for something on someone, you say that they are responsible for something bad that has happened, often when this is not true: *Don't try to pin the blame on me. | The President was trying to pin the economic problems on Republican lawmakers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stick on** BrE informal

#### 2 **pin** sth on/upon sb

if you pin a crime on someone, you accuse them of having done it, often when this is not true: *Lawmen and prosecutors, desperate to please the public, pinned the murders on Sharif. | "I don't know anything about a burglary," the boy said. "You can't pin it on me."*

#### 3 **pin** your hopes/faith on sb/sth

if you pin your hopes on something or someone, you hope very much that something will happen successfully or someone will help you, because your plans depend on it: *The company says it's pinning its hopes on new products to increase its profits. | Charles needed someone to do him a favour, and he was pinning his hopes on Guy.*

### **pin up**

#### 1 **pin** sth up **pin** up sth

to fasten a picture, note, photograph etc to a wall: *A photograph of her son was pinned up by her desk. | There's a postcard from Joe – I'll pin it up over here.*

**pin-up** N [C]

a photograph of an attractive famous person, that people stick on their walls, or a person who appears in one of these photographs: *Leonardo Di Caprio, the latest teenage pin-up | a pin-up girl*

2 **pin up** sb's hair

if a woman pins up her hair, she puts it up on her head and fixes it there with pins, instead of letting it hang down around her shoulders: *Karin found it easier to keep her hair tidy if she wore it pinned up.*

**pin upon**

SEE **pin on**

P **PINE**

pined, pined, pining

**pine away****pine away**

to feel very unhappy, usually because you cannot be with someone that you love, with the result that you cannot eat or enjoy yourself, or even that you die

+ for *Why don't you go out and enjoy yourself - there's no point pining away for him while he's abroad!* | *The dog simply pined away and died.*

**pine for**1 **pine for** sb

to feel unhappy because you miss someone very much and wish that you could be with them, especially so much that it makes you very unhappy: *It's been ten years since Ralph left, but she still pines for him.* | *Christine, who had been pining for her friends in Colorado, decided to return to Denver.*

2 **pine for** sth

to wish that you could have a particular thing, especially something that you used to have: *After a week of seeing absolutely nobody, I was beginning to pine for some excitement.* | *A lot of doctors pine for the old days, when they had more responsibility.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **long for**

**PIPE**

piped, piped, piping

**pipe down****pipe down** USUALLY IN COMMANDS

informal to talk more quietly, or to stop complaining: *"Everybody pipe down," said Uncle Alfred.* *"There's no need to get so excited."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **quieten down** BrE, **quiet down** AmE

**pipe up****pipe up**

to suddenly say something, especially when people are not expecting it: *"Definitely not," piped up Mum, who I'd thought was asleep until then.*

**PISS**

pissed, pissed, pissing

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

**piss about/around**1 **piss about/around**

BrE informal to behave in a stupid way, or to waste time doing things that are not useful or important: *Stop pissing around and get on with your work.* | *A lot of people think that students just piss around all day smoking dope.* | *Every time I answer the phone there's no one there - I suppose it's just someone pissing about.*

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

2 **piss sb about/around**

BrE informal to treat someone badly or waste their time by not telling them something they need to know, or by changing your mind about something: *They really pissed me about - first they offered me a job and then they changed their minds.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess about** informal, **muck about/around** BrE informal

**piss away****piss away sth** **piss sth away**

informal to waste a lot of money in a stupid way: *In those days we used to piss away most of our coins at the video arcade.* | *Should we feel sympathy for people who sit on park benches and piss all their money away on drink?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **squander** formal

**piss down****it's pissing down**

BrE spoken informal used to say that it is raining very hard: *It was pissing down and freezing cold, but I still enjoyed myself.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **it's pouring down**, **it's tipping down** BrE spoken informal

**piss off**1 **piss off!**

spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away, especially because you are very annoyed with them: *Ted stared at Pete in disgust.* *"Piss off!" he said finally.* | *Why don't you just piss off and leave me alone!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go away**, **get lost** informal, **naff off!** BrE spoken informal

2 **piss sb off** **piss off sb**

informal to annoy someone very much: *Rosie didn't appear for the rest of the evening, which really pissed him off.* | *"Then some idiot in a*

*BMW pulls right out in front of me and I had to do an emergency stop." "It pisses me off when people do that."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **annoy, be hacked off** informal, especially BrE

**pissed off** ADJ

informal annoyed, disappointed, or unhappy

+ **about** *Everyone was pissed off about the result of the match.*

+ **with** *I was feeling very pissed off with Jack for being late.*

### 3 piss off

BrE spoken informal to go somewhere or leave somewhere, especially because you are tired of being where you are: *It was already six o'clock and I was dying to piss off home. | Paul's just pissed off to Ibiza for the rest of the summer.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bugger off** BrE spoken informal

## PIT

*pitted, pitted, pitting*

### pit against

pit sb/sth against sb/sth

to make someone or something fight or compete against another person or thing, in order to see which one will win: *In the finals Clark and Taylor were pitted against two other top players. | The war pitted Serbia against Croatia and Bosnia. | The girls plan to pit their talents against the boys' in the end-of-term competition.*

### pit out

pit out pit out sth pit sth out

AmE spoken informal to sweat so much that your clothes become wet under your arms: *It was so hot in there, I totally pitted out my shirt.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sweat, perspire** formal

## PITCH

*pitched, pitched, pitching*

### pitch for

pitch for sth

to try to get something that others are competing for too, especially some business or a job, by making an offer for it, or trying to persuade people to give it to you: *GGT pitched for Cusson's media business as early as last August.*

### pitch in

#### 1 pitch in

informal to help other people to do work that needs to be done, especially in a willing and

cheerful way: *Everyone pitched in, working day and night to get the new club ready on time.*

+ **with** *After the floods, volunteers pitched in with trucks to help the three thousand residents.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **muck in** BrE informal

#### 2 pitch in

informal to help someone that you know by giving them money: *Eventually, when Mary needed a car, all her family and friends pitched in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **contribute**

#### 3 pitch in

informal to give your opinion during a discussion in which a lot of people are involved

+ **with** *When Simon had finished giving his report, the chairman asked everyone to pitch in with their views.*

### pitch into

#### 1 pitch into sth

BrE to start doing some work that needs to be done in a willing and cheerful way: *More than 20,000 young people throughout Britain rolled up their sleeves and pitched into an annual countryside clean-up.*

#### 2 pitch into sb

BrE to attack someone, either by hitting them hard, or by criticizing them strongly: *Owen wasn't prepare to watch anyone being attacked, so he pitched into the youths and they ran away. | I'd only come to ask for Wesley's advice, and I was shocked when he turned round and pitched into me.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay into** informal

### pitch up

pitch up

BrE informal if someone that you know pitches up, they arrive where you are, or where you are waiting for them: *Bill hasn't pitched up yet, has he? | Then my American friend pitched up with the news that we were all meeting at the disco.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn up, show up** informal

## PIVOT

*pivoted, pivoted, pivoting*

### pivot on

pivot on sth

to depend or be based on something in order to be possible or successful: *"Concentrate," said Fielding, "the entire plan pivots on this decision."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hang on, depend on, hinge on**

## PLAGUE

plagued, plagued, plaguing

### plague with

#### 1 be plagued with

if you are plagued with a lot of unpleasant or annoying things, these things keep happening and causing a lot of trouble, pain etc: *Frederick was plagued with one illness after another throughout his childhood.* | *During the past year the organization has been plagued with financial problems and worries.*

#### 2 plague sb with sth

to annoy someone or cause trouble for them, for example by continuously asking questions or making difficult demands: *She was immediately surrounded by a crowd of reporters, plaguing her with questions.*

## PLAN

planned, planned, planning

### plan ahead

#### plan ahead

to make decisions and plans about what you will do in the future and when you will do it: *Students who don't plan ahead may have difficulty in completing all their work in time.*

+ for *The reason for the company's long history of success is their ability to plan ahead for the future.*

### plan for

#### plan for sth

to make plans that include or consider a particular thing or event: *It came as a shock when the house needed a new roof, because I hadn't planned for the expense.* | *When computers were first made, nobody had planned for the year 2000.*

\* SIMILAR TO: allow for

### plan on

#### 1 plan on doing sth

to intend to do something: *David always saved his money because he planned on retiring early.* | *If we plan on providing quality education, we must follow certain basic principles.*

\* SIMILAR TO: intend to

#### 2 not plan on (doing) sth

to not expect something to happen: *Kate looked at her watch and groaned - she hadn't planned on this sort of delay.* | *I'm not planning on staying out very late.*

#### 3 plan on sb doing sth

to intend or expect that someone will do something: *Molly's father had never planned on her going to college.*

## plan out

### plan out sth plan sth out

to decide in detail what you are going to do, and how and when you will do it: *With the help of this recipe book, you will be able to plan out each meal for an entire week.* | *I'm not one of those writers who can just begin typing - I have to plan it all out.*

## PLANE

planed, planed, planing

### plane down

#### plane down sth plane sth down

if you plane down the surface of a piece of wood, you make it smooth, using a special tool called a plane: *Plane down the wood before laying it on the floor.*

## PLANT

planted, planted, planting

### plant out

#### plant sth out plant out sth

BrE if you plant out small plants that have been growing indoors in pots, you plant them outside in the ground, where they can continue to grow: *Tomatoes that have been grown indoors can be planted out in May or early June.*

### plant over

#### plant over sth plant sth over

to put flowers or other plants into the ground so that they cover it: *They dug up the lawn and planted it over with brightly coloured flowers.*

### plant up

#### plant up sth plant sth up

BrE to plant flowers, plants, vegetables etc in a container: *Many gardeners plant up colourful tubs, window boxes and baskets for the summer.*

## PLASTER

plastered, plastered, plastering

### plaster over

#### plaster sth over plaster over sth

to cover the surface of a wall with a substance called plaster, in order to make this surface smooth or hide cracks, holes etc in it: *Some of the brickwork had been left exposed, instead of being plastered over.*



**PLAY**

played, played, playing

**play along****1 play along**

to pretend to agree with someone or to do what they want you to do, in order to avoid annoying them or to get some advantage: *Hugh realized that the only way to get more information was to play along.*

+ with *I was surprised when she introduced me as her uncle, but I played along with it.*

**2 play sb along**

to deliberately encourage someone to believe something that is not true, especially that you intend to marry them: *Marcus has been playing that poor girl along for years.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **string along** *informal*

**play around**ALSO **play about** &E**1 play around/about**

*informal* to behave in a silly way or waste time, when you should be being sensible: *In this business you can't play around – you have to be in control all the time. | We didn't mean to hurt him. We were just playing around, that's all.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fool around, mess around** *informal*

**2 play around/about**

*informal* to have a lot of different sexual relationships, or to have a sexual relationship with someone who is not your husband, wife, or usual partner: *I played around a bit when I was young, but now I've settled down with one man.*

+ with *He started playing around with younger women.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sleep around, screw around** *spoken informal*

**play around with**ALSO **play about with** *BrE***1 play around/about with sth**

*informal* to think about or try different ideas or different ways of doing something, especially before deciding which ones are best: *I like to play around with different recipes and ingredients. | It's a great song – apparently the group just got together and played around with different rhythms until they came up with it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **experiment (with), try out**

**2 play around/about with sth**

*informal* to change something when it is not safe or sensible to do this: *Don't play around with his diet while he's ill – stick to simple*

*food. | I don't think you should play about with a young girl's future like that.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess around with** *informal*

**play at****1 what's sb playing at?**

*BrE spoken informal* if you ask what someone is playing at, you want to know what they are doing or why they are doing it, because you are very surprised or annoyed by it: *What the hell do you think you're playing at – going out at this time of night?*

**2 play at sb/sth**

to pretend to be a particular type of person or to do a particular thing, usually as a game: *Little girls often play at doctors and nurses.*

**play at doing sth** *two little old ladies who were playing at being detectives*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pretend to be**

**3 play at sth**

to do a job or activity for only part of the time, and without being very serious about it: *If you're serious about politics, you can't just play at it – it's your whole life.*

**play back****1 play back sth play sth back**

to listen to or watch something that has recently been recorded on a tape: *He got home about midnight and played back the messages on his answerphone. | As part of your training, we will record you teaching a class and then play it back to you.*

**2 play back play back sth****play sth back**

if a machine plays back sound or pictures, it produces them when you operate it: *VHS machines can record and play back at three different speeds.*

**playback** *N [U]*

when a machine produces the sound or pictures that are recorded on a tape: *This machine has very high quality video playback. | the playback speed*

**play down****1 play down sth play sth down**

to try to make people believe that something is less important or serious than it really is: *The government has been trying to play down the scandal.*

**play down the importance/seriousness/significance etc of sth** *State department officials sought to play down the significance of the visit.*

● OPPOSITE: **exaggerate**

**2** **play down sth** **play sth down**

to try to make people believe that something is not likely to happen: *Senior management has repeatedly played down the possibility of further redundancies.*

**play down suggestions/expectations/fears etc** *Burns played down expectations of a breakthrough in negotiations.*

**3** **play down sth** **play sth down**

to try to make an emotion that you are feeling less noticeable to other people: *Donald tried to play down the fear in his voice.* | "I expect he'll be late," *Cathy said, playing down her excitement.*

**play off**

**1** **play off**

especially BrE if people or teams that have the same number of points play off, they play the last game in a sports competition, in order to decide which one is the winner: *At the end of the season, the top two teams will play off at Twickenham for the title.*

**play-off** N [C]

a match between people or teams who have the same number of points, in order to decide the winner: *Leeds fans will be able to watch their team's European Cup play-off against Stuttgart on Friday.* | *the play-off final at Wembley*

**2** **play off sth**

AmE to deliberately use a fact, idea, or emotion in order to get what you want, often in an unfair way: *This television show plays off the fears that many people in our society and culture have.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **play on/upon, exploit**

**3** **play off each other**

AmE if two or more people or things play off each other, they go well together, and each one makes the other's good qualities more noticeable: *During the interview the two brothers played off each other effectively.* | *Seeing the majority of the artist's works together in one place is valuable, because they play off each other so well.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **complement**

**play off against**

**play sb/sth off against sb/sth**

**play off sb/sth against sb/sth**

to encourage one person or group to compete or argue with another, in order to get some advantage for yourself: *The seller's intention is to play one buyer off against another.* | *At this age children often begin to test relationships – playing each parent off against the other, for example.*

**play on**

**1** **play on**

BrE to continue playing in a game of sport, even after an injury, or when someone has broken the rules: *John Simpkins played on, despite an early injury.* | *The referee signalled to play on.*

**2** **play on**

to continue playing a musical instrument, even though something has happened which might have stopped you: *The conductor suddenly walked out, but the orchestra played on.*

**play on/upon**

● **Play upon** is more formal than **play on** and is mostly used in writing.

**1** **play on/upon sth**

to deliberately use a fact, idea, or emotion in order to do or get what you want, often in an unfair way: *Advertising achieves its aim by playing on our weaknesses and emotions.* | *The party's campaign played on the fear amongst white voters at the pace of de Klerk's reforms.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **exploit, play off** AmE

**2** **play on sth**

especially AmE to use your position, influence, or strong qualities in order to do or get what you want, often in an unfair way: *Some people said that she had played on her connections in order to get the job.*

**3** **play on sb's mind**

if something plays on your mind, you cannot stop thinking about it, and it worries or upsets you: *"It wasn't your fault," Martha said. "You mustn't let it play on your mind."*

**4** **play on sth**

literary if light plays on a surface or an object, it falls on it and moves backwards and forwards across it: *Daniel watched the sunlight playing on the roofs of the fishing village.*

**play out**

**1a** **be played out**

if an event is played out, especially an exciting or important one, it takes place: *The final scenes of their marriage were played out in a villa in St Tropez.* | *At the time, this was just one of many conflicts being played out on the world stage.*

**1b** **play out/play itself out**

especially AmE if an event plays out or plays itself out, it happens and finally ends with a particular result – used especially when you are considering what might happen: *I don't know if he'll win again. We'll just have to see how the election plays out.* | *No one knows yet how the debate on GM foods will play out.*

**2** play out sth

to act part of a play or film or pretend to be a particular type of person: *The teacher chose three of the older children to play out the scene.* | *Now she was a teenager, she could no longer play out the role of Daddy's little girl.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **act out**

**3** play out sth play sth out

if people play out their feelings, dreams etc, they express them by pretending that a particular situation is really happening: *In a novel the writer is able to play out his own strange fantasies.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **act out**

**4** play out your career/the season etc

to continue playing, especially for the same team, until the end of your career, until the end of the season etc: *He turned down a contract offer that would have allowed him to play out his career with Kings.*

**5** be played out

to be so tired that you cannot do anything else: *Lou's voice trailed into silence. She was played out – too exhausted even to weep.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be worn out, be shattered**

**6** be played out

if a mine is played out, all the coal, gold etc has been taken out of the ground: *These people had hard lives, and when the mines played out, they moved on.*

**play through**

play sth through play through sth

to play a piece of music from the beginning to the end: *When I played the song through, it felt like I was young again.* | *The four of them played through Mozart's string quartets.*

**play up****1** play up sth play sth up

to emphasize a quality or a fact, in order to attract people's attention to it or to make it seem more important than it really is: *When applying for a job, it's a good idea to play up your strong points in the opening paragraph.* | *The newspapers would certainly play it up big – the murder of an American on the Appian Way.*

● OPPOSITE: **play down**

**2** play up play sb up NOT PASSIVE.

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE *informal* if a part of your body plays up or plays you up, it causes you pain or trouble: *Lawton's stomach was beginning to play him up.* | *Bertie had given up alcohol because his heart was playing up.*

**3** play up USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE *informal* if a machine, an electrical system etc plays up, it is not working as well as it should: *Is it all right if I borrow your car – my Renault's been playing up a bit recently.* | *Nothing happened when I turned on the light – this was not a good time for the electrics to be playing up.*

**4** play up play sb up play up sb

BrE *informal* if children play up, or play someone up, they behave badly and cause trouble for the adult they are with, especially deliberately as a way of having fun: *Some of the boys in our class really played up – especially when a teacher was new.* | *Playing the teacher up was considered a normal part of school.*

**play upon**

SEE **play on/upon**

**play up to****1** play up to sb

to try to make someone like you by behaving in a way you think will please them: *Angy always played up to men – she enjoyed seeing how they reacted to her.* | *Our speakers did not play up to reporters by handing them their speeches in advance.*

**2** play up to an image/stereotype

to behave in a way that people expect you to behave, because they think you are a particular type of person: *Kevin Costner was considered a bit wild around Hollywood, and he played up to that image in the film True Romance.*

**play with****1** play with sth

to keep touching something, or moving it from one position to another: *Charlene was walking up and down and playing with her hair.* | *All the time we were talking, he was playing with the money in his pocket.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fiddle (with)**

**2** play with sth

to try using different types of something, or different ways of doing something, especially before deciding which one is best: *Making soup is a marvellous way of playing with different flavours.* | *As an artist, he played with a variety of techniques.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **play around with**

**3** play with sth

to consider an idea or a possibility, but not very seriously

**play with the idea of doing sth** *When I left university, I played with the idea of teaching for a while.*

**play with the possibility that** *There was a wonderful scene in the film, in which Willie and Marty play with the possibility that they could become lovers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **toy with**

**4 play with sb/sth**

to treat someone in a way that is not sincere or fair and is likely to upset them, for example by pretending to love them: *I hope you're not playing with Jane's feelings – she's such a nice person.*

**5 play with sth**

if you play with words or ideas, you use them in a clever and unusual way in order to be funny: *In all of his novels, Terry Pratchett has a way of playing with words that makes people laugh out loud.*

**6 have time/money etc to play with**

to have time, money etc that is still available to be used: *Don't panic – we've got plenty of time to play with!* | *We'd spent all our money on a house, so there wasn't much left to play with.*

**7 be playing with fire**

to be doing or dealing with something that is very difficult or dangerous: *In dealing directly with terrorist organizations, the government is really playing with fire.*

**8 play with yourself**

*informal* to touch your own sexual organs in order to give yourself pleasure: *One of the teachers found him playing with himself in the showers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, jerk off** *AmE informal, toss off* *BrE informal*

## PLOD

plodded, plodded, plodding

### plod along/on

**1 plod along/on**

*informal* to continue walking or working in a slow but determined way, especially when it is difficult or not very interesting: *With rain spitting in our faces, we plodded along, determined not to give up.*

+ **with** *The police are still plodding on with their investigation, despite the lack of any evidence.*

**2 plod along/on**

*informal* to make progress very slowly: *"The economy continues to plod along," said Robert Dederick, a consultant from Chicago.*

## PLONK

plonked, plonked, plonking

### plonk down

**1 plonk sth/sb down** **plonk down sth/sb**

*informal, especially BrE* to put something or someone down quickly, without being careful with them: *Marge staggered in with the shopping bags and plonked them down on the table.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dump**

**2 plonk down** **plonk sb down**

*informal, especially BrE* to sit down quickly and heavily, especially when you need to relax: *I plonked down on the sofa and began thinking about what had happened.*

**plonk yourself down** *Just then a group of soldiers came in and plonked themselves down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **plump down**

## PLOT

plotted, plotted, plotting

### plot out

**plot out sth** **plot sth out**

to plan the details of what you will do, where you will go, or what is likely to happen: *Christina and Elaine were plotting out a night on Baxter's Row, exploring the late-night bars and restaurant.* | *It is the job of the sales manager to plot out predicted sales.*

## PLOUGH *BrE* PLOW *AmE*

ploughed, ploughed, ploughing *BrE*  
plowed, plowed, plowing *AmE*

### plough ahead

**plough ahead**

to continue doing something or making progress when it is difficult, or when people are opposing you: *I could hardly hear her voice on the end of the line, but I decided to plow ahead anyway.*

+ **with** *The government will plough ahead with national tests this year, despite protests from teachers.*

### plough back

**plough sth back** **plough back sth**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to spend the money that you have earned from a business on improving the business in order to make it bigger and more successful

+ **into** *The profits were ploughed back into investment in staff and technology.* | *Sales proceeds are plowed back into the organizations to find new projects.*

**plough in/into****1 plough sth into sth** **plough in sth**

to spend or provide large amounts of money in order to help something develop or be successful: *The big drug companies have already ploughed billions of dollars into AIDS research.* | *The report warns that unless more cash is ploughed in, we will still not have the rail system we so urgently need.*

**2 plough in sth** **plough sth in****plough sth into sth**

if farmers plough in crops or other materials, or plough them into the land, they dig them into the land in order to improve it: *Quick-growing crops are useful because they can be ploughed in to increase the soil's fertility.* | *Waste from animals is a valuable fertilizer – all you have to do is plough it into the land.*

**plough into****plough into sth**

if a vehicle ploughs into something, it crashes into it with a lot of force because its driver cannot control it: *A runaway truck had ploughed into a gas station, causing a giant explosion.* | *264 people died when the plane ploughed into a crowded marketplace in the capital, Kinshasa.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **crash into**

**plough on****plough on**

to continue doing something or going somewhere even though it is difficult or boring

+ with *It was late, but I knew I'd have to plough on with the work until it was done.* | *They ploughed on through the mountains until they came to the Nepalese border.*

**plough on regardless** (=continue doing something, even though there are problems or difficulties, or someone tells you to stop) *Stephen didn't seem to be listening to anything I said, and just ploughed on regardless.*

**plough through****1 plough through sth**

to read, write, or deal with all of something, when there is a lot to do and it takes a long time: *It was such a boring lesson – all we did was plough through a set of grammar exercises.* | *Justice Charles Dubin now has to plough through 14,500 pages of evidence from 119 witnesses before making his findings known.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work through**

**2 plough through sth**

to slowly eat all of something, especially when there is a lot of it and you are not

enjoying it: *Jamie was sitting in the canteen, ploughing through a meal of cabbage and potatoes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **eat through**

**3 plough through sth**

to move through something that is blocking your way in order to get somewhere: *Rescue workers had to plough through deep snow in order to reach the farm.* | *They spent most of the walk ploughing through waist-high nettles and clumps of bramble.*

**4 plough through sth**

if a vehicle ploughs through something, it hits it and continues moving through it because the driver is not in control: *A stolen Volkswagen Golf ploughed through the traffic barrier and ended up on the wrong side of the road.*

**plough up****1 plough up sth** **plough sth up**

to break up the surface of land using a special machine called a plough, in order to prepare it for planting crops: *At the end of the year the fields are ploughed up and fertilized, ready for the spring.*

**2 plough up sth** **plough sth up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to spoil the surface of an area of ground by driving or riding over it, so that it becomes very muddy and uneven: *The paths around Clavering are constantly being ploughed up by four-wheel drive vehicles.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **churn up**

**PLUCK**

plucked, plucked, plucking

**pluck at****pluck at sth**

to pull something quickly and repeatedly with your fingers: *The little boy plucked at her sleeve.* | *Sally was staring into space, plucking nervously at her neckline.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull at**

**PLUG**

plugged, plugged, plugging

**plug away****plug away**

informal to keep working hard in order to try to do something, even though it takes a long time: *They kept plugging away until they found a solution to the problem.*

+ at *I'm sure if you keep plugging away at it, your English will improve.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work away, slog away** BrE informal, **toil away**

**plug in****plug sth in** **plug in sth**

to connect a piece of electrical equipment to the main supply of electricity or to another piece of electrical equipment: *Marion filled the kettle and plugged it in.* | *I checked the phone cord and made sure it was plugged in correctly.*

**plug-in**

AmE a plug-in piece of electrical equipment is designed to be connected directly to the main electricity supply: *a plug-in 110 volt motor*

**plug into****1 plug sth into sth**

to connect a piece of electrical equipment to another piece of electrical equipment or to a supply of electricity: *Plug the microphone into your video cassette recorder.* | *an electric pump that can be plugged into an ordinary 13 amp wall socket*

**2 plug into sth**

if a piece of electrical equipment plugs into another piece of electrical equipment or into a supply of electricity, it can be connected to it: *The printer plugs into a socket at the back of your computer.*

**3 plug into sth**

to connect your computer to an information system: *An Edinburgh boys' school is the first in Britain to plug into the French government's new technology learning centre.*

**be plugged into sth** (=have a computer that is connected to an information system)  
*Almost all the students are plugged into the Internet.*

**plug up****plug up sth** **plug sth up**

to fill or block a small hole by putting something in it: *We used mud and straw to plug up the holes in the roof.* | *With his ears plugged up, Albert could sleep undisturbed by the noise around him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **block up**

**PLUMB**

plumbed, plumbed, plumbing

**plumb in****plumb in sth** **plumb sth in**

to connect a bath, toilet, washing machine etc to the water supply: *The Whirlpool dishwasher is easy to plumb in – you can do it yourself.* | *Once the sink has been plumbed in, a silicone sealant is used around the edge to make it watertight.*

**PLUMP**

plumped, plumped, plumping

**plump down****1 plump (yourself) down**

BrE to sit down suddenly and heavily: *She plumped herself down at Anna's side.* | *Jack staggered in and plumped down exhausted onto a chair.*

**2 plump down sth** **plump sth down**

BrE to put something down suddenly and carelessly: *Plumping down her bag on the table, Mrs Horrocks leaned forward and stared across at me.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **plonk down** *informal*

**plump for****plump for sth/sb** NOT PASSIVE

*informal, especially BrE* to choose a particular thing or person, especially after thinking about it carefully and when you are still not sure if it is the right choice: *In the end we plumped for a bottle of Chateau Musar.* | *Faced with a choice between Bob Dole and Bill Clinton, most voters plumped for Clinton.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **choose, opt for**

**plump out****plump out** **plump out sth****plump sth out**

to become fatter or make something fatter: *Lizzie's face has plumped out since I last saw her.* | *Soak the beans in water until they are plumped out.*

**plump up****1 plump up sth** **plump sth up**

to make a cushion, pillow etc rounder and softer by shaking it. You rest your back or head on a cushion or pillow when you are sitting down or in bed: *Lydia heaved herself up in bed while the nurse plumped up her pillows.*

**2 plump up**

to swell or become fatter: *Raisins plump up during cooking whereas sultanas fall apart.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **swell up**

**PLUNGE**

plunged, plunged, plunging

**plunge in****plunge in**

to start talking or doing something quickly and confidently, without thinking about it or preparing for it: *It would have been better to let her explain her problems before plunging*



in with a lot of advice. | I didn't really understand the conversation but I wanted to practise my French, so I plunged in anyway.

\* SIMILAR TO: **dive in**

### plunge into

#### 1 plunge sth into sth

to push something firmly and deeply into something else: *Plunge the asparagus into boiling water.* | *Jill plunged her hands deep into her pockets.*

#### 2 plunge sth/sb into sth      plunge into sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

to suddenly cause someone to be in a bad situation or state or to suddenly get into a bad situation or state: *The whole team was plunged into gloom after their humiliating defeat.* | *Another massacre has plunged Algeria into a new cycle of violence.* | *Saatchi and Saatchi, the world's largest advertising group, plunged into debt after its reorganization.*

#### 3 plunge sth/sb into darkness

to suddenly make a place dark so that the people in it have no light: *There was a loud bang and the whole building was plunged into darkness.* | *A sudden gust of wind blew the lamp out, plunging us all into darkness.*

#### 4 plunge into sth

to suddenly begin to take part in something without thinking about the possible results: *You need to work out your finances carefully, before you plunge into the housing market.* | *Forsyth plunged into a series of disputes that was to end in his downfall.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dive into**

## PLY

plied, plied, plying

### ply with

#### 1 ply sb with sth

to keep giving someone large quantities of food or drink: *We chattered excitedly while our fond aunt plied us with cakes and lemonade.* | *He would ply his victims with liquor and then rob them.*

#### 2 ply sb with questions

to keep asking someone questions: *The three girls were plying Rupert with questions about himself, his life and his work.*

## POINT

pointed, pointed, pointing

### point out

#### 1 point out sth/sb      point sth/sb out

to show something or someone to another person for example by pointing at them with your finger or saying where they are: *We drove along Market Street and she pointed out the house where she was born.* | *There are a few mistakes here that I'd like to point out.*

+ to *I'll point him out to you if I see him.*

#### 2 point out sth      point sth out

to tell someone something that they need to realize, because it is important in a particular situation or in a discussion you are having: *As I've already pointed out, it takes a long time to learn a foreign language.* | *Our financial adviser had pointed out the risks of investing in the currency markets.*

+ that *It is worth pointing out that one in ten children still leave school unable to read or write.*

+ to *I pointed out to the referee that the boy had done nothing to deserve a red card.*

### point to

#### point to sth

to mention a fact which you think is important because you think it proves something: *The Prime Minister pointed to economic growth as evidence that the government's policies were working.* | *We in NATO can point to the fact that we will soon have reduced the number of nuclear warheads by 90%.*

### point to/towards

#### point to/towards sth

if the evidence or information that you have points to a particular fact or event, it shows that the fact is likely to be true or that the event is likely to happen: *All the evidence pointed to the Mafia being involved in the murders.* | *a new batch of opinion polls that pointed to a Labour victory in the forthcoming elections*

### point up

#### point up sth      point sth up

formal to make a particular fact, problem etc clearer and more noticeable, so that people's attention is directed towards it: *Patients' complaints have pointed up the problems of administering a healthcare program.* | *a journalist who had done so much to point up the injustice of the apartheid system*

\* SIMILAR TO: **highlight, draw attention to**

**POKE**

poked, poked, poking

**poke along****poke along**

AmE informal to move very slowly: *The car in front of me poked along at 40 miles per hour.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **crawl (along)**

**poke around**ALSO **poke about** BrE**1 poke around** **poke around sth**

informal to look around a place in order to see exactly what is there or to find something you want, especially by picking things up and moving them: *I was poking around in the attic looking for an old photograph album. | I don't want any old antique dealer poking about among my aunt's things. | Andrew used to poke around the Internet to see what was new online.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **nose around/about** informal

**2 poke around** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to try to find out information about other people's private lives, business etc, in a way that annoys them: *She's one of those people who are always poking around asking questions about other people's private lives. | I don't like it when journalists start poking around, digging up my past.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pry**

**poke at****poke at sth**

to push your finger or a pointed object towards or into something, often again and again: *He poked at the spaghetti with a fork. | The two men struggled, punched and poked at each other's eyes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **prod at**

**poke into****poke into sth**

to try to find out about other people's private lives, business etc, in a way that annoys them: *Wouldn't you resent it if you found a stranger was poking into your personal affairs?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pry**

**POLISH**

polished, polished, polishing

**polish off****1 polish off sth** **polish sth off**

informal to finish food, drink, or work, quickly and easily: *When I got home, Mrs Marsh had polished off half the biscuits in the tin. | It*

*didn't take me long to polish off the shopping at the local supermarket.*

**2 polish off sb**

informal to defeat another person or team in a game, election etc: *Steffi Graff polished off Venus Williams, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **beat, defeat**

**polish up****1 polish up sth** **polish sth up**

to improve your knowledge of something, or something that you do, by practising it or working at it: *I started going to evening classes to polish up my French.*

**polish up your act** (=improve how you do something) *A sixteen-year old street musician from Oxford has polished up his act and won a national jazz competition.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **brush up**

**2 polish up sth** **polish sth up**

to rub an object with a piece of cloth in order to make it shine: *Put a clean shirt on and polish up those shoes - make yourself look respectable.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **polish**

**3 polish up your image/reputation**

to make an effort to improve the way you seem to other people so that they will have a better opinion of you: *The government was trying to polish up its image after a year of negative publicity in 1995.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **clean up**

**PONCE**

ponced, ponced, poncing

**ponce about/around****1 ponce about/around**

BrE spoken to waste time doing silly things, instead of doing serious work: *When are you two going to stop poncing around and do something useful?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess around** informal, **muck about/around** BrE informal

**2 ponce about/around**

BrE spoken informal if you say that a man is poncing about or around, you mean that the way he walks, dresses etc is more like a woman than a man - used to show disapproval: *He wants to be a professional dancer. Can't you just imagine him poncing about in pink tights?*

**ponce off****ponce off sb** **ponce sth off sb**

BrE old-fashioned informal to ask someone to give you money or something such as a

cigarette, without offering to pay: *I hadn't got any money, so I poned some off Brian. | I'm dying for a cigarette. Who can I ponce off?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **scrounge, cadge**

## POOP

pooped, pooped, pooping

### pop out

#### 1 pop out

AmE informal to stop doing something because you are too tired: *If the cyclists poop out, there will be a van that can give them a ride to the finish line.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drop out**

#### 2 pop out

AmE old-fashioned informal if a machine, vehicle etc poops out, it stops working: *The batteries in my laptop pooped out after only two hours.*

## POP

popped, popped, popping

### pop in

#### pop in

spoken informal to go into a friend's house, an office, a shop etc for a short time, usually without having arranged your visit: *She sometimes used to pop in for a cup of tea and a chat on her way home.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drop in/into** informal, **stop by**

### pop off

#### 1 pop off

spoken informal, especially BrE to die – use this when you do not want to say 'die' because it sounds too serious: *I'm only sixty, you know – I'm not going to pop off yet!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **snuff it** BrE informal

#### 2 pop off

BrE spoken informal to leave a place quickly, suddenly, or for a short time in order to go somewhere else or do something: *I'll just pop off home and get my tools.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **nip** BrE informal

### pop on

#### 1 pop sth on pop on sth

BrE spoken informal to quickly put on a piece of clothing: *Just pop this jacket on and we'll see if it fits.*

#### 2 pop sth on

BrE spoken old-fashioned to quickly turn on a piece of electrical equipment: *Just pop the kettle on, would you? | Would you mind popping that light on?*

## POP OUT

### pop out

spoken informal, especially BrE to go out of a room or building quickly, suddenly, or for a short time: *"Where's Colin?" "He's just popped out to the toilet – he'll be back in a minute."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **nip out** BrE informal

## POP ROUND

### pop round

BrE spoken informal to go to someone's house for a short time, usually without having arranged your visit: *Ben said he might pop round one evening next week. | I'll just pop round to Gran's and see if everything's all right.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stop by**

## POP UP

### pop up

to appear suddenly in an unexpected way or in unexpected places: *New Italian restaurants are popping up all over the city. | a face that keeps popping up on our television screens*

## PORE

pored, pored, poring

### pore over

#### pore over sth

to read, or study something very carefully for a long time: *We pore over the local newspaper every week, hoping to find an affordable apartment. | Most evenings, my father sits in his chair and pores over an issue of National Geographic.*

## PORK

porked, porked, porking

### pork out

#### pork out

AmE informal to eat a lot of food, especially food that is bad for you: *My diet was going well, but then I totally porked out this weekend.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pig out** informal, **stuff yourself** informal

## PORTION

portioned, portioned, portioning

### portion out

#### portion out sth portion sth out

formal to divide something into separate parts and give the parts to different people

+ among *After he died, the land was portioned out among his grandchildren.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **share out, divide up**

## POSH

### be pushed up

#### be pushed up

BrE *informal* to be wearing your best clothes: *David was all pushed up in his new school uniform.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be dolled up** *informal*

## POSSESS

### be possessed of

#### be possessed of sth

*formal* to have a particular quality or ability: *She was possessed of extraordinary powers of concentration.* | *They knew of only one man who was possessed of such knowledge.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **have**

## POST

posted, posted, posting

### post off

#### post off sth post sth off

BrE to send something such as a letter or package to someone: *I finally wrote the letter and posted it off.* | *The offer is only open while stocks last, so post off the order form today.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mail** *AmE*

### post up

#### post sth up post up sth

to put a sign or announcement on a wall so that many people can read it: *Exam results will be posted up on my office door by 5:00 Friday.* | *Please ask permission before posting up any notices.*

## POT

potted, potted, potting

### pot on

#### pot on sth pot sth on

BrE to move a young plant to a larger pot: *The cuttings should be potted on once the new growth has started to emerge.*

### pot up

#### pot up sth pot sth up

BrE to put a plant in a pot: *Pot up the seedlings after 2–3 weeks.*

## POTTER

pottered, pottered, pottering

### potter about/around

#### potter about/around

#### potter about/around sth

BrE to do small jobs in the house, garden etc in a relaxed way: *We spent the morning pottering about in the garden.*

## POUNCE

pounced, pounced, pouncing

### pounce on/upon

● **Pounce upon** is more formal than **pounce on** and is mostly used in writing.

#### 1 pounce on/upon sth

to criticize someone's mistakes or ideas very quickly and eagerly: *Teachers are quick to pounce on students' grammatical errors.* | *Any mistakes or errors of judgement were immediately pounced on by the press.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jump on, leap on**

#### 2 pounce on/upon sth

to eagerly take an opportunity as soon as it becomes available: *When they offered Dalglish the chance to become manager, he pounced on it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jump on, seize on/upon**

## POUND

### pound out

#### 1a pound out USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if music is **pounding out**, it is playing very loudly: *Heavy metal music was pounding out in my son's bedroom.*

#### 1b pound out sth pound sth out

if you **pound out** music, you play it very loudly on instruments: *I turned on the TV to see the Rolling Stones pounding out one of their old numbers.*

#### 2 pound out sth pound sth out

to write something very quickly, especially on a computer or typewriter: *Follet was pounding out the final chapter of his latest spy thriller on his old typewriter.*

#### 3 pound out hits/wins/a victory

especially *AmE* to succeed in achieving a winning score in a game of sport, by competing very hard: *In the second game, the Waves pounded out 14 hits against the Broncos.*

**POUR**

poured, poured, pouring

**pour away****pour away** sth **pour** sth away

BrE to get rid of a liquid by pouring it out of its container: *The wine was so bad I just poured it away.* | *Farmers have no choice but to pour away the contaminated milk.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **throw away****pour down****pour down**

if the rain pours down, it rains very hard: *Rain poured down on Northern California last Friday, decreasing the threat of forest fires.*

**it's pouring down** BrE *It's been pouring down all morning.*

**it's pouring down rain** AmE *When I looked out my window, it was pouring down rain.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lash down, bucket down** BrE informal**downpour** N [C]

when a lot of rain falls quickly in a short period of time: *A heavy downpour delayed the firework display.*

**pour in/into****1** **pour in** **pour into** sth

if letters, phone calls, complaints etc pour in, a lot are received in a short period of time: *Letters of complaint poured in after the programme was shown.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **flood in/into****2** **pour in** **pour into** sth

if people pour in or pour into a place, a lot of them arrive at the same time: *Fans poured into the streets of Miami to celebrate the winners of the World Series.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **flood in/into****pour into****pour** sth **into** sth

to provide a lot of money for something over a period of time in order to make it successful: *They've poured thousands of pounds into making the business work over the years, but they still haven't made a profit.* | *Left-wing politicians proposed pouring \$200 billion into an extensive welfare program.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pump into****pour off****pour off** sth **pour** sth off

to remove some liquid from a large quantity of liquid by pouring it: *Carefully pour off the fat from the pan.* | *Pour off the juices from the turkey and use them to make gravy.*

**pour on/upon**

● **Pour upon** is more formal than **pour on** and is mostly used in writing.

**pour scorn on** sb/sth**pour scorn upon** sb/sth

to say that something or someone is stupid and not worth considering: *Her father was quick to pour scorn on her suggestions.* | *Margaret Thatcher poured scorn on anyone who dared to oppose her policies.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **heap on/upon****pour out****1** **pour** sth out **pour out** sth

if you pour out your thoughts or feelings you tell someone everything about them, especially because you feel unhappy

+ to *She came to see me that night and poured out all her troubles.*

**pour out your heart/soul** (=tell someone all about your most secret feelings) *I finally poured out my heart to Michael and told him I'd been in love with him for years.*

**outpouring** N [C,U]

when people show very strong feelings of sadness: *an outpouring of grief*

**2** **pour out** sth **pour** sth out

if you pour out a drink, you fill someone's glass, cup etc with it: *Mandy was pouring out tea and passing around biscuits.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **serve****3** **pour out**

if a lot of people pour out from somewhere, they all leave at the same time

+ of *The crowds began pouring out of the arena after the game.* | *The fire alarm sounded, and everyone poured out of the building.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **flood out****POWER**

powered, powered, powering

**power up****power up** **power up** sth**power** sth up

to start working and become ready to use, or to make a machine or computer start working: *It'll just take a few minutes to power up.* | *Technicians are attempting to power up the computers after the network failure.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start up**

**PREDISPOSE**

predisposed, predisposed

**be predisposed to/towards****be predisposed to/towards sth**

formal if someone is predisposed to a particular illness or problem they are more likely to have it: *Children of drug users are predisposed to addiction.*

**P PRESIDE**

presided, presided, presiding

**preside over****1 preside over sth**

to be in charge of a formal meeting or ceremony, or be in charge of a large company or organization: *John Travolta presided over the Oscar ceremony last year. | Lance Ito was the judge who presided over the trial of O.J. Simpson. | Bill Gates has presided over the Microsoft empire since the company started in 1975.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be in charge of****2 preside over sth**

to be the person who is in charge when an important event happens: *Chancellor Kohl presided over the reunification of Germany. | Thatcher presided over a massive increase in unemployment in the early 1980s.*

**PRESS**

pressed, pressed, pressing

**press ahead****press ahead**

to continue doing something in a determined way, especially when it is difficult: *We will press ahead to complete the construction as soon as possible.*

+ with *Iliescu said the government must press ahead with reforms, despite growing opposition.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **press on, press forward**● COMPARE: **go ahead****press for****1 press for sth press sb for sth**

to keep trying to persuade the government or someone in authority to do something or to give you something – used especially in news reports: *Russia and China were pressing for an end to the bombing of Kosovo. | The engineering unions have been pressing for a 35 hour working week. | Brazil's Catholic Church has encouraged its members to press the government for social reform.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **push for****2 be pressed for time/money/space etc**

to not have enough time, money, space etc, with the result that it is difficult for you to do something: *If you are pressed for time in the mornings, try setting the alarm 30 minutes earlier. | I'd love to go out for a meal, but I'm a little pressed for cash right now.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be short of****press forward****press forward**

to continue doing something in a determined way, especially even though it is difficult or you face opposition

+ with *Eastwood plans to press forward with his \$20 million lawsuit against the paper. | France and Germany decided to press forward with plans for economic and monetary union.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **press ahead, press on****press on****1 press on**

to continue doing something in a determined way, even though it is difficult

+ with *Gorbachev was keen to press on with modernizing the party. | Rebels vowed to press on with their efforts to overthrow the current government. | After university, she pressed on with her ambition to become a journalist, despite fierce competition for jobs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **press ahead, press forward**● COMPARE: **go ahead****2 press on**

to continue with your journey, even though it is very difficult: *The soldiers pressed on, hoping to reach camp before nightfall. | I know you're all tired, but I think we should press on.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **press ahead, press forward, push on****press on/upon**

● **Press upon** is more formal than **press on** and is mostly used in writing.

**press sth on/upon sb**

to offer something to someone in a very forceful way, so that it is very difficult for them to refuse to accept it: *Mrs. Donovan pressed the gown upon Heidi and insisted she wear it to the party. | Nick kept pressing drinks on me all night.*



**PRESUME**

presumed, presumed, presuming

**presume on/upon****presume on/upon** sth

BrE formal to use someone's kindness, trust, or friendship etc in a way that seems wrong, especially by asking them for more than you should: *She did not want to presume on her friendship with Eve by expecting her to lend her the money.*

**PRETEND**

pretended, pretended, pretending

**pretend to****pretend to** sth USUALLY NEGATIVE

formal to claim that you have a particular quality, especially when this is not true: *Archer could not pretend to anything like the young actor's romantic good looks.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay claim to****PRETTY**

prettied, prettied, prettifying

**pretty up****pretty** sth/sb **up** **pretty up** sth/sb

informal to try to make something look more attractive or acceptable to people: *I tried to pretty the place up a bit with a few vases of flowers.* | *They want to pretty the company up and give it a new image.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **smarten up****PREVAIL**

prevailed, prevailed, prevailing

**prevail on/upon****prevail on/upon** sb

formal to succeed in persuading someone to do something, especially when they do not want to do it: *General Hawthorne managed to prevail on him to fly to Surabaya.* | *Weir, who had been prevailed upon to play the piano, went red with embarrassment.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **persuade, cajole (into)****PREY**

preyed, preyed, preying

**prey on/upon**

● **Prey upon** is more formal than **prey on** and is mostly used in writing.

**1** **prey on/upon** sth

if an animal preys on another animal, it kills it and uses it for food: *Wolves prey on small*

*deer.* | *Owls fly low and prey on insects, mice, and other small animals.*

**2** **prey on/upon** sb

to attack, hurt, or get money dishonestly from a particular group of people who are easy to hurt or trick: *Gangs of thieves have been preying on foreign tourists at the city's central train station.* | *Drug dealers prey on young people at parties and music events, offering them drugs cheaply until they are hooked.*

**prey on sb's fears** (=use people's fears to get advantages for yourself) *He accused environmental groups of preying on people's fears about food safety.*

**3** **prey on your mind/thoughts/conscience**

if something preys on your mind, you worry about it a lot and you cannot stop thinking about it: *The accident has been preying on my mind all week.* | *Timothy's words were beginning to prey on her mind.*

**PRICK**

pricked, pricked, pricking

**prick out****prick out** sth **prick** sth **out**

BrE to place young plants in the ground after you have grown them from seed: *If you sowed tomato seeds last month, now is the time to prick them out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **transplant****PRIDE**

prided, prided, priding

**pride yourself on****pride yourself on/upon** sth

● **Pride yourself upon** is more formal than **pride yourself on** and is mostly used in writing.

to be proud of something that you do well, or of a good quality that you have: *They pride themselves on the 'family atmosphere' among the workforce.* | *The restaurant prides itself on offering an excellent service at a reasonable price.*

**pride yourself on doing sth** *Thomas always prided himself on being able to speak three languages fluently.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be proud of****PRINT**

printed, printed, printing

**print off****print off** sth **print** sth **off**

to produce a printed copy of something from

a computer, or to produce a large number of printed copies of something: *Do you want me to print it off for you so that you can check it?* | *They had already printed off thousands of copies of the book before it was banned.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **print out**

### print out

print out sth    print sth out

to produce a printed copy of something, especially from a computer: *I usually print out all my e-mail messages so that I can keep a paper copy of them.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **print off**

### printout

**N** [C]  
a piece of paper with printed information on it, produced by a computer: *The travel agent gave us a printout of our flight details.*

## PRISE BrE PRIZE AmE

prised, prised, prising BrE  
prized, prized, prizing AmE

### prise out of

prise sth out of sb

formal to succeed in getting something from someone with difficulty, especially information that they do not want to tell you: *"Did he tell you the girl's name?" "In the end I managed to prise it out of him."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tease out, drag out**

## PROCEED

proceeded, proceeded, proceeding

### proceed against

proceed against sb

formal to begin a legal case against someone in a court of law: *There has never been enough evidence to proceed against him.* | *The State authorities have decided to proceed against the big tobacco companies.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **prosecute**

### proceed from

proceed from sth NOT PASSIVE

formal to be based on a particular idea or belief, or to be originally caused by something: *Marx's theories all proceed from the idea that we are being exploited by an evil capitalist system.* | *Their problems proceed from a lack of understanding of each other's needs.* | *diseases that proceed from poverty*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come from, stem from**

### proceed with

proceed with sth

to start doing something that you have already planned or arranged to do, especially

after an official decision has been made: *Mr De Silva said the government would proceed with plans to increase the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly.* | *a Supreme Court decision not to proceed with corruption charges against various former ministers* | *He announced his intention to proceed with the sale of 72 F-15 fighter aircraft to Saudi Arabia.*

## PROD

prodded, prodded, prodding

### prod at

prod at sth/sb

to press someone or something with your finger or a pointed object: *Murphy prodded at Billy Bobbit in order to try to get his attention.* | *He prodded at his food with his fork, then pushed his plate to one side.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **poke at**

## PROFIT

profited, profited, profiting

### profit by/from

profit by/from sth

to use a situation to get advantages for yourself: *Offenders should not be able to profit from their crimes by selling their story to the press.* | *The country was able to profit from its geographical position.*

**profit from sb's mistakes** *Liverpool were able to profit from their opponents' mistakes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **benefit (from)**

## PRONOUNCE

pronounced, pronounced, pronouncing

### pronounce on/upon

pronounce on/upon sth

formal to give an opinion or judgment about something, especially publicly and officially because you have the knowledge or power to do so: *Politicians love to pronounce on the importance of the family.* | *He himself did not feel best qualified to pronounce on such matters.*

## PROP

propped, propped, propping

### prop up

1 prop up sth    prop sth up

to keep something in a particular position by putting something against it or under it: *Ralph propped his feet up on the couch.* | *I propped up my cookbook next to the cooker and started making the soup.* | *One table-leg was too short, but she propped it up with a bit of broken dish.*

**2** prop yourself up

to support yourself by leaning on something: *Frank propped himself up on his elbow.* | *She had propped herself up with pillows so that she could read in bed.*

**3** prop up sth prop sth up

to help a government, business etc that is failing so that it can continue to exist, especially by giving it financial or military support: *The brothers took out a loan to prop up the failing family business.* | *The United States is moving away from efforts to prop up foreign governments.*

**PROVIDE**

provided, provided, providing

**provide against****provide against sth**

formal to make plans in order to prevent or deal with a bad situation that might happen: *Health insurance provides against loss of income due to sickness.* | *The English built a series of castles to provide against future attacks by the Welsh.*

**provide for****1** provide for sb

to give someone the things they need, such as money, food, clothes etc: *Marshall's mother managed to provide for her children on a very small salary.* | *Will Kenya's small farms be able to provide for its growing population?*

\* SIMILAR TO: support

**2** provide for sth

formal to make plans in order to deal with something that might happen in the future: *We provided for a 2% increase in inflation when we calculated the cost at the beginning of the project.*

\* SIMILAR TO: allow for

**3** provide for sth

formal if a law or rule provides for something, it makes that thing possible: *A new law was introduced providing for the public execution of drug traffickers and dealers.*

**PRUNE**

pruned, pruned, pruning

**prune back****1** prune back sth prune sth back

to cut some of the branches of a tree or bush to make it grow better: *To encourage growth, prune back your rose bushes by about a third.*

\* SIMILAR TO: trim (back), cut back

**2** prune back sth prune sth back

to reduce something or to get rid of the unnecessary parts of something: *Airlines announced they intend to prune back weekday flights from London to Glasgow.* | *Staff numbers have been pruned back from 580 to 400.*

\* SIMILAR TO: trim back, cut back

**PRY**

pried, pried, prying

**pry out****pry sth out**

if you pry information out of someone, you make them tell it to you, even though they do not want to

+ of *At first he wouldn't tell me the girl's name, but in the end I finally managed to pry it out of him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: drag out

**PSYCH**

psyched, psyched, psyching

**psych out****psych sb out psych out sb**

informal to behave in a way that is intended to make someone, especially an opponent, feel nervous and uncomfortable: *Kelly's just trying to psych me out by not saying anything.* | *The Jets psyched out the Falcons when they scored in the first three minutes of the game.*

**psych up****1** psych sb up

informal to make someone become excited and confident about something

**psych yourself up** *What do top athletes do to psych themselves up before a race?*

+ for *Bertrand tried to psych me up for the interview; asking practice questions and checking my appearance.*

**2** be psyched up

informal to be very excited and mentally prepared for an event or activity: *The children were really psyched up for the holidays.*

\* SIMILAR TO: be hyped up

**PUCKER**

puckered, puckered, puckering

**pucker up****pucker up**

humorous to push your lips out, ready to be kissed: *Vanessa closed her eyes and puckered up.*

## PUFF

puffed, puffed, puffing

## puff away

## puff away

informal to smoke a cigarette, pipe etc: *Richard Goullain has been puffing away for 35 years.* | *Nate just puffed away calmly on his pipe.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **smoke**

## puff out

## puff out sth    puff sth out

to make something become bigger by filling it with air: *Popov puffed out his chest proudly and smiled as the audience applauded.* | *Sandoval puffs out his cheeks to make the little girls giggle.* | *A breeze puffed out the curtains.*

## puff up

## 1 puff up    puff up sth    puff sth up

to become bigger by filling with air, or to make something do this: *Birds puff up their feathers to stay warm.* | *The cookies will puff up while in the oven, and then flatten out again as they cool.*

## 2 puff up

if your eye, face, ankle etc puffs up, it swells because it is injured or infected: *Sylvia's finger really puffed up where the bee stung her.* | *Judging by how your ankle has puffed up, I think it might be broken.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **swell up**

## PUKE

puked, puked, puking

## puke up

## puke up    puke up sth    puke sth up

informal to bring food back up from your stomach through your mouth: *She staggered in through the door, and puked up over her dad's shoes.* | *This horrible smell is enough to make me puke up my lunch.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **throw up** *informal, vomit*

## PULL

pulled, pulled, pulling

## pull ahead

## 1 pull ahead

to succeed in getting in front of someone who you are racing against, or in getting more points than a person or team that you are competing against: *Then, with four minutes left to play, Stanford began pulling ahead.* | *The two swam neck and neck for over half the race, before Akers suddenly pulled ahead.*

## 2 pull ahead

to become more successful than other people, places, organizations etc: *The industrial north performed badly, while the south-east was clearly pulling ahead.*

+ of *They managed to pull ahead of their rivals in the soft drinks business.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **overtake**

## 3 pull ahead

to go past a vehicle that is travelling beside or in front of yours, by driving faster than it is driving

+ of *Christie stepped on the accelerator and pulled ahead of the truck again.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **overtake, pass**

## pull apart

## 1 pull sth/sb apart    pull apart sth/sb

to make people argue or fight with each other, so that a relationship ends, or a family group, country etc becomes divided: *We mustn't let this criticism pull the team apart.* | *There was little hope for the community, pulled apart by violence, drug abuse and poverty.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tear apart**

## 2 pull sth apart

to destroy something completely by breaking it or tearing it into pieces: *The crowd went wild and proceeded to pull the place apart.* | *The dogs were fighting over the body, pulling it apart.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tear apart**

## 3 pull apart sth    pull sth apart

especially BrE to criticize every part of an idea, piece of work, organization etc very severely: *Every single one of our proposals was pulled apart.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take apart**

## 4 pull sb/sth apart    pull apart sb/sth

to separate people or animals when they are fighting: *The referee intervened to pull the pair apart.*

## 5 pull sb apart

to make someone feel very upset and confused: *The conflicting demands of career and family were pulling her apart.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tear apart**

## pull at

## 1 pull at sth NOT PASSIVE

to pull something towards you, especially something that is heavy or difficult to move: *Gordon pulled at the gate, and it swung open enough to allow him inside.*

2 **pull at** sb's sleeve, arm etc

to pull someone's clothes or arm several times to try and attract their attention, or make them come with you: *She pulled at her mother's sleeve saying, "Come on, hurry up."*

3 **pull at** sb/sth NOT PASSIVE

if something pulls at you or your emotions, it affects your feelings strongly: *Two opposite feelings pulled at her – one of delight and the other of guilt.* | *His brilliant speeches pulled at the crowd's emotions.*

**pull away**1 **pull away**

if a vehicle pulls away, it starts moving away from the place where it has stopped: *Matt jumped onto the bus just as it was pulling away.*

+ **from** *I watched as a black saloon car pulled away from the kerb behind us.*

2 **pull away**

to suddenly move your body away from someone who is holding or touching you

+ **from** *"You're hurting me," Lily said, pulling away from him.*

3 **pull away**

to succeed in getting more points than another person or team that you are competing against, or in getting in front of someone who you are racing against: *The US team began to pull away a little in the second half.* | *Gunnell came through strongly into the final bend, and pulled away to win by half a second.*

4 **pull away**

to avoid becoming involved in something

+ **from** *This gave the government one last chance to pull away from disaster.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **avoid**

5 **pull away**

to become separated from something, instead of being fixed to it

+ **from** *Some of the pages had pulled away from the spine of the book.*

**pull back**1 **pull back** **pull back** sth**pull** sth **back**

especially AmE if an army pulls back or is pulled back, it leaves its present position and moves to a position that is less threatening or dangerous: *Even though the Red Army was pulling back from Eastern Europe, Bush kept a large American force in Germany.* | *At the same time Washington was pulling back American forces from South Vietnam.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **withdraw**

**pullback** N [SINGULAR]

AmE when a country makes its army leave its present position and move to a position that is less threatening and dangerous: *A pullback of US troops would leave the country in serious danger.*

2 **pull back** sth **pull** sth **back**

BrE if a team that is losing pulls a goal back or pulls points back, it succeeds in scoring a goal or winning some points: *After Brian Borrows had scored twice, Kevin Gallacher added a third before Redknapp pulled one back for Liverpool.*

3 **pull back**

to decide not to do or become involved in something: *In Singapore share prices fell, as foreign investors pulled back after several days of gains.*

+ **from** *In the end, the group pulled back from financing the project.*

**pullback** N [SINGULAR]

AmE when a person, company etc decides not to continue doing something that they have been doing, because they do not feel confident about it: *There have been fears of a major pullback in bank lending.*

4 **pull** sth **back** **pull** **back** sth

to help a company, organization etc that is in a difficult situation to get out of it

+ **from** *It won't be easy for the new leader to pull the party back from its present position and unite it.*

**pull sth back from the brink of sth** (=prevent a company, organization etc from getting into so much difficulty that it cannot get out of it) *The company is expecting its major shareholders to come up with an aid package to pull it back from the brink of financial ruin.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn around**

5 **pull back**

to suddenly move your body away from someone who is holding or touching you

+ **from** *She gave a cry, and pulled back from him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull away**

**pull down**1 **pull** sth **down** **pull** **down** sth

to deliberately destroy a building or other structure, for example because it is not safe, or because the land it is on is needed for something else: *The old railway station was closed and pulled down around 1965.* | *That's where the mill used to be – they pulled it down to make space for new development.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock down, demolish** [formal]

## 2 pull down sth NOT PASSIVE

AmE *informal* to earn a particular amount of money in your job: *Television weather readers are pulling down \$1 million annually.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get, earn**

## 3 pull down sth pull sth down

to make something fall to a lower level or standard than it was before: *Estate agents say that the recession is really pulling down house prices.*

## 4 pull sb down

BrE if worry, illness etc pulls you down, it makes you feel unhappy, or it makes you less healthy or less successful: *This unpleasantness with the neighbours is really pulling her down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drag down, get down**

## 5 pull down a rebound

AmE *informal* to catch the ball after someone has tried and failed to make a basket (=make points) in the game of basketball: *Malone pulled down a rebound and took the game from the Celtics' control.*

## pull for

pull for sb USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to hope that a person or team will succeed, or to encourage them to succeed: *I'm pulling for the Dolphins. | We're all pulling for you, Kim.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **root for**

## pull in

## 1 pull in

if a vehicle pulls in, the driver moves it to the side of the road or to a place where it can stop: *I'm going to pull in at the next garage – I want to check the tyres. | Would you mind pulling in over there?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull over**

## 2 pull in

if a train, bus etc pulls in, it arrives at the railway or bus station: *We ran onto the platform just as the train was pulling in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **arrive**

## 3 pull sb in pull in sb

especially BrE if the police pull someone in, they take them to a police station in order to ask them questions, because they think they may have committed a crime: *The police suspected that Stevenson was the murderer, but didn't have enough evidence to pull him in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **arrest**

## 4 pull in sb pull sb in

to attract people in large numbers: *The bank launched a new account and advertised it heavily to pull in thousands of new investors.*

pull in the crowds/customers etc *Opera and ballet are just not pulling in the crowds like they used to do.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **attract**

## 5 pull in sth pull sth in

to earn a particular amount of money, especially a lot of money: *Local parents are hoping to pull in \$50,000 for their school district with a weekend garage sale. | The film has so far pulled in about \$150 million at the box office.*

## pull into

## 1 pull into sth NOT PASSIVE

if a train, bus, ship, etc pulls into a place, it arrives there: *By the time the train pulled into King's Cross Station the next day, we were all exhausted.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **arrive (at)**

## 2 pull into sth NOT PASSIVE

if a vehicle pulls into a place, the driver moves the vehicle to a place where it can stop: *At lunchtime we pulled into a roadside picnic area.*

## 3 pull sb/sth into sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to involve a person, country etc in a particular situation or activity, especially when they would prefer not to be involved: *It was only a matter of time before America was pulled into the conflict.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drag into**

## pull off

## 1 pull sth off pull off sth

to succeed in doing or achieving something difficult: *This is a difficult role to play, and John Travolta has pulled it off magnificently. | She is confident that she will be able to pull off a deal.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **carry off**

## 2 pull off sth pull off

if a vehicle pulls off a road, it leaves the road in order to stop somewhere or to turn off that road onto a smaller one: *I pulled off the road, put my seat back and fell asleep. | Manison was coming up to the freeway exit. He signalled and pulled off.*

## 3 pull off

if a vehicle pulls off, it starts moving away from the place where it has stopped: *It wasn't very long before the train pulled off and we were on our way.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **move off, pull away**

## pull on

pull on sth

to put clothes on: *Shelley hastily pulled on a pair of jeans and a thin cotton sweatshirt.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put on**



## pull out

## 1 pull out

if a vehicle pulls out, it moves away from the side of the road or it moves forward onto a road: *Mike got into the car and pulled out onto the highway, headed north.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **move out**

## 2 pull out

if a vehicle pulls out, it moves towards the middle of the road, in order to pass someone in front: *Always look in your side mirror before pulling out.* | *A truck suddenly pulled out in front of him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **move out**

## 3 pull out

if a train pulls out, it starts to leave the station

+ of *As the train pulled out of the station, Megan leaned out of the window and waved.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **draw out**

## 4a pull out

to stop doing or being involved in something: *The British tennis player, Joe Durie, had to pull out with a knee injury.*

+ of *The company is pulling out of the US hotel market after eight years.*

## 4b pull sb/sth out pull out sb/sth

to remove someone or something from a situation that they have been involved in: *As the crisis deepened, both America and Britain decided to pull out their embassy staff.*

## 5a pull out

if a country's army pulls out of a place where it has been fighting, it leaves it: *The rebel leader said that if the troops did not pull out, hostages would be shot.*

+ of *when the United States finally pulled out of Vietnam*

## 5b pull out sth/sb pull sth/sb out

if a government or leader pulls their army out of a place that it has been fighting in or controlling, it makes the army leave the country: *By the end of May the Russian government had decided to pull out its troops.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **withdraw**

## pull-out N [C]

when an army leaves a place where it has been fighting in: *Following the pull-out of western forces from the region, a six-point peace plan was put forward.*

## 6 pull out pull sth out

if a country, organization etc pulls out or is pulled out of a difficult economic situation, it manages to get out of that situation

+ of *The economy has been struggling to pull out of the recession.* | *J.P. Morgan shares rose, which helped to pull the stock market out of its slump.*

## 7 pull out sth

especially AmE to separate particular facts or ideas from others that you do not need, so that you can think about them or use them on their own: *I'd like you to read through the report before our next meeting and pull out any points that you want us to look at.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **extract**

## pull over

## 1 pull over

if a vehicle pulls over, it moves to the side of the road and it slows down or stops: *Billy pulled over at once, jumped out of the car and offered to help.* | *I pulled over to let the ambulance pass.*

## 2 pull sb/sth over pull over sb/sth

if the police pull a vehicle over, they make the driver move the vehicle to the side of the road and stop: *He was pulled over for speeding.*

## pull round

## 1 pull round

BrE to gradually get better after you have been ill, or to become conscious after you have been unconscious: *It was several weeks before George began to pull round after his operation.*

## 2 pull round sth pull sth round

BrE to gradually make a business, organization etc begin to be more successful after it has been failing: *It took Lassiter three years to pull the firm round and make it profitable.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn around**

## pull through

## 1 pull through pull sb through

to succeed in staying alive and gradually get better after you have been seriously ill or injured: *Both the boys have serious injuries, but we're confident that they'll pull through.* | *Mr Morris described how positive thinking and determination helped him through two heart attacks.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **survive, recover (from)**

## 2 pull through pull through sth

pull sb through pull sb through sth

to succeed in dealing with a difficult time or situation in your life until things begin to improve again, or to help someone do this: *My feeling is that one way or another the President will pull through.* | *Do you think Russia will be able to pull through the current*

*economic crisis? | Nigel's the only person I know who might be able to pull Anna through this crisis.*

### pull together

#### 1 pull yourself together

to control your feelings and behave calmly after you have been very upset or angry: *Nina made an effort to pull herself together, and wiped away her tears.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **compose yourself** formal

#### 2 pull together

if a group of people pull together, they all work together in order to achieve an aim that they share: *I want everyone in the department to pull together as a team – support each other.* | *A number of neighbouring schools are pulling together to tackle the problem of drugs in schools.*

#### 3 pull sth together pull together sth

to bring together various ideas, facts etc so that you can study them and compare them: *The report pulled together the results of various surveys carried out for the company since 1986.*

**pull strands/threads together** (=pull together various ideas, facts etc so that you can study them and compare them)  
*What's needed is a conclusion that pulls together the threads of your argument.*

#### 4 pull sth together pull together sth

to improve something by making all the people or groups that are involved in it work together more effectively: *Given enough time, the Prime Minister should be able to pull his party together.* | *The plan aims to pull together all the different aid programmes that are being run in the area.*

#### 5 pull sth together pull together sth

to succeed in organizing something, especially an event or an agreement: *In 1961 Shelby finally pulled a deal together with Ford Motor Co and AC Cars Ltd.*

### pull up

#### 1 pull up

if a vehicle pulls up somewhere, it stops: *A line of limousines drove slowly past and pulled up to the gates.* | *We pulled up outside the theatre.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **draw up**

#### 2 pull up a chair/stool etc

to get a chair and move it so that you can sit near someone or something: *Pull up a chair – we can go through this report together.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **draw up**

#### 3 pull sth up pull up sth

to remove plants and their roots from the ground, so that they cannot grow again: *I spent the afternoon in the garden pulling up weeds.*

#### 4 pull sb up

to tell someone that they have done something wrong, or that they must try to improve in some way: *Quite a lot of the better restaurants will pull you up if you're not wearing a tie.*

† on *All of his teachers have tried pulling him up on his behaviour, but he doesn't listen.*

#### 5 pull your socks up

to improve in your work, behaviour etc, because it is not good enough: *He'll have to pull his socks up if he wants to pass his exams.*

#### 6 pull sb up short/sharp

to make someone suddenly realize they have made a mistake or are wrong about something: *The question pulled Rosy up short, freezing the smile on her lips.*

## PUMP

pumped, pumped, pumping

### pull away

#### 1 pump away

to work hard at something by moving continuously in and out or up and down: *Increase your pace until you can feel your heart pumping away efficiently.* | *Karen was in the gym, pumping away on an exercise bicycle.*

#### 2 pump sth away pump away sth

to remove a liquid or gas by forcing it to flow in a particular direction using a special machine called a pump: *All together they pumped away about 150,000 gallons of flood water.*

### pull in

#### pull sth in pull in sth

to provide a lot of money in order to make a particular plan, place, or organization successful: *Eventually the government will see the need to pump in more money to get good teachers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **inject, invest**

### pull into

#### pull sth into sth

to put a lot of money into a particular plan, place, or organization to make it successful: *The administration plans to pump \$1 trillion dollars into defence spending over this period.* | *A lot of investors have pumped money into large companies such as the Coca-Cola Co.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **invest (into), invest (in)**

**pump out****1** **pump sth out** **pump out sth**

to force a liquid or gas to flow out of a place by using a special machine called a pump

+ of *This engine was originally used for pumping water out of the mines.*

**2** **pump out**

to flow out of a place quickly, continuously and in large amounts

+ of *Blood was pumping out of a deep wound in his side.*

**3** **pump out sth** **pump sth out**

to produce something continuously in large amounts – use this especially when you disapprove of it: *Every year the city's industries and vehicles pump out five million tonnes of pollutants.*

● COMPARE: **churn out**

**pump up****1** **pump up sth** **pump sth up**

to fill something with air, for example a tyre, using a special tool or machine called a pump: *I had to pump up the tyres on my bike before I could leave.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **blow up, inflate** *formal*

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

**2** **pump sth up** **pump sth up**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to force liquid to come up from a place under the ground to the surface, using a special machine called a pump: *Salt water is pumped up from deep below the ground.*

**3** **pump sb up** **pump up sb**

*informal, especially AmE* to make someone feel very confident or excited about something: *Jody's parents have always pumped her up with their enthusiastic support.*

**pumped-up** ADJ

very confident or excited, especially in an annoying or unpleasant way: *Everybody disliked the pumped-up ways of the college boys who came into town at the weekend.*

**4** **pump up sth** **pump sth up**

*informal, especially AmE* to increase the amount or number of something – use this especially about prices, taxes, sales etc: *At least the government haven't pumped up taxes yet. | The flu epidemic has pumped up sales of health products over the Christmas period.*

**5** **pump up sth** **pump sth up**

*informal, especially AmE* to make something improve: *Economists assumed that central banks could pump up the economy and drive down the unemployment rate.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **improve**

**6** **pump up**

*AmE informal* to lift weights so that you become stronger: *If you want to pump up, you'll need to go to the gym regularly.*

**pumped up** ADJ

*AmE informal* having a lot of muscles because you lift weights: *Linda Hamilton plays the pumped up heroine in 'Terminator 2'.*

**PUNCH**

*punched, punched, punching*

**punch in****1** **punch in sth** **punch sth in**

if you punch in a series of letters or numbers, you quickly press those buttons on a computer, telephone or other machine: *Andy went up to the cash machine and punched in his personal identification number.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **enter**

**2** **punch in**

*AmE* to record the time that you arrive at work by putting a card into a special machine: *We're meant to punch in before 9 o'clock, so that we can actually be at our desks by 9.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **clock in**

● OPPOSITE: **punch out**

**punch out****1** **punch out sth** **punch sth out**

*BrE* if you punch out a series of letters or numbers, you quickly press those buttons on a computer, telephone or other machine: *I looked Stef and Hugo up in the telephone book and punched out the numbers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **punch in**

**2** **punch sb out** **punch out sb**

*informal* to hit someone so hard that they fall to the ground: *I knew that if we spent any time together it would only result in us punching each other out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock down**

**3** **punch out**

*AmE* to record the time that you leave work by putting a card into a special machine: *The next day Lee punched out a little early, and met Bobby downtown.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **clock off, clock out**

● OPPOSITE: **punch in, clock in**

**punch up****punch up sth** **punch sth up**

*AmE informal* to make something more interesting or exciting: *They'd tried to punch up the movie with some exotic music, but it was still boring.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **vamp up, spice up, jazz up** *informal*

**PUSH**

pushed, pushed, pushing

**push about**SEE **push around****push ahead****push ahead**

to continue doing or planning something, even though there are some problems: *I'd like you all to push ahead and get the job done as soon as possible.*

+ **with** *If the group decides to push ahead with the plan, they will then look for more EC funding.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **press ahead****push around**ALSO **push about** BrE**push sb around/about**

to tell someone what to do in a rude way, especially without considering what they want: *Why do you always let other people push you around?* | *I was beginning to feel I was being pushed about at work, and lost some of my enthusiasm.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **boss around, shove around** informal**push along****1 must/should etc be pushing along**

spoken used to say that you think it is time for you to leave a place: *Well, I must be pushing along – it's getting dark already.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **I must be getting along****2 push along push along sth****push sth along**

to make good progress, or to help something make good progress: *The growth rate of the European market is also pushing along at 12%.* | *They are determined to push along talks between Democrats and Republicans.*

**push aside****1 push sth aside push aside sth**

to decide not to think about something, for example because it is unpleasant or you want to think about something else instead: *For a moment Denny felt guilty – but she quickly pushed it aside.* | *This is a very difficult idea to understand properly, but it should not be pushed aside for that reason.*

**2 be pushed aside**

if someone is pushed aside by someone else, they are forced out of their present job, position etc by someone else who takes their place: *Lugar had done a good job as chairman*

*of the committee, but he was pushed aside by Jesse Helms.* | *There was some concern that the Institute would be pushed aside by larger companies.*

**push back****1 push sth back push back sth**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to deliberately delay an event, date, project etc that has already been arranged, usually because people are not ready for it, or other things are more important: *The start date for the talks has now been pushed back to the end of the month.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put back, put off, postpone****2 push back sth push sth back**

to force an army or a crowd to move backwards from their present position: *Police pushed the crowd back from the gates of the palace.* | *By that summer, Russian forces had been pushed back as far as Moscow.*

**3 push back the boundaries/frontiers of sth**

if someone pushes back the boundaries of human knowledge or ability, they make the amount that we know or are able to do greater than it was before: *Science has, by pushing back the boundaries of human knowledge, given us much that has enriched our lives.* | *Throughout the twentieth century, we have continued to push back the frontiers of travel.*

**push for****push for sth**

to try to persuade people that something should happen or be done: *The improved economy will provide a better climate for workers to push for higher wage rates.* | *Kehoe said she will push for more after-school activities aimed at keeping kids off the streets.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **press for****push forward****1 push forward push forward sth****push sth forward**

to continue doing or planning something in a determined way: *At that time France was pushing forward the development of its own nuclear weapons.*

+ **with** *The British and Irish governments were attempting to push forward with the peace process.*

**2 push forward sth push sth forward**

to try to make people think about or accept a particular idea or subject that you believe is important: *He was still trying to push forward the idea of a coalition government.*

3 **push yourself forward**

to deliberately put yourself in a situation where you will be noticed by other people, especially in order to get an advantage for yourself: *Nicola knew that she would have to push herself forward if she wanted to be offered the role.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **promote yourself**

4 **push forward**

if an army pushes forward, it makes progress by moving further in a particular direction, especially in an enemy country: *The western armies were pushing forward rapidly as planned, but the troops were becoming exhausted.*

5 **push forward the boundaries/bounds/frontiers of sth**

if someone pushes forward the boundaries of what is acceptable or possible, they make more things acceptable or possible than before: *researchers who are pushing forward the boundaries of scientific knowledge*

**push in****push in**

BrE *informal* to force yourself in front of other people who are already waiting in a line for something, instead of waiting for your turn: *We were just about to get on the bus when someone else pushed in. | I couldn't believe it when that man came along and pushed in at the front of the queue.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **barge in**

**push into****push sb into sth**

to force someone to do something that they do not really want to do by being very forceful or using your influence or power: *At the time I didn't want to stay on at school, but I'm glad my parents pushed me into it now.*

**push sb into doing sth** *Gloria was always pushing Jett into taking her side in arguments.*

**be pushed into sth** *A lot of these women arrive hoping for employment, and are pushed into virtual slavery.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **force (into)**

**push off**1 **push off!**

BrE *spoken informal* used to rudely tell someone to go away, usually because you are angry with them: *"Push off!" she shouted. "How dare you come here?" | I told him to push off and he hit me.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go away, clear off!** *spoken informal, especially BrE*

2 **push off**

BrE *informal* to leave a place: *If you're feeling okay, we'll push off now and see you again tomorrow. | It's time I pushed off home – they'll be wondering where I am.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **leave**

3 **push off**

to start moving in a boat, on a bicycle, or swimming by pushing against something with your arms, legs etc: *We hurriedly pushed off and rowed out into the middle of the river. | Brenda pushed off from the kerb and began to ride away.*

**push on**1 **push on**

to continue travelling somewhere instead of stopping, especially when it is a long way: *Finding the roads almost traffic-free, I decided to push on towards the west coast.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **press on, keep going**

2 **push on**

to continue doing something in a determined way, especially when it involves a lot of work or effort: *Charlie was a great leader – he could motivate everybody to push on.*

**with** *The president decided to push on with his re-election campaign, despite his heart problems.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **carry on, press on**

**push out****push sb out** **push out sb**

to force someone to lose their position by being unpleasant to them or telling them they are no longer needed: *Many children feel they have been pushed out when a new baby arrives in the family.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **squeeze out**

**push over****push sb/sth over** **push over sb/sth**

to make someone or something fall to the ground by pushing them: *One of the older boys had pushed him over and sat on him. | Maggie jumped up quickly, pushing her chair over by mistake.*

**pushover** N [SINGULAR]

something that is easy to do or a person who is easy to persuade: *Schoodic Mountain is 1,069 feet, so climbing it is no pushover. | Because Tom is quiet and polite, people tend to think he's a pushover.*

**push through****push through sth** **push sth through**

to succeed in getting a plan, law etc officially accepted, especially quickly: *It will be hard*

for the government to push through such an ambitious programme of reform. | Reagan pushed through the greatest increase in defense spending in American history.

\* SIMILAR TO: **rush through**

### push to

#### push the door/window to

especially BrE to close or nearly close a door or window by pushing it: *Marcus put out the light, climbed out of the window and pushed it to.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **close**

### push towards

ALSO: **push toward** AmE

#### 1 push sb towards/toward sth

to strongly influence or encourage someone to do or achieve something: *Both the Fittipaldi brothers were strongly pushed towards motor racing by their father's enthusiasm. | Officials met on Tuesday in an effort to push negotiators towards a settlement.*

#### 2 push towards/toward sth

to try hard to do or achieve something: *The country has been pushing towards independence for nearly ten years.*

### push up

#### push sth up push up sth

to make the price, rate, amount etc of something increase: *House sales are increasing again, which in turn is starting to push up prices. | If wages start to rise more rapidly, it will push the rate of inflation up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **force (up)**

## PUT

put, put, putting

### put about

#### 1 put sth about put about sth

BrE to tell people that something is true so that a lot of people believe it, especially something that is not true or not certain: *Of course foxes aren't pests. That's just an idea that's put about by people who support fox-hunting. | During the strike, rumours were put about that the company was planning to close the factory and build a new one abroad.*

**put it about that** *Tammy's been putting it about that I'm trying to get her job. In fact nothing could be further from the truth.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put around/round**

#### 2 put yourself about

BrE informal to use a lot of effort and move around a lot in order to try to do something:

*Foyle had an excellent game. He put himself about a lot and he worked hard.*

#### 3 put yourself about

BrE spoken informal to have sexual relationships with a lot of people: *When Patrick was young he did put himself about a bit.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put it about** BrE spoken informal

#### 4 put it about

BrE spoken informal to have sexual relationships with a lot of people: *He was a man who used to put it about a bit, as Harry Chiltern once said.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put yourself about** BrE spoken informal

#### 5 put about

technical if a ship puts about, it changes direction and starts sailing in the opposite direction: *As soon as the captain was told about the iceberg, he gave the order to put about.*

### put across

#### 1 put across sth put sth across

to explain your ideas, opinions etc clearly so that other people can understand them: *The Democrats ran a series of television commercials, in an effort to put their message across.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get across, put over, convey** formal, communicate

#### 2 put yourself across

to explain your ideas and opinions clearly so that people understand them, and realize what sort of person you are: *He's a brilliant artist, but he doesn't put himself across very well in interviews.*

#### 3 put across sth put sth across

especially BrE to make other people have a particular opinion or idea about someone or something: *Be careful that you put across the right sort of image at your interview. Wear a suit, and try to appear confident and relaxed.*

### put around

ALSO **put round** BrE

#### put around/round sth

#### put sth around/round

BrE to tell people that something is true so that a lot of people believe it, especially something that is not true or not certain: *I know it's not true, but that's the story they've been putting around in the press.*

**put it around that** *BrE Apparently he's been it putting around that he only went out with me because he felt sorry for me.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put about** BrE, **spread**



## put aside

### 1 put aside sth put sth aside

to stop thinking or worrying about something, especially something that is important to you or that you feel strongly about, so that you can achieve something else: *Ken put aside his own personal ambitions in order to help his wife with her career.*

**put aside your differences** *Hume urged the people of Northern Ireland to put aside their differences and work together for peace.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set aside**

### 2 put aside sth put sth aside

to save money, especially regularly, so that you can use it for a particular purpose later: *Her parents used to put aside a little money each month so that they could pay for her college fees.*

+ **for** *The money had been put aside for their retirement.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put by** especially BrE

### 3 put sth aside put aside sth

to put something down next to you, especially something that you have been reading or working with, so that you can do something else: *Suddenly, she stopped reading the newspaper and put it aside.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put down**

### 4 put aside sth put sth aside

to keep something so that you can use it later: *Remove the rice and put it aside to cool.*

## put at

### put sth at sth

to calculate or guess an amount, number, age etc, without being very exact: *The cost of this year's show has been put at over £350,000. | How much water does the average family use per year? Recent reports put the figure at around 150 cubic metres.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **estimate**

## put away

### 1 put away sth put sth away

to put something in the place where it is usually kept when it is not being used, for example in a cupboard or pocket: *The girl stopped writing and put away her notebook. | You must put away all your toys before you get into bed. | "Put that gun away, you idiot," said Baker.*

### 2 put sb away

*informal* to put someone in prison or a hospital for people who are mentally ill: *If the police get to him, he'll be put away for life. | What a terrible thing to do! She ought to be put away!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lock away, lock up**

### 3 put away sth put sth away

especially BrE to get rid of thoughts, feelings, or attitudes, that you had before: *She decided to put away such childish thoughts and get on with her work.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put aside**

### 4 put away sth put sth away

to save money, especially regularly, so that you can use it for a particular purpose later: *They'd been putting away a little money each week to pay for their wedding.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put aside**

### 5 put away sth put sth away

*informal, especially spoken* to eat or drink a lot of something, especially a surprisingly large amount: *The girl sitting next to me managed to put away half a bottle of vodka before we got to Hong Kong.*

**sb can really put it away** *Billy can really put it away – no wonder he's so fat!*

### 6 put away sth put sth away

*informal* to get a goal, especially after other failed attempts: *Giggs passes to Yorke. Let's hope he can put it away this time.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **score**

### 7 put sb away

*old-fashioned informal* to kill someone: *Jake took out his gun and put him away with a single bullet.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **kill**

## put back

### 1 put sth back put back sth

to put something in the place where it was before: *He put the watch back in his waistcoat pocket and rose to his feet. | Can you put the milk back in the fridge? | I put the briefcase back exactly as I'd found it, and waited for him to come back.*

### 2 put back sth put sth back

to arrange for something to happen at a later time or date than was planned: *The meeting's been put back to 3 o'clock. I hope you don't mind. | The prison authorities have put back his release date till next December.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **postpone, put off**

### 3 put back sth put sth back

to delay something so that it happens later than was planned: *The £100m West Midlands Metro project has been put back another year because of budget cuts. | a series of strikes that could put back the opening of the new bridge by two or three months*

### 4 put sth back put back sth

to make someone or something have something that they used to have before, for

example a quality, a feeling, or a substance: *Read this. It'll put the smile back on your face!* | *It's a very useful plant. It puts nitrogen back into the soil.* | *The band says their mission is to put the soul back into rock 'n' roll.*

**5** **put back sth** **put sth back**

BrE if you put back a clock or watch, you change it so that it shows an earlier time: *Don't forget to put your watch back. There's an hour's time difference between France and England.* | *The clocks get put back this weekend.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set back** AmE

● OPPOSITE: **put forward** BrE, **set ahead** AmE

**6** **put back sth** **put sth back**

BrE informal to drink a lot of alcohol quickly, especially a surprisingly large amount

**put it back** *He must have drunk ten pints. He can certainly put it back.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put away, knock back**

**put before**

**1** **put sb/sth before sb/sth**

to pay more attention to one thing or person than another, and show that you think that they are more important: *Some airlines are putting profits before passenger safety.* | *Most big companies expect their employees to put their work before their family life.* | *These days few people are willing to put other people's interests before their own.*

**2** **put sth before sb/sth**

if something is put before a committee, parliament etc, they discuss it or examine it, especially in order to make a decision about it: *A report into the accident will be put before the Civil Aviation Authority.* | *New legislation will be put before Congress in the autumn, aimed at reducing the federal deficit.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay before**

**put behind**

**1** **put sth behind sb**

if you put something behind you, especially an unpleasant experience, you forget about it and do not let it affect you in the future: *After the trial, Lopez said he just wanted to put the whole thing behind him and get on with the rest of his life.* | *His first wife committed suicide in 1961, and he was really never able to put this behind him.*

**2** **put sth behind sth**

if you put money or effort behind something, you support it by giving money or by working to make it a success: *American companies put millions of dollars behind the bid to host the games.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **invest in**

**put by**

**put by sth** **put sth by**

especially BrE to save money so that you can use it later for a particular purpose: *Why don't you put by a little money each week? That way you'll soon be able to afford a motorcycle.* | *Luckily I had some money put by in case of emergencies.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put aside**

**put down**

**1** **put down sth** **put sth down**

to stop holding, carrying, or using something and put it somewhere: *Stanley put down his newspaper and glared at her.* | *He puts the axe down and wipes his hands on his trousers, eyeing me as he does so.* | *What are you doing with that knife? Put it down!*

● OPPOSITE: **pick up**

**2** **put down the phone/put the phone down**

BrE to put the receiver back onto the telephone after you have finished your conversation. The receiver is the part of the telephone that you pick up and speak into: *"I can't talk now," she said and put the phone down.* | *As Prinz was putting the phone down, he wondered what had brought Herrmann to Cologne.* | *When he heard my voice he put down the phone immediately.*

**put the phone down on sb** (=put the phone down and stop talking to someone because you feel very angry) *I'm sorry I lied! Don't put the phone down on me!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hang up**

**3** **put sb down**

to criticize someone in an unkind way that makes them seem stupid or unimportant, when other people are present: *Her ex-husband was always putting her down in front of her friends.* | *I'm fed up with being put down and made to feel stupid by him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **belittle** formal

**putdown** N [C]

something unkind that someone says to another person, which makes that person seem stupid or unimportant: *The remark was clearly intended as a putdown, and she felt like punching him in the face.*

**4** **put yourself down**

especially spoken to tell other people that you are not very successful, do not have good qualities etc, when in fact this is not true – use this about someone who lacks confidence in their own abilities: *Of course you're a good teacher. You shouldn't put yourself down all the time.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be so hard on yourself**

**5** I couldn't put it down/  
it's impossible to put down etc

especially spoken used to say that a book is so exciting or interesting that you do not want to stop reading it: *It's one of the best novels I've ever read. I just couldn't put it down.* | *It's more than just a cookbook. You'll find that once you pick it up, it's very hard to put down.*

**6** put down a rebellion/coup/revolt/riot etc

to use force to stop a violent attempt to change the government a violent protest by a large group of people etc: *Panama's military government has succeeded in putting down a coup led by some of the country's most senior officers.* | *In 1745 the Prince led his army across the border into England, but the rebellion was soon put down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: suppress

**7** put sth down put down sth

to kill an animal without causing it any pain, because it is old or ill: *Our cat got cancer, and we had to have him put down.* | *The horse had to be put down after breaking a leg at Kelso yesterday.*

\* SIMILAR TO: put sth to sleep

**8** put sth down put down sth

to write something on paper instead of just thinking about it, for example your ideas about something, or something that you have to do: *"Have you got the phone fixed yet?" "No. I'll put it down on my list of things to do."*

**put sth down on paper** *It often helps to put your thoughts down on paper.*

\* SIMILAR TO: write down, jot down

**9** put sb down put down sb

to write someone's name on a list so that they can take part in an activity, join a school or other organization etc: *I'm organizing a trip to the lakes. Shall I put you down?*

**+ to do sth** *BrE So far only 12 students have put their names down to do the course.*

**put sb down to do sth** *BrE I've put myself down to run in the charity race next Saturday.*

**+ for** *His parents put him down for the best school in the area.*

\* SIMILAR TO: sign up

**10** put down sth put sth down

to pay part of the total cost or value of something when you arrange to buy it or rent it

**put down a deposit** (=a deposit is the part of the total cost or value of something that you put down) *They put down a £10,000 deposit on the house when they bought it.*

**11** put down sth put sth down

*BrE* to officially ask for something to be discussed or voted on by the other people in a

meeting or in parliament: *Yesterday Japanese MPs put down a motion calling for him to resign.* | *Republicans have put down so many amendments that it is unlikely that the bill will be passed in this session of Congress.*

\* SIMILAR TO: table formal

**12** put down sth put sth down

to put a carpet or other covering onto the floor or the ground: *They're having a wooden floor put down in the bedroom.* | *We chose the carpet at the weekend, and the man's coming to put it down later this week.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lay

**13** put down put sth down

*BrE* if a plane puts down somewhere, or the pilot puts it down, it lands there, especially when this was not planned: *One of the engines caught fire and he had to put down in the desert.*

\* SIMILAR TO: land

● COMPARE: come down

**14** put sb down put down sb

*BrE* if a driver puts someone down somewhere, he or she stops the car, bus, etc and lets them get out there: *They asked the driver to put them down at the station.*

\* SIMILAR TO: set down

**15** put sb down

if you put a baby down to sleep, you put it in a bed so that it can sleep: *Harry seems a lot quieter now. I think I'll put him down for a nap.*

**put down as**

put sb/sth down as sth

to decide that someone or something is a particular type of person or thing, often when they are not like that: *When she first met him, she immediately put him down as a boring middle-aged businessman.*

\* SIMILAR TO: have down as

**put down for**

**1** put sb down for sth

to write someone's name on a list so that they can take part in an activity, join a school or other organization etc: *His parents have put him down for the best school in the area.*

**put yourself down for sth** *You're pretty good at general knowledge questions. Why don't you put yourself down for the quiz?*

\* SIMILAR TO: sign up

**2** put sb down for 50p/£5 etc

to write someone's name on a list with an amount of money that they have promised to give: *Sue was asking people to sponsor her on a twenty mile charity walk, and I told her to put me down for 10p a mile.*

**put down to****1 put sth down to sth**

to think that something, especially a problem or a bad situation, is caused by something else: *I didn't feel too good the next morning, but I put it down to a hangover.* | *Women are twice as likely as men to get skin cancer. Experts put this down to the fact that we're more fond of sunbathing.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **attribute to**

**2 put sth down to experience**

*especially spoken* to try not to feel upset by something bad that has happened, and try to forget about it or learn something useful from it: *There'll be other girlfriends. It's just one of those things you have to put down to experience.*

**put forth****1 put forth sth put sth forth**

*formal* to suggest an idea, explanation etc, especially one that other people later consider and discuss: *A very similar idea to Linde's was put forth independently by Steinhardt and Albrecht of the University of Pennsylvania.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put forward**

**2 put forth sth**

*formal* if a bush, tree etc puts forth new leaves, flowers, branches etc, it starts to grow them: *The plant grows up to a height of 80cms, putting forth fleshy pale green leaves.*

**put forward****1 put forward sth put sth forward**

to suggest an idea, explanation, plan etc, for other people to consider and discuss: *A number of theories were put forward at the time about the possible causes of his death.* | *This argument was originally put forward by Aristotle in his book on ethics.* | *Everyone thought it was a great idea when we first put it forward.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set out**

**2 put sb forward put forward sb**

to say officially that you think someone should be considered for a job, allowed to join an organization etc

+ **for** *The names of four possible candidates have been put forward for the post.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **nominate**

**3 put sth forward put forward sth**

to arrange for something to happen at an earlier time or date than was planned: *The meeting has been put forward to tomorrow. I hope you can still come.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bring forward**

● OPPOSITE: **put back, postpone**

**4 put sth forward**

BrE if you put forward a clock or watch, you change it so that it shows a later time: *Hayden forgot to put his clock forward and turned up too late for his first match.* | *We have to put the clocks forward one hour this weekend.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set ahead** AmE, **set forward** AmE

● OPPOSITE: **put back, set back** AmE

**put in****1 put in sth put sth in**

to officially make a request, order, claim, or offer: *I've put in a request for a transfer.* | *Buyers have until next Monday to put in their bids.* | *Following the accident Dr Kalley put in a claim for over \$50,000 in compensation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **submit**

**2 put in sth put sth in**

to put a new piece of equipment or machinery in a room, building etc and connect it to the electricity supply, water supply etc: *They've had a new central heating system put in.* | *If you're buying an electric cooker, it's usually better to get a qualified electrician to put it in for you.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **install**

**3 put in sth**

to do something in a particular way – use this when talking about someone's performance in a film, play etc, or how well they played a game or ran in a race: *Rainey put in a fast time in the qualifying race.* | *Judi Dench puts in a fine performance as Queen Elizabeth.*

**4 sb put in**

*old-fashioned literary* to say something while someone else is speaking: *"Oh, so you admit you're guilty!" Steven put in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **interrupt**

**put in for****put in for sth**

to make an official request to be allowed to do something or have something: *Her husband's decided to put in for early retirement.* | *Why don't you put in for a pay rise?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **apply (for)**

**put in/into****1 put in sth put sth in****put sth into sth**

to use effort, work, or time in order to try to do something: *The whole team put in a tremendous amount of effort.* | *Her husband died about five years ago and she's put all her emotional energy into her job.*

2 **put in sth** **put sth in****put sth into sth**

to provide money so that people can do something, or buy shares in a company so that you can get a profit: *More money needs to be put into cancer research.* | *The government has already agreed to put in large amounts of taxpayers' money in order to improve the rail network.* | *Always remember when putting your money into the stock market that share prices can go down as well as up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **invest in**

3 **put sb in/into sth**

to make someone go to a prison, a hospital, or some other place where they can be looked after: *Opposition leaders are being arrested and put in prison.* | *My mother needed full-time nursing care, and we decided to put her into a nursing home.*

4 **put in** **put into sth**

if a ship puts in at a port or puts into port, it stops there for a short time

+ **at sth** *The steamer put in at Lisbon to refuel and take on supplies.*

**put into port** *Anyone who put into port on the island was sure of a warm welcome.*

**put off**1 **put off sth** **put sth off**

to delay doing something until later, or arrange for something to happen at a later time, especially because there is a problem, or you do not want to do it now: *Why don't you talk to him about it? You can't keep putting it off forever.*

**put off doing sth** *I'd put off going to the dentist for as long as I could.*

+ **until** *Laurence has to go to Paris on Tuesday, so we've decided to put the meeting off until the following week.* | *They've decided to put off going to Venice until after she's had her operation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **postpone, put back**

2 **put sb off** **put off sb**

to stop someone from liking another person or thing or stop them from being interested in it: *Don't be put off by the name. It's actually a very pretty plant.* | *My last boyfriend put me off men for life.*

**put sb off doing sth** *A lot of people are put off travelling to Japan by the high cost of getting there.* | *A man who was stabbed while he was jogging says the attack hasn't put him off running in the future.*

**off-putting** ADJ

something that is off-putting makes you dislike someone or something, or makes

you not want to do something: *There was something rather off-putting about his manner.*

3 **put off sth** **put sth off**

to make a light stop working by pressing a switch: *Don't forget to put off the lights when you leave.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put out, switch out, turn out**

● OPPOSITE: **put on, switch on, turn on**

4 **put sb off**

to delay meeting someone, talking to someone, paying someone etc because you do not want to do it until later: *Maybe I should go and see him. I can't put him off much longer.* | *Every time she asked for her money back they kept putting her off with some lame excuse or other.*

5 **put sb off** **put sb off sth**

especially BrE to make it difficult for someone to pay attention to what they are doing, for example by talking or making a noise: *Stop giggling! You're putting me off!* | *McEnroe complained that the photographers were putting him off his game.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **distract**

**off-putting** ADJ

making it difficult for you to pay attention to what you are doing: *It's a bit off-putting having someone following you around all the time.*

6 **put sb off**

BrE if a bus or taxi driver puts you off somewhere, they stop the bus or taxi at a particular place and allow you to get out there: *Do you want me to put you off at the station?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drop off, set down**

**put on**1 **put on sth** **put sth on**

to put clothes on your body: *She put on her coat and went outside.* | *I liked the shoes, and when I put them on they fitted perfectly.*

● OPPOSITE: **take off**

2 **put on sth** **put sth on**

to put make-up, cream etc on your skin: *She sat down in front of the mirror and began to put on her make-up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **apply** formal

● OPPOSITE: **take off, remove**

3 **put on sth** **put sth on**

to make a light or a piece of equipment that uses electricity or gas start working by pressing or turning a switch: *Can you put the lights on? I can't see what I'm doing.* | *She put on the kettle, craving her morning cup of coffee.*

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

● OPPOSITE: **switch off, turn off**



**4** **put on sth** **put sth on**

to put a CD, tape, or record in a machine and make it start playing: *Perry went over to the stereo and put on some jazz.*

**5** **put on sth** **put sth on**

to arrange for a performance, show, competition etc to take place: *They often put on exhibitions of work by local artists.* | *The play was originally put on in New York in 1960, and was later made into a movie.*

**6** **put sb on sth**

if a doctor puts you on a particular type of medicine or medical treatment, they give it to you: *Helen was feeling very depressed, so her doctor put her on Prozac.* | *I went to the hospital about my asthma, and they've put me on steroids.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **prescribe**

● OPPOSITE: **take off**

**7** **put sb on a diet**

to tell someone to eat only certain types of food because they are unhealthy or too fat: *His wife says he's overweight, and keeps threatening to put him on a diet.*

**8** **put on weight/2 kilos/5lbs etc**

to become fatter and heavier: *Can it be possible that I've put on eight pounds in three weeks?* | *Six months ago George gave up smoking. Since then he's put on a lot of weight because he's constantly nibbling.*

**9** **put the blame/responsibility on sb/sth**

to say that someone should be blamed or should be considered responsible for something: *That girl was going to try to put the blame on him, he could tell.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay, place**

**10** **put a limit/restriction/ban etc on sth**

to make a rule that controls how much of something should be allowed, how something should be done, or one that stops something completely: *New limits are to be put on tobacco advertising.* | *Japan, Norway, and the other countries agreed to put a ban on commercial whaling.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **impose, slap on** informal

**11** **put on sth**

if you put on a particular kind of voice, look etc, you deliberately behave in a way that is different from how you usually behave, or that is different from how you really feel: *Whenever she's on the phone she always puts on a posh voice.*

**put on a brave face** (=try not to show to other people that you are worried or upset) *Princess Diana continued to put on a brave face, despite reports in the press of serious problems with her marriage.*

**12** **be putting it on**

BrE spoken if someone is putting it on, they are pretending to be ill, upset, injured etc, especially in order to make other people feel sorry for them: *Of course he's not sick. He's just putting it on.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be faking it**

**13** **be putting sb on**

AmE informal if someone is putting you on, they are not telling the truth and are trying to deceive you: *You scored three goals? You're putting me on!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be joking, be kidding, be having sb on** BrE spoken

**14** **put on a show/display/performance etc**

to show what you are able to do or what power you have: *When Saddam refused to give in, the Allies put on a devastating show of force.*

**put on an impressive/poor etc performance** *The French team will have to put on an impressive performance if they are to beat Brazil.*

**15** **put on sth** **put sth on**

to provide something for people to use, eat, drink etc: *Special buses are being put on to take fans to and from the concert.* | *The hotel is putting on an all-you-can-eat buffet by the pool for all the guests.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay on**

**16** **put emphasis/stress on sth**

to say that you think that something is particularly important: *We've always put great stress on the value of communication.* | *Schools are not putting enough emphasis on healthy eating.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay, place**

**17** **put sth on sth**

to risk an amount of money on the result of a race, game etc, in order to try to win money: *I never put money on horses, I always lose.* | *He went to the bookies and put \$100 on a horse called Lady Luck.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bet**

**18** **put sth on sth**

to increase the cost or price of something by a particular amount: *There are rumours that the government plans to put 10p on the price of a packet of cigarettes.*

**19** **put sb on sth**

if you put someone on a bus, plane etc, you take them to it and make sure that they get on it: *Next day the authorities put him on the first plane back to Tokyo.*

**20** **put sb on sth**

to make someone work at a particular time of day, or make someone do a particular type



of work: *They've put him on nights, so we rarely get to see each other much these days.* | *Ashley was put on the playground duty.*

● OPPOSITE: **take off**

## 21 put a number/figure etc on sth

to say how much you think something will be: *"How much do you think the vase is worth?" "It's difficult to put a figure on it. It could be as much as £50,000."*

## 22 put sb on

to give someone the telephone, or press a special button on your telephone, so that they can speak to another person: *"Is Ted there?" "Just one moment, I'll put him on for you."*

## 23 put sth on put on sth

to start cooking something: *I put your supper on an hour ago. It should be ready by now.*

## 24 put a curse/spell on sb/sth

to use magic powers or magic words to make something bad happen to someone or something: *Hollywood star James Wood accused her of trying to put a curse on him.*

## put onto/on to

### put sb onto/on to sb/sth

BrE *spoken* to tell someone about an interesting or useful place, product, person etc, which they did not know about before: *It's a great restaurant. I think it was Wendi who first put me onto it.* | *"Did Eric Clapton put you onto Soldanos amps?" "No, actually it was the other way around, I put Eric onto the Soldanos."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **recommend, turn on to**

## put out

### 1 put out sth put sth out

to make a light stop working by pressing or turning a switch: *Don't forget to put the lights out before you leave the building.* | *She turned over and put out the bedside lamp.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **switch off, turn off**

● OPPOSITE: **put on, switch on**

### 2 put out sth put sth out

to make a fire, cigarette, or candle stop burning: *Please stay in your seats and put out your cigarettes.* | *We fetched buckets of water and old blankets and quickly put out the flames.* | *Eventually the Fire Service put the fire out, but by then both women had died from smoke inhalation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **extinguish formal**

### 3 put sb out

to cause extra work or trouble for someone, especially by asking them to help you:

*Thanks for letting me use your car. I hope I'm not putting you out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **inconvenience formal**

## 4 put yourself out

to use a lot of effort or time in order to help someone, when this is not convenient for you: *He felt he had already put himself out by agreeing to see Dougal at such short notice.*

+ **for** *You're my friend – of course I don't mind putting myself out for you.*

## 5 put out sth put sth out

to produce an official statement, warning, or request, or official information, for people to read or listen to: *Then in July, BP put out a public statement saying that it had made a huge discovery of oil in Colombia.* | *A lot of the information that is put out on the Internet is not totally accurate.* | *Mr Probyn later put out a TV appeal for his wife to come home.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **issue**

## 6 put out sth put sth out

to produce a record, book, or other product and make it available for people to buy: *The band put out a string of hit records in the early sixties.* | *An exciting new men's magazine put out by Dennis Publishing.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **produce, bring out**

## 7 put out sth put sth out

to broadcast a programme on the television or the radio: *Shows that contain a lot of sex or bad language are usually put out after 9 o'clock.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **broadcast**

## 8 put out sth put sth out

to move your hand, arm, foot etc forward, especially in order to touch someone or something: *When he put out his hand to shake hands with her, she just ignored him.* | *Kate put her arms out and embraced her sister.*

## 9 put your tongue out/put out your tongue

to push your tongue out of your mouth, especially as a rude sign to someone: *The little boy put his tongue out and ran away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stick out your tongue**

## 10 be put out

to feel annoyed, upset, or offended by something: *We were a little put out at not being invited to the wedding.* | *Piers didn't look in the slightest bit put out by this statement.*

## 11 put out sth put sth out

to put something somewhere for people to use, eat, look at etc: *I'll put out the knives and forks on the table.* | *Every night she used to clean his shoes and put them out for him in the morning.*

12 **put out sth** **put sth out**

to take something outside your house and leave it there: *Eric was just about to put out the washing when the rain started.* | *Did you remember to put out the trash?*

13 **put out sth** **put sth out**

if you put out your shoulder, back, neck etc, you injure it, especially by stretching or twisting it too much: *Catherine put her back out trying to carry a box of books up the stairs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **strain**

14 **put out sth** **put sth out**

if a plant or tree puts out leaves, flowers etc, it starts to grow them: *The roses have already started to put out new buds.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **produce**

15 **put sb out**

BrE to make someone unconscious before a medical operation: *One patient later claimed that they hadn't put him out properly before his operation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **anaesthetize**

16 **put out**

AmE spoken informal if a woman puts out, she has sex with a man: *Doug said Kelley put out last night.*

17 **put out (to sea)**

if a ship puts out to sea, it starts to sail away from a port or from the land: *Ships were regularly putting out to sea with their bow doors open.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set sail**

**put out of****put sb out of sth**

to stop someone from being able to do something, or continue taking part in something: *Maradona had a knee injury, which threatened to put him out of the World Cup.* | *Lendl's victory put Leconte out of the tournament.*

**put sb out of business** (=make someone be unable to continue their business because they do not get enough money from it) *Local fishermen say the new fishing quotas will put them out of business.*

**put out to****put sth out to sb/sth**

if work is put out to a particular company, it is offered to them: *Existing waste disposal operations will be put out to private companies.*

**put sth out to tender** BrE/put out to bid AmE (=ask companies to say how much they will charge for work so that you can choose which one to offer it to) *Construction work on the hospital has already been put out to tender.*

**put over**1 **put over sth** **put sth over**

BrE to succeed in telling other people your ideas, opinions etc by explaining them clearly: *Minority groups had the chance to come into the studio and put over their point of view.* | *Christie's the ideal man to put this message over to young athletes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get across, put across, convey**  
formal

2 **put one over (on) sb**

informal to trick someone by making them believe something that is not true: *She thought that the salesman was trying to put one over on her, and said she wasn't interested in their offer.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slip one over on sb** especially AmE, **trick**

3 **put one over (on sb)**

informal to succeed in defeating someone: *This is an ideal chance to put one over on the Americans after last year's 7-0 defeat.* | *Reg had achieved a considerable reputation in the boxing ring. No one could put one over on him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **beat**

**put past****I wouldn't put it past sb**

spoken informal used to say that you would not be surprised if someone did something bad or unusual because it is typical of them to do that kind of thing: *"Do you think Harry took the money?" "I wouldn't put it past him."* | *I wouldn't put it past him to slip something into her drink when she wasn't looking.*

**put round**

SEE **put around**

**put through**1 **put sb through**

to connect someone to the person they want to speak to, on the telephone: *One moment, caller. I'm just putting you through.*

+ to *When Lesley asked to speak to the manager, she was put through to the manager's personal assistant instead.*

2 **put through a call/put a call through**

to make a telephone call to someone: *Apparently someone had a put a call through to the French embassy, warning them about the attack.*

3 **put sb through sth**

to make someone do something difficult or experience something unpleasant: *When sales*

staff are recruited, they are put through a rigorous training program. | I must have put my mother through hell when I was a teenager.

**put sb through it/put sb through hell** He says his last wife really put him through it, and he doesn't want to get married again.

#### 4 put through sth put sth through

put sth through sth

to formally agree to a new law or plan, usually after officially discussing it and voting on it: *The UN Security Council put through a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire.* | *Legislation is to be put through parliament aimed at abolishing the House of Lords.*

#### 5 put sb through school/college/university

to pay for someone to study at a college or university: *Mick had a huge car loan and three kids to put through college.* | *She moved to Boston, where she worked as a waitress and put herself through school.*

#### 6 put sth through sth

to make something go through a process or system, in order to change it or test it: *Every car is put through a series of safety checks before it leaves the factory.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **subject to**

### put to

#### 1 put sth to sb

to ask someone a question, especially officially and about something important: *The same question was put to thousands of Americans. "Are you, or have you ever been, a member of the Communist Party?"*

#### 2 put sth to sb

to ask someone to officially consider a plan, suggestion etc, and make a decision about it or say what they think about it: *"I'll put your suggestion to the committee," she said.*

**put sth to the vote** (=ask people to vote about something in order to make a decision about it) *Whenever the issue of the death penalty is put to the vote in parliament, most people are against it.*

#### 3 put it to sb that

to suggest to someone that something is true, especially in a court of law when you are trying to prove the facts about something: *I put it to you that you murdered your husband for his money.*

#### 4 put an end/stop/halt to something

to stop something from continuing to happen: *Russia wants the US to put an end to the bombing of Iraq.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **end, stop, halt**

#### 5 put sb to a lot of trouble/inconvenience/expense

to make someone have to use a lot of effort, time or money, for example in order to help someone else or in order to get something done: *Please forgive me. I hope I haven't put you to too much trouble.* | *The lawsuit had put them to a great deal of expense, and in the end they had been unsuccessful.*

#### 6 put your name/signature to sth

to sign your name at the end of an official document, letter etc, saying that you agree with it: *When she and two other women refused to put their names to the agreement, they were fired on the spot.*

### put together

#### 1 put together sth put sth together

to produce something by getting or collecting a group of things and organizing them: *The Rolling Stones have recently put together an album of their greatest hits.* | *Bryson put together a collection of newspaper articles, under the title 'Notes from a Big Country'.* | *With a little effort, you can put together a meal that's light, refreshing, and also very good for you.*

#### 2 put together sth put sth together

to produce something such as a plan or an agreement by collecting ideas, information, or suggestions: *A group of local people put together a rescue plan to try to save the theatre.* | *Federal authorities are trying to put together a criminal case against Zimmermann.*

#### 3 put together sth put sth together

to make something by joining all the pieces together: *There should be some instructions which show you how to put it all together.* | *The cupboard hadn't been put together very well, and nothing was straight.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **assemble** (formal)

● OPPOSITE: **take apart**

#### 4 put together sth put sth together

to form a group or team by choosing several people and getting them to work or play with each other: *He put his first band together while he was still at college.* | *The Chamber of Commerce is putting together a committee to study the possible impact of the airport on the environment.*

#### 5 put sth together

to think about several pieces of information or ideas together, for example so that you can understand a situation, or decide what you should do: *When you put it all together, it sounds like he must be guilty.* | *Paul needed to be somewhere quiet, somewhere where he could put his thoughts together.*

**6** **than the rest put together/  
than the others put together**

used to emphasize that something or someone is much better, cleverer, bigger etc than the others in a group, or others of a similar type: *The Newton Boys were the most successful bank robbers in US history. They stole more money than the rest put together.* | *Emma's sure to do well. She's smarter than all the others put together.*

**put towards** BrE

**put toward** AmE

**put sth towards/toward sth**

to use some money in order to pay part of the cost of something: *The money raised at the fair is put towards the running of the local church.* | *She says that if she wins, she's going to put it toward a trip to Italy.*

**put up**

**1** **put up sth** **put sth up**

to build something such as a building, wall, or a statue: *After the war, huge apartment buildings were put up around Paris.* | *Developers want to put up a radio mast for mobile phones.*

**put up a tent** *At 25,000 feet they decided to put up their tent and wait for the dawn.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **build, erect** formal

● OPPOSITE: **pull down, take down**

**2** **put up sth** **put sth up**

BrE to increase something, for example prices, taxes, or rents: *Ford has announced plans to put up car prices by as much as 5%.* | *The government should put up taxes on things that damage the environment.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **increase, raise**

● OPPOSITE: **put down**

**3** **put up sth** **put sth up**

to put a sign, notice, picture etc on a wall or other place so that it can be seen: *The owner had put up signs everywhere saying 'Private Property, Keep Out'.* | *It's a nice letter. I'll put it up on the noticeboard.*

● OPPOSITE: **take down**

**4** **put up sth** **put sth up**

to attach a shelf, cupboard etc to a wall: *We've had some new cupboards put up in our kitchen.* | *Men do have some uses – putting up shelves for instance.*

**5** **put sth up** **put sth up**

BrE if you put up an umbrella or a hood, you open it out so that you can cover your head with it. An umbrella is a thing you hold up to protect yourself from the rain. A hood is a part of a coat or jacket that covers your head:

*Some people in the crowd had started putting up their umbrellas, which made it difficult for the others to see.* | *It was raining. Philip put the hood up on his anorak.*

**6** **put up sth** **put sth up**

to provide the money that is needed to pay for something: *It's a great idea, but who's going to put up the money?*

+ for *Twentieth Century Fox is putting up the money for the movie.*

**put up a reward** *Securicor has now put up a reward of £25,000 for information about the robbers.*

**7** **put up a fight/a struggle/resistance etc**

to try to fight or compete with someone, or try to stop something from happening: *England put up a great fight, but in the end the better team won.* | *He didn't put up much resistance when he was arrested.* | *Menzies's counsel put up a spirited defence of his client.*

**8** **put sth up for sale/auction**

to make something available for people to buy, especially a house, land, business, or a valuable object. An auction is a public meeting where goods are sold to the person who offers the most money: *When my father died, the house and all its contents were put up for auction.* | *The store was losing money and they decided to put it up for sale.*

**9** **put sb up**

to provide someone with a place to stay, usually for a short time: *Some friends have offered to put us up for the night.* | *Guests were put up in the Inter-Continental Hotel in the middle of Beirut.*

**10** **put up**

BrE old-fashioned if you put up somewhere, you stay there for a short time

+ at *We put up at a pub called The Three Horseshoes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay**

**11** **put up sth** **put sth up**

especially BrE to suggest an idea, argument, or reason for something, especially in order to persuade people to accept it: *Leith put up several arguments, but she had an answer for every one of them.* | *I've yet to hear anyone put up a convincing case for keeping the House of Lords.*

**12** **put up sb** **put sb up**

if a political party puts someone up at an election, they chose them to represent the party at the election: *The Alliance Party put up substantially fewer candidates at the last election.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **nominate**

**put up to****put sb up to sth**

to encourage someone to do something stupid or dangerous, especially when this is very different from how they usually behave: *"Has Candy put you up to this?" Rory demanded.* | *He's normally such a well-behaved child. Someone must have put him up to it.*

**put up with****put up with sth/sb**

to accept an unpleasant situation or someone's annoying behaviour without complaining: *The police have to put up with a lot of abuse.* | *I'm surprised that she's put up with him for all of these years.* | *There's nothing anyone can do. You'll just have to put up with it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: tolerate, live with, stand for

**put upon****1 feel put upon**

if someone feels put upon, they feel that they are being treated unfairly, especially because they are expected to do more work than the other people: *Kate felt put upon. Why was she always the one who had to stay at home with the kids while William was out enjoying himself.* | *I'm Ben Jones, youngest son and the most put upon!*

**2 put an interpretation/value upon sth**

formal to consider that something has a particular meaning or value: *Dawkins puts a different interpretation upon the word 'selfish' from the usual meaning.*

\* SIMILAR TO: put on

**3 put emphasis/stress upon sth**

formal to say that you think that something is particularly important: *Particular stress was put upon the study of dead languages such as Latin and ancient Greek.*

\* SIMILAR TO: put on

**4 put limitations/constraints etc upon sb/sth**

formal to make rules or limits that control someone or something: *the limitations that are put upon us by our genes*

\* SIMILAR TO: put on

**PUTZ****putz around****putz around**

AmE informal to waste time doing things that are not useful: *Stop putzing around and come over!*

\* SIMILAR TO: mess around informal, muck about/around BrE informal

**PUZZLE**

puzzled, puzzled, puzzling

**puzzle out****puzzle out sth** **puzzle sth out**

to try to understand a confusing situation or solve a difficult problem by thinking about it very carefully: *He stared at his old neighbour trying to puzzle out why she looked so different.* | *Perry lay in bed for some time and tried to puzzle the whole thing out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: solve, work out

**puzzle over****puzzle over sth**

to try hard to understand something or find the answer to something which seems difficult or confusing: *What should she do? Carrie continued to puzzle over the problem and finally drifted off to sleep.* | *Doctors have been puzzling over the cause of the disease for many years now, and they are still no closer to finding a solution.* | *Mark puzzled over the words, but they meant nothing to him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: ponder

# Q

## QUARREL

quarrel, quarrelled, quarrelling BrE  
quarrel, quarreled, quarreling AmE

### quarrel with

quarrel with sth

formal to disagree with an idea or opinion: *Few of us would quarrel with the idea of more choice and more competition.* | *Anders' critics do not quarrel with his statements, but with his definition of 'liquidation.'*

\* SIMILAR TO: disagree with

## QUEUE

queued, queued, queuing also queueing

### queue up

1 queue up

BrE to form or join a line of people waiting to do something or go somewhere: *On the coldest night I've ever known, the four of us queued up outside our local cinema to see 'Crocodile Dundee'.*

+ for *More than 1,000 people queued up for interviews after the Grand Hotel in Scarborough advertised 100 new jobs this week.*

● COMPARE: line up

2 be queuing up to do sth

BrE if people are queuing up to do something, they all want to do it very much: *The school is one of the best in the area, and parents are queuing up to send their children there.* | *Japanese theatre director Ninagawa has a reputation for being very tough, but actors are queuing up to work with him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: line up

## QUICKEN

quicken, quickened, quickening

### quicken up

quicken up quicken up sth

quicken sth up

to become quicker, or make something go quicker: *As the runners approached the finish, their pace quickened up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: speed up

● OPPOSITE: slow down

## QUIET

quieted, quieted, quieting

### quiet down

quiet down quiet sb down

AmE to become calmer and less active or noisy, or to make someone do this: *Quiet down and get ready for bed!* | *Lee bounced the child on his knee to quiet her down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: calm down, quieten down BrE

## QUIETEN

quieten, quietened, quietening

### quieten down

1 quieten down quieten sb down

BrE if someone quiets down, or if you quieten them down, they become quieter and calmer after they were noisy, upset, or too active: *The kids were so noisy - I spent half the lesson trying to quieten them down.* | *Wilkinson began swearing and shouting insults. When a policewoman told him to quieten down, he punched her.* | *He'd once been known as the 'wild boy of rock 'n roll', but old age had quietened him down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: calm down, quiet down AmE

2 quieten down

if a place or a situation quiets down, it becomes quieter and less busy, because there is less activity in it: *Things tend to quieten down after the Christmas rush is over.* | *The fighting in our immediate area seems to have quietened down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: ease off

## QUIT

quit, quit, quitting

### quit of

1 be quit of sth

formal to get rid of something or someone that was causing you problems: *Ethel had become tired of Henry's selfish demands, and now she was determined to be quit of him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: be rid of

2 quit on sb

AmE to stop helping someone or working with them, when they need you: *So you're going to quit on me? And I thought I could rely on you.* | *Rony acted like a child - he quit on his teammates just when they needed him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: let down

3 quit on sb

AmE if a machine or vehicle quits on you, it stops working while you are using it or when you need to use it: *Then his computer simply quit on him and he lost his temper.* | *The van was almost out of gas and we were afraid it might quit on us.*



# R

## RABBIT

rabbited, rabbited, rabbiting

### rabbit on

#### rabbit on

BrE *informal* to talk continuously for a long time in a boring or annoying way: *I'm not going to stand around here listening to you rabbiting on.*

+ **about** *I had to listen to Tony rabbiting on for hours about his work.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **ramble on**, **witter on** BrE

## RACK

racked, racked, racking

### rack up

#### rack up sth rack sth up

*informal* to achieve a large total or something: *Yearlley racked up 11 points for the Tigers in the first quarter.* | *Mexico racked up a \$7.4 billion trade surplus during 1995.*

## RAFFLE

raffled, raffled, raffling

### raffle off

#### raffle off sth raffle sth off

to offer something as a prize in a raffle. A raffle is a type of competition in which people buy tickets with numbers on to try and win prizes: *We're going to raffle off some bottles of wine to raise money for the cancer hospital appeal.*

## RAG

ragged, ragged, ragging

### rag on

#### 1 rag on sb

AmE *informal* to criticize someone or tell them they should do something: *Jody's coach ragged on her for missing the goal.* | *Quit ragging on me! I'll do it in a minute.*

#### 2 rag on sb

AmE *informal* to make jokes about someone and laugh at them in order to embarrass them: *Everybody's ragging on Steve about his new girlfriend.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tease**

## RAGE

raged, raged, raging

### rage against/at

#### rage against sth rage at sth/sb

to feel extremely angry about something and to express this anger: *Roosevelt believed passionately in equality, and raged against social injustice.* | *The Dallas Cowboys were left raging at a refereeing decision which could eventually cost them a place in the Super Bowl.* | *"You never gave a damn about us!" her son raged at her: "You only cared about yourself."*

## RAIL

railed, railed, railing

### rail against/at

#### rail against sth/sb rail at sth/sb

*literary* to complain angrily and very strongly about something that you believe to be very wrong or unfair: *Francis, a veteran AIDS campaigner, railed against the government for not providing enough money for research into the disease.* | *Every day he stood in the square, railing at all the evils of mankind.*

## RAILROAD

railroaded, railroaded, railroading

### railroad into

#### railroad sb into sth

to persuade someone to do something without giving them time to think about it: *She hesitated, unwilling to be railroaded into a decision.*

### railroad through

#### railroad through sth

#### railroad sth through

if a government railroads through a new law, it forces parliament to vote on it very quickly, so that people do not have much time to think about it: *The government is hoping to avoid awkward questions by trying to railroad the bill through.* | *They are railroading these proposals through parliament, so that by the time people have understood the dangers, it will be too late.*

## RAIN

rained, rained, raining

### rain down

#### 1 rain down rain down sth

#### rain sth down

*literary* to fall in large quantities, or make something fall in large quantities: *Falling*

debris rained down as firefighters in breathing apparatus fought the flames. | Archers rained arrows down from the watchtower.

+ on/upon I put my arms over my head as pieces of glass started to rain down on me.

## 2 rain down rain down sth

rain sth down

literary if blows rain down on you, or if someone rains blows down on you, they hit you many times from above: *Terry cried out in pain as a flurry of blows rained down on his back.* | *Now the Cuban giant was standing over his opponent, raining down punches.*

**be rained off** BrE

**be rained out** AmE

**be rained off/out**

if an event is rained off or rained out, it cannot take place or has to stop because there is too much rain: *Last night's match with Leeds United was rained off.* | *We had tickets to the Blue Jays game but it was rained out.*

## R

## RAKE

raked, raked, raking

**rake in**

rake in sth

spoken to earn a large amount of money, especially without working very hard: *Forbes magazine published a report asserting the nation's top 134 lawyers together raked in some \$860 million in one year.*

**be raking it in** *Everyone assumes that if you're on TV, you must be raking it in.*

**rake off**

rake off sth rake sth off

especially BrE to get part of the profits of a business or organization dishonestly: *He headed a special fund for the handicapped, and was widely believed to have raked off much of the cash for himself.*

\* SIMILAR TO: skim off

**rake-off** N [C]

BrE a share of a profits, which someone has obtained dishonestly: *The taxi-driver gets a rake-off from the hotel.*

**rake over**

rake over sth

if you rake over something unpleasant that happened in the past, you talk or think about it again and again, when it would be better to forget it: *"There's no point in raking over the past," my mother always said, but I wanted to know what had happened.*

## rake up

### 1 rake up sth rake sth up

to talk about something unpleasant from the past that people do not want you to mention, because it is upsetting or embarrassing: *I don't want reporters coming here, raking up the past.* | *They don't seem to realise how painful it is for her to have all this raked up again.*

\* SIMILAR TO: dwell on/upon

### 2 rake sth up rake up sth

to collect things together for a particular purpose, when this is difficult to do: *Between them they only managed to rake up \$50.*

## RALLY

rallied, rallied, rallying

**rally around**

ALSO rally round BrE

rally around/round

rally around/round sb

if a group of people rally around, they all work to try to help and support someone who is in a difficult situation: *Her friends all rallied round when her father died.* | *The cabinet rallied around the Prime Minister, defending the action he had taken.*

## RAMBLE

rambled, rambled, rambling

**ramble on**

ramble on

to talk or write for a long time in a rather confused way that is boring for the people who are listening or reading: *She rambled on, but Anastasia was not listening.*

+ about *Sarah glanced at the clock – he had been rambling on about himself for over an hour.*

● COMPARE: bang on BrE informal

## RAMP

ramp, ramped, ramping

**ramp up**

ramp up sth ramp sth up

BrE to increase something, especially the amount you produce, sell or earn – used in business: *To meet new orders, we need to ramp up production from 18 to 43 planes a month.* | *The company is launching Fire-Walker, a 3-D video game product, to ramp up its entertainment profits.*

\* SIMILAR TO: boost

**ramp-up** *N* [C]

an increase in production, sales, profits etc: *To get a really huge ramp-up in sales they're going to have to get the price down.*

**RANGE**

ranged, ranged, ranging

**be ranged against****be ranged against** *sb/sth*

formal if a group of people, organizations, countries etc is ranged against someone or something, it opposes them or is ready to fight against them: *Saddam Hussein threatened to launch terrorist attacks on the countries ranged against him.* | *a powerful group of unions ranged against the government's policy of rail privatization*

**RANK**

ranked, ranked, ranking

**rank among/with****rank among** *sth/sb***be ranked among** *sth/sb* NOT IN PROGRESSIVE

to be one of the best of a particular type – used when comparing things or people and placing them in order of quality or importance: *The Lebanon produces some remarkable red wines that rank among the world's finest.* | *It is generally agreed that Dempsey ranks among the greatest champions of all time.*

**RAP**

rapped, rapped, rapping

**rap out****rap out** *sth*    **rap** *sth* **out**

if you rap out an order or question, you say it quickly, suddenly, and in a way that sounds angry: *The ambassador rapped out an order and four servants hurried across the room.* | *"What's your name?" he rapped out suddenly.* "O'Brien, sir."

\* SIMILAR TO: bark out

**RAT**

ratted, ratted, rapping

**rat on****1** **rat on** *sb* NOT PASSIVE

informal to be disloyal to someone by telling a person in authority about something that they have done wrong: *I never ratted on Albert. I wouldn't rat on a friend.*

\* SIMILAR TO: snitch (on), tell on, split on informal

**2** **rat on** *sth*

informal to not do something that you have promised to do for someone: *The Labour government was accused of ratting on its promises to the disabled.*

\* SIMILAR TO: welch on

**RATCHET**

ratcheted, ratcheted, ratcheting

**ratchet up****ratchet up** *sth*    **ratchet** *sth* **up**

to keep increasing something by small amounts or to be increased in this way: *NATO has been ratcheting up the pressure on President Milosevic.* | *The payroll tax has ratcheted up to a tax rate of 15.3%.*

**ratchet (sth) up a notch** (=increase a little)

*As the story develops, Hitchcock ratchets the tension up a notch.*

R

**RATION**

rationed, rationed, rationed

**ration out****ration out** *sth*    **ration** *sth* **out**

to divide something among a group of people, so that each person gets a small amount: *They were in the lifeboat for days before they were rescued, and food and water had to be carefully rationed out.*

**RATTLE**

rattled, rattled, rattling

**rattle around****rattle around**

to be in a building or room that is much bigger than you need it to be, so that you do not feel comfortable

+ in *This house is much too big for us now the children have left – we're just rattling around in it.*

**rattle off****rattle off** *sth*    **rattle** *sth* **off**

to say something quickly without stopping, especially something such as a poem or list that you have learned: *In reply to this casual question, my new companion rattled off a list of all the hotels and restaurants in Georgetown.*

\* SIMILAR TO: reel off

**rattle on****rattle on**

informal to talk quickly and for a long time about things that are boring: *I stifled a yawn, but Elsie didn't notice and just rattled on.*

+ about *Boswell rattled on about the prospect of other travels with Johnson, perhaps to Sweden, where he hoped they would see the King.*

### rattle through

rattle through sth

to speak or do something very quickly because you want to finish as quickly as possible: *She rattled through her speech as if she couldn't wait to leave.*

\* SIMILAR TO: rush (through)

### rattle up

rattle up sth

BrE informal to gain a high number of points in a sport or game without much effort: *Simpson did absolutely magnificently. He rattled up no less than 46 league goals, an all-time club record.*

\* SIMILAR TO: chalk up, notch up

## R

### RAVE

raved, raved, raving

#### rave about/over

rave about/over sb/sth

to talk in an excited way about how much you admire or like someone or something: *In 1992 the critics were raving about Emma Thompson's performance in the film 'Howards End'. | He had thought only sentimentalists and American tourists raved over Venice.*

#### rave up

rave it up

BrE old-fashioned to enjoy yourself drinking and dancing in a noisy way: *She'll be out raving it up with her mates till all hours.*

rave-up N [C]

BrE a noisy party where people drink and dance a lot: *We're going to have a bit of a rave-up on Saturday, if you'd like to come.*

### REACH

reached, reached, reaching

#### reach down

reach sth down reach down sth

BrE to get something that is above your head by putting your arm up, especially in order to give it to someone else

+ for/to *I want that vase down from the top shelf. Could you reach it down for me?*

#### reach out for

1 reach out for sth

to try to achieve a better situation, for

example peace, love, or happiness: *We were never satisfied – we were always reaching out for new joys and satisfactions. | A tiny minority holds all the power, and prevents the people from reaching out for peace.*

2 reach out for help/assistance etc

to ask someone for help: *Many of these women need protection, and we urge them to reach out for help.*

#### reach out to

1 reach out to sb NOT PASSIVE

to offer help, comfort, or support to someone: *If you want peace, reach out to the poor. That is the Pope's message for World Day of Peace. | "We must reach out to the 40 percent of children who don't have any preventive healthcare," Brazelton said.*

outreach N [V]

outreach services try to find people who need help, and offer it to them, instead of waiting for people to come and ask for it: *an outreach health programme for drug addicts*

2 reach out to sb NOT PASSIVE

to try and communicate your ideas to people that you have not succeeded in communicating with in the past: *How do the Republicans plan to reach out to black voters? | I want to reach out to everybody. For too long poetry's been written by poets for poets. | Corporations are going global, reaching out to new markets.*

3 reach out to sb NOT PASSIVE

to ask for help, comfort, or support: *She reached out to him as a last source of help.*

### REACT

reacted, reacted, reacting

#### react against

react against sth

to show that you dislike or disagree with someone's rules or way of doing something by deliberately doing the opposite: *It's normal for teenagers to react against their parents' beliefs. | Feminists were reacting against traditional ideas of a woman's role in society.*

\* SIMILAR TO: rebel (against)

### READ

read, read, reading

#### read back

read sth back read back sth

BrE to read something that you have written, to check that it is correct and satisfactory: *When I read back what I had written, I was quite pleased with it.*

+ to Mr Croxley would dictate a letter to Dinah and then get her to read it back to him.

### read for

read for sth

BrE old-fashioned to study a subject in order to get a university degree: *She's reading for a degree in physics.*

### read into

read sth into sth

to think that something has a meaning or importance that it may not really have: *Robert wondered if she was reading more into his comments than he actually meant.*

**read too much into sth** *Only 15% of the population voted in last week's election, so don't read too much into the result.*

### read off

read off sth read sth off

to read the number on a machine or piece of equipment used for measuring things: *To measure gas pressure, switch on the machine and read off the number from the LED display.*

### read out

1 read sth out read out sth

to read something and say the words, especially the words or numbers that are written in a list, message etc, so that other people can hear them: *He opened the envelope and read out the name of the winner.*

+ to Sarah left a message - I'll read it out to you.

**read sth out loud** *I read the letter out loud to my wife.*

2 read out sth read sth out

if a computer or an electronic instrument reads out information, it shows it to you: *This program will read out the contents of the file.*

**read-out** N [C]

printed information produced by a computer or machine, or a measurement shown by a computer or machine: *The sensor provides a constant digital read-out of the levels of carbon monoxide in the air.*

### read over

read over sth read sth over

to read something carefully in order to check details or find mistakes: *Read the contract over carefully before you sign it. It's often a good idea to get someone else to read over your essay before you hand it in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **read through**

## read through

read through sth read sth through

to read something from beginning to end, especially in order to check details or find mistakes: *Martin picked up the faxed newspaper clipping and read it through. "This is a really bizarre story," he said to Karen. | Always read through what you have written before you leave the exam room.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **read over**

**read-through** N [C]

when someone reads something from beginning to end: *"Finished your essay?" "Yeah, I just need to give it a quick read-through, then I'll hand it in."*

### read up

read up sth read sth up

read up on/about sth

to read about a particular subject, because you want to know more about it: *I'll have to read up on the tax laws before that meeting tomorrow. | If you're planning to take up bee-keeping, read up about it first. | Charles spent his first day at the office reading up all the facts and figures.*

## REAR

reared, reared, rearing

### rear up

rear up

if a horse or similar animal rears up, it suddenly rises up on its back legs: *Ralph's horse suddenly reared up, throwing him off.*

## REASON

reasoned, reasoned, reasoning

### reason out

reason sth out reason out sth

to think about something carefully, in order to decide how to solve a problem, or in order to understand something better: *Instead of arguing, let's try to reason it out. | Something FitzAlan had said made her feel uneasy about his true motives, but she was growing too sleepy to reason it out now.*

### reason with

reason with sb

to talk calmly to someone who you think is behaving in an unreasonable way, and give them reasons why they should be more sensible: *Try to reason with your child and find out why he disobeyed you, rather than just shouting at him. | I tried to reason with her, but she locked herself in the bathroom, crying.*

**REBOUND**

rebounded, rebounded, rebounding

**rebound on/upon**

● **Rebound upon** is more formal than **rebound on** and is used mostly in writing.

**rebound on/upon sb** NOT PASSIVE

if an action rebounds on someone, it has a harmful effect on them even though it was only intended to affect someone else: *These new government restrictions on the food industry are likely to rebound on the farmers, who are already struggling to survive.* | *When church leaders tried to punish such disobedience, their efforts frequently rebounded on themselves.*

**RECKON**

reckoned, reckoned, reckoning

R

**reckon on**

**reckon on sth** NOT PASSIVE

to expect something to happen and include it in your plans: *We hadn't reckoned on this sudden rise in house prices.*

**reckon on doing sth** *You can reckon on paying several thousand pounds for a good photocopier.*

**reckon on sb doing sth** *They didn't reckon on anyone objecting to their scheme.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **expect, figure on** AmE

**reckon up**

**reckon up sth**      **reckon sth up**

BrE old-fashioned to add up several amounts in order to get a total: *£17.60 plus tax is £20.68, if I've reckoned it up correctly.* | *Pat nodded her head, reckoning up the cost of everything in her mind.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **add up**

**reckon with**

**1 reckon with sth** USUALLY NEGATIVE

to realize that you must be prepared to deal with a particular problem or danger: *In September 1812 the victorious army entered Moscow, but the Russian winter was something that Napoleon had not reckoned with.* | *Clinton had to reckon with the fact that Congress was likely to oppose him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bargain for**

**2 sb/sth to be reckoned with**

someone or something that is very powerful, successful etc and must be respected or seriously considered as a possible competitor, opponent, or danger: *I think we showed the country that the Dallas Cowboys are a football team to be reckoned with.* | *The new principal was certainly a woman to be reckoned with.*

a force to be reckoned with *In Asia, China has established itself as a force to be reckoned with alongside America.*

**reckon without**

**reckon without sth/sb**

BrE to make plans without realizing that a particular thing or person may cause you problems, so that you are not prepared for them when you have to deal with them

**sb had reckoned without sth/sb** *Watson had decided to swim to the island, but had reckoned without the strong currents, and narrowly escaped drowning.* | *Several of the soldiers thought they would find comfort in the arms of the nurses. But they had reckoned without Sister Murphy.*

**RECONCILE**

reconciled, reconciled, reconciling

**reconcile to**

**reconcile yourself to sth**

to accept something, especially a situation that you do not like or approve of, and realize that there is nothing you can do to change it: *Over the years she had reconciled herself to the fact that she would probably never remarry.*

**be/become reconciled to sth** *The islanders had never become reconciled to British rule.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **accept**

**REDUCE**

reduced, reduced, reducing

**reduce to**

**1 reduce sb to tears/despair/silence etc**

to make someone feel very upset, afraid, or quiet: *The sight of those poor children reduced me to tears.*

**reduce sb to a nervous wreck** BrE *Just the thought of going to the dentist reduces him to a nervous wreck!*

**2 reduce sb/sth to sth**

to cause someone or something to be in a very bad situation or a very low and unimportant position: *A disastrous business venture had reduced him to near ruin.* | *The movie tells the tragic story of a once-famous musician reduced to poverty.* | *Too much emphasis has been placed on exams and tests, and education has been reduced to an exercise in learning facts.*

**3 be reduced to (doing) sth**

if someone is reduced to doing something unpleasant, boring, or embarrassing, they have to do it because they are in a difficult



situation and have no choice: *She lost her job as manager and was reduced to doing barwork.* | *Local villagers have been reduced to eating nuts and worms as a result of crop failures.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **to have to resort to**

#### 4 reduce sth to sth

to damage or destroy something so that there is almost nothing left: *The fire spread rapidly, reducing the factory to a pile of twisted metal.*

**reduce sth to ashes/rubble/dust/ruins**

*Much of the city centre was reduced to rubble by wartime bombing.*

#### 5 reduce sth to sth

to make something shorter and simpler: *Their whole business philosophy can be reduced to a simple slogan – make it fast and sell it cheap.* | *The artist has reduced the face to four blobs – two for the eyes, and one each for the nose and mouth.*

## REEK

reeked, reeked, reeking

### reek of

#### 1 reek of sth

to smell strongly of something very unpleasant: *The bathroom was filthy and reeked of tobacco smoke.* | *He goes to the pub and comes home with his breath reeking of beer.*

#### 2 reek of sth

to seem to have a lot of a particular unpleasant quality – used to show disapproval: *Campaigners condemned the government report, claiming it reeked of hypocrisy.* | *It's a private school for the sons of rich businessmen – the place reeks of wealth, privilege and power.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **smell of, stink (of)**

## REEL

reeled, reeled, reeling

### reel back

**reel back** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to step backwards suddenly and almost fall over, especially because you are shocked, frightened, or because someone has hit you: *The blow sent the man reeling back against the counter.* | *"I beg your pardon?" said Mrs Cramp, reeling back as if she had been slapped in the face.*

### reel in

#### 1 reel in sth reel sth in

if you reel in a fish, fishing line, rope etc, you pull it towards you by winding the line

around the reel (=the round object that holds the line) *Luke felt a tug on the line and reeled in a beautiful salmon.* | *Eventually the fire was put out and the firemen began reeling in their hoses.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull in**

#### 2 reel in sth/sb reel sth/sb in

to get or attract a large number of people or things: *The programme reels in more than 13 million viewers a show.* | *Salesmen continued reeling in clients for the Miami-based firm.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull in**

### reel off

#### reel off sth reel sth off

to say something quickly and easily, especially a list of names, numbers, or events: *The waitress reeled off a list of dishes in rapid Italian – I couldn't understand a word!* | *When politicians start reeling off figures about increased government spending, the audience just gets bored.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rattle off**

## REFER

referred, referred, referring

### refer to

#### 1 refer to sb/sth

to mention or speak about someone or something: *What was the organization that you referred to at the beginning of the lecture?* | *Although she didn't mention any names, everyone knew who she was referring to.*

**refer to sb/sth as sth** (=call them by a particular name) *He just referred to her as 'my friend Sarah' – I don't know whether they're together or not.* | *The computer screen is referred to as the monitor.*

#### 2 refer to sth

to read or look at a book, note, map etc in order to get information: *You can refer to the course textbook if you need further information on this subject.* | *Without referring to my notes, I can't remember exactly what she said.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **consult**

#### 3 refer to sth/sb

if part of a book, article, document etc refers to something or someone, it describes or is about that person or thing: *The blue line on the graph refers to sales.* | *The table on page three refers to rainfall in the region.*

#### 4 refer sb/sth to sb

to send a person or problem to someone with special knowledge or experience to get information, advice, or a decision: *Your family doctor will refer you to a specialist at the eye hospital.* | *Shop assistants are instructed to*

refer customers to senior staff if they have a complaint. | The case has been referred to a higher court.

### 5 refer sb to sth

formal to suggest that someone looks at a book, article, report etc for a particular piece of information: *I refer you to my letter of March 18, 1998 with respect to your application for a grant.* | *We asked him where it came from in the Bible and he referred us to Exodus, Chapter 14.*

## REFLECT

reflected, reflected, reflecting

### reflect on/upon

● **Reflect upon** is more formal than **reflect on** and is mostly used in writing.

### 1 reflect on/upon sth

to think carefully about something, especially something that has happened or something you have decided to do: *New Year's Day is a time to reflect on the past year and plan ahead.* | *Reflecting on what he had said, she found herself close to tears.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **think (about), consider**

### 2 reflect on/upon sb/sth

to influence other people's opinion about someone or something, especially in a bad way: *Anna felt ashamed, realizing that her father's rudeness reflected on her.*

**reflect badly on sb/sth** *Newspaper reports of poor exam results would undoubtedly reflect badly on the school.*

## REFRAIN

refrained, refrained, refraining

### refrain from

#### refrain from sth

formal to not do something, although you would like to do it: *Doctors advised that him to refrain from all sports for at least three months.*

**refrain from doing sth** *Please refrain from smoking in the restaurant.*

## REGALE

regaled, regaled, regaling

### regale with

#### regale sb with sth

formal to tell someone stories about things that have happened in order to entertain them, especially when these stories last a long time: *In the bar she met someone called*

*Patrick who began regaling her with tales of old Ireland.* | *Mr Orme finished off the evening by regaling us with some reminiscences of his early days in Parliament.*

## REIN

reined, reined, reining

### rein in

ALSO: **rein back** BrE

### 1 rein in/back sth rein sth in/back

to reduce something or stop it increasing, especially the amount of money spent by a government or company: *the failure of the government to rein in public spending* | *Russia struggled to rein in mounting inflation.* | *If the company reins back its expenditure on research and development, jobs will have to go.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

### 2 rein in/back sb rein sb in/back

if someone in authority reins in the people they control, they stop those people behaving in an extreme or unacceptable way: *After the attempted coup, the government realized it would have to reign in the military.* | *Trade unions started improving their image and reining in the activities of unruly members.*

### 3 rein in/back sth rein sth in/back

to control your emotions and stop yourself from behaving in an extreme or unacceptable way: *Eventually, he learned to rein in his emotional outbursts.*

### 4 rein in/back sth rein sth in/back

to make a horse go more slowly or stop by pulling the reins towards you. The reins are the long thin pieces of leather that you hold to control the horse: *At the top of the hill, she reined in her horse to admire the view.*

## REJOICE

rejoiced, rejoiced, rejoicing

### rejoice in

### 1 rejoice in sth

formal or literary to be very pleased about something, or to enjoy something: *The hostages were busy rejoicing in their new-found freedom.* | *a spiteful man who rejoices in the humiliation of others*

\* SIMILAR TO: **enjoy**

### 2 rejoice in the name of sth

BrE to have a name that seems silly or amusing – used humorously: *Their dog, which is short, fat and hairy, rejoices in the name of Bilbo Baggins.*

**RELAPSE**

relapsed, relapsed, relapsing

**relapse into****relapse into sth**

BrE to start to be in a particular state or mood again, or to start to behave in the same way again – used especially to say that someone becomes silent or in a bad mood again

**relapse into silence** *After asking her name and where she lived, he relapsed into an uneasy silence.*

**relapse into gloom/pessimism** *Jason smiled briefly at the memory, but soon relapsed into gloom.*

**RELATE**

related, related, relating

**relate to****1 relate to sth/sb /be related to sth/sb**

to be about a particular subject or person, or be connected with them in some way: *The document explains the policy relating to discipline in the school.* | *You can get temporary work visas for jobs related to computer technology.* | *I still can't understand how all this relates to me.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pertain to** *formal*

**2 relate to sth**

if you can relate to someone's situation or someone's feelings, you can understand them because you have been in a similar situation yourself: *She said she felt so angry when he died – I can relate to that.* | *My biggest problem with the film was that I couldn't relate to any of the characters.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **empathize (with)**

**3 relate to sb**

to be able to have a good relationship with someone because you understand their feelings and behaviour: *Surely you have to be able to relate to young people to be a successful child care worker?*

**RELIEVE**

relieved, relieved, relieving

**relieve of****1 relieve sb of sth**

*formal* to help someone by taking a problem, responsibility etc, away from them: *The doctors will do what they can to relieve him of pain.* | *They have established a fund to pay her expenses, thereby relieving her of all the financial worries.* | *The judge's decision relieved the company of any obligation to pay Maria the money.*

**2 relieve sb of sth**

*formal* to take away from someone something that they are holding or carrying: *Carl jumped up to relieve Paula of her shopping bag.* | *The captain said to Field, "I'll have to relieve you of your weapon."*

**3 relieve sb of their post/duties/ command etc**

*formal* to officially take away someone's job from them, especially because they have done something wrong: *Pravda revealed that the first secretary, Anatoly Gerasimov, had been relieved of his post.* | *The board has decided to relieve you of your duties as head teacher with immediate effect.*

**4 relieve sb of sth**

*literary* to steal something from someone – used humorously: *Be careful – this part of town is full of crooks who'll be happy to relieve you of your wallet!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **steal**

R

**RELY**

relied, relied, relying

**rely on/upon**

● **Rely upon** is more formal than **rely on** and is mostly used in writing.

**1 rely on/upon sth/sb**

to need or use something or someone in order to exist or do something successfully: *The charity relies on public donations in order to continue with its work.*

+ **for countries which have to rely on the West for aid** | *Early sailors had to rely on the stars for navigation at night.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon**

**2 rely on/upon sb/sth**

to trust someone or something to do what you expect or what you have asked them to do

**can rely on sb** *"You will get the job finished by Friday, won't you?" "You can rely on me." | She thinks she's finally found someone who she can rely on.*

**rely on/upon sb/sth to do sth** *The alarm clock isn't working properly, so don't rely on it to wake you up.*

**rely on sth/sb doing sth** *You can't rely on the bank lending you the money.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon, count on**

**REMEMBER**

remembered, remembered, remembering

**remember to****remember me to** sb

used to ask someone to say hello for you to another person who they are going to meet soon: *I haven't seen your family for months; please remember me to your mother.* | *As Wyatt left, Carl said, "Remember me to Susan."*

**REMINDE**

reminded, reminded, reminding

**remind of****1 remind sb of sth/sb** NOT PROGRESSIVE

if someone or something reminds you of another person or thing, you think that the first one seems similar to the second: *Corrine reminds me of myself when I was that age.* | *Her voice reminds me a lot of Joni Mitchell.*

**2 remind sb of sth/sb**

if something reminds you of a person, place, or experience in your past, it makes you remember them: *The smell of boiled cabbage always reminds me of school.* | *The song reminded her of her youth.* | *It reminds me of an occasion some years ago, when I was just starting out in the theatre.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bring back memories of sth****REMIT**

remitted, remitted, remitting

**remit to****remit sth to sb/sth**

formal to send something back to another person, court etc so that they can consider it again and make a decision: *The case will be remitted to the Court of Appeal.*

**RENDER**

rendered, rendered, rendering

**render down****render down sth** **render sth down**

BrE to heat fat until it is liquid in order to make it pure or to remove it from meat: *The fat can be rendered down and used for cooking.* | *The use of animal feed made from the rendered down remains of sheep has been banned since 1988.*

**render into****render sth into English/Greek etc**

formal to translate a piece of language into English, Greek etc: *The Aramaic word for zealot was 'quannai', which was rendered into Greek as 'kananaïos'.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **translate into****render up****render up sth** **render sth up**

literary or formal to give something to someone, especially when you are forced to: *There were severe penalties for anyone who failed to render up their annual payment of gold.* | *a story about a man who renders up his soul to the devil in return for money*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give up, surrender****RENEGE**

reneged, reneged, reneging

**renege on****renege on sth**

formal to not do something that you have promised or agreed to do: *Union leaders have accused the company of renegeing on its part of the deal.* | *There are fears that the West may be about to renege on its commitment to cancel debts to developing countries.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go back on****RENT**

rented, rented, renting

**rent out****rent out sth** **rent sth out**

to allow someone to use a room, building, or area of land in return for regular payment: *He sold the business, rented out his house, and set off on a trip around the world.*

+ to *There's a separate apartment upstairs, which they rent out to students.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **let out, hire out** BrE**REPAIR**

repaired, repaired, repairing

**repair to****repair to sth**

old-fashioned or literary to go to a place, especially a different room, in order to relax: *Shall we repair to the smoking room, gentlemen?* | *In the evening, artists and writers would repair to cafes and restaurants in the city's Latin quarter.*

**REPORT**

reported, reported, reporting

**report back****report back** **report back on** sth

to give someone information about something that they asked you to find out about: *The team coach agreed to get the players' reaction and report back at the next directors' meeting.*

† **to** *The manager has been asked to report back to the board with his observations about how the company can get out of its current financial situation.*

† **on** *The commission will report back on its findings some time later this year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **feed back****report to****report to** sb

if you report to someone at work, they are your manager and are in charge of you: *"Who do you report to?" "Paula Davies. She's head of the sales department." | You will report to the Chief Engineer; if you have any questions or problems, talk to him.*

**REPOSE**

reposed, reposed, reposing

**repose in****repose sth in sb** USUALLY PASSIVE

old-fashioned formal if trust or confidence is reposed in someone, other people trust or expect them to do something: *The trust reposed in our police force has been abused.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **place (in)****RESIDE**

resided, resided, residing

**reside in****reside in** sth/sb NOT PROGRESSIVE

formal to exist in something or be caused by something: *Much of the book's value resides in its comprehensive selection of illustrations.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rest in****reside with/in****reside with/in** sb

formal if power or responsibility resides with or in someone, they have that power or responsibility: *Real political power resided with the army. | Sovereignty resides in parliament. | Ultimate control resides with the company's shareholders.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rest with, lie with****RESIGN**

resigned, resigned, resigning

**resign to****resign yourself to** sth **/be resigned to** sth

to realize that you must accept a difficult or unpleasant situation calmly because you can not prevent it or avoid it: *I'd resigned myself to the fact that my career was over. | One report suggested that farmers were resigned to cuts in federal support.*

**resign yourself to doing sth/be resigned to doing sth** *She says she's now resigned to living on her own.*

**RESOLVE**

resolved, resolved, resolving

**resolve into****1** **resolve into** sth **resolve sth into** sth

formal to separate into different parts, or to make something do this: *When heated, the mixture will resolve into two separate compounds. | One might explain the theory by resolving it into simpler elements.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **separate (into)****2** **resolve (itself) into** sth

formal or literary, especially BrE to slowly change and become something different – use this especially about something that you see or hear: *The sound came nearer, resolving into a kind of low whispering. | Suddenly, the shore was very close; the grey smudge had resolved itself into green fields, a sandy beach, and little houses.*

**RESONATE**

resonated, resonated, resonating

**resonate with****1** **resonate with** sth

formal to be full of a particular quality: *This dish has its origins in Thailand and absolutely resonates with sharp, sweet, and spicy flavours. | poetry that resonates with biblical imagery*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be full of****2** **resonate with** sb

if an idea or plan resonates with a particular group of people, they approve of it and strongly support it: *Clinton's emphasis on jobs and the economy clearly resonated with California voters.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **meet with sb's approval**

**RESORT**

resorted, resorted, resorting

**resort to****resort to sth**

to use a particular method in order to try to achieve something, when you do not want to use it but feel you have to do so because other methods have failed: *Officials fear the extremists may resort to violence if the negotiations fail.* | *The US government says it is willing to resort to force if necessary in order to secure the release of the hostages.*

**resort to doing sth** *A spokeswoman says that the party will have to resort to suing the newspaper if they refuse to print an apology.*

**RESOUND**

R resounded, resounded, resounding

**resound with/to****resound with/to sth**

*literary* if a place resounds with a sound, it is full of it: *On summer evenings, the canyon resounds with the cries of frogs and birds.* | *A few minutes later, the forest resounded to the echo of a piercing scream.*

**REST**

rested, rested, resting

**rest on/upon**

● **Rest upon** is more formal than **rest on** and is mostly used in writing.

**1 rest on/upon sth** NOT PROGRESSIVE

*formal* to depend on something in order to succeed: *Success in business ultimately rests on good judgment and luck.* | *The future of the European Community rests on political rather than economic considerations.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon**

**2 rest on/upon sth** NOT PROGRESSIVE

*formal* to be based on a particular idea or set of facts: *The case against my client rests entirely on circumstantial evidence.* | *The proposal rests on a simple notion: replace all current taxes with a single charge levied on everyone.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be based on/upon**

**3 sb's eyes rest on/upon sth**

if your eyes rest on something, you look at it for a period of time after looking around at other things: *She gazed at the peaceful scene until her eyes rested on the old boat lying on the shore.* | *He stopped abruptly, his eyes narrowing as they rested on her tense face.*

**rest up****rest up**

to relax and not do anything for a period of time in order to rest before you do something: *Although the injury wasn't serious, she's been advised by her doctor to rest up for a week.* | *We'll rest up here for the night and drive down in the morning.*

**rest upon**SEE **rest on****rest with****rest with sb** NOT PROGRESSIVE

if a decision or duty rests with someone, they are responsible for it: *The final decision about the case rests with the court.* | *The primary responsibility for the child's education should rest with the family.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lie with, reside with** *formal*

**RESULT**

resulted, resulted, resulting

**result in****result in sth** NOT PASSIVE

if something results in a situation or event, it causes the situation or event to happen: *The factory will close at the end of the month, resulting in 5000 job losses.* | *a tragic accident that resulted in the death of three children*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cause, lead to**

**RETURN**

returned, returned, returning

**return to****1 return to sth**

to start doing an activity, job etc again, after you have stopped doing it for a period of time: *Ian finally gave up trying to entertain the children and returned to his newspaper.* | *It was several weeks before Eve was able to return to work after her operation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go back to**

**2 return to sth**

*spoken* if you return to a subject that you have already spoken or written about, you talk about it again, especially in more detail: *Let's return to the subject of your previous employment.* | *I shall return to this issue later in the lecture.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come back to**



**REV**

revved, revved, revving

**rev up**

- 1 **rev up** **rev up sth** **rev sth up**

if an engine revs up or you rev it up, you make it work a lot faster by pressing the control down hard, especially when the vehicle is not moving: *The police car revved up and raced off into the night.* | *I could hear the aircraft revving up at the end of the runway, preparing to depart for its evening flight.* | *young lads sit revving up their engines at traffic lights*

- 2 **rev up sth** **rev sth up**

AmE informal to improve something, for example by giving it more energy or making it more exciting: *McEnroe revved up his game and came back to win 6-7.*

**revved-up** ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

AmE made better, more interesting, exciting etc: *Kodak's new revved-up camera also records information, such as dates and titles, on the film.*

**REVEL**

revelled, revelled, revelling BrE

reveled, reveled, reveling AmE

**revel in****revel in sth** ✕

to enjoy something very much, especially praise, popularity, or something that people do not expect you to enjoy: *After the race Christie ran around the track, revelling in the applause from his fans.* | *The singer seems to be reveling in his new-found fame.* | *While the other pros are complaining about the length of the course, Woods seems to be positively reveling in it.*

**REVENGE**

revenged, revenged, revenging

**revenge yourself on/  
be revenged on****revenge yourself on sb****be revenged on sb**

formal to punish a person who has harmed or upset you or someone you love: *Ellis decided to revenge herself on him by shooting him in a pub in South London.* | *He swore to be revenged on those who had killed his brother.*

**REVERT**

reverted, reverted, reverting

**revert to**

- 1 **revert to sth**

to start doing or using something again: *After the divorce, she reverted to using her own family name.* | *"Of course," he added, reverting to his normal voice, "as you are such a close friend of dear Iris ..."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go back to**

- 2 **revert to sth**

to change back to a previous state or condition: *The land soon reverted to its natural state.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go back to**

- 3 **revert to sb**

formal if land or a building reverts to someone, it becomes their property again after belonging to someone else: *After his death, control of the estate reverted to the Duke of Norfolk.* | *Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.*

- 4 **revert to sth**

formal, especially BrE to talk again about something that was mentioned earlier: *Theodora reverted to the subject of money at the earliest possible opportunity.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **return to**

**REVOLVE**

revolved, revolved, revolving

**revolve around**ALSO **revolve round** BrE

- 1 **revolve around/round sth/sb**

if a story, discussion, or idea revolves around something or someone, the story, discussion etc is mainly about that thing or person: *The story revolves around Poole's relationship with a married woman.* | *a conversation that revolved around the latest political scandal* | *Religion in ancient Egypt revolved around notions of life after death.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **centre around**

- 2 **revolve around/round sth**

if something revolves around a particular thing, that thing is more important than anything else: *Charlie Haden's entire life has revolved around music.* | *At Fontwell in the summer everything revolved around tennis and garden parties.*

- 3 **think the world revolves around you**

to think that you are more important than anyone or anything else: *Her parents gave her everything she asked for and as a result she thought the world revolved around her.*

## RID

riddled or rid, rid, ridding

## rid of

## 1 rid sth/sb of sth/sb

to remove someone or something that is bad or harmful from a place, organization etc: *The mayor offered a reward to anyone who could rid the town of rats.* | *a huge vaccination program that finally succeeded in ridding the world of smallpox*

## 2 rid yourself of sth

to succeed in stopping yourself from having a feeling, thought, or problem that has been causing you trouble: *Even at home, far from the dangers of the war, Prior could never quite rid himself of all his fears.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of sth**

## 3 be rid of sth/sb

to no longer have something or someone, that was causing you problems: *Government officials in London would like to be rid of Irish problems.* | *When the troublesome Mr Galt resigned, the school was glad to be rid of him.*

**be well rid of sth/sb** BrE (=be lucky to be rid of something or someone) *She was lazy and incompetent – we're well rid of her.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be/get shot of** informal

## R

## RIDDLE

riddled, riddled, riddling

## be riddled with

## 1 be riddled with sth

to be full of something bad, unpleasant, or harmful: *He died eight months later, riddled with cancer.* | *There were allegations that the police force was riddled with racism and corruption.*

## 2 be riddled with holes/tunnels etc

if something is riddled with holes, a lot of holes have been made in it: *The leaves were riddled with holes where snails had been feeding on them.* | *a cliff face riddled with tunnels and mine shafts*

## 3 be riddled with bullets/gunfire etc

to be hit by a lot of bullets: *The president's car was riddled with bullets as the gunmen opened fire.* | *After the attack, the door and walls were riddled with bullet holes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pepper with**

## RIDE

rode, ridden, riding

## ride down

## ride sb down ride down sb

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to knock someone down by riding a horse over them: *The fugitives were ridden down and trampled as they fled before the Tsar's cavalry.*

## ride on

## 1 ride on sth USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if something important, such as money or success, rides on the result of something else, it depends on it: *It's really stressful when you know that your whole future may be riding on this one exam.* | *Boxing has become big business with a huge amount of money riding on the outcome of each fight.*

## 2 ride on

to continue riding somewhere: *After a brief stop to admire the view, they rode on down the hill.*

## ride out

## 1 ride out sth ride sth out NOT PASSIVE

to succeed in getting to the end of a difficult situation without being badly harmed by it, so that you can then continue as before: *The Government is determined to ride out the present crisis.*

**ride out the storm** *I don't think Clinton will be forced to resign – my guess is he'll ride out the storm.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **weather the storm**

## 2 ride out a storm/hurricane/rough seas

if a ship rides out a storm etc, it succeeds in keeping floating until the storm has ended: *The Greek fleet had anchored in the shelter of a bay to ride out the storm.*

## ride up

## ride up

if a piece of clothing, especially a skirt, rides up, it gradually moves upwards so that it is not covering your body properly, for example because it is too tight: *She reached forward to pull down her skirt, which had ridden up over her thighs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **skooch up** AmE spoken informal

**RIFLE**

rifled, rifled, rifling

**rifle through****rifle through** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to search quickly through a cupboard, drawer, papers etc, in order to find something that you want: *She rifled through her wardrobe looking for a suitable dress.* | *Damien was sitting at my mother's desk rifling through her correspondence.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go through****RIG**

rigged, rigged, rigging

**rig out****rig sb out** **rig out sb**

old-fashioned informal to dress someone in special or unusual clothes: *They'd rigged young Billy out in a blue sailor suit.* | *Everyone had to come to the party rigged out as a television character.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dress sb up****rig-out** *N* [C]

BrE old-fashioned a set of clothes, especially unusual or special clothes: *You can't go walking around town in that rig-out.*

**rig up****rig up sth** **rig sth up**

informal to quickly make a temporary piece of equipment from objects that you find around you, or to quickly fix something in a position where it can be used temporarily: *One of the boys had rigged up a sort of tent by draping a large plastic sheet over a pole.* | *I managed to rig up a television in the bedroom so that he could watch the baseball game.*

**RING**

rang, rung, ringing

**ring around**SEE **ring round****ring back****ring back** **ring sb back** NOT PASSIVE

BrE especially spoken to telephone someone for a second time, or to telephone someone who phoned you when you were not available: *Can I give Jane a message, or will you ring back later?* | *Mr. Harrison's busy right now, but I'll ask him to ring you back.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **call back, return sb's call****ring in****1 ring in**

BrE to telephone the place where you work or where you are expected, for example to say why you are not there: *Joan rang in to say she was sick.* | *If patients can't get to the clinic on time, I wish they'd ring in and tell us.*

**2 ring in the New Year**

to celebrate the beginning of the new year by ringing church bells: *Churches all over the land will be ringing in the New Year.*

**ring off****ring off**

BrE to end a telephone call and put down the part of the telephone that you speak into: *Don't ring off. I've something else to tell you.* | *I have to ring off now – there's someone at the door.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hang up****ring out****1 ring out**

if the sound of a bell, a voice, gunshot etc rings out, you can hear it loudly and clearly: *Shots rang out and at least 20 demonstrators fell to the ground.* | *church bells ringing out over the sunlit streets*

**2 ring out the old year**

to celebrate the end of the year by ringing the church bells: *I heard the bells of St Peter's ringing out the old year.*

**ring round/around****ring round/around****ring round/around sth/sb**

BrE to telephone several people or places in order to arrange something or find out information: *I'm just ringing round to remind everybody about the meeting next Friday.* | *I rang around all the hotels in town, but they were all full.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **phone around, call around** AmE**ring up****1 ring sb up** **ring up sb** **ring up**

BrE to telephone someone: *He rang me up that same evening and asked me out for a drink.* | *I rang up the ticket office, but I just got a recorded message.* | *Someone rang up while you were out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **phone, call****2 ring up sth**

if a company rings up a profit, it makes that profit: *Tesco is expected to ring up another 28% rise in profits.*

### 3 ring up sth ring sth up

if a person working in a shop rings up an amount of money, they record the amount the customer has spent by pressing the buttons of the cash register (= a machine used for storing and recording amounts of money in a shop) *I was astonished at what the bill came to when it was rung up on the till.*

### 4 ring up sth

AmE to spend a large amount of money: *He rang up a bill of about \$1000 at the gift shop before catching his flight home.*

\* SIMILAR TO: run up

## RINSE

rinsed, rinsed, rinsing

### rinse out

R

#### 1 rinse sth out rinse out sth

to wash a piece of clothing or cloth quickly in clean water, usually in order to remove the soap that you have already used: *Soak the garment in warm soapy water until the stains have disappeared, and then rinse it out under the tap.*

#### 2 rinse sth out rinse out sth

to quickly wash the inside of something, for example a cup, a container, or your mouth, usually using only water: *Would you rinse out a couple of mugs while I make the coffee. | Karen rinsed out her mouth and spat into the sink.*

\* SIMILAR TO: wash out

## RIP

ripped, ripped, ripping

### rip into

#### 1 rip into sth

if a storm, an explosion, or bullets rip into something, they hit it violently and cause a lot of damage: *Over 200 people were injured when tornadoes ripped into the Southern United States. | The jet exploded, and a gigantic fireball ripped into a crowded residential area.*

#### 2 rip into sb

informal to talk to someone angrily and criticize them very strongly for doing something: *What's wrong with old Moreton? He ripped into me just now for being two minutes late.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lay into, chew out AmE

### rip off

#### 1 rip sb off rip off sb

informal to cheat someone by making them pay much more than the usual price for

something: *A lot of the taxi drivers here will try and rip you off if they think you're a tourist. | With tickets costing over £100 each, audiences feel they're being ripped off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: fleece

#### rip-off N [SINGULAR]

informal if something is a rip-off, it is much too expensive, and you think someone is trying to cheat you: *£2.50 for a cup of coffee! It's a rip-off, that's what it is.*

### 2 rip off sth rip sth off

to quickly remove a piece of clothing by pulling it off in a careless or violent way: *Ripping off his tie and jacket, he dived into the river. | In the ensuing struggle they overpowered the gunman and ripped off his mask.*

\* SIMILAR TO: tear off

### 3 rip off sth rip sth off

informal to steal someone else's idea by copying something that they have made or invented, especially in order to sell it: *Foley shamelessly admitted ripping off other people's designs. | Are they aware that their songs are being ripped off and copied by bands in other countries?*

### 4 rip off sth rip sth off

informal to steal other people's money or possessions: *He was caught ripping off money from church funds. | a part of town where it's easy to rip off cars*

\* SIMILAR TO: steal, nick BrE informal

### rip through

#### rip through sth NOT PASSIVE

if a storm, an explosion, or bullets rip through something, they go through it very quickly and violently causing a lot of damage: *A hail of bullets ripped through the side of the general's car. | The explosion of three massive bombs which ripped through the heart of the city.*

### rip up

#### 1 rip up sth rip sth up

to tear something quickly and violently into small pieces, especially something made of paper or cloth: *She ripped up Tom's photograph and threw it on the fire. | Demonstrators ripped up the US flag, shouting "Death to America."*

\* SIMILAR TO: tear up

#### 2 rip up sth

to pull up something that is fixed to the floor or the ground in order to remove it or destroy it: *As soon as I moved into the studio, I ripped up the brown carpet and painted the walls white. | Vandals had chopped down trees and ripped up fences.*

## RISE

rose, risen, rising

## rise above

## 1 rise above sth NOT PASSIVE

if someone rises above a bad situation or bad influences, they do not let these things affect them because they have courage, determination, or strong moral principles: *Roosevelt had the ability to rise above the petty prejudices of party politics.* | *Even in the darkest moments, she could rise above all the problems and emerge triumphant.*

## 2 rise above sth NOT PASSIVE

to be much better than the standard that someone or something else achieves: *Coleman is one player capable of rising above the mediocre performance of his team.* | *boxing that seldom rose above the level of a bar-room brawl*

## rise against

## rise against sb/sth

if a group of people rise against their rulers or government, they start to fight against them in order to remove them from power: *In 1946 Ho Chi Minh urged the Vietnamese to rise against their French colonial rulers.*

## rise up

## 1 rise up

if a mountain, cliff, wall etc rises up, it appears as a very tall shape: *Sheer cliffs rose up around them on all sides.* | *steep forested banks rising up from the waters of the lake*

## 2 rise up

to go upwards: *The birds suddenly rose up in the air and flew away.* | *Smoke was rising up from the chimney.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rise**

## 3 rise up

if a feeling or thought rises up in you, you suddenly have that feeling or thought: *I could feel the anger rising up inside me.* | *A terrible thought rose up in Pat's mind.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **well up** literary

## 4 rise up

if a group of people rise up, they start to fight against their rulers or government in order to remove them from power: *One day the people will rise up and overthrow this tyrant.*

+ **against** *The peasants rose up in armed rebellion against King Richard.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rebel**

## uprising N [C]

a violent attempt by a group of people to defeat their rulers or government in order

to remove them from power: *the popular uprising against President Ceaușescu*

## 5 rise up

to stand after you have been sitting, kneeling, or lying down: *The young organist stopped playing and rose up from his seat.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rise, stand up**

## ROAR

roared, roared, roaring

## roar out

## roar out sth roar out

to shout or sing something in a deep, very loud voice, or to make a deep, very loud noise: *He roared out songs at the top of his voice.* | *a gramophone roaring out 'The St Louis Blues March'*

## ROB

robbed, robbed, robbing

## rob of

## rob sb/sth of sth

to take away an important quality, ability etc from someone or something: *Wilson's early failures had robbed him of confidence.* | *a literal translation that has robbed the poems of their power and mystery* | *Black Americans had been robbed of their basic rights by the state legislature.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **deprive of**

## ROLL

rolled, rolled, rolling

## roll around

ALSO roll about BrE

## roll around/about USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to laugh at something so much that your body moves around: *Hector's jokes had us all rolling about helplessly.*

**roll around with laughter** *The two boys were rolling around with laughter at the thought of what had happened.*

## roll around

ALSO roll round BrE

## roll around/round

if something that happens regularly rolls around, especially a time, day, or season, it comes again as expected: *We all pray the war will be over before Christmas rolls around again.* | *Carey took a siesta in the shade, and by the time evening rolled around, he felt fit to head for home.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come around**

R

**roll away****roll away**

*literary* if countryside rolls away, you can see for a long distance over it: *The grassy plains roll away in all directions as far as you can see.*

**roll back****1 roll back sth roll sth back**

to reduce the power or influence of a system, government etc, which has been increasing too much: *Republican senators talked of rolling back communist influence in Asia.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reduce**

**2 roll sth back roll back sth**

*AmE* if the government or someone in authority rolls back something, they reduce the price of it: *The Senate voted to roll back the gas tax by 5 cents a gallon.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reduce, cut**

**3 roll back sb/sth roll sb/sth back**

to force an enemy army to move back from its position: *Von Ludendorff's army pressed forward in the hope of rolling back the British to the Channel.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **push back**

**4 roll back the years**

to make people remember something good that happened in the past, especially by doing something similar in the present: *With such wonderful performances at the age of 40, Jimmy Connors can still roll back the years and reach into his glorious past.*

**roll by****years/months roll by**

if years or months roll by, time passes, especially quickly: *As the years rolled by, we saw less and less of our wealthy cousins.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pass, go by**

**roll down****roll down sth roll sth down**

especially *AmE* to open a car window by making the glass move down using a handle or a button

**roll down the window** *Mom, will you roll down your window a little?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wind down** *BrE*

● **OPPOSITE:** **roll up** especially *AmE*, **wind up** *BrE*

**roll in****1 roll in** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if money, letters etc roll in, large amounts of them arrive, especially continuously: *Since Kylie appeared on her first TV show, letters from fans have kept rolling in.*

**come rolling in** *Sales of the new drug were very high and the profits came rolling in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pour in**

**2 roll in**

if clouds, storms, mist etc roll in, they move into an area and begin to cover the sky or the land: *A thin blanket of fog rolled in from the sea.* | *electric storms rolling in across the savannah*

**3 be rolling in it/money**

*informal* to be very rich: *Derringer owns a mansion in Beverly Hills, so he must be rolling in money.* | *Her new husband's absolutely rolling in it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **filthy rich**

**roll in/into****roll in roll into sth**

*informal* if someone rolls in, they arrive somewhere later than they should, and often they do not seem to care about being late: *It was after midnight when he finally rolled in. He hadn't even bothered to phone us.* | *You can't just roll into the office an hour late without some sort of explanation.*

**roll on****1 roll on**

if a period of time, or a process rolls on, it continues to pass or happen, especially slowly: *As the 1960's rolled on, it became apparent that there had been a major change in social attitudes.* | *The long ceremony rolled on towards its climax.*

**2 roll on Friday/summer/the weekend etc!**

*BrE* spoken *informal* used to say that you want a more enjoyable time such as Friday or the weekend to come soon: *This job is so exhausting – roll on the weekend!*

**roll out****1 roll out sth roll sth out**

to make a food mixture flat and thin before you cook it, by rolling a tube-shaped object over it: *Roll out the pastry thinly on a lightly floured surface.* | *Mix the dough and roll it out about 1 cm thick.*

**2 roll out sth roll sth out**

to unfold something that has been folded into a round shape and make it flat and straight on the ground: *We rolled out our sleeping bags inside the tent.*

**3 roll out sth roll sth out**

especially *AmE* *informal* to make a new product available for people to buy or use: *L'Oreal rolled out a line of skin-care products called Plenitude.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **introduce, launch**



**roll over****1a** **roll over**

to turn your body when you are lying down, so that you are lying on the other side of your body: *She rolled over and went back to sleep.* | *Rolling over onto his stomach, he reached down over the side of the bed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

**1b** **roll sb over**

to turn someone's body when they are lying down so that they are lying on the other side of their body: *Magee knelt beside the dying man and rolled him over onto his back.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

**2** **roll over sth** **roll sth over**

especially AmE to officially arrange to pay a debt later than you are usually supposed to: *The government has approved a law that rolls over the tax debt until the following year.*

**3** **roll over**

spoken informal to allow someone to force you to do something without making any effort to stop them: *The bastards are trying to close down your business. You're not going to roll over and let them do it, are you?*

**4** **roll over sth**

BrE to add all of one week's prize money to the following week's prize money in the national lottery (= a game in which millions of people buy numbered tickets and a few win prizes) *There were no winners in this week's draw, so the £12 million jackpot will be rolled over to next week.*

**roll-over** N [C]

BrE the addition of the prize money from one week to the prize money of the following week in the national lottery: *A £19 million roll-over jackpot is waiting to be won in Saturday's draw.*

**roll up****1** **roll up sth** **roll sth up**

to turn the ends of your sleeves or trousers over several times in order to make them shorter. Sleeves are the parts of a shirt or jacket that cover your arms

**roll up your sleeves/trousers** *The boatmen rolled up their trouser legs and waded ashore.* | *Taking off my jacket, I rolled up my shirtsleeves and plunged my hands into the oily water.*

**2** **roll up sth** **roll sth up**

to make something made of paper, cloth etc into the shape of a tube or ball, by folding it over several times: *Just roll up the carpet and take it downstairs.* | *She paused to roll up the magazines and push them into her bag.*

**rolled-up** ADJ

rolled-up paper, cloth etc has been folded over and made into the shape of a tube or ball: *Bertie was busy swatting flies with a rolled-up newspaper.*

**3** **roll up sth** **roll sth up** USUALLY PASSIVE

to wrap something in paper, cloth, bread etc that forms a tube shape around it

+ **in** *On the table there was a bunch of asparagus rolled up in newspaper.* | *spicy dishes consisting of chicken pieces rolled up in corn tortillas*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

**roll-up** N [C]

BrE a cigarette that you make for yourself by wrapping special paper around loose tobacco: *Wayne would sit in a corner of the bar smoking roll-ups and sipping Guinness.*

**4** **roll up**

if an animal rolls up, it curls its body into the shape of a ball with its tail close to its head: *When threatened, a hedgehog will roll up into a tight ball.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **curl up**

**5** **roll up**

to arrive somewhere, especially in large numbers or in a vehicle: *Thousands rolled up to watch the race.* | *She had her eye on Rupert Davenport, who had just rolled up in a dark green Ferrari.*

**6** **Roll up, roll up!**

BrE spoken used at a public show or other event, especially an outdoor one, to call people who are passing to come and watch the show or buy things: *Roll up, roll up for the Greatest Show on Earth!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **Step right up!** AmE

**7** **roll up sth** **roll sth up**

especially AmE to close a car window by making the glass move up using a handle or a button

**roll up the window** *I rolled up my window – it was getting cold.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wind up** BrE

**ROMP**

romped, romped, romping

**romp through****romp through sth**

BrE informal to succeed in doing something quickly and easily: *Sampras romped through every game and won the first set 6-0.* | *Bilingual children usually romp through their spoken French exams, but achieve lower grades in written French and literature.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sail through**, **breeze through**

**ROOF**

roofed, roofed, roofing

**roof in/over****roof in/over sth** **roof sth in/over**

BrE to cover an open space by building a roof over it: *We're going to roof in the yard to make a garage.* | *The old swimming pool had been roofed over with glass panels.*

**ROOM**

roomed, roomed, rooming

**room with****room with sb**

AmE to share the room that you live in with someone, for example at college: *You remember Maria – I roomed with her at college.*

**R****ROOT**

rooted, rooted, rooting

**root for****1 root for sb**

informal to give support or encouragement to someone in a competition, test, or difficult situation, because you want them to succeed: *Good luck – we'll all be rooting for you!*

**2 root for sb**

especially AmE to support a sports team or player by shouting and cheering: *We were all rooting for Green Bay to win the NFC Championship Game.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cheer on**

**be rooted in****be rooted in sth**

to have developed from something and be strongly influenced by it: *policies that are rooted in Marxist economic theory* | *Much of Housman's poetry was rooted in the literary traditions of ancient Rome.*

**root out****1 root out sth/sb** **root sth/sb out**

to find out where a particular kind of problem exists and get rid of the problem or the people that are causing it – use this about problems in society or in an organization: *The new Chief Officer promised to root out corruption and inefficiency in the city's police force.* | *The Irish people must take action to root out the killers in their midst.* | *a campaign to root out racism and sexism in the music industry*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of**, **eradicate** formal

**2 root out sth** **root sth out**

informal to find something by searching for it, especially when it is difficult to find: *I've got a sleeping bag somewhere – I'll root it out for you next time you come.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dig out**

**root up****root sth up** **root up sth**

to dig or pull a plant and its roots out of the ground: *I'll just root up these weeds.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull up**, **dig up**, **uproot**

**ROPE**

roped, roped, roping

**rope in/into****rope sb in** **rope in sb****rope sb into sth**

informal to persuade someone to help you do something, especially when they do not want to

**get roped in** *Whenever they need someone to look after the kids, I get roped in.*

**rope sb into doing sth** *Have they roped you into selling tickets?*

**rope sb in to do sth** *We've roped Dad in to help with the entertainment.*

**rope off****rope off sth** **rope sth off**

to put ropes around an area, to stop people from going into it: *Last night police roped off the area where the body was found and searched the undergrowth.*

**ROT**

rotted, rotted, rotting

**rot away****rot away**

if something rots away, it decays by a gradual natural process until it disappears: *Marie passed the old chalets, neglected and boarded up now, their paint peeling, their woodwork rotting away.* | *Out in the rain-soaked fields, the diseased potato crop was gradually rotting away.*

**rot down****rot down**

BrE if leaves, plants etc rot down, they decay by a gradual natural process and become soil: *Cover the weeds with black plastic so that they rot down.* | *If you cut up leaves before putting them on the compost heap, they rot down much quicker.*

**ROUGH**

roughed, roughed, roughing

**rough in****rough in** sth **rough** sth **in**

to add something to a picture that you are drawing or painting, without showing all the exact details: *You can see where the artist has roughed in another figure in the background.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sketch in**

**rough out****rough out** sth **rough** sth **out**

BrE to draw or write something without including all the exact details: *I sat down at my desk and began to rough out a poem. | a diagram the engineer had roughed out on his notepad*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sketch out**

**rough up****1** **rough up** sb **rough** sb **up**

informal to attack someone and hurt them by hitting them: *It wasn't worth the risk of being arrested and getting roughed up by the police.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **beat up**

**2** **rough up** sth **rough** sth **up**

to make the surface of something rough: *Spread the cake with the buttercream and rough it up a little with a fork.*

**ROUND**

rounded, rounded, rounding

**round down****round down** sth **round** sth **down** ✕

to reduce an exact number to the nearest whole number, or the nearest 10, 100 etc, in order to make it simpler

+ to *Please do not include pence. Round down your calculations to the nearest pound.*  
Example: £17,582.45 becomes £17,582.

● COMPARE: **round up, round off**

**round off****1** **round off** sth **round** sth **off** ✕

to be a pleasant and suitable way of ending an event, or to do something as a pleasant and suitable way of ending it: *Fresh strawberries will round off the meal off nicely. | We rounded off the session with a Jazz number.*

+ with *We rounded off the evening with carols around the Christmas tree.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **finish off, top off**

**2** **round off** sth **round** sth **off****round off**

to change an exact number to the nearest whole number: *Peter's net income after taxes was \$3,159 (rounding off to the nearest dollar). | You can work the sum out mentally by rounding off the £1.19 to £1.20, and taking away 1p.*

● COMPARE: **round down, round up**

**3** **round off** sth **round** sth **off** ✕

if you round off the sharp edges or corners of an object, you make them smooth and round by rubbing them with a special tool: *Use an electric sander to round off the corners.*

**round on/upon**

● **Round upon** is more formal than **round on** and is used mostly in writing.

**round on/upon** sb

BrE to suddenly attack someone when they do not expect it, either physically or by speaking angrily to them: *Harry got up out of his seat in a flash and rounded on the man: "Don't dare to speak to me that way. If you insult me again I'll punch your fat head." | Sibyl rounded on him, knife in hand, and he moved back out of her reach.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn on/upon**

**round out****round out** sth **round** sth **out**

to make something more complete: *A side dish of garlicky potato salad rounded out the meal nicely. | Paul Jenkins on bass guitar and Mark Hays on drums round out the rhythm section on this pleasing set of 10 original tunes.*

**round up****1** **round** sb/sth **up** **round up** sb/sth ✕

to find and gather a group of people or animals together: *See if you can round up a few friends to help you. | Shane and two other cowboys rounded up the ponies and drove them into the corral.*

**round-up** N [C]

an occasion when animals are collected together: *the annual cattle round-up*

**2** **round up** sb **round** sb **up** ✕

to search for and find a particular group of people and force them to go to prison: *Police quickly rounded up dozens of suspected terrorists and threw them in jail. | 74,000 French Jews were rounded up by the Nazis and shipped to concentration camps.*

R

**round-up** N [C]

when a particular group of people are taken away and forced to go to prison: *a round-up of suspected drug dealers*

**3 round up sth round sth up** ✕

to increase an exact number to the nearest higher whole number, or the nearest 10, 100 etc above it: *The total came to \$299.50, so I rounded it up to \$300.*

● COMPARE: **round down, round off**

**round upon**

SEE **round on/upon**

**ROUT**

routed, routed, routing

**route out****1 route out sb/sth route sb/sth out**

to force someone or something to come out of the place where they are

✦ of *The dog had routed a rabbit out of its hole and was chasing it across the field.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **force out**

**2 route out sth route sth out**

to search among things and find the thing you are looking for: *Mum's routing out all our spare clothes to give to homeless families.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dig out, hunt out**

**RUB**

rubbed, rubbed, rubbing

**rub along****rub along**

BrE old-fashioned informal if two people rub along, they live or work together in a fairly friendly way: *Our sex life came to an end years ago, but we rub along alright most of the time.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get along**

**rub down****1 rub down sb/sth rub sb/sth down**

to dry a person or animal by rubbing them with a towel (=a piece of cloth used for drying your skin) *He was rubbing down his horse in the stable yard.*

**rub-down** N [C]

when you dry yourself with a towel: *After a brief shower and a rub-down with a face cloth and towel, I was feeling refreshed.*

**2 rub down sth rub sth down**

to make a surface smooth by rubbing it with sandpaper (=special paper that is rough on one side) *The surface must be rubbed down with very fine sandpaper to make it as smooth as possible.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sand down**

**rub-down** N [C]

when you make a surface smooth by rubbing it with sandpaper: *Give the woodwork a light rub-down with sandpaper before painting.*

**3 rub down sb rub sb down**

to rub someone's body and press their muscles to make them relax: *Smith's back had tightened up after the game, and now he was on the massage table being rubbed down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **massage**

**rub-down** N [C]

when you rub someone's body and press their muscles to make them relax: *The trainer gave him a rub-down to ease the pain in his muscles.*

**rub in****1 rub it in**

especially spoken to deliberately remind someone about a fact that they want to forget because they are upset or embarrassed about it

**don't rub it in** "Remember, while you're unemployed, I have to pay for everything." "All right, there's no need to rub it in."

**2 rub sth in rub in sth****rub sth into sth**

to put a cream or oil onto someone's skin, hair etc and rub it in order to make it go into their skin, hair etc: *Always keep hand cream available in the bathroom or kitchen and rub it in frequently.*

**rub off****1a rub off sth rub sth off****rub sth off sth**

to remove something from a surface by rubbing it: *Mr Owen took one look at the drawing on the chalkboard, and rubbed it off.* | *Elaine gave Stephen a tentative kiss on the cheek, leaving a red lipstick mark which he quickly rubbed off.*

**1b rub off**

to come off the surface of something because of being rubbed: *A woman shopper noticed that the coin was a forgery when the gold colouring began to rub off.*

**2 rub off**

if someone else's quality, feeling, or habit rubs off on you, you start to have it too because you are with that person

**rub off on/onto** *He competes so hard, it rubs off onto the rest of the team and makes them better.* | *The teacher's enthusiasm had clearly rubbed off on the children.*

**rub off** *We hoped that some of Procter's fighting spirit would rub off and inspire the others.*

**rub out****1 rub out sth** **rub sth out**

BrE to remove writing or pictures from paper by rubbing it with a piece of rubber, or remove writing or pictures from a board by rubbing it with a cloth: *Do it in pencil first then you can rub it out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **erase** AmE

**2 rub sb out**

AmE old-fashioned informal to murder someone: *The gang got to hear about Casey talking to the cops. That's why they rubbed him out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bump off** BrE informal

**RUCK**

rucked, rucked, rucking

**ruck up****ruck up** **ruck up sth** **ruck sth up**

especially BrE if a piece of cloth or clothing rucks up or if you ruck it up, it gets pulled upwards and forms folds in an untidy way: *Flora had bent forward, rucking up her skirt.*

**be rucked up** *Your shirt's all rucked up at the back.*

**RUFFLE**

ruffled, ruffled, ruffling

**ruffle up****ruffle up sth** **ruffle sth up**

to make a smooth surface uneven: *She ruffled up his hair affectionately.* | *Birds ruffle up their feathers to keep warm.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **muss up**

**RULE**

ruled, ruled, ruling

**rule out****1 rule out sth** **rule sth out**

to decide that something is not possible or suitable: *The police have ruled out homicide, saying Hall either fell from the high waterfront walkway or committed suicide.* | *The company is planning extensive reorganization and job losses cannot be ruled out.* | *Well I wouldn't rule out a two-bedroom house if it was a nice one, but I'm really looking for a something larger.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dismiss**

**2 rule out sth** **rule sth out**

to make it impossible for something to happen: *The severe weather ruled out any attempts to reach the survivors by helicopter.*

**RUMBLE**

rumbled, rumbled, rumbling

**rumble on****rumble on**

especially BrE if a difficult or unpleasant situation rumbles on, it continues for a long time: *Arguments with the Soviet Union rumbled on into 1947.* | *Luxury items remain unsold in the shops as the recession rumbles on.*

**RUN**

ran, ran, running

**run across****run across sb/sth**

to meet someone or find something by chance: *Lord Archer ran across his old friend as he was coming out of his club.* | *I ran across an advertisement in the Times, which said they were looking for English teachers in Japan.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come across**

**run after****1 run after sb/sth**

to chase someone or something: *My father ran after the thieves, but they got away.* | *She began to run after him, calling his name.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chase, pursue** formal

**2 run after sb**

informal to keep trying to persuade someone to have a sexual relationship with you, because you feel sexually attracted to them: *When we were at college she was always running after some man or other.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chase**

**run along****run along!**

old-fashioned spoken used to tell a child to go away: *Run along now children! It's time you were in bed!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **off you go!** spoken

**run around**

ALSO **run round** BrE

**run around/round**

to be very busy doing a lot of different things, and rushing from one place to another

**run around/round doing sth** *I've been running around all morning trying to get everything ready for Cathy's birthday.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rush around**

**run around after**ALSO **run round after** BrE**run around/round after sb**

to be busy doing a lot of small jobs for someone, like a servant, especially when that person could easily do all these jobs himself or herself: *His last wife got fed up with running around after him all the time.* | *She seemed content to let Valerie run around after her and do everything for her.*

**run around with****run around with sb**

informal to spend a lot of time with someone and be friendly with them: *Tony used to run around with a gang of friends from art college.* | *He had forgotten the faces of most of the girls he ran around with at university.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hang out with** informal, especially AmE

**run away****1 run away**

to leave somewhere by running, especially in order to escape from something or someone: *When the police arrived, one man ran away and the other made his escape in a car.* | *Higgs said he saw two youths running away from the scene just before the fire was discovered.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run off, flee**

**2 run away**

to leave the place where you live, your family etc, especially without telling anyone, because you are unhappy there or want a completely different kind of life: *When she was young she had wanted to run away and join the circus.*

**run away from home** *Darren was always getting in trouble at school and ran away from home five times in two years.*

**runaway** N [C]

someone who has secretly run away from their home or the place where they usually live: *Many homeless people start out as teenage runaways from broken homes.*

**runaway** ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

having secretly run away from home or the place where you usually live: *Jim, the runaway slave in 'Huckleberry Finn'*

**3 run away**

to try to avoid dealing with a problem or a difficult situation

+ from *He shouldn't keep running away from his responsibilities.* | *You can't run away from these things forever. Sooner or later the past will catch up with you.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **avoid**

**run away with****1 run away with sb** NOT PASSIVE

to secretly leave your wife, husband etc, in order to go and live with someone else and have a sexual relationship with them: *Céline abandoned his wife and ran away to Italy with a singer.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run off with, go off with**

**2 run away with sth** NOT PASSIVE

to win something easily such as a competition, game, or prize: *Jackie Stewart was able to run away with the championship, scoring nearly twice as many points as his nearest rival, Ronnie Peterson.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **walk off with, walk away with**

**3 let your imagination/emotions/feelings run away with you**

to become very excited, upset, or worried, because you think that something may have happened, even though this seems very unlikely: *"Maybe he's been involved in some kind of accident!" "You mustn't let your imagination run away with you. I'm sure he's OK."*

**4 run away with the idea/impression**

informal to wrongly think that something is true, or that you should do something, because of what you know about a situation: *I don't want people running away with the idea that this is going to be easy. It's not.*

**run by****1 run sth by sb again**

informal to say something again to someone, in order to make sure they have understood it: *Sorry, I was thinking about something else. Can you run that one by me again?*

**2 run sth by sb**

informal to tell someone about something such as a plan or idea, in order to find out their opinion about it, or to make sure that they agree with it: *It sounds like a good idea, but we'd better run it by Michael first.*

**run down****1 run down sb** **run sb down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to drive into someone and hurt or kill them: *I almost got run down by a bus as I was crossing the road.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run over, knock down**

**2 run sb/sth down** **run down sb/sth**

to criticize someone or something, especially in a way that seems unfair: *Never run down your previous employer at an interview. It will always reflect badly on you.*



**run yourself down** *As a nation we're always running ourselves down, instead of being proud of our achievements.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **criticize, knock**

### 3 be run down

to feel tired and unhealthy because you have been working too hard, not getting enough sleep, or worrying a lot about something: *Is Sue all right? She looked rather run down when I last saw her. | I was feeling generally run down and in need of a vacation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **exhausted**

### 4 run down run down sth run sth down

if a battery, watch etc runs down, or you run it down, it gradually loses power until there is none left: *The toy stopped moving. Its batteries had obviously run down. | Someone had left the lights on and run down the car's battery.*

### 5 run down sth run sth down

BrE to gradually reduce the amount of work that a company or other organization does, in order to prepare for closing it: *BSEL say they will run down the shipyard unless another buyer is found. | The local hospital was being run down and no longer took emergency cases.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wind down**

### 6 run down sth run sth down

to let something such as a company, an organization, or a country's economy get into very bad condition: *Every time a new party gets into power, they always accuse the previous government of running down the economy.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **ruin**

### 7 run down run down sth run sth down

if supplies of something run down, or are run down, they gradually all get used until there is none left: *It is estimated that supplies of gas from the North Sea will start to run down between now and the end of the century.*

### 8 run down sth

to quickly look at or read aloud a list of things or people: *Do you want me to run down the list of possible candidates?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run through**

#### rundown N [SINGULAR]

a short report or explanation in which you mention the most important information: *She began by giving a brief rundown of the decisions that had been made at the previous meeting.*

### 9 run sb/sth down

BrE to find someone or something that you have been looking for: *I finally managed to run him down at his club in Mayfair.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **track down**

### 10 run down sth run sth down

to chase after something and succeed in stopping it: *Shane managed to run down the ball just before it reached the boundary.*

### run for

#### 1 run for sth

to try to be elected to a particular position: *Burns wants to run for governor at the next election. | Observers in Oklahoma see Watts eventually running for the Senate.*

**run for office** (=try to be elected to an important political position) *Hillary has made no secret of her wish to run for office.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand for**

#### 2 run for it

to run as quickly as you can, especially in order to escape from someone or something: *When he saw the police coming, Riney decided to run for it. | I think he's seen us. We'd better run for it.*

### run in

#### 1 run sb in run in sb

old-fashioned informal if the police run someone in, they catch that person and take them to the police station: *Southend police run in a young man for speeding yesterday, and discovered that he had been involved in the robbery.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **arrest**

#### 2 run sth in run in sth

BrE if you run in a new car, you drive it slowly and carefully at first, in order to avoid damaging the engine: *The car had a sign on the back which read 'Running in. Please pass.'*

### run into

#### 1 run into sb NOT PASSIVE

to meet someone you know by chance, when you did not expect to meet them: *While I was in Paris I ran into an old school-friend who I hadn't seen in years.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bump into, run across, come across**

#### 2 run into sth

if you run into problems, difficulties etc, you suddenly experience them and have to deal with them, especially when you did not expect them: *The company had run into financial difficulties during the recession. | Streibl recently ran into trouble over allegations that he took free trips which were paid for by a defence company. | Plans to build another runway at Heathrow airport have run into strong opposition from local residents and environmental groups.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **meet with, encounter** [formal]

### 3 run into hundreds/thousands/millions etc

to reach a total of several hundreds, thousands etc—used to talk about the total cost of something, or the total number of people killed by something: *The cost of repairing the damage is expected to run into millions of dollars.* | *A spokesperson for the Austrian government said that the death toll could run into hundreds.*

\* SIMILAR TO: reach

### 4 run into sth

to accidentally drive into something such as a car or a wall: *Someone had run into the back of the bus.* | *Di and Dodi were killed when their car ran into a wall at high speed in Paris.*

\* SIMILAR TO: drive (into)

### 5 run into sth

if one thing runs into another, for example another word, colour, or quality, it joins it and mixes with it, so that is difficult to notice where one ends and the other begins: *The words seemed to run into each other, and I couldn't catch what she was saying.* | *It was strange how good and bad could run into each other; could appear as interchangeable.*

\* SIMILAR TO: merge into

## run off

### 1 run off

to leave somewhere by running, for example to avoid being caught: *The robbers ran off down a nearby street.* | *Her T-shirt caught fire and she ran off screaming.*

\* SIMILAR TO: flee

### 2 run off

to suddenly leave someone or leave the place where you live, without telling anyone: *His wife ran off and left him.* | *The popular story is that Arthur was so heartbroken that he ran off to Africa.*

### 3 run off sth run sth off

to quickly print several copies of something: *Nowadays you can run off your invitations on a laser printer for virtually nothing.* | *Authors were allowed to visit the printers while their books were being run off, in order to make any alterations.*

### 4 run off sth run sth off sth

if something runs off a power supply, it works by using the power from it: *It's designed to run off batteries or mains electricity.* | *The stove was run off a portable generator, which was kept in the basement.*

### 5 run off sth run sth off

to write something quickly and easily, for example a letter, poem, or the words to a song: *Lennon later said that he and Paul ran off the song in a taxi on the way to the recording studio.*

## run off with

### 1 run off with sb

to secretly go away with someone and have a sexual relationship with them, especially when other people disapprove of this: *His wife ran off with the insurance man, and left him with two kids to bring up on his own.* | *Gillian was thirteen when her father ran off with one of his pupils who'd left school a year earlier.*

\* SIMILAR TO: go off with, run away with

### 2 run off with sth

informal to steal something and take it away: *Her employers thought she had run off with the family silver.* | *Don't worry! I'm not going to run off with it!*

\* SIMILAR TO: go off with informal

## run on

### 1 run on sth run sth on sth

to operate using a particular kind of computer or computer system, or to make something do this: *The software will run on any PC.* | *In those days all our machines ran on OS2.* | *Can you run it on Windows 98?*

### 2 run on

to continue happening for longer than was expected: *The meeting ran on until after 6 o'clock.*

### 3 run on sth run sth on sth

to use a particular kind of fuel or power supply, or make something do this: *Every new car that is sold in the UK must be able to run on unleaded fuel.* | *You can run the stove on coal or firewood.*

### 4 run on

AmE to talk for a long time, especially when other people are not interested in what you are talking about

+ about *My dad will run on for hours about golf if you give him the chance.*

\* SIMILAR TO: jabber away informal, chatter (on), go on informal, ramble on

## run out

### 1 run out

if you run out of something, you have no more of it left because you have used all of it: *"Is there any more cat food?" "No. We've run out."*

run out of sth *He'd better hurry up. We're running out of time.* | *The vehicle slowed and came to a halt. "We've run out of gas," said Vito.* | *They never seemed to run out of things to say to each other.* | *The guerrillas finally ran out of ammunition and withdrew.*

2 **run out**

if something runs out, there is no more of it left: *Their adventure lasted until the money ran out.* | *My husband tries to be sympathetic, but I can tell his patience is running out.* | *Brazil's luck ran out in the final and they lost to France 3-0.*

3 **run out**

if ticket or an official document or agreement runs out, it reaches the end of the time when it is officially allowed to be used or have an effect: *His contract with the club is due to run out in December.* | *My passport won't run out for at least another year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **expire**

4 **run out of steam** ALSO **run out of gas** AmE

to no longer feel eager to do something, or no longer feel that you have enough energy to continue: *Nazeem starts really fast, but he tends to run out of steam after he's been boxing for a few rounds.* | *The Republicans' campaign to get rid of Clinton began to run out of gas.*

5 **run sb out** **run out sb**

BrE to end a player's period of play in a game of cricket, by touching or throwing the ball against the wickets (=the sets of sticks that the players run between to get points) *Lara was run out by the Australians, after scoring yet another century for the West Indies.*

6 **run out sth** **run sth out**

if you run out a length of rope or line, you let it unwind and go away from you: *One of the climbers stood on the edge of the cliff face and ran out about 50 foot of rope.*

**run out of**1 **run out of sth**

SEE **run out**

2 **run sb out of sth**

old-fashioned to force someone to leave a town or area, because they have done something wrong and you are very angry with them: *They burnt the house down and ran him out of the district.*

**run sb out of town** *Her father threatened to run him out of town if he so much as went near the girl.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hound out**

**run out on****run out on sb**

to suddenly leave your wife, husband, friends etc, and cause a lot of problems for them: *Joey's wife had run out on him 13 years earlier.* | *Yehudi was not in his bed. "He's run*

*out on us," I said to myself. "That's the last we'll ever see of him."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **walk out on, desert**

**run over**1 **run over sb/sth** **run sb/sth over**

to drive over someone or something, especially with the result that they are injured or killed: *Barthes was run over by a laundry van as he was crossing a busy Paris street.* | *Lee was really upset when her cat got run over.* | *Some idiot in a white van nearly ran me over.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock down, mow down**

2 **run over sth**

to quickly explain something to someone, especially a series of points or instructions: *I'll just run over how the burglar alarm works.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run through, go through**

3 **run over sth**

to quickly read or repeat something in order to remember it or to check that it is correct: *Sean ran over his notes one last time, then made his way to the exam hall.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run through, go through**

4 **run over**

if a container runs over, it become too full of a liquid, and the liquid starts flowing over the side: *The woman filled up his glass until it started to run over.* | *Someone in an upstairs flat had let their bath run over, and there was water absolutely everywhere.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **overflow**

5 **run over/run over time**

if a meeting, game, television programme etc runs over, it continues past the time when it was planned to end: *We should be through by eight, but the session might run over.* | *The show was running over time, and the director had to cut one of the scenes.*

+ **into** *The tunnel project ran over into the following year.*

6 **run over sb**

if a feeling runs over you, you suddenly feel it very strongly: *She felt a sudden shudder of fear run over her.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run through, come over**

7 **your mind runs over sth**  
**run sth over in your mind**

to think about something such as a series of events or possibilities etc: *Quickly his mind ran over all the awful possibilities. Maybe they'd had some kind of accident, or even been killed.* | *Give yourself a few minutes to run it over in your mind, then tell me what you think.* | *She let her mind run over the events of the previous day.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run through**

**run round**SEE **run around****run round after**SEE **run around after****run through****1 run through sth**

if an idea, quality, feeling etc runs through something, it is present in all of it: *This sense of sadness and loss runs through so many of Housman's poems.* | *Racism runs right through our society from top to bottom.* | *The main argument running through the article is that genetic research poses a threat to the future of mankind.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pervade** formal**2 run through sb**

if a feeling runs through you, you suddenly feel it very strongly: *A shudder ran through her at the thought of meeting Luke Calder again.* | *He felt a thrill of excitement run through him at the mention of her name.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run over, come over****3 run through sb's mind/head**

if something runs through your mind, you think about it or imagine it: *The thought ran through my mind that the other man was probably as frightened as I was.* | *Running through her mind, like a tape she couldn't switch off, was the newspaper story that Sebastian had been seen with another woman.*

**4 run through sth**

to think about or imagine something from beginning to end, especially a series of events, reasons, or instructions: *As he waited outside, he ran through the reasons why he thought he should get the job.* | *Helen ran through the scene in her mind again and again; maybe she had over-reacted.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go over****5 run through sth**

to quickly read or look at something, especially in order to check or find something: *Hartwig ran through the names in the notebook to see if there were any that he recognized.* | *Can we run through the videotape again? I just want to make sure we haven't missed anything.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go through****6 run through sth**

to quickly talk about or explain something from beginning to end, especially a series of events, reasons, or instructions: *Can you run through your movements on the night of the murder?* | *The woman quickly ran through the instructions with me. They seemed simple enough.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go over****run-through** N[C]

when someone quickly talks about or explains something: *The instructor gave me a quick run-through of the layout of the course.*

**7 run through sth**

to quickly do a series of things, especially in order to practise them: *I think we'll start by running through the opening dance routine.* | *There are a few more scenes from the play I'd like to run through before we take a break.*

**run-through** N[C]

when you quickly do a series of things, especially in order to practise them: *They did a complete run-through of the whole opera, and it went off perfectly.*

**8 run sth through sth**

if you run something through a computer, you ask the computer to check it, change it, do calculations with it etc, in order to provide you with the result you want: *The police ran this information through a special computer, which has information on hundreds of thousands of criminals and suspected criminals.*

**9 run sb through**

BrE to push a sharp weapon through someone's body

+ **with** *Aung San rushed forward and ran him through with a bayonet.* | *When she first picked up the knife, I thought she was going to run me through with it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stab****10 run through**

to spend all of a large amount of money quickly and waste it: *The previous Earl had run through most of the family fortune at the casino in Monte Carlo.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **squander****run to****1 run to sth**

to reach a particular number or amount, especially a large number or amount: *The Macpherson report runs to several hundred pages, and I haven't had time to read it all.* | *Dinner for two should run to around \$50.* | *The cost of building and launching each shuttle can run to as much as \$100 million.*

**2 can/will run to sth**

BrE to have enough money to be able to pay for something: *We couldn't quite run to vintage champagne, so we chose a decent bottle of wine instead.* | *Bill, the budget for the course will run to some new paintbrushes as well, won't it?*

**3 run to sb**

to go to someone and expect them to help or protect you, or tell you what you should do:

*Natalie had run to her new lover, only to be turned away broken-hearted.*

**come running to sb** (=expect someone to help and protect you when you should be able to deal with a problem yourself) *Whenever there's the slightest problem he always comes running to me for help.*

#### 4 **sb's taste runs to sth**

if someone's taste runs to something, it is one of the things that they like: *I'm not sure if Edgar's taste in music would run to acid jazz.*

### **run up**

#### 1 **run up**

to suddenly run to where someone or something is and stop next to them: *A man with a gun ran up and shot him dead.*

+ to *Anne ran up to Mrs Lynde. "I hate you!" she shouted.*

#### 2 **run up debts/losses/a bill/a deficit etc**

to borrow or lose a lot of money, or have to pay a big bill for something: *The Rome Opera company has run up debts of over \$40 million. | While she was at college she ran up a huge phone bill. | In September Daiwa Bank announced that a New York bond trader had run up \$1.1 billion in losses.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **accumulate** [formal]

#### 3 **run up your credit card**

to spend a lot of money using your credit card: *He had no money of his own, he just ran up his wife's credit card until the bank stopped the card.*

#### 4 **run up sth**

especially AmE to succeed in achieving something – use this to say how successful or unsuccessful someone has been: *The Sonics ran up 64 victories this year.*

#### 5 **run up sth** **run sth up**

if you run up a flag, you raise it on a pole, usually by pulling a rope: *The school had run up the South African flag in honour of Mandela's visit.*

#### 6 **run up sth** **run sth up**

BrE to quickly make something, especially a piece of clothing using a sewing machine: *If I give her the material, she can easily run up the dress for me at home.*

### **run up against**

#### **run up against sth/sb**

to have to deal with unexpected problems or difficulties, a difficult opponent, or someone who stops you from being able to do what you want: *The developers have run up against*

*strong opposition from the local community. | Have the Rockets finally run up against a team they can't beat? | He plays a truly malicious killer, who runs up against a small-town sheriff.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run into**, **come up against**

## **RUSH**

*rushed, rushed, rushing*

### **rush around**

ALSO **rush about** BrE

#### **rush around/about**

#### **rush around/about sth**

to move around quickly and busily doing a lot of things, especially when you feel you do not have enough time to do them all: *I've been rushing around all day trying to get ready to go on vacation. | Politicians are always rushing around the country before an election in order to gain support.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dash (about/around)**

### **rush in/into**

#### **rush in** **rush into sth**

#### **rush sb into sth**

to do something very quickly, especially too quickly without thinking about it enough, or to make someone do this: *When you're buying a house, it's best not to rush in and buy the first thing that comes along. | The President insisted that he would not be rushed into a decision about sending troops into the area.*

**rush into doing sth** *The couple explained that they didn't want to rush into having children – they had their careers to think of first.*

**rush into things** spoken (=rush into something) *We haven't talked about marriage yet. We don't want to rush into things.*

**not rush into anything** spoken *I've been talking to various people about jobs – I'm not rushing into anything until I'm sure I've found what I want.*

### **rush off**

#### **rush off**

to leave very suddenly or quickly, because you have to go somewhere or do something: *I wanted to talk to him, but he had to rush off to a meeting. | There's no need to rush off just yet, we've got plenty of time. | Sorry to rush off like this. I promise I'll be free tomorrow.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dash off** [informal], **shoot off**

**rush out**

rush out sth    rush sth out

to produce a new product, book, or more copies of something very quickly, especially because a lot of people will want to buy it: *A special video of the series was rushed out in time for Christmas.* | *Xcelerated Systems Inc. from San Diego has rushed out Version 1.2 of its Liken software.*

**rush through**

rush through sth    rush sth through

to pass a law or deal with official business as quickly as possible: *As a result of a serious increase in the level of political violence, the government rushed through the Public Order Act.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **push through**

**R RUST**

*rusted, rusted, rusting*

**rust away**

rust away

to be damaged and gradually destroyed by rust. Rust is the brown or red substance that

forms on the surface of iron and steel when it is wet: *He had an old Cadillac which was quietly rusting away in his garage.*

**rust up**

rust up

if something rusts up, so much rust forms on it that it does not work and cannot be used any more. Rust is the brown or red substance that forms on the surface of iron and steel when it gets wet: *The house had metal windows that had completely rusted up.*

**be rusted up** *The car radiator was all rusted up and it kept overheating.*

**RUSTLE**

*rustled, rustled, rustling*

**rustle up**

rustle up sth    rustle sth up

to find or make something quickly, especially something to eat or drink or the money that you need to do something: *Mel got up and went downstairs to rustle up some breakfast.* | *I don't think I can even rustle up enough money for a holiday this year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cobble together**



## S

**SACK OUT**

sacked, sacked, sacking

**sack out****sack out**

AmE informal to lie down and go to sleep: *Jill sacked out early last night.*

**SADDLE**

saddled, saddled, saddling

**saddle up****saddle up** **saddle up** **sth****saddle** **sth** **up**

to put a saddle (=a leather seat) on a horse's back: *We saddled up and set off back to the farm.* | *He began saddling up his horse, preparing to ride off with his bride-to-be.*

**saddle with****be saddled with** **sth**

to have a job, responsibility, or problem that you do not want, but have to deal with: *I've been saddled with the job of organizing the kids' party.* | *Germany is saddled with some of the highest labor costs in the world, which has reduced its competitiveness in the global economy.*

**saddle yourself with a debt** (=make yourself responsible for a debt) *Students are saddling themselves with enormous debts to pay their course fees and living expenses.*

**saddle sb with sth** (=give someone a debt or problem to deal with) *They managed the company's affairs badly, saddling NTN with crippling losses.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lumber with** BrE informal, **land with** BrE

**SAFEGUARD**

safeguarded, safeguarded, safeguarding

**safeguard against****safeguard against** **sth**

to do something that will prevent something bad from happening: *They have produced a leaflet to warn you of garden hazards, and how to safeguard against them.* | *The new security systems have proved insufficient to safeguard against computer fraud.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **prevent**

**SAIL**

sailed, sailed, sailing

**sail through****sail through** **sail through** **sth**

to pass a test or examination very easily and successfully, or to deal with a difficult experience easily without having any problems: *After sailing through her bronze and silver swimming awards, Fiona started working towards the gold.* | *Some women find pregnancy very traumatic, while others sail through without any problems at all.*

**SALLY**

sallied, sallied, sallying

**sally forth****sally forth**

literary or humorous to leave a place and go out in a brave and confident way to do something: *Ena Burke sallied forth from the kitchen, a large covered tray in her hands.* | *Beaufort was a massive fortress from which Richard's knights could sally forth to attack the enemy.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **venture forth** formal or humorous

**SALT**

salted, salted, salting

**salt away****salt away** **sth** **salt** **sth** **away**

to save money for the future by hiding it, especially money that you have got dishonestly: *Drug traffickers are salting away their funds, serving their prison sentences, and then coming out to a life of luxury.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stash away** informal

**SAND**

sanded, sanded, sanding

**sand down****sand down** **sth** **sand** **sth** **down**

to make a surface smooth by rubbing it with special equipment or sandpaper (=special paper that is rough on one side) *Sand down the woodwork before you paint it.*

**SANDWICH**

sandwiched, sandwiched, sandwiching

**be sandwiched between****be sandwiched between** **sth**

to be in a space that seems to be too small, between two other much larger people or things: *The car was sandwiched between two big trucks.* | *He was sitting on the bus, sandwiched between two very large ladies.*

**SAVE**

saved, saved, saving

**save on****1 save on sth**

to spend less money on something than you did before: *If I cycled to work I could save on petrol.*

**save on bills/costs/rent** *We moved to a smaller apartment to save on rent. | The official Energy Efficiency Unit suggests these easy ways of saving on heating costs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **economize (on)**

**2 save on sth**

especially BrE to reduce the amount of work that you have to do, especially boring work: *Let's use paper plates – it'll save on the washing up. | A computerized system saves on paperwork.*

**save up****save up** **save up sth** **save sth up**

to keep money so that you can use it in the future, especially when you add more money every week, month etc: *If you want to buy a car, you'll have to start saving up. | We've saved up \$2000 so far. | He saved up for years in order to buy that house in the country.*

+ for I'm saving up for a holiday.

**SAVOUR** BrE **SAVOR** AmEsavoured, savoured, savouring BrE  
savored, savored, savoring AmE**savour of****savour of sth**

formal if something savours of a bad quality, it seems to contain some of that quality: *William explained his plan to me, but his words savoured of deliberate deceit. | The victim appears to have been poisoned, in a killing that savours of revenge.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **smack of**

**SAW**sawed, sawn, sawing BrE  
sawed, sawed, sawing AmE**saw up****saw up sth** **saw sth up**

to cut something into many pieces using a saw (=a tool that has a metal blade with v-shaped teeth) *I sawed up the tree for firewood.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cut up**

**SAY**

said, said, saying

**say for****1 it says a lot for sb/sth**

to show that someone or something has a lot of good qualities: *It says a lot for Nigel that he gives up his Saturdays to coach the kids' football team. | It says a lot for the African National Congress that, after eleven of their supporters were killed last week, they are still prepared to talk peace.*

**2 not say much for sth**

to show that something is not of a high standard or quality: *These results don't say much for the quality of the teaching. | His performance didn't say much for their training methods.*

**SCALE**

scaled, scaled, scaling

**scale down/back****1 scale down/back sth****scale sth down/back**

if a government, company etc scales something down, they make it smaller or do less of it than they did before or than they originally planned: *Conner Peripherals Inc said yesterday that it would be scaling down production and reducing staffing levels by 10%. | Since the end of the Cold War NATO countries have been scaling back their armed forces. | Several countries have scaled down their plans for expanding nuclear power. | The whole industry is scaling back.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reduce, cut back**

● OPPOSITE: **scale up**

**scaled-down/scaled-back** ADJ

reduced or made smaller: *The planning committee eventually agreed on a scaled-down version of the project.*

**scaling-down** N [SINGULAR]

when something is scaled down: *scaling-down of the coal industry*

**2 scale down sth** **scale sth down**

to reduce the size of something such as a drawing or a model of something: *The design might not look so good when it is scaled down for reproduction in newspapers and magazines.*

● OPPOSITE: **scale up**

**scaled-down** ADJ

reduced to a smaller size: *a scaled-down model of the statue*

**scale up****1 scale up sth** **scale sth up**

if a government, company etc scales something up, they make it bigger or do more of it than they did before or than they originally planned: *The company is scaling up production of mobile phones to take advantage of the increasing demand.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **increase**

● OPPOSITE: **scale down**

**2 scale up sth** **scale sth up**

to increase the size of something such as a drawing or a model of something: *Does the software allow graphics to be scaled up or down?*

● OPPOSITE: **scale down**

**SCAN**

scanned, scanned, scanning

**scan in****scan in sth** **scan sth in**

to copy images from paper onto a computer screen: *With a sheet-fed scanner, you can put in five or 10 pages of text and scan them in automatically.* | *The workers all had pictures of their families scanned into their computers and displayed on the corner of their screens.*

**SCARE**

scared, scared, scaring

**scare away/off****1 scare away/off sb** **scare sb away/off**

to make a person or animal go away by frightening them: *We lit fires to scare away the wolves.* | *Luckily, her sister came home and scared the intruder off before he could do any harm.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **frighten away/off**

**2 scare away/off sb** **scare sb away/off**

to stop someone from doing something they intended to do, by making them feel worried or nervous: *Mayor Brown blamed the media for exaggerating the city's crime problem and scaring tourists away.* | *Rising prices are scaring off many potential customers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **frighten away/off**

**scare up****scare up sth/sb**

AmE *informal* to look for something or someone that may be difficult to find: *Sellers went to England, trying to scare up a buyer for the firm.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **scrounge up** AmE

**SCHLEP**

schlepped, schlepped, schlepping

**schlep around****schlep around** **schlep around sth**

AmE *spoken informal* to waste time by doing almost nothing: *"What did you do today?" "Not much. I just schlepped around the house, really."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **loaf around**

**SCHOOL**

schooled, schooled, schooling

**be schooled in****be schooled in sth**

*old-fashioned* if you are schooled in a way of thinking or a way of doing something, you have been taught it: *Victor Amadeus had been carefully schooled in the duties of a Catholic prince.*

**SCOOP**

scooped, scooped, scooping

**scoop out****scoop out sth** **scoop sth out**

to remove the inside part of something using your hand, or a spoon: *Cut the melon in half and scoop out the seeds.*

**scoop up****scoop up sth** **scoop sth up**

to put your hands under something and lift it up with a quick movement: *She put her hand into the pond and scooped up a tiny frog.* | *His mother scooped him up in her arms and cuddled him.*

**SCOOT**

scooted, scooted, scooting

**scoot over****scoot over**

AmE *spoken informal* to move in order to make space for another person: *Can you scoot over, please?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **move over**

**SCOPE**

scoped, scoped, scoping

**scope out****scope out sth/sb** **scope sth/sb out**

AmE *informal* to look at something or someone to see what they are like: *We used to scope out the prettiest girls first thing at our high*

school dances. | *The coalition has sent staff to scope out the housing situation for the city's homeless.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **check out**

## SCORE

scored, scored, scoring

### score off

score off sb

BrE to try to make someone seem stupid and make yourself seem clever, especially by saying something clever or funny: *I never liked Professor Lyle – he was always trying to score off his students.* | *Politicians don't debate anything seriously – they just exchange insults and try to score off each other.*

### score out/through

score out/through sth

score sth out/through

old-fashioned to draw a line through something that has been written because it is wrong or unsuitable: *Mr Kronweiser thought for a moment, then neatly scored through the word 'unusual', and replaced it with 'exceptional'.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cross out, delete**

## SCOUR

scoured, scoured, scouring

### scour away

scour away sth    scour sth away

if water or wind scours rock or land away, it removes it gradually over a long period of time: *Rain had scoured away the soft sandstone.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **erode, wear away**

### scour out

1 scour out sth    scour sth out

to clean the inside part of something very thoroughly by rubbing it hard with a rough material: *The pans need to be scoured out.*

2 scour out sth    scour sth out

if flowing water scours out a hole, pool, valley etc, it forms the hole, pool etc by continuous movement over a long period: *The stream had flowed down the mountainside and scoured out the perfectly formed pool below.*

## SCOUT

scouted, scouted, scouting

### scout around

ALSO **scout about/round** BrE

### scout around/about/round

to look for something in a particular area: *We haven't got much food in. I'll scout around in the village and see what I can get.*

+ for *I put up the tent and then went scouting round for firewood.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **look around**

### scout out

scout out sth

to examine an area in order to get information about it, especially in a military situation: *They had sent in advance troops to scout out the dangers.* | *American companies are eager to scout out business opportunities in Vietnam.*

### scout round

BrE

SEE **scout around**

## SCRABBLE

scrabbled, scrabbled, scrabbling

### scrabble around

ALSO **scrabble about/round** BrE

1 scrabble around/about/round

especially BrE to try to find something by making quick movements with your fingers, often when you feel nervous: *She scrabbled around for a piece of paper to write on.* | *Digby's briefcase burst open, and his face burned red as 1000 delegates watched him scrabble about on the floor, trying to retrieve its contents.*

2 scrabble around/about/round

especially BrE to try to find a way of getting something that you need, when you are worried because you need it urgently

+ for *The government cut their funding without warning, and they found themselves scrabbling around for alternative sources of income.*

## SCRAMBLE

scrambled, scrambled, scrambling

### scramble for

scramble for sth

to struggle or compete with other people to get or reach something: *Thousands of football fans were scrambling for tickets to next weekend's All-Ireland Final at Croke Park in Dublin.* | *People scrambled for the exits as flames tore through the building.*

**SCRAPE**

scraped, scraped, scraping

**scrape along****scrape along**

to have just enough money to buy the things you need to live, but no more

+ on *Many children live in poverty, their families managing to scrape along on less than £150 a week.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get by, scrape by**

**scrape by****1 scrape by**

to have just enough money to buy the things you need to live, but no more: *My parents lent me some money, and somehow we managed to scrape by.*

+ on *Mature students with young families are having to scrape by on an inadequate student grant.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get by, scrape along**

**2 scrape by** **scrape by sth**

AmE to only just succeed in doing something for example passing an examination or dealing with a situation: *When Mike finally scraped by his exams and got into college, Mary wept with joy. | In the end Dole just managed to scrape by in Iowa and lost New Hampshire.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **scrape through**

**scrape in/into****scrape in** **scrape into sth**

to only just succeed in being accepted into a college, or a profession, or in winning an election, game, or race: *Our daughter Louise just scraped into university, but in the end she managed to get a good degree. | The Labour candidate scraped in with a majority of only 80 votes.*

**scrape out****scrape out sth** **scrape sth out**

if you scrape out a bowl or other container, you use a knife or spoon to remove all the food or other substance that is stuck to its sides: *My mother spooned the cake mixture into a tin, and then gave me the bowl to scrape out.*

**scrape through****scrape through** **scrape through sth**

to only just succeed in passing an examination or course, or in winning an election, game, or race: *I scraped through my final exams with grades only just high enough to secure me a place at college.*

+ to *The team had scraped through to the quarter-finals by beating Tondu 12–10.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **scrape by** AmE

**scrape together/up****scrape together/up sth****scrape sth together/up**

to succeed in getting enough money for a particular purpose, when this is very difficult to do: *Lucy Tucker, 24, was homeless in Pasadena, doing odd jobs to scrape up enough money to eat. | Though virtually penniless, he scraped enough money together to educate his six sons. | Finch built her first business with money scraped together from friends, family members and former employers.*

**SCRATCH**

scratched, scratched, scratching

**scratch around**ALSO **scratch about/round** BrE**1 scratch around/about/round**

to struggle to get something that you need, such as money or food, often by searching in different places

+ for *There were still homeless people on the streets scratching around for a place to shelter.*

**2 scratch around/about/round**

to search for something on the ground using your hands or a stick: *A pathetic skinny dog was scratching around behind the dustbins searching for scraps of food.*

**scratch out****scratch out sth** **scratch sth out**

to draw a line through a written word using a pen or knife, so that it cannot be read: *He looked through the book, but many of the names had been scratched out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cross out, score out/through**

**scratch round** BrESEE **scratch around****SCREAM**

screamed, screamed, screaming

**scream out****scream out** **scream sth out**

to shout something in a loud high voice, because you are frightened or angry: *His mother screamed out, "Run! Run for your life!" | "You bastard, Hayman," Manville screamed out to the empty, darkened streets.*

**scream out in terror/pain** *Everywhere there were people running about, screaming out in terror.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cry out**

## scream out at

**scream out at sb**

if something screams out at you, it is very noticeably ugly or wrong – use this about colours that are too bright or very bad mistakes or faults: *The bathroom tiles are a really horrible colour – whenever I go in there they just scream out at me.*

## SCREEN

screened, screened, screening

### screen off

**1 screen off sth screen sth off**

to separate part of a room from the rest of the room by using a curtain or wall that can be moved: *An area at the far end of the hall had been screened off as a waiting-room.*

+ with/by *The prayer room was screened off from the rest of the church by heavy velvet curtains.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **partition off, curtain off**

**2 screen off sth screen sth off**

to put something such as trees, buildings, or a wall in front of an area so that it cannot be seen

+ with/by *The end section of the garden was screened off by a row of fir trees.*

### screen out

**1 screen out sth screen sth out**

to use tests and other methods to prevent unsuitable people from joining a company or organization: *Extensive inquiries were made to screen out job applicants with criminal records.* | *Testing and the use of questionnaires screen out high-risk blood donors who may have been infected with malaria or the HIV virus.*

**2 screen out sth screen sth out**

to prevent harmful or unwanted light, gas, sound etc from entering somewhere: *Sun lotions protect your skin by screening out dangerous ultraviolet rays from the sun.* | *Teletype machines could be heard in the studio, so efforts were made to screen out this noise.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **filter out**

## SCREW

screwed, screwed, screwing

### screw around

**1 screw around**

AmE spoken informal to spend time doing silly things: *The guys in the back of the class would always screw around and learn nothing.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fool around, mess around** informal

**2 screw sb around**

spoken especially AmE to cause trouble or problems for someone, especially by changing your mind a lot or preventing them from getting what they want: *They really screwed us around – every day there was a new set of rules and regulations.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess around** informal, **piss about/around** BrE informal

**3 screw around**

spoken informal to have sex with a lot of different people. This is a rude expression and some people are offended by it: *Axel's girlfriend Doro thought he had been screwing around.*

+ with *My father was screwing around with other women, and Mum found out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sleep around** informal, **cat around** AmE old-fashioned informal

### screw around with

**screw around with sth**

AmE spoken informal to make unnecessary changes that affect something in an annoying way and cause problems: *The last time he'd screwed around with Helen's rent, there'd been a fight.* | *All the tax people care about is screwing around with small businesses like mine.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess around with** informal, **mess with** informal

### screw out of

**screw sth out of sb**

informal to force someone to give you money or information: *landowners who screwed all they could out of the local peasants*

### screw over

**screw sb over screw over sb**

AmE spoken informal to deceive someone, especially in order to get money from them dishonestly, or to cause someone a lot of problems: *My last company really screwed me over.* | *No wonder workers feel sore when their own unions are screwing them over.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rip off** informal



**screw up****1 screw sb up**

spoken *informal* if a bad experience screws you up, it makes you feel unhappy, anxious, and confused for a long period of time: *It really screwed her up when her mother died.* | *I used to do a lot of drugs, and they really screwed me up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **fuck up** *taboo*

**screwed-up** ADJ

a *screwed-up* rich kid who got himself expelled from boarding school | *The guy's really screwed-up. He had a terrible time when he was a kid.*

**2 screw up screw up sth****screw sth up**

spoken *informal* to make a mistake or to spoil something: *Somebody screwed up, and it got delivered to the wrong house.* | *You've really screwed up this time. The boss is furious.* | *How can anyone support a government that's screwing up the economy, as this one is?* | *Why did you let Slater handle the deal? I knew he'd screw things up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mess up** *informal*, **foul up** *informal*

**screw-up** N [C]

a mistake that spoils arrangements: *There'd been a screw-up in plane reservations.*

**3 screw up your eyes/face, screw your eyes/face up**

to make your eyes narrower or the muscles in your face tighter: *Miss Jarman screwed up her face in disgust.* | *"I can't abide that man – there's something devious about him."* | *He rested his arms on the railing and looked out over Central Park, his eyes screwed up against the sun.*

**4 screw up sth screw sth up**

BrE if you screw up a piece of paper, you twist and crush it with your hands making it into a small round shape: *Vida screwed up the letter and threw it into the trash.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **crumple up**

**SCRIBBLE**

scribbled, scribbled, scribbling

**scribble down****scribble down sth scribble sth down**

to write something quickly in an untidy way: *I scribbled down his phone number and promised to call him.* | *By age 9 Carpenter was scribbling down poems and playing the guitar.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jot down**

**SCRIMP**

scrimped, scrimped, scrimping

**scrimp on****scrimp on sth**

to spend very little money for something or buy something that is cheap and of bad quality: *Builders seem to scrimp on windows to keep costs down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **skimp on**

**SCROUNGE**

scrounged, scrounged, scrounging

**scrounge up****scrounge sth up scrounge up sth**

AmE to collect the money or things that you need to do something, or find someone who can help you to do it, especially when this is difficult: *The students have to scrounge up relatives who will give them a room.* | *I'll see if I can scrounge up some old clothes for the garage sale.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **scare up** AmE *informal*

S

**SCRUB**

scrubbed, scrubbed, scrubbing

**scrub out****scrub out sth scrub sth out**

to clean the inside of a place or object thoroughly, using a brush or similar cleaning tool: *It's your turn to scrub out the bathtub.* | *Tom scrubbed the bucket out and placed it on the rack to dry.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **clean out**

**scrub up****scrub up**

if a doctor or nurse scrubs up, they wash their arms and hands before doing a medical operation: *Dr. Hannon, you should probably scrub up now for your one o'clock patient.*

**SCRUNCH**

scrunched, scrunched, scrunching

**scrunch up****1 scrunch up sth scrunch sth up**

to twist or crush something into a small shape: *I scrunched up the letter I was writing and started over.* | *Don't scrunch up my shirt like that. It'll get wrinkled.*

**2 scrunch up sth scrunch sth up**

to twist your face, eyes, nose etc into a funny shape in order to show how you are feeling: *Matt scrunched up his face and shook his*

head in disgust. | "What's that terrible smell?" Ellen asked, scrunching up her nose.

\* SIMILAR TO: **screw up**

### 3 scrunch up

AmE informal if people scrunch up, they sit or stand very close to each other: *Scrunch up, please! More people need to get on the bus.* | *We all scrunched up on the couch to watch the Super Bowl.*

## SEAL

sealed, sealed, sealing

### seal in

seal in sth    seal sth in

to stop something from leaving the thing it is contained in: *Seal in the juices by frying the meat first.* | *The cream seals in moisture, and protects your skin from harmful UV rays.*

### seal off

#### 1 seal off sth    seal sth off

to stop people from entering a particular area or building, especially because it is dangerous: *Police sealed off flooded areas so rescue workers could search for survivors.* | *The East Germans built the Berlin Wall to seal off the border.* | *The bank was immediately sealed off as experts tried to negotiate with the gunman.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cordon off, close off**

#### 2 seal sb off

to separate someone from something, especially something they would usually be involved in: *For many years, China intentionally sealed itself off from the world economy.* | *Albanians were sealed off from the world for 50 years by its Communist government.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **isolate**

### seal up

seal up sth    seal sth up

to fasten or block something so that nothing can get in or out: *Grandpa sealed up the cellar doorway with bricks.* | *I packed the vase into a polystyrene box, and sealed it up with Sellotape.*

## SEARCH

searched, searched, searching

### search for

search for sth    search sth for sth

to try to find a solution to a problem or an explanation for something: *The money will be used to search for a cure for cancer.* | *Police searched the apartment for clues to the murder.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **seek**

## search out

search out sth/sb    search sth/sb out

to spend a long time looking someone or something before finding them: *NATO pilots were ordered to search out heavy weapons and destroy them.* | *At eighteen I decided it was time to search out my biological mother.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **locate** formal

## search through

search through sth

to look at several things, or the containers that hold these things, because you want to find something in particular: *He's searched through all his papers but still can't find the receipt.* | *Police patrolled the Bogota airport and searched through journalists' bags.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **look through**

## SECOND

seconded, seconded, seconding

### be seconded to

be seconded to sth

BrE to be sent to do a different job for a short time, especially in another part of a company or organization: *Jill's been seconded to the marketing department while David's away.*

## SECTION

sectioned, sectioned, sectioning

### section off

section off sth    section sth off

USUALLY PASSIVE

to divide an area into parts, especially by putting something between the parts: *They persuaded the council to section off some land at the back, so that tenants could grow their own vegetables.* | *In 1990 Blaine sectioned off parts of the historic mansion and rented them as private flats.*

## SEE

saw, saw, seeing

### see about

#### 1 see about sth NOT PASSIVE

to find out about something or make arrangements to do something: *"Did you see about that job today?" Bill's mother asked.*

**see about doing sth** *I went over to the police station to see about getting Marty out of jail, but he had already been released.*

## 2 I'll/we'll have to see about that spoken

used to tell someone that you do not know if something will be possible: "Mom, can I have a car for my birthday?" "We'll have to see about that. I'll have to talk to your father." | I can't promise, but I might be able to lend you a little money. I'll have to wait and see about that.

## 3 we'll see about that spoken

used to say that you intend to stop someone from doing something that they are planning to do: You're dropping out of school? Well, we'll see about that!

## see around/round

### see around/round sth

BrE to visit a place and walk around looking at it: Would you like to see around the old castle before dinner?

\* SIMILAR TO: look around

## see in

### 1 see sth in sb/sth

to notice a particular quality in someone or something that makes you like them: What did you ever see in that car? You should have sold it years ago. | Peter saw a combination of intelligence and humour in Kate that he had never found in anyone else.

### 2 I don't know what sb sees in sb/sth

*spoken* use this to say that you do not understand why someone likes someone or something: He just keeps hurting you. I don't know what you see in him, anyway. | I have no idea what he sees in Rachel, but he seems to adore her.

### 3 see sb in see in sb

to show a visitor the way to enter a building, office etc by walking there with them: My secretary will see you in. | Please see the guests in when they arrive.

\* SIMILAR TO: show in/into

● OPPOSITE: see out

### 4 see in the new year

to celebrate the beginning of a new year: We were late for the ball, and ended up seeing in the new year on a bus.

## see into

### see sb into sth

to show a visitor the way to enter a building, office etc by walking there with them: Clara, could you please see Kevin into my office?

\* SIMILAR TO: see in, show in/into

● OPPOSITE: see out

## see off

### 1 see sb off

to go to the airport, train station etc to say goodbye to someone who is leaving: Carlo and I saw him off at the 34th Street bus station. | My best friend Judy came to the airport to see me off.

\* SIMILAR TO: wave off, say goodbye to sb

### 2 see sb off see sb off sth

to chase someone away or to make someone leave a place: Grandpa saw the hunters off our property. | If you do not leave immediately, sir, I will have the security guards see you off.

### 3 see off sb/sth see sb/sth off

BrE to defeat an opponent in a game, or to successfully defend yourself against someone who is attacking you in a fight or battle: Newcastle United were seen off 1-0 by Liverpool. | The British saw the French off at the battle of Trafalgar.

\* SIMILAR TO: defeat

### 4 see off sb/sth see sb/sth off

BrE *informal* to kill someone: He realizes that the men have been hired to see him off, and so he poisons them.

\* SIMILAR TO: kill, do away with *informal*

## see out

### 1 see sb out

to show a visitor the way to leave by walking there with them: I'll see you out. This way, please. | Klein shook Carson's hand and saw him out.

I'll see myself out *spoken* (=used to tell someone they do not have to come to the door with you) There's no need to come downstairs - I'll see myself out.

\* SIMILAR TO: show out

● OPPOSITE: see in/into, show in/into

### 2 see sth out

to continue to do something until it finishes, even if it is difficult or you do not like doing it: Just see it out. There's only 4 weeks until the end of the course. | My job is terrible, but I'm going to see it out until the end of the year.

\* SIMILAR TO: see through, stick out

## see over/round

### see over/round sth

BrE to examine a building, especially when you are considering buying it: We saw round dozens of houses before we found one we wanted to buy.

\* SIMILAR TO: look round BrE

## see through

### 1 see through sth/sb NOT PASSIVE

if you see through someone or what they are saying, you realize that they are trying to influence you or deceive you: *Eventually I saw through her lies and ended the relationship.* | *Can't you see through him? He's just making excuses.*

### 2 see sth through

to continue to do something until it finishes, even if it is difficult or you do not like doing it: *It's a difficult job, but I'm going to see it through.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **see out**

### 3 see sb through see sb through sth

to help someone during a difficult time in their life: *My religious faith is the only thing that saw me through my divorce.* | *Times were hard, but Olivia's determination saw her through.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get through**

### 4 see sb through see sb through sth

if food or money sees you through, you have enough to last until you get some more: *The harvest was good, and the people had enough food to see them through the winter.* | *Can I borrow \$30? That should be enough to see me through until payday.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lost**

## see to

### 1 see to sth

to deal with something or make sure it happens: *"These papers need filing." "Don't worry, I'll see to that."* | *Our uncle took care of us and saw to our education.* | *You don't need to do anything – it's all been seen to already.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **deal with, attend to** formal

### 2 see to sb

to help someone or serve someone in a shop: *"Can I help you?" "It's all right, I'm being seen to."*

### 3 have sth seen to get sth seen to

to have a wound or injury treated by a nurse or doctor: *That looks like a nasty cut – you should get it seen to.*

## SEEK

sought, sought, seeking

## seek out

### seek out sth seek sth out

formal to try to find someone or something: *Weinstein advised his son to seek out employment in a large law firm.* | *The Navy plans to seek out help from experts who can suggest better ways to manage their ships.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **seek**

## SEEP

seeped, seeped, seeping

## seep away

### seep away

if a particular feeling or quality seeps away, it gradually disappears: *After about a minute, someone spoke, and the tension in the room began to seep away.* | *Two years later, the President watched as his power and authority seeped away.*

## SEGUE

segued, segued, segueing

## segue into

### segue into sth

especially AmE if one thing segues into another, it leads into it easily, usually because they are connected or similar: *The conversation segued into speculation about Oregon's chances in the Rose Bowl.* | *Fashion segued from a simple, minimalist style into a softer, more feminine mood.*

## SEIZE

seized, seized, seizing

## seize on/upon

● **Seize upon** is more formal than **seize on** and is mostly used in writing.

### seize on sth

to be very interested in an idea, opportunity, or what someone says because you can use it to get an advantage for yourself: *Democratic leaders seized on the opportunity to portray the president as indecisive.* | *The press seized on the story, and exaggerated it out of all proportion.* | *Tobacco companies have seized upon the free speech issue to defend their advertising campaigns.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pounce on/upon, leap on/upon**

## seize up

### 1 seize up

if an engine or part of a machine seizes up, its moving parts stop working properly and can no longer move: *"The engine seized up," the mechanic said.* | *"When did you last put oil in it?"*

### 2 seize up

BrE if a part of your body seizes up, it becomes very stiff and painful and you cannot move it: *His arms started seizing up in the last 10 metres of the race.*

## seize upon

SEE **seize on**

**SELL**

sold, sold, selling

**sell off****1** **sell off sth** **sell sth off**

to sell something cheaply because you no longer want or need it, or because you need money: *Mason had to sell off some stock to make a deposit on the house.* | *We sold off most of Grandma's things after she died.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sell****2** **sell off sth** **sell sth off**

to sell all or part of an industry or company: *The company plans to sell off its budget hotels and concentrate on upgrading its restaurants.* | *Britain is now selling off its railways and nuclear power stations.*

**sell-off** N [C]

when all or part of an industry or company is sold: *The stock market was hurt by a sell-off in high technology shares.*

**sell on****1** **be sold on sth**

to like or support something, especially an idea or plan: *Edouard Balladur, the finance minister, was already sold on the tax-cut policy.* | *The principal of Bonham High impressed her so much that she was sold on the school.*

**2** **sell on sth** **sell sth on**

BrE to sell something to another person soon after you have bought it: *She buys old houses, redecorates them, and sells them on at a profit.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sell****sell out****1** **sell out**

if a shop sells out of something, it has no more of that particular thing left to sell

+ of *Most music stores have already sold out of Ice Cube's new rap album.*

**be sold out** (=a shop has sold out of something) *The bakery is usually sold out of my favourite cake within two hours.*

**2** **sell out**

if a supply of something sells out, all of it has been sold and there is no more of it left to buy: *Tickets for the baseball game sold out in just five hours.*

**be sold out** (=something has sold out) *Copies of Don DeLillo's new book are sold out at Border's Bookstore.*

**3** **sell out**

if an event, performance, concert etc sells out, all the tickets have been sold and there are no more left to buy: *The Napa Valley Wine Auction sells out quickly.*

**be sold out** (=an event, performance, concert etc has sold out) *The Bellarmine College fashion show is sold out.*

**sell-out** N [C]

an event, performance, concert etc for which all the tickets have been sold: *The concert's sponsors are hoping for a sell-out.*

**sell-out** ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

a sell-out concert, performance etc is one for which all the tickets have been sold: *Metallica's sell-out tour of the US*

**4** **sell out**

to do something that is against your beliefs or principles in order to get power, money etc: *Mitch sold out, trading a lot of dreams for a bigger paycheck.*

**sell-out** N [C]

when you do something that is against your beliefs or principles because you want more money, power etc: *Some authors think writing cheap romance novels is a sell-out.*

**5** **sell sb out** **sell out sb** USUALLY PASSIVE

informal to not do what you promised to do for someone, or to help someone else instead of them: *We believe that American workers are being sold out in foreign trade deals.*

**sell-out** N [C]

when you do not do what you promised to do for someone, or when you help someone else instead of them: *The senator was accused of being a sell-out for not supporting minorities in congress.*

**6** **sell out**

to sell your business or your share of a business: *After four years, Glenn sold out to his sister, who continued to operate the restaurant alone.* | *Mr. Urbanek founded Randex Inc. in 1969 and later sold out to Perkin-Elmer.*

**sell up****sell up** **sell up sth** **sell sth up**

BrE to sell your house or business so that you can go somewhere else or do something else: *Rosa wanted Mum to sell up and go and live in Rome.*

**SEND**

sent, sent, sending

**send away****1** **send away**

to send a letter to a company or organization asking them to send something to you

+ for *Tamara sent away for information after reading a newspaper article on the National Teacher Corps.* | *My coach recommended many years ago that I send away for the Charles Atlas exercise manual.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **send off**

**2** send sb away    send away sb

to ask or tell someone to leave a place, or to arrange for them to go somewhere: *Send the kids away so we can talk privately.* | *I will always be thankful that my parents sent me away to college.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **send off**

**send back**

send sth back    send back sth

to return something, usually by mail, to the company or shop where it came from because you do not like or need it, or because it is broken: *I think I'll send the sweater back.* | *It just doesn't fit right.* | *Turner sent back the ring to the jeweler to replace the missing stones.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **return**

**send down**

**1** send down sth    send sth down

to make something lose value: *Concern over the U.S. economy sent the dollar down sharply.* | *Weaker demand and falling prices could send chemical profits down by more than 50 percent.*

**2** send sb down

BrE informal to put someone in prison: *He was found guilty of armed robbery and sent down for six years.*

**3** be sent down

BrE old-fashioned to be made to leave a university because of bad behaviour: *My brother was sent down from Oxford for smoking pot.*

**send for**

**1** send for sb

to ask or tell someone to come to you by sending them a message: *Elise's mother became worried about her cough and sent for the doctor.* | *One by one, Estrada sent for her children back in Mexico.*

**send for help** (=ask someone to go and find someone else, such as a doctor or the police, who can help you when you are in trouble) *Quick – someone send for help!*

**2** send for sth

to ask or order that something be brought or sent to you: *I'll send for the rest of my furniture when I get there.* | *Send for a free state travel guide to plan your next vacation.*

**send in**

**1** send in sth    send sth in

to send something, usually by mail, to a place where it can be dealt with: *Millions of people have sent in donations to help victims of*

*Hurricane Mitch in Nicaragua.* | *Send in your payment by the 5th of June or your insurance policy will be canceled.*

**2** send in sb    send sb in

to send soldiers, police etc somewhere to deal with a dangerous situation: *Police were sent in to break up the fight between football fans.* | *South Africa sent in troops and blocked the overthrow of the government by a rebel army.*

● OPPOSITE: **pull out, withdraw**

**3** send sb in    send in sb

to ask or tell someone to enter a room: *"Kelly is waiting, Mr Nelson." "Send her in."* | *Send in the jurors now, please.*

**send off**

**1** send off sth    send sth off

to send something somewhere by mail: *What should I do after sending off my resume?* | *Joe wrote poetry and sent it off regularly to The New Yorker.*

**2** send off

to send a letter to a company or organization asking them to mail something to you

+ for *Laura sent off for the catalogue.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **send away**

**3** send sb off    send off sb

to ask or tell someone to leave a place, or to arrange for them to go somewhere: *Armand's father sent him off at age 10 to live with friends in Moscow.* | *Mom always sends me off to the store to buy milk or bread.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **send away**

● COMPARE: **pack off**

**send-off** N [C]

when people gather together to say good-bye to someone who is leaving: *The rally was intended to provide a memorable send-off for President Bush.*

**4** be sent off

BrE if a sports player is sent off, they are forced to leave the field because they have broken the rules: *Arsenal had their captain Tony Adams sent off and four other players were booked.*

**sending-off** N [C]

when a sports player is forced to leave the field because they have broken the rules: *Hampson was given a ten-week ban after his third sending-off this season.*

**send on**

**1** send sth on    send on sth

to send something you have received to another place so that it can be dealt with: *A chain letter promises good luck if you send it on.* | *The local police investigated and then sent the case on to state officials.*



2 **send sth on** **send on sth**

especially BrE to send someone's letters, messages, possessions etc to their new address from their old address: *My flatmate promised to send on all my post.* | *Don't worry – I'll send on your boxes as soon as I hear from you.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **forward**

**send out**

1 **send sb/sth out** **send out sb/sth**

to make something or someone go from one place to various other places: *Sussman had sent out teams of reporters to interview demonstrators.* | *Her office sends out publications on organic farming to people all over the country.*

2 **send out sth** **send sth out**

to broadcast a message or produce sound or light: *The ship sent out a distress call when its engine room caught fire.* | *At 12:07 the pilot sent out a message that the plane was back on course.* | *The lighthouse sends out a powerful beam that can be seen miles out to sea.*

3 **send out a message/signal/warning etc**

to make people have a particular idea about something by what you say or do: *We don't want to send out the wrong message and make people think we support the use of illegal drugs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give out**

**send out for**

**send out for sth**

to telephone a restaurant and ask them to bring food to your home or work: *I usually send out for Chinese food when I work late at the office.* | *Could we send out for a pizza? I'm too tired to cook tonight.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **order out** AmE

**send up**

1 **send up sth/sb** **send sth/sb up**

to make something increase in value: *Gasoline supplies were short, sending prices up 16.7 percent.* | *Lawmakers estimate the new policy would send average medical bills up by about \$10 a month.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **increase**

2 **send up sb/sth** **send sb/sth up**

BrE informal to make someone or something seem silly by copying them in a funny way: *Harry Enfield sends up Tony Blair brilliantly in his new comedy series.* | *Stallone seems to spend most of the film sending himself up.*

**send-up** N[C]

a book, film etc that shows how silly someone or something is by copying them in a funny way: *George Hamilton's best-known film is his Dracula send-up, 'Love at First Bite'.*

**SEPARATE**

separated, separated, separating

**separate off**

1 **separate off sth** **separate sth off**

to separate part of something from the rest of it: *The kitchen area is separated off by a wooden partition.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **divide off, partition off**

2 **separate off sb/sth** **separate sb/sth off**

BrE to remove someone or something from a group of people or things: *Children with disabilities should not simply be separated off – their educational needs should be considered individually.*

+ from *Infected cows have to be separated off from the herd.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **isolate**

**separate out**

1 **separate out sb/sth**

**separate sb/sth out**

to divide a group or people or things into smaller groups: *In New York, householders are required by law to separate out different types of waste for recycling.*

+ into BrE *Most schools separate their pupils out into different groups, according to their ability.*

2 **separate out sth** **separate sth out**

to remove something from other things: *Each load of potatoes passes through a machine that separates out stones and lumps of earth.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **remove**

**SERVE**

served, served, serving

**serve as/for**

**serve as/for sth**

to be used instead of something when nothing more suitable is available: *There was an upturned box in the middle of the room that served as a table.* | *The prisoners slept on wooden benches, and a hole in the floor served for a toilet.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **do as/for**

**serve on**

1 **serve on sth**

if you serve on a committee or council, you are a member of it: *She serves on the board of the Colorado Women's Economic Development Council.* | *Alaman served on several financial committees, and is often called upon to give advice.*

2 **serve sth on sb**

to officially give or send someone a written order to appear in a court of law: *A court order had already been served on the debtor.* | *On Sunday morning federal agents tried to serve arrest warrants on Koresh for firearms offences.*

**serve out**1 **serve out sth** **serve sth out**

to continue doing something, until the end of a fixed period of time, especially the period of being a leader or being in prison: *The Hong Kong authorities many allow Stuchiner to serve out the remainder of his 10 year prison sentence in the US.* | *Many people believed that Roosevelt was too ill to serve out his four-year term as President.*

2 **serve out sth** **serve sth out**

BrE to put food onto plates so that people can eat it: *We all sat round the table, and Patsy served out the stew.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dish out**

## S

**serve up**1 **serve up sth** **serve sth up**

if a restaurant serves up a particular type of food, it offers that food to its customers – used especially in newspapers and books about restaurants: *Café Miranda serves up a wide range of seafood dishes, with a Mediterranean style flavor.*

2 **serve up sth** **serve sth up**

to put food onto plates so that people can eat it: *Do you want me to serve up the vegetables?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dish up**, **dish out**

3 **serve up sth**

to provide something as entertainment: *a new TV channel serving up 24 hour sports coverage* | *newspapers that serve up a daily diet of gossip, murder, and human suffering*

\* SIMILAR TO: **provide**, **dish up** *informal*

**SET**

set, set, setting

**set about**1 **set about sth** NOT PASSIVE

to start doing something, especially something that needs a lot of time and effort

**set about doing sth** *They settled in the United States after the war and quietly set about rebuilding their lives, putting the past behind them.*

**set about sth** *Once the house was built, he set about the task of decorating the interior.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start**

2 **set about sth** NOT PASSIVE

especially BrE to start dealing with something in a particular way

**set about doing sth** *It's a really good idea, but it's difficult to know how to set about doing it.*

**set about sth** *How do you set about it? Do you sit down with a blank sheet of paper and think "I'm going to write a poem about spring?"*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go about**

3 **set about sb**

especially literary to attack someone by hitting or kicking them: *Two men leaped out of the shadows and set about him with baseball bats.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **attack**, **lay into** *informal*

**set against**1 **set sth against sth**

BrE to consider whether the advantages in a situation are greater than the disadvantages: *The recent increase in output has to be set against increased labor costs.* | *The risks seem small when set against the potential benefits of biotechnology.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **weigh against**, **balance against**

2 **set sth against sth**

to compare two amounts, numbers, periods etc: *This £6 million grant seems less impressive when set against the government's £800 million investment programme for the region.*

3 **be set against sth**

if a film, play, story etc is set against a particular place or period of history, the story takes place in that place or during that period

**be set against the background/backdrop of sth** *Many of Forester's novels are set against the background of the Napoleonic Wars.* | *Infidelity, ambition, and violence are all part of this drama set against the glamorous backdrop of Beverly Hills society.*

4 **set against sth** **set sth against sth**

to be in front of a particular background, especially in a way that is attractive: *red and orange autumn leaves, set against a clear blue sky* | *a region of rice fields, coconut groves and jungles, set against a horizon of hazy mountains*

**set against a background/backdrop** *Bold stripes in red and orange are set against a crisp white background.*

5 **set sb against sb**

to make someone start a fight or quarrel with another person, especially someone who they had a friendly relationship with before: *The bitter civil war has set brother against brother.* | *Capitalists have a direct interest in*

setting white workers against black and undermining the unity of the working class.

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn against**

## 6 **be (dead) set against sth**

to be strongly opposed to something: *What made you change your mind? Last night, you were dead set against the idea.* | *When I first told my parents that I wanted to be an actor, they were dead set against it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be opposed to**

## 7 **set sth against tax**

BrE to make an official record of the amount of money that you have spent in connection with your business, in order to reduce the amount of tax that you have to pay: *Heating and lighting costs can be set against tax.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set off against**

## **set ahead**

### **set sth ahead**

AmE to change your clock or watch to that it shows a later time: *Don't forget to set your clocks ahead tonight.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put forward** BrE

● OPPOSITE: **set back**

## **set apart**

### 1 **set sb/sth apart** **set apart sth/sb**

if a quality sets someone or something apart, it makes them seem different and often better than other people or things: *It is humans' ability to think that sets them apart from other animals.*

+ **from** *What sets Brandy apart from other teenage pop singers is her voice, which has a sophistication beyond her years.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **distinguish**

### 2 **set apart sth** **set sth apart**

BrE to keep something for a special purpose and only use it for that purpose: *I try to set a half an hour apart to sit and relax.*

+ **for** *Traditionally, these days were set apart for prayer and fasting.* | *This part of the house was set apart for guests to stay in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set aside, put aside**

## **set aside**

### 1 **set aside sth** **set sth aside**

to keep something, especially time or money, for a special purpose, and only use it for that purpose

+ **for** *Try to set aside at least an hour each day for learning new vocabulary.* | *You should have set aside some cash to pay household expenses.* | *a room that had been set aside for visitors*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put aside**

### 2 **set aside sth** **set sth aside**

to decide that you will not be influenced by a particular feeling, belief, or principle, because something else is more important: *Thus Regan sets prejudice aside and thoughtfully explores the idea that all citizens, black and white, have the same moral rights.* | *It was no good thinking of revenge. Louis knew that he must set all such thoughts aside.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put aside, lay aside**

### 3 **set aside sth** **set sth aside**

if a judge or court sets aside a previous legal decision or agreement, they decide that it no longer has any effect: *Mr Justice Rock allowed the appeal and set aside the order of the Divisonal Court.*

### 4 **set aside sth** **set sth aside**

technical if a farmer sets aside land, he or she agrees not to grow any crops on it, and accepts a payment from the government for this: *One out of ten farmers set aside land in the rest of Europe, compared to six out of ten in the UK.*

#### **set-aside** N [U]

land that a farmer has agreed not to use for growing crops, and for which the farmer receives a payment from the government: *Set-aside schemes have taken land out of production to help reduce food surpluses.*

## **set back**

### 1 **set back sth** **set sth back**

to delay the progress or development of something: *The Revolution set back the modernization of the country by many years.* | *The Challenger disaster not only cost the lives of seven astronauts, but also set back the nation's space program for years.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hold up, put back, delay**

#### **setback** N [C]

something that delays the progress or development of something, or makes a situation worse than it was before: *The peace talks have suffered a series of setbacks.*

### 2 **be set back**

if a building is set back, it is some distance from the road: *The museum is a cool sandstone building, set back among trees.*

+ **from** *The Fords lived in an impressive white house, set back from the road and surrounded by woodland.*

### 3 **set sb back**

informal to cost someone a lot of money: *That's a nice coat – I bet that set you back.*

**set sb back \$50, £100 etc** *Many of these wines will set you back \$15–\$20.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock back** BrE informal

4 **set sth back**

AmE to change your clock or watch so that it shows an earlier time: *When do you set the clocks back?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put back** BrE

● OPPOSITE: **set ahead**

**set down**1 **set sth down** **set down sth**

to put something that you have been holding on a table or on the ground: *The waiter brought over two bowls of noodles and set them down on our table. | He had set down a bag of washing on the floor between his feet.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put down**

2 **set down sth** **set sth down**

to state how something should be done in an official document: *When Ted hired new people, he sometimes ignored the procedures set down by the company's personnel department. | Countries wishing to join the Economic and Monetary Union must meet the criteria set down in the Maastricht Treaty.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay down**

3 **set down sth** **set sth down**

to write your thoughts or feelings or a description of an event, so that you have a record of them: *I wanted to set my feelings down on paper. | 'Harriet the Spy' is a children's novel about an 11-year-old girl who spies on her parents and neighbors, and sets it all down in her notebook.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put down**

4 **set sb down** **set down sb**

BrE if the driver of a bus, taxi, or train sets you down somewhere, he or she stops there and lets you get out: *The driver set her down at the station.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drop off** informal

**set forth**1 **set forth sth**

formal to explain ideas, facts, or opinions in a clearly organized way, by writing or speaking: *Rousseau set forth his views on education in his book 'Emile'. | Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland have set forth joint plans to cope with environmental disasters such as oil spills in Arctic waters.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set out**

2 **set forth**

literary to begin a journey: *They were about to set forth on a voyage into the unknown. | At once, Richard set forth for Cyprus, where he defeated Isaac and rescued his sister and bride.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set off, set out**

**set in****set in**

if the rain, the winter, or a difficult period sets in, it begins and seems likely to continue: *As winter sets in, we can see a worrying increase in the number of young homeless people on our streets. | When the worldwide economic recession set in, many Third World nations faced bankruptcy.*

**set off**1 **set off**

to start to go somewhere: *I wanted to set off early to avoid the traffic. | What time did you set off?*

+ for *Merl kissed her husband goodbye and set off for work.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set out**

2 **set off sth** **set sth off**

to make a bomb explode or to make something cause an explosion: *The slightest movement would have set off the device and blown us all sky high. | a bunch of kids messing around in the street and setting off fireworks*

3 **set off sth** **set sth off**

to make something such as an alarm system start operating, especially when this was not intended: *The wind was so bad it had set off all the car alarms. | Put that cigarette out you idiot – you'll set the smoke detector off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **trigger off, activate**

4 **set off sth** **set sth off**

to make something start happening, or make people suddenly start doing something: *The earthquake set off landslides, which destroyed several villages, making many people homeless. | Hong Kong's stock market fell sharply, setting off a global financial crisis. | Government plans to make divorce easier has set off a national debate.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **trigger off, spark off**

5 **set off sth** **set sth off**

if a piece of clothing, colour, or decoration sets something off, it makes it look more attractive, especially because it is a very different colour: *A stylish beige dress set off with a pale blue scarf. | Johnny had movie star features, brown wavy hair and piercing blue eyes set off by his dark complexion.*

6 **set off sth** **set sth off**

if a type of food sets off another type of food, it makes it taste better when you eat them together, because it has a very different taste or feel in your mouth: *The rich duck liver is set off by toast and a crisp salad with a lemon dressing. | a rare steak nicely set off by spinach sautéed with garlic*

\* SIMILAR TO: **enhance**

7 **set sb off**

BrE spoken to make someone start crying, laughing, or talking about something that they often talk about: *Don't mention anything about weddings – you'll only set her off again.* | *Sue started crying, and then that set me off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start sb off**

**set off against****set sth off against sth**

BrE to make an official record of the amount of money that you have spent on things connected with your business, in order to reduce the amount of tax that you have to pay: *Heating and lighting costs can be set off against tax.* | *All employers who pay childcare costs can set these off against their liability for corporation tax.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set against, write off**

**set on**1 **set sb/sth on sb**

to make people or animals attack someone: *The farmer threatened to set his dogs on us if we didn't get off his land.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sic on** AmE

2 SEE **set upon/on****set out**1 **set out**

to start a journey, especially a long journey: *Columbus set out from Europe to discover a new route for the spice trade from the Orient.*

+ **for** *In late 1941, he set out for China, guided by a young comrade over the treacherous mountain trails.*

**set out on a journey/drive/voyage etc** *The next morning, at five o'clock, they set out on the twelve-hour drive north to Lake Tahoe.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set off**

2 **set out to do sth**

to start doing something, or making plans to do something, in order to achieve a particular result: *I've achieved what I set out to achieve – I'm ready for a new challenge now.* | *Scientists set out to discover whether high doses of vitamin A can help prevent cancer.* | *Salesmen who deliberately set out to defraud customers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start out**

**outset** N [SINGULAR]

the beginning of an event or process

**from/at the outset** *It was clear from the outset that there were going to be problems.*

3 **set out sth** **set sth out**

to explain ideas, facts, or opinions in a clearly organized way, by writing or speaking: *The guidelines are set out in paragraph 2.* | *In his speech the Prime Minister set out his priorities for the forthcoming term, with the emphasis on investment in education and training.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set forth** formal

4 **set out sth** **set sth out**

BrE to put a group of things somewhere, and arrange them so that they can be used or seen easily: *In the market square, traders had set out displays of items for sale, including ceramics and hand woven rugs.* | *On Saturday morning we set out plastic tables and chairs on the patio ready for the party in the afternoon.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay out, put out**

**set out on****set out on sth**

to start something, especially something difficult, important, or new: *From 1900 von Koerber's government set out on a programme of economic and cultural modernization.* | *Nicholson became a spy in 1980 and set out on a career of increasingly dangerous foreign assignments.* | *Charlie set out on a series of unfortunate marriages with very young girls.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **embark on/upon**

**set to**1 **set to**

BrE to start doing something eagerly, with a lot of determination and effort: *If we all set to, we can finish the cleaning in half an hour.*

2 **set to**

old-fashioned if two people set to, they start to argue or fight: *Two men on the bus suddenly set to, and the driver had to radio the police.*

**set-to** N [C]

an argument: *George had angrily quit the group after a set-to with Paul.*

**set up**1 **set up sth** **set sth up** **set up**

to start a business or organization

**set up sth/set sth up** *They want to set up their own import-export business.* | *The Race Relations Board was originally set up in 1965.*

**set up/set yourself up** (=start your own business) *He borrowed \$5000 and set himself up in the catering business.*

+ **as** *John used the money he inherited to set up as a fashion designer.*

**set up in business** (=start your own business) *a scheme that helps young people who want to set up in business*

**set up on your own** (=leave the company you work for to start your own business) *Carol used to work for a law firm, till she decided to leave and set up on her own.*

**set up shop** *informal* (=start a business in a particular place) *In 1976 Steve Jobs and Stephen Wozniak set up shop in Steve's parents' garage, and worked on a design for a new computer.*

## 2 set up sth set sth up

to make the arrangements that are necessary for something to happen: *I'll get my secretary to set up a meeting. | The company has set up a website to promote its products. | A telephone information line has been set up to provide citizens with information on water quality. | Police have set up an investigation into a series of attacks on gay men.*

**set-up** *N* [C]  
the way that things are done or organized in a place or organization: *"How's your new job going?" "OK, but they have a totally different set-up there, and I'm still getting used to it."*

## 3 set up set up sth set sth up

to prepare equipment so that it is ready to be used: *Have you set the microphone up? | I might need some help setting up my new computer. | The next band was already setting up on the other stage.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get ready**

**set-up** *N* [C]  
a piece of equipment consisting of several parts: *Imagine you have \$2000 to spend on a new hi-fi set-up.*

## 4 set up home/house

especially *BrE* to start living in your own home and buy furniture for it, especially when you leave your parents' home to live with a wife, husband, or lover: *There's a shortage of affordable housing for young people wanting to set up home.*

## 5 set up sth set sth up

to place or build something somewhere: *The police have set up roadblocks around the city. | Every year they get a huge Christmas tree from Norway and set it up in the main square. | Napoleon set up a monument to honour his great army.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put up**

## 6 set sb up

*informal* to deliberately make people think that someone has done something wrong or illegal when they have not: *The four suspects claimed they had been set up by the police. |*

*Protesting his innocence, Cahill still insists that someone set him up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **frame, stitch up** *informal*

## set-up

**set-up** *N* [C]  
a dishonest plan that makes people think someone has done something wrong when they have not: *Was Walker the real murderer, or was he the victim of an elaborate set-up?*

## 7 set sb up

to give someone the money they need to start a business

+ **with** *Her parents set her up with her own bar in St John's Wood.*

**set sb up in business** *After Pete graduated, his father set him up in business.*

## 8 set sb up for life

to provide someone with enough money to live well without having to work for the rest of their life: *Ray grinned under his moustache "If this deal goes through, Marge, we'll be set up for life."*

## 9 set sb up

*informal* to arrange for two people to meet because you think they will be attracted to each other: *"How did you meet your husband?" "A friend set us up."*

+ **with** *Marty tried to set her up with a guy from work.*

## 10 set sb up

*BrE* if food or sleep sets you up, it makes you feel healthy and full of energy

**set sb up for the day** *A good breakfast will set you up for the day.*

## 11 set up a commotion/din/racket etc

*BrE* to start making a loud, unpleasant noise: *Every morning the birds set up a deafening racket and woke the whole neighborhood. | The party guests set up a steady din that got gradually louder as the night wore on.*

## 12 set up sb/sth

to pass the ball to another player so that they can get a goal or a point

**set up a goal** *Sam Reed scored twice and then set up the third goal for Tom Cox.*

## set up as

### set yourself up as sth

to deliberately make people believe that you are important and that you have the authority or the skill to do something very well, especially when this is not true: *Politicians set themselves up as moral authorities, with the power to tell us how we should live our lives. | Manucci set himself up as a faith healer, and used tricks and deception to con money out of sick and desperate people.*



**be set upon/on****set upon/on** sb USUALLY PASSIVE

to suddenly attack someone: *He was set upon by a gang of hooligans as he left the bar. | A respectably-dressed young girl was set upon by four factory girls and unmercifully beaten. | A group of youths wearing leather jackets set upon him and pushed him to the ground.*

**SETTLE**

settled, settled, settling

**settle back****settle back**

to lean back in bed or in a chair, and relax and enjoy yourself: *She reached for her wine glass and settled back against the pillows, lighting a cigarette. | Milton settled back in his armchair and put his feet up on a footstool. | Jackie switched on the TV and settled back to enjoy the film.*

**settle down****1 settle down** **settle sb down**

to stop talking or behaving in a worried or excited way, and to become calm and quiet, or to make someone do this: *Shh! Settle down please! Now turn to page 57 in your books. | When Kyle was a baby we used to take him for long rides in the car to settle him down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **calm down****2 settle down**

to start living in a place with the intention of staying there, often with a husband or wife, and especially after you have travelled a lot or had other lovers: *It's about time he settled down and got married. | I don't feel ready to settle down and commit myself to a relationship yet.*

**3 settle down**

to start to feel happy and confident in a new situation, job, or school: *It took him a while to get used to his new school, but I think he's settled down now. | Has Vanessa settled down in her new job?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **settle in****4 settle down**

to start giving all of your attention to a job or activity

**settle down to sth** *I sorted out my mail and then settled down to some serious work.*

**settle down to do sth** *John settled down to write her a letter explaining his behaviour.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get down to****5 settle down**

if a situation settles down, it becomes calmer

and you are less busy and less worried: *Things were really hectic during the sales, but it's settled down now. | "I have missed seeing you," he wrote. "When things settle down, I'll call you."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, quieten down****settle for****settle for** sth

to accept something even though it is not the best, or not what you really want: *They want \$2500 for it, but they might settle for \$2000. | They haven't got any champagne, darling – we'll have to settle for white wine. | I'd like to get good grades, but I'll settle for a pass.*

**not settle for (anything) less** (=refuse to accept something that is not the best or is less than you want) *Olivia wanted an apartment in the most fashionable part of Paris. She wouldn't settle for anything less.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **to accept****settle in/into****settle in** **settle into** sth

to begin to feel happy and relaxed in a new situation, home, job, or school: *How do you like your new home? Are you settling in OK? | The new administrator, Chris Keech, is settling into the job after spending a week working alongside his predecessor.*

**be settled in** *We'll wait till you're properly settled in before we come and visit you.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **settle down****settle into****settle into** sth

to get used to a particular way of living or doing things because you know it will continue for a long time: *We soon settled into a daily routine of cleaning weapons, listening to the radio, and trying to catch up on sleep.*

**settle on****settle sth on sb**

BrE formal to make a formal arrangement to give money, land, or property to someone: *She settled a small yearly sum on each of her children.*

**settle on/upon**

● **Settle upon** is more formal than **settle on** and is used mostly in writing.

**settle on/upon** sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

if two or more people settle on something they agree to choose it, especially after discussing all the possibilities and thinking about it for a long time: *They haven't settled on a name for the baby yet. | They considered*

several sites for the new racquetball club, and eventually settled on one near Harford Mall.

\* SIMILAR TO: **decide on**

### settle up

#### settle up

to pay what you owe on an account or bill: *We settled up and checked out of the hotel.*

+ **with** *I'll settle up with the bartender and then we can leave.*

### settle upon

SEE **settle on/upon**

## SEW

sewed, sewed, sewing

### sew up

#### 1 sew up sth sew sth up

to close or repair something by sewing it: *There's a hole in my coat that needs sewing up.* | *The nurse cleaned out the wound then sewed it up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stitch up**

#### 2 sew up sth sew sth up USUALLY PASSIVE

*informal* to complete a business agreement or plan and get the result you want: *Bob reckons the deal should be sewn up within a week.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stitch up**

#### 3 have sth (all) sewn up

*informal* to have got control of a situation, and be sure to win or gain something: *It seems like the Democrats have the election all sewn up.*

## SHACK

shacked, shackled, shacking

### shack up

#### shack up

*informal* to start living with someone that you have sex with but are not married to – used especially to show disapproval

+ **with** *Michael shackled up with his new girlfriend as soon as he divorced his wife.*

**be shackled up** *Once they were shackled up, all they did was fight.*

+ **together** *The last thing I heard, she and her lover-boy were shackled up together somewhere in Glasgow.*

## SHACKLE

shackled, shackled, shackling

### shackle with

#### shackle sb with sth

to put limits on someone's freedom, in a way that is unreasonable and causes problems for

them: *Mr Mellor, unlike the Prime Minister, was opposed to shackling the press with privacy laws.* | *The EU has shackled traders with some of the most restrictive laws imaginable.*

## SHADE

shaded, shaded, shading

### shade in

#### shade in sth shade sth in

to make part of a drawing or picture darker using a pencil or a darker colour: *She started to shade in an outline of a tree with charcoal.*

### shade into

#### shade (off) into sth

if one thing shades into another, there is no clear division between them so that it is impossible to see where one stops and the other starts: *orange shading into yellow* | *It was a wet, misty day. At the horizon, the grey-blue sea shaded into the grey-blue sky.* | *National pride often shades into racism.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **merge into, blend into**

## SHAG

### be shagged out

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

#### be shagged out

*BrE spoken informal* to be extremely tired: *By the time I got home I was completely shagged out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be exhausted, be worn out, be tired out, be shattered** *informal.*

## SHAKE

shook, shaken, shaking

### shake down

#### 1 shake sb down

*AmE informal* to use force or threats to make someone give you money: *There is something wrong with a system that shakes the public down for more taxes every year.*

#### shakedown N [C]

when someone gets money from someone else by using threats: *After the thousand dollar shakedown, Ramon couldn't pay up any more.*

#### 2 shake sb/sth down shake down sb/sth

*AmE informal* to search a person or place thoroughly: *Lechuga decided to shake down Mexico's 447 prisons after 18 prisoners died.*

#### 3 shake down

*BrE informal* if a group of people shake down in a new situation, they get used to it and

start working effectively together: *I ask our fans to be patient until the team shakes down.*

#### 4 shake down

BrE *old-fashioned* to sleep on the floor, on a seat etc because there is no proper bed for you: *If you miss the last bus, you can always shake down on the floor here.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **kip down** BrE *informal*

#### shakedown N [SINGULAR]

BrE a place prepared for you on a floor, seat etc where you can sleep: *There weren't any beds left so I had to be content with a shakedown in the corridor. | I can't drift off to dreamland on a shakedown settee.*

#### shake off

##### shake off sth    shake sth off

to get rid of an illness or something that is causing you problems or having a bad effect on you: *I've had this flu for weeks – I just can't seem to shake it off. | Melanie Griffith never manages to completely shake off the dumb blonde image, perhaps because of her squeaky little girl voice. | It was 1949, and Europe was still shaking off the horror of World War II.*

#### shake on

##### shake on sth

to agree on a decision or business agreement by shaking hands (=holding someone's hand and moving it up and down): *"That's a deal," I said, and we shook on it. | Can the two leaders shake on a deal that will bring peace to the Middle East?*

*let's shake on it* Carter stood up. "Let's shake on it." He held out his hand.

#### shake out

##### shake out sth    shake sth out

##### shake sth out of sth

to shake a cloth, bag, sheet etc, in order to make it smooth or to get rid of small pieces of dust or dirt: *She put the tray on Nicandra's knees and shook out a white napkin. | I went outside and shook the insects out of my sleeping bag.*

#### shake out of

##### shake sb out of sth

to force someone to change their mood, so that they stop feeling sad, upset, or lazy, and realize there are things they must deal with: *Her best friend had moved away, and there was no one to help shake Lena out of her depression. | She tried to shake herself out of it, but as soon as she calmed down she began crying again. | "William!" The teacher's angry voice shook him out of his reverie. | If*

*the bombing of a hospital cannot shake this government out of its complacency, what will?*

#### shake up

##### 1 shake sb up    shake up sb

to give someone a very unpleasant shock, so that they feel very upset and frightened: *Seeing that accident really shook me up. | When we heard the news were too shaken up and surprised to react immediately.*

##### 2 shake up sth    shake sth up

to make big changes to a company or organization over a short period of time, in order to make it more effective: *A new director was brought in last year to shake things up. | When Albano was sworn in as mayor two weeks ago, he vowed to shake up the police department.*

#### shake-up N [C]

when big changes are made to a company or organization over a short period of time, in order to make it more effective: *a financial crisis that led to a major management shake-up | a huge shake-up of the education system*

## SHAPE

*shaped, shaped, shaping*

#### shape up

##### 1 shape up

*informal* to make progress and improve: *The new recruits are shaping up nicely. | You'd better shape up, John, or you'll be off the team. | Broad evidence indicates that the California economy is shaping up.*

##### 2 shape up

if a situation, activity, or struggle shapes up, it develops: *Events were shaping up worse and faster than I could have expected – I was in danger of losing control of the situation. | A titanic battle is shaping up on the Internet between two computer heavyweights. | Well, Sue, less than a week to go before the show! How's it all shaping up?*

##### 3 shape up

to make yourself healthy and physically strong so that your body looks good, by exercising or eating particular foods: *Here are 12 easy exercises to help you shape up for the summer.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tone up**

## SHARE

*shared, shared, sharing*

#### share out

##### share out sth    share sth out

BrE to divide something into smaller amounts, and then give an amount to each

person in a group: *Take these cookies and share them out.*

+ **between** *We've got three pizzas to share out between five people.*

+ **among/amongst** *The business is obviously very profitable, but the profits are not fairly shared out among those who are helping to generate them.*

\* **SIMILAR TO:** **divide up**, **divvy up** *informal*

**share-out** **N** [C]

when something is shared out between people: *the unequal share-out of education cash in South Africa under apartheid*

## SHARPEN

sharpened, sharpened, sharpening

### sharpen up

#### 1 sharpen up sth sharpen sth up

to improve something so that it reaches the necessary standard or quality: *We need a few more rehearsals to sharpen up the dance routine.*

#### 2 sharpen up

to become more skilled and effective and more determined to succeed: *Dobson has sharpened up by training with Olympic sprinter David Grindley.*

#### 3 sharpen up sth sharpen sth up

if you sharpen up a picture or photograph, you make it clearer so that all the details can be seen: *By using digital technology we can sharpen up the picture on your television screen.*

## SHAVE

shaved, shaved, shaving

### shave off

#### 1 shave off sth shave sth off

to remove hair from your skin completely by shaving

**shave off your hair/beard/moustache** *As soon as Dan got his first job, he shaved off his beard and bought a suit and tie. | Sigourney Weaver shaved off all her hair to star in the film Aliens III.*

#### 2 shave sth off sth

to reduce something by a small amount by making a special effort to do this: *By shopping extremely carefully, I found I was able to shave about 10% off my weekly bill. | Carey needed to shave two seconds off his best time to have a chance of qualifying for the Olympics.*

#### 3 shave off sth shave sth off

to remove very thin pieces from the surface of something, using a knife or other cutting tool: *Use a knife to shave off very fine rolls of chocolate and scatter them over the cake.*

## SHEAR

### be shorn of

#### be shorn of sth

*formal* if a person or thing is shorn of something that they used to have, for example power or a special quality, it has been taken away from them: *The king, shorn of more and more of his powers, had very little idea of what was happening.*

### shear off

#### shear off shear off sth shear sth off

if a part of something made of metal shears off, it breaks away from the rest of it, especially because it has become weak or old: *The left wing of the aeroplane had almost completely sheared off when it hit the ground.*

## SHELL

shelled, shelled, shelling

### shell out

#### shell out shell out sth

*informal* to pay or give money for something, especially when you do not want to, or when you think it is too expensive

+ **for** *We don't want to have to shell out for a Christmas disco again this year – it costs a fortune!*

+ **on** *Kids these days shell out £30 or £40 on a computer game without even thinking about it.*

\* **SIMILAR TO:** **fork out** *informal*, **cough up** *informal*

## SHIFT

shifted, shifted, shifting

### shift for

#### shift for yourself

*old-fashioned* to look after yourself without any help from other people, especially by making your own meals: *In some families when the mother went to work, children as young as seven or eight were left to shift for themselves.*

\* **SIMILAR TO:** **fend for yourself**

**SHIN** BrE **SHINNY** AmE

shinned, shinned, shinning BrE

shinnied, shinnied, shinnying AmE

**shin down** BrEALSO **shinny down** AmE**shin/shinny down** sth

to quickly climb down something such as a tree or pole by wrapping your arms and legs around it: *The thief must have climbed out of a back window and shinnied down the drain-pipe.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **climb (down)****shin up** BrE**shinny up** AmE**shin/shinny up** sth

to quickly climb up something such as a tree or a pole, especially by using your hands and legs to pull and push yourself up: *It was incredible to see the local people shinnying up palm trees with no effort at all.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **climb (up)****SHINE**

shone, shone, shining

**shine out****1 shine out**

if a light shines out, it shines very brightly, especially from a distance: *Just at that moment the clouds parted and the sun shone out. | The sitting room door was open and a light was shining out across the stairs.*

**2 shine out**

BrE to be much better at something than others in a very noticeable way: *The overseas division shone out as the group's star performer last year.*

+ from *A few of the children shone out from all the others.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand out****shine through****shine through** sth

if a good quality that someone has shines through, it is easy to notice it: *Kindness and humour shone through his letters. | Gary's chess talents shone through at an early age, and he won the World Junior Championship.*

**SHINNY**SEE **shin** BrE **shinny** AmE**SHIP**

shipped, shipped, shipping

**ship in****1 ship sth in** **ship in sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

to bring goods or materials to a place in a ship or plane, especially in large quantities: *Many consumer goods such as videotapes and electric shavers are shipped in from abroad.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bring in****2 ship sb in** **ship in sb**

to bring people to a place in order to work there, for example from another country because there are not enough people available in the place already: *Because of the shortage of staff in our schools, teachers had to be shipped in from Europe.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bring in****ship off****1 ship sb/sth off** **ship off sb/sth**

informal to send or take people somewhere, especially without asking them if they want to go: *I was shipped off to school in England at the age of seven, leaving my family behind in Sierra Leone.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **send away, pack off****2 ship sb/sth off** **ship off sb/sth**

to send people or goods to a place in a ship: *In 1850 the slaves were sold in Havana, and shipped off to work in sugar plantations.*

**ship out****1 ship sth/sb out** **ship out sth/sb**

to send goods or people somewhere in a ship or plane, especially in large quantities: *Food and clothing will be shipped out to the disaster area within the next few days.*

**2 ship out**

informal to leave a place: *The men were under orders to ship out early next morning.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **leave****SHOOT**

shot, shot, shooting

**shoot down****1 shoot sb/sth down** **shoot down sb/sth**

to make an enemy plane and the people in it crash to the ground, by firing bullets or weapons at it: *American war planes shot down an Iraqi jet inside the no-fly zone. | In 1983 a Korean airliner was shot down over the Soviet Union after straying near a top secret submarine base.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bring down**

**shootdown** N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]  
especially AmE when an enemy plane is made to crash to the ground, by firing bullets or weapons at it: *There will be an international investigation into last weekend's shootdown of the two planes.*

**2 shoot down sb shoot sb down**

to kill or seriously injure someone by shooting them, especially people who cannot defend themselves: *The army were accused of shooting down unarmed demonstrators.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **gun down, shoot**

**3 shoot sth/sb down shoot down sth/sb**

informal to say or show that someone's ideas or opinions are wrong or stupid: *America Online shot down rumours of a merger between the two companies.*

**shoot sth/sb down in flames** (=completely destroy someone's ideas by showing that they are wrong or stupid) *The article was shot down in flames by government scientists.*

**shoot for**

**shoot for sth**

AmE to try to achieve a particular aim or goal: *Coach Bruce Corbett said he is shooting for a winning record this season.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **aim (for), try for**

**shoot off**

**1 shoot off**

informal, especially BrE to leave somewhere very quickly or suddenly: *Every time I see him, he looks at his watch and shoots off to a meeting.* | *Jane got on the horse, which immediately shot off at great speed across the field.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **speed off, dash off** informal, **rush off**

**2 be shot off**

if a part of someone's leg, head etc is shot off, it is completely destroyed by a bullet: *One woman had survived the massacre, although her arm had been shot off.*

**shoot out**

**shoot it out**

informal to fight against someone with guns, especially until one person or group is killed or defeated by the other

+ **with** *The terrorists were trapped in the house, and were forced to shoot it out with the police before being overpowered.*

**shoot-out** N [C]

a fight between two people or groups who shoot at each other with guns until one of them wins: *At least two people at the prison were killed in a shoot-out with security forces.*

**be shot through with**

**be shot through with sth**

if a piece of writing or music is shot through with a particular feeling or quality, it contains a lot of it: *The stories are short, and shot through with Hurley's dry gentle humour.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be filled with**

**shoot up**

**1 shoot up**

to increase very quickly and suddenly: *Some experts think that house prices will shoot up again this year.*

+ **to** *Odette's weight shot up to fourteen stone after her children were born.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rocket up**

**2 shoot up**

if a child shoots up, he or she grows taller very quickly and suddenly: *I can't believe this is Christopher – he's shot up since I last saw him!*

**3 shoot sth up shoot up sth**

to damage a building or injure a person, by shooting them with bullets: *There's nothing for the refugees to return to; their homes have gone, shot up and blown apart.* | *On June 17th Chapman was badly shot up, wounded in the head.*

**4 shoot up shoot up sth**

informal to put harmful illegal drugs into your blood, using a special needle: *Kids as young as ten are shooting up heroin.* | *Junkies used the restroom downstairs for shooting up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jack up** BrE informal

**SHOP**

shopped, shopped, shopping

**shop around**

**shop around**

to try to find the best price, quality, deal etc when you want to buy something or use a service, by going to different shops or companies and comparing what they offer: *You can halve the cost of insuring your home, simply by shopping around.*

+ **for** *Prices for sporting equipment vary enormously, and it's worth shopping around for the best buy.*

**SHORE**

shored, shored, shoring

**shore up**

**1 shore up sth shore sth up**

to support something that is weak or likely



to fail, by doing something that will help to make it stronger: *The administration is considering tax relief to help shore up the US airline industry.* | *Throughout the day the bank sold both dollars and European currency, in an effort to shore up the pound.*

## 2 shore sth up shore up sth

to support a wall or a building with large pieces of wood or metal, in order to stop it from falling down: *The tunnel was in danger of collapsing at any minute, and was shored up with old wooden beams.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **prop up**

## SHOUT

shouted, shouted, shouting

### shout down

shout sb down shout down sb

to shout loudly while someone is talking because you want to prevent them from being heard: *Several students stood up to protest, but they were quickly shouted down.* | *Opposition MPs tried to shout him down, but he carried on with his speech.*

### shout out

shout out sth shout sth out

shout out

to suddenly shout something or say something in a loud voice: *Someone in the audience shouted out "Get on with it!"* | *Maria could hear people screaming and laughing and shouting out her name.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **call out, yell out**

## SHOVE

shoved, shoved, shoving

### shove around

ALSO shove about BrE

shove sb around/about

informal to tell someone what to do in a rude or unpleasant way, without considering what they want: *I left my old job because I was fed up with being shoved around.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **push around, boss around**

### shove off

#### 1 shove off!

spoken informal used to rudely tell someone to go away, especially when you are annoyed with them or they are disturbing you: *Show off, Gerry. I don't want you here.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **push off** BrE spoken informal, **buzz off** spoken informal, **clear off** spoken informal, especially BrE

#### 2 shove off

informal to leave somewhere: *Apparently the entire team had shoved off for a fortnight's holiday in Bermuda.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **leave**

### shove up

shove up!

spoken informal used to tell someone to move a little in order to make space for someone else: *If you shove up a bit, we can all get in the back seat.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **move up, budge up** BrE informal

## SHOW

showed, shown, showing

### show around

ALSO show round BrE

show sb around/round sth

show sb around/round

to go around a place with someone to show them what is interesting or what they need to know: *In the morning the Professor showed us around the university.* | *A representative had arranged to meet us at the house that afternoon and show us round.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **show over** BrE, **take around**

### show in/into

show sb in show sb into sth

to lead someone who is visiting into a room or a building, especially in order for them to meet someone there: *I waited on the steps for about five minutes before somebody finally opened the door and showed me in.* | *A secretary showed Alison into a large office.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **see in/into**

● OPPOSITE: **show out**

### show off

#### 1 show off

to try to make other people admire you, by behaving in a way that you think makes you seem intelligent, skilful, or rich, but in fact is just annoying or silly: *I can't stand the way she shows off in front of the other students.*

+ to *Apparently Nick had been driving much too fast – showing off to the other guys in the car.*

#### show-off N [C]

informal a person who tries to make other people admire them, by behaving in a way that they think makes them seem clever, skilful, or rich, but in fact is just annoying or silly: *Leman was the youngest of ten children – a show-off and a class clown.*

**2** show off sth/sb    show sth/sb off

to show something or someone that you are very proud of to a group of people: *She wanted to show off her new outfit at the party.*

+ to *Chris's friends had never met his girlfriend, and he was looking forward to showing her off to them.*

**3** show off sth    show sth off NOT PASSIVE

if one thing shows off something else, it emphasizes its good qualities and makes it seem even more attractive: *Her jeans were tight-fitting, showing off her tall slim figure.*

\* SIMILAR TO: set off

**show out**

show sb out    show out sb

to go with someone to the door when they are leaving a room or a building, especially after they have been visiting or meeting another person

+ of *Mr Burrows ended the meeting by asking his secretary to show me out of the office.*

\* SIMILAR TO: see out

● OPPOSITE: show in

**show over**

show sb over sth    show sb over

BrE to go around a place with someone who comes to visit it, in order to show them what is interesting or what they need to know: *Lou seemed to enjoy her company, showing her over the nearby castle and taking her for long drives. | If you're interested in the garden I can show you over some time.*

\* SIMILAR TO: show around

**show round**

SEE show around

**show through**

show through    show through sth

if a quality or feeling that someone has shows through, it is noticeable: *The senator replied politely, but his irritation showed through. | Robinson's talent showed through last season when he averaged 27.6 points.*

**show up**

**1** show up

informal to arrive, especially at a place where people are expecting you: *We spent half an hour waiting for Martin to show up. | Macari failed to show up for the match.*

\* SIMILAR TO: turn up, pitch up BrE informal

**2** show up

BrE if a problem or fault shows up, it is easy to see or notice: *In the sunlight, the decayed state of the house showed up clearly. | We were told that the bone was definitely broken – it had shown up on the X-ray.*

**3** show up sth    show sth up

BrE to make a problem or fault easy to see or notice: *These results have shown up serious faults in our examination system. | Richards is to have further tests on his injured shoulder, which should show up the extent of the damage.*

\* SIMILAR TO: reveal

**4** show up sb    show sb up

informal to make someone feel embarrassed or ashamed, because of something that you do or say: *You can always rely on your children to show you up in public!*

\* SIMILAR TO: embarrass

**5** show sb/sth up    show up sb/sth

USUALLY PASSIVE

to show that someone or something is bad, unpleasant etc, especially when it was not clear before

+ as *By now the administration had lost control, had been shown up as useless.*

**be shown up for what it is** (=be shown to be something bad, unpleasant etc) *The idea was soon shown up for what it was – a waste of time and money.*

**SHOWER**

showered, showered, showering

**shower on/upon**

● **Shower upon** is more formal than **shower on** and is mostly used in writing.

**1** shower sth on/upon sb

if you shower praise, honours etc on someone, you praise them a lot or give them a lot of honours: *Last night senior officers showered praise on the young policewoman for her courage. | I didn't think it was a particularly good film, despite all the Oscars and awards that were showered on it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lavish on/upon

**2** shower sth on/upon sb

to give a lot of money or gifts to someone in a very generous way: *At Christmas everyone longs to shower gifts on their family and friends – but where is the money to come from?*

**shower with**

**1** shower sb with sth

to give someone a lot of something, especially presents or praise, in order to show

them how pleased, grateful etc you are: *The players will be showered with gifts, like cars and luxury apartments, if they beat England for the first time.* | *The critics showered the film with praise when it first came out.*

## 2 shower sb with sth

to throw a lot of something over someone: *The crowds cheered in the streets and showered her with flowers and petals.* | *At that moment the bomb exploded, showering people with glass and debris.*

## SHRINK

shrank, shrunk, shrinking

### shrink away

#### 1 shrink away

to move back and away from someone or something, especially because you are frightened or you do not want them to touch you

+ from *"You're disgusting," Nell said to him, shrinking away from him and shivering.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shrink back, shrink from**

#### 2 shrink away

to try to avoid doing or being involved in something that is unpleasant

+ from *Verity was a shy, nervous girl, who always shrank away from unpleasantness of any sort.*

**shrink away from doing sth** *Most of the workers shrank away from saying anything that might annoy their boss.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shy away from**

### shrink back

#### shrink back

to move back and away from something or someone, especially because you are frightened or you do not want them to touch you

+ against *"Well?" the teacher asked in a voice that made all four of her students shrink back against the wall.*

+ into *As the men neared her hiding place, Tilly shrank back into the shadows.*

### shrink from

#### 1 shrink from sth

OFTEN NEGATIVE

to feel very unwilling to do something, or to deliberately avoid doing something, especially because it is unpleasant or difficult: *The former Prime Minister never shrank from her duties as leader, even when she was faced with tough opposition.* | *These were men who would not shrink from violence.*

**shrink from doing sth** *He did not shrink from doing what he thought was right.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shy away from**

## 2 shrink from sb/sth

to move back and away from someone or something, especially because you are frightened or you do not want them to touch you: *Maureen felt herself shrinking from him, preparing to run if she had to.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shrink away, shrink back**

## SHRIVEL

shrivelled, shrivelled, shrivelling  
shriveled, shriveled, shriveling AmE

### shrivele up

#### 1 shrivele up

if something or someone shrivels up, they become smaller and their skin becomes covered with lines because it is very dry or old: *The few unpicked apples on the top branches had shriveled up and gone brown.* | *Granny Tring lived in the house next to ours. She was old and shrivelled up, like a walnut.*

#### 2 shrivele up

to feel extremely embarrassed or frightened by something: *He was one of those men who shrivel up at the thought of their wives going out to work.* | *You'll never guess what my mother said in front of everyone – I just shriveled up inside!*

## SHROUD

### be shrouded in

#### 1 be shrouded in mist/clouds/fog/darkness etc

to be covered by mist, clouds etc, and difficult or impossible to see: *It was very early in the morning, and the mountains were still shrouded in mist.*

#### 2 be shrouded in mystery/secret etc

to seem very strange and mysterious, or to be deliberately kept secret: *The origins of Osiris are still shrouded in mystery.* | *For many years, the Rockwell incident has remained shrouded in mystery.* | *The talks between the British government and the terrorists were shrouded in secrecy.*

## SHRUG

shrugged, shrugged, shrugging

### shrug off

#### shrug off sth shrug sth off

to not worry about something and treat it as unimportant: *Polly tried to shrug off Geoff's remarks, but they had put her in a bad mood for the evening.* | *Many people with the illness fail to recognize the symptoms, or shrug them off as unimportant.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **brush off, shuck off** AmE informal

**SHUCK**

shucked, shucked, shucking

**shuck off**

- 1 **shuck off sth**    **shuck sth off**

AmE *informal* to take off a piece of clothing in a quick and careless way: *Michael shucked off his coat and hat and went to his room.*

- 2 **shuck off sth**    **shuck sth off**

AmE *informal* if you shuck off an idea or feeling, you stop paying attention to it because you do not care about it or do not want to think about it: *I tried to shuck off my worries and have a good time.*

\* SIMILAR TO: ignore, shrug off

**SHUFFLE**

shuffled, shuffled, shuffling

**shuffle off**

- shuffle off sth**    **shuffle sth off**

to try to avoid dealing with something, especially by giving the responsibility for it to someone else

+ **onto** *Everyone has a responsibility to their family – you can't just shuffle it off onto other people.*

**SHUT**

shut, shut, shutting

**shut away**

- 1 **shut sb/sth away**    **shut away sb/sth**

to put someone or something in a special place so that they are hidden and cannot leave or be taken away: *Should young people of fifteen or sixteen be shut away in ordinary jails when they commit a crime?*

**keep sb/sth shut away** *Gina was puzzled as to why her father kept the diaries shut away, and never mentioned them.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lock away, hide away

- 2 **shut yourself away**

to keep away from other people, for example by going to a quiet room or staying at home, especially for long periods: *I often had to shut myself away until two or three in the morning in order to get the work done. | You've got to talk to someone about it – you can't just shut yourself away in your room all day.*

\* SIMILAR TO: hide away

**shut down**

- 1 **shut sth down**    **shut down sth**

**shut down**

if a business, factory, shop etc is shut down

or shuts down, it closes and stops working for a long time or permanently: *In 1982 a series of strikes led to the airline being shut down. | A private nursing home had to shut down recently, following complaints of poor hygiene and care.*

\* SIMILAR TO: close down

**shutdown** N [C]

when a business, factory, shop etc closes for a long time or permanently: *The power station has just re-opened following a prolonged shutdown for maintenance.*

- 2 **shut sth down**    **shut down sth**

**shut down**

if you shut down a machine, you turn it off to stop it working: *A report confirmed that the crash happened when the pilot accidentally shut down the wrong engine. | The correct way to shut the computer down is to type 'Exit' and then switch off.*

- 3 **shut down**

if a machine shuts down, it turns off and stops working: *The loss of power caused every computer in the building to shut down. | There was further trouble for the astronauts when one of the cooling systems shut down suddenly during a space walk.*

\* SIMILAR TO: shut off, turn off

**shutdown** N [C]

when a machine turns off or someone turns it off so it stops working: *The engine allows shutdown just 30 seconds after landing.*

- 4 **shut down sb**    **shut sb down**

AmE *informal* to prevent an opposing player or team from playing well or getting points in a game or sport: *We all knew that if we wanted to win we'd have to shut down Bobby Mitchell.*

**shut in**

- 1 **shut sb/sth in sth**    **shut sb/sth in**

to prevent a person or an animal from leaving a place, by closing and often locking the door: *It was not at all unusual to punish children by shutting them in a room and leaving them there. | The owners had gone away for the weekend, leaving two dogs and a cat shut in on their own.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lock in

- 2 **shut yourself in (sth)**

to go into a room and shut the door so that no one else can get in: *Mark shut himself in his bedroom, got out the cigarettes and practised smoking one. | "Why have you shut yourself in, dear?" my mother asked, banging on the door.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lock in

3 **be shut in**

to be in a very small space, especially so that you feel that you cannot move or get out: *Working down the coal mines meant being shut in without enough air or light for long hours every day.*

**feel shut in** (=feel that you cannot escape from a situation or place that limits what you can do) *I felt shut in that village – it was full of gossiping old men and women.*

**shut off**1 **shut off sth** **shut sth off**

if you shut off an engine, machine, power supply etc you deliberately turn it off to stop it working: *As Victor drew up outside his apartment, he shut off the engine and sat there, thinking about the future.* | *When you're the last one leaving the office, always shut off the computers and lock the door.* | *After the storms, the electricity was shut off for two days.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **switch off, turn off**

**shut-off mechanism/valve** N [C]

a shut-off mechanism is able to stop the flow of gas, liquid etc to a machine if necessary, and so stop the machine working: *They criticized the lack of an automatic shut-off mechanism in the cooling system.*

2 **shut off**

if an engine, machine or power supply shuts off, it turns off and stops working: *Experts thought that the plane's engines may have shut off automatically after the explosion.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **switch off, turn off**

3 **shut yourself off**

to avoid meeting or talking to other people or having normal friendly relationships with them: *After my husband died I realized that I couldn't shut myself off for ever, so I started attending evening classes and tried to get out more.*

+ **from** *The way he spoke to me was cold and remote, shutting himself off from me completely.*

**shut yourself off from the world/reality** *The old lady had unplugged the telephone and disconnected the doorbell, determinedly shutting herself off from the world.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cut off**

4 **shut sth off** **shut off sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

if a road, area etc is shut off, fences have been put round it people are not allowed to go there: *Because of the explosion parts of the city were shut off and traffic was being diverted.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **block off**

5 **shut off sth** **shut sth off**

if something shuts off a view, the light etc, it

prevents you from seeing it by getting in the way: *A wall of mountains shuts off the view as you look south from Lamia.* | *A large van was in the street outside, shutting off the daylight from the window.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **block out**

**be shut off from****be shut off from sth**

to be completely separated from other people or things, so that you do not communicate with them and are not influenced by them: *The country was still living in the Middle Ages, having been shut off from the outside world for centuries.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be cut off, be isolated (from)**

**shut out**1 **shut sb out** **shut out sb**

especially BrE to prevent someone from joining in an activity: *It's important that everyone is included in these decisions – at the moment some of the staff feel very shut out.*

+ **of** *I knew there was something exciting going on but I was shut out of it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **leave out**

2 **shut sb out** **shut out sb**

to deliberately not tell someone about your thoughts and feelings, and not allow them to be involved in your life, especially in a way that upsets them: *How can I help you if you keep shutting me out all the time?* | *Ella knew that Travis was shutting her out, that their relationship had changed and they could never go back.*

3 **shut out sth** **shut sth out**

to deliberately stop yourself from thinking about something that is unpleasant or upsetting: *I tried to sleep in an attempt to shut out my fears, but I couldn't.*

**shut sth out of your mind** *My mother must have known what my father did, but she didn't ask any questions, she just shut it out of her mind.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **block out, blot out**

4 **shut out sth** **shut sth out**

to prevent a sound, light etc from getting into a place: *Kellie put her hands over her ears to shut out his unpleasant remarks.* | *It was cool in the wood – the big green leaves shut out the sun.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **block out**

5 **shut sb out** **shut out sb**

to prevent someone from entering a place, especially by closing a door: *I tried to see him several times, but he shut me out by slamming the door in my face.*

## 6 shut out the world

if someone shuts out the world, they separate themselves from the rest of the world, especially in order to be quiet and peaceful: *Martin leaned on his bedroom door, trying to shut out the world.* | *When she's reading, she seems to be able to shut out the rest of the world.*

## 7 shut out sb shut sb out

AmE to defeat an opposing team or player by preventing them from getting any points: *Colorado shut out Kansas City, 3-0, in the first game of the playoffs.*

## shut up

## 1 shut up!

spoken informal used to tell someone rudely or angrily to stop talking: *"Shut up!" said Terry. "I don't care what you think."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **belt up!** BrE spoken informal

## 2 shut up shut sb up shut up sb

informal to stop talking, or to make someone stop talking: *I can't stand that woman - she never shuts up.* | *Once he starts talking, it's difficult to shut him up.*

## 3 shut sb up shut up sb

to keep a person or an animal somewhere and prevent them from leaving: *Simply shutting more and more people up in prison doesn't solve the problem of crime.*

+ in *The chickens have to be shut up in the shed at night, because of foxes.*

## 4 shut up shop

BrE informal if a business shuts up shop, it closes permanently: *Another tour operator, Impact Holidays, which specializes in Turkish destinations, shut up shop yesterday.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **close down**

## 5 shut up sth shut sth up shut up

to close and lock a house, shop, room etc that you own, so that people cannot get into it or use it: *Mr Barnaby was just shutting up his shop in East London, when a gang of four armed men burst in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **close up**

## SHY

shied, shied, shying

## shy away from

## shy away from sth

to avoid doing something because you are nervous about it or you do not feel confident enough

+ from *There are some members of the party who criticize the leadership in private, but shy away from a direct challenge.*

shy away from doing sth *Logan had said that they would reach an agreement by April, but he shied away from setting a firm date.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shrink from**

## SIC

sicked, sicked, sicking

## sic on

## sic sb/sth on sb

AmE to tell someone or something to attack or catch someone: *Get off my property or I'll sic my dog on you.* | *Equal rights organizations will sic lawyers on you if they think you're discriminating against minorities.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set on**

## SICK

sicked, sicked, sicking

## sick up

## sick up sth sick sth up

BrE informal if you sick up something that you have eaten or drunk, it comes back up from your stomach and out of your mouth - used especially about babies and young children: *A lot of babies tend to sick up some of their milk after being fed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bring up** BrE, vomit

## SICKEN

sickened, sickened, sickening

## sicken of

## sicken of sth

to stop wanting to have or do something, because you have had or done enough of it already: *Harry found that he usually sickened of a girl's company after a few weeks.* | *After six months I was already sickening of political life.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tire of**

## SIDE

sided, sided, siding

## side against

## side against sb

to join together with other people in order to oppose another person, country, or group: *My proposal was turned down, because a number of my colleagues sided against me at the last minute.*

## side with

## side with sb NOT PASSIVE

to support a person, country, or group in an argument or fight: *Klein was shocked to find that, when he and Vanessa split up, most of his*



*friends sided with her. | In 1977 the Soviet Union sided with Ethiopia in the conflict.*

## SIDLE

sided, sidled, sidling

### sidle up

#### sidle up

to walk towards someone or something slowly and a little nervously, as if you do not want anyone to notice what you are doing

† to *A woman with a baby in her arms sidled up to us and asked us for some money.*

## SIFT

sifted, sifted, sifting

### sift out

#### sift out sth/sb    sift sth/sb out

to separate particular things or people from a group of others, especially when this is difficult or takes a long time: *There are quite a number of interested buyers, but our first job is to sift out the ones that are really serious.*

† from *My job was bringing all the information together and sifting out the incorrect details from the rest.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **weed out**

### sift through

#### sift through sth

to carefully examine a large number of things in order to find something that you are looking for: *Fifty-four police officers are sifting through thousands of pieces of information provided by the public.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **comb through**

## SIGN

signed, signed, signing

### sign away

#### sign away sth    sign sth away

to give property or a legal right to someone else, by signing an official document: *Her husband had tricked her into signing away her rights to the property.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sign over**

### sign for

#### 1 sign for sth

to sign a document to show that you have received a letter, package etc: *I've got a registered letter for you. Could you sign for it here and print your name underneath?*

#### 2 sign for Liverpool/Arsenal etc

BrE to sign a contract agreeing to play for a particular football team: *Gallagher's contract was worth about £400,000 when he signed for Leeds in the summer of 1990.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sign with**

### sign in

#### 1 sign in

to write your name in a book when you arrive somewhere that you are visiting, for example a hotel or an office: *For security reasons, the company requires all visitors to sign in at reception.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign out**

#### 2 sign sb in    sign in sb

if you sign someone in at an office, club etc where they are a visitor, you write their name or your name in a book so that they are allowed to enter: *Smiley met me on the steps of his London club, signed me in and took me to lunch.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign out**

### sign into

#### sign a bill/legislation/ agreement etc into law

if someone in authority signs something into law, they make it part of the law, by signing an official document: *De Klerk signed forty-five bills into law at a ceremony in Pretoria, including the legislation scrapping apartheid.*

### sign off

#### 1 sign off    sign off sth

to end an informal letter that you are writing, by giving your final message: *Well, I'll sign off now. Many thanks again for having us to stay – Jean. | Sometimes it's difficult to know how to sign off a letter in another language.*

#### 2 sign off

informal to end a radio or television broadcast or programme by saying goodbye: *This is Emma Campbell for Radio Gloucester: signing off.*

#### 3 sign off

informal to finish doing something, especially after you have been doing it for a long time: *It was 8.58 pm and I'd been working hard all day so I decided it was time to sign off.*

#### 4 sign sb off    sign off sb

BrE if a doctor signs someone off, he or she gives them a note for their employer saying that they are ill and are not able to work: *Mrs Mawdsley telephoned the office the following day to say that she had seen her doctor and had been signed off for a month.*

**5 sign off**

BrE to stop claiming the money given by the government to people without employment, because you have found a job: *A lot of people sign off in the summer months, when there are seasonal jobs available.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign on**

**6 sign off sth sign sth off****sign off on sth**

to show that you approve of a plan or that something is ready by writing your name on an official paper: *She has to sign the book off before it can go to the publishers.*

**sign off on sth** AmE *Engineers have signed off on a permit to repair part of the interstate bridge.*

**sign on****1 sign on**

to officially agree to work for someone or do a training course, usually by signing a contract or form

+ **with/as** *Faulk's career with the Vicksburg newspaper began in 1935, when he signed on with them as a reporter. | I signed on as a volunteer at the homeless shelter.*

+ **for** *Some of the refugees managed to get to university by attending evening classes or signing on for correspondence courses.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sign up**

**2 sign on sb sign sb on**

BrE to arrange for someone to sign a contract or form saying that they agree to work for you or play for your team: *The club signed on three new players in July. | The Calvert Group has signed on Cedd Moses as their new general manager.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sign up**

**3 sign on sign on sth**

BrE to claim the money given by the government to people without employment, because you do not have a job: *When we left college there were so few teaching jobs available that a lot of us had to sign on.*

**sign on the dole** (=claim money from the government because you do not have a job) *Mr Kelly signed on the dole in July, after his company, Kelly House Development, went bust.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign off**

**sign out****1 sign out**

to write your name in a book when you leave somewhere that you are visiting, for example a hotel or an office: *I waited while Dr Fraker collected his bags and signed out.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign in**

**2 sign sb out sign out sb**

if you sign someone out of an office, club etc, where they are a visitor, you write their name or your name in a book to show that they have left: *You go ahead if you're in a hurry – I'll sign you out.*

● OPPOSITE: **sign in**

**3 sign out sth sign sth out**

to write your name on a form or in a book to show that you have taken or borrowed something: *All equipment must be signed out before it can be removed from the office. | I'm afraid I can't find that file and there's no record of its being signed out.*

**sign over****sign sth over sign over sth**

to give property or a legal right to someone else, by signing an official document

+ **to** *When Julie and her husband split after ten years of marriage, he signed over everything in the house to her. | The land has been signed over to his son.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sign away**

**sign up****1 sign up**

to arrange to take part in an activity or a course of study, by writing your name down on a form or list: *How many people have signed up to go on the theatre trip so far?*

+ **for** *I'm thinking of signing up for an evening class in classical guitar this year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sign on**

**2 sign up**

to sign a contract saying that you agree to work for someone

+ **with** *Robert's doing really well – he's signed up with Cambridge University Press to write a book on Astronomy.*

**3 sign sb up sign up sb**

to arrange for someone to sign a contract saying that they agree to work for you or to play for your team

+ **as** *An agency has now signed her up as a professional model. | Manchester United are very keen to sign him up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sign on**

**sign with****1 sign with sth**

to sign a contract agreeing to play for a particular sports team: *DeJuan Wheat signed with the Timberwolves after leaving the Lakers.*

**2 sign with**

if musicians sign with a company, they sign a contract allowing that company to record and sell their music: *Culture Club and their lead singer, Boy George, signed with Virgin early in 1982.*

## SILT

silted, silted, silting

### silt up

#### silt up

if a river or lake silts up, or something silts it up, it fills with sand, mud or soil etc and the water cannot flow properly: *In the eighteenth century, the San Diego River nearly silted up.*

## SIMMER

simmered, simmered, simmering

### simmer down

#### simmer down

especially BrE to stop being angry and become calm again: *Come on, Peggy, simmer down now. | After everyone had simmered down, the argument wasn't mentioned again.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **calm down, cool down**

## SING

sang, sung, singing

### sing along

#### sing along

to sing with someone else who is already singing or playing music: *The crowd was dancing and singing along.*

+ **with** *I always sing along with the radio when I drive.*

**sing-along** N [C]

an informal occasion when people sing songs together: *Bring your guitar and we'll have a sing-along.*

### sing

#### 1 sing out sing out sth

to sing loudly and clearly: *Toby cheerfully sang out the birthday song as soon as Ellen walked into the office.*

#### 2 sing out sing out sth sing sth out

especially literary to say something in a loud voice, especially in a friendly way: *"Good morning, Mrs. James!" she sang out as I passed her house. | When the dessert cart passes by, she sings out: "How about the strawberry cheesecake tonight, Vito?"*

## sing up

### sing up

BrE to sing more loudly: *Don't be shy – sing up!*

## SINGLE

singled, singled, singling

### single out

#### single out sb/sth single sb/sth out

to choose someone or something from among a group of similar people or things, especially in order to praise them or criticize them: *She singled out Brad Pitt as her favourite actor.*

+ **for** *Teachers should not single out students for special treatment.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pick out**

## SINK

sank, sunk, sinking

### sink back

#### 1 sink back

to sit or lie backwards in a more comfortable, relaxing position than you were in before: *Margaret sinks back into the couch for a moment and shakes her head. | Inhaling deeply, Duvall sank back against the pillows.*

#### 2 sink back

to return to a state that you were in before, or to return to a habit that you used to have

+ **into** *After the wedding, Eric and I sank back into our usual routine. | Eddie sank back into silence, apparently satisfied.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go back**

### sink down

#### 1 sink down

to let your body move or slide down to a sitting or lying position: *Tom sank down weakly on the sofa, still holding the newspaper in front of him. | I sank down next to her and looked at the photographs.*

#### 2 sink down

to move downwards: *The sun slowly sank down in the sky and disappeared behind the hills.*

### sink in

#### 1 sink in

if information, ideas, or facts sink in, you gradually understand them and realize their full meaning: *Ron paused, as if to let the message sink in. | Tears welled up in Nancy's eyes as the news of her father's death slowly sank in.*

## 2 be sunk in sth

to be in a particular state or mood, especially one that makes you sad or inactive, or makes you think a lot about something: *In the days that followed Diana's death, the whole nation seemed sunk in deep despair.*

**sunk in thought** *Greg remained on his stool by the bar, sunk in thought.*

## sink into

## 1 sink sth into sth

to bite something or stick a knife or other sharp object into something, especially using a lot of force: *The man sank a knife into his brother's chest during an argument.* | *The cat had sunk his claws into Llewelyn's right knee.*

**sink your teeth into sth** (=bite it violently) *She sank her teeth into his wrist and forced him to let her go.*

## 2 sink money/cash etc into sth

if you sink money into a business or product you provide a lot of money for it because you think you can make a profit later: *Developers have already sunk millions of dollars into vacant Malibu land.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **invest in**

S

## SIP

sipped, sipped, sipping

## sip at/on

## sip at/on sth

to drink something slowly, swallowing only small amounts: *Haney sipped on his tea and looked bored.* | *I sat on the porch, feeling good and sipping at a beer.*

## SIPHON also SYPHON BrE

siphoned, siphoned, siphoning  
syphoned, syphoned, syphoning BrE

## siphon away

## siphon away sth siphon sth away

to take something that would have been given to another organization or person: *Critics claim the plan would siphon money away from public schools.* | *Independent politicians threaten to siphon away votes from Democrat and Republican candidates.*

## siphon off

## 1 siphon off sth siphon sth off

to illegally take something, especially money, from an organization or business and use it for another purpose: *Billions of pounds have been siphoned off from government funds and placed into foreign bank accounts.* | *Three employees were caught siphoning off tickets and selling them for personal profit.*

## 2 siphon off sth siphon sth off

to remove liquid from a container using a tube, holding one end of the tube at a lower level than the container so the liquid comes out: *The thieves must have siphoned the gas off from our tank.*

## SIT

sat, sat, sitting

## sit around

ALSO sit about BrE

## sit around/about sit about/around sth

to spend a lot of time relaxing or not doing anything useful: *Marc and I would just sit about for hours and tell each other stories.* | *They just sit around the house and drink coffee all afternoon.*

**sit around/about doing sth** *The men sat around drinking whiskey and smoking Havana cigars.*

## sit back

## 1 sit back

to get into a comfortable position and relax: *Sit back and watch the movie.* | *Just sit back and read the paper – I'll make dinner tonight.*

## 2 sit back

to wait for something to happen without making any effort to do anything about it yourself: *You can't just sit back and expect customers to come to you.*

## sit by

## sit by

to allow something to happen when you should be doing something to try to stop it: *We can't just sit by and let our children's health be threatened.* | *Would you just sit by if it were your husband having an affair?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand by**

## sit down

## 1 sit down

to move into a sitting position after you have been standing: *The old lady got onto the bus and sat down.* | *"Mind if I sit down?" I asked.*

● OPPOSITE: **stand up**

## sit-down meal/dinner/restaurant etc N [C]

a sit-down meal, dinner, restaurant is one in which you sit at a table and eat a formal meal: *Are they having a buffet at the wedding reception, or a sit-down meal?*

## sit-down protest/strike etc N [C]

a protest in which people sit down, especially to block a road or other public place, until someone in authority agrees to listen

to their demands: *Police fired tear gas at several thousand people who had begun a sit-down demonstration.*

## 2 sit yourself down

spoken used to tell someone to move into a sitting position after they have been standing: *"Sit yourself down there for a minute," said the nurse.*

## 3 sit sb down

to make someone move into a sitting position, or to ask someone to sit down: *Our father used to sit us down and ask, "So, what are your goals, kids?" | She picked up the child and sat him down on the sofa.*

## 4 sit down

to try to solve a problem, or to deal with something that needs to be done, by giving it all your attention

+ with *"I am willing to sit down with the Mexican leaders to discuss free trade," Boice said. | Syria's willingness to sit down with Israel at a peace conference*

**sit down and do sth** *I'm going to sit down and get my taxes done before the weekend. | You've really got to sit down and get this conference organized.*

## sit for

sit for sb/sth

to sit in a particular position so that someone can paint you, take pictures of you etc: *Getting the actors to sit for a photograph was a difficult task. | Johnson sat for the painter four times before the portrait was finished.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pose (for)**

## sit in

### 1 sit in

to be present at a class, meeting, discussion, etc but only watch or listen instead of taking part: *Do you mind if I just sit in today? I'm not feeling very well.*

+ on *Denny went back to UCLA and sat in on a few lectures.*

### 2 sit in

to take part in a protest in which people sit down, especially to block a road or other public place, until someone in authority agrees to do what they want: *Police arrived after protesters began sitting in at the state capitol building.*

**sit-in** N [C]

a protest in which people sit down, especially to block a road or other public place, until someone in authority agrees to do what they want: *A sit-in organized by war protesters caused chaos in Bratislava's main square earlier today.*

## sit in for

sit in for sb

to go to a meeting, do a job etc instead of the person who usually does it: *Yvonne will be sitting in for me tomorrow while I'm at the conference. | Bryant Gumbel has never sat in for Tom Brokaw on the evening news broadcast.*

## sit on

### 1 sit on sth

informal to be very slow at dealing with something, or to delay dealing with something because you have not decided what you want to do: *Adrienne sat on the letter for a few days, unsure if she should mail it. | The bank sat on our loan application for two months.*

### 2 sit on sth

to officially be a member of a group that has authority or influence over an organization: *Alice sat on the board of directors for the Albany Chamber of Commerce | Roberta Smith is the first African-American woman to sit on the committee.*

### 3 sit on sth

to prevent someone from knowing a piece of information: *A good journalist will know when to sit on a story and when to publish one.*

## sit out

### 1 sit out sth sit sth out

to not take part in a game, competition, dance etc, because you are injured or tired: *Kosar sat out two games of the 1990 season because of a broken thumb. | I think I'll sit this dance out.*

### 2 sit out sth sit sth out

to wait until something is finished, even though you find it boring or unpleasant: *Teenagers danced to rock music, while their parents sat the night out uncomfortably.*

## sit over

sit over sth

if you sit over a meal, drink etc, you relax and take a long time to eat or drink it: *I thought maybe we could sit over a glass of sherry before dinner.*

## sit round

SEE **sit around**

## sit through

sit through sth

to stay at a meeting, performance etc until it finishes, even though it is very long or

boring: *We had to sit through a whole day of boring talks about the company.* | *The film was incredibly boring – I don't know how you managed to sit through it.* | *I've just sat through two hours of Lucy telling me all about her personal problems.*

### sit up

#### 1 sit up

to move into a sitting position after you have been lying down: *Wendy sat up in bed and stretched.* | *Are you able to sit up and eat something?*

#### sit-up *n* [C]

an exercise for your stomach muscles, in which you sit up from a lying position while keeping your feet on the floor: *Sit-ups are best done with your hands behind your neck.*

#### 2 sit up

to make your back straighter when you are sitting: *As the news comes on TV, Ken sits up in his chair and starts watching.* | *Sandie forced herself to sit up straight during the interview.*

#### 3 sit up

to stay awake and not go to bed: *I thought I'd sit up and wait for him to come home.* | *They sat up late into the night talking about old times.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay up**

#### 4 sit up and take notice

to suddenly start paying attention to someone or something: *People are starting to sit up and take notice about the dangers of genetically modified foods.*

## SIZE

sized, sized, sizing

### size up

size up sb/sth    size sb/sth up

to look at or think about a person or situation in order to form a judgement or opinion about them: *Rita has a talent for quickly sizing up people.* | *He had just spent a few minutes sizing up the difficulty of the task which lay ahead of him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **weigh up**

## SKATE

skated, skated, skating

### skate around/over

ALSO **skate round** BrE

skate around/over sth

to avoid talking about a problem or subject, or not give it enough attention: *In the early*

*part of the interview, Ms Bowie skated around questions about her relationship with Tom Weiner.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **skirt around, evade**

## SKETCH

sketched, sketched, sketching

### sketch in

#### 1 sketch in sth    sketch sth in

to give more information about a plan, idea etc: *In his speech, the president sketched in his idea for reducing taxes.* | *We'll sketch in the details about the new budget during the meeting.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **outline**

#### 2 sketch in sth    sketch sth in

to add something quickly to a drawing, without using much detail: *Jan sketched in a few people in the background, hoping to make the picture look more lively.*

### sketch out

#### 1 sketch out sth    sketch sth out

to describe something in a few words, giving only the basic details: *Holly will sketch out a plan of tours and concerts for the band.* | *Last month the Republicans sketched out \$4 billion worth of budget cuts.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **outline**

#### 2 sketch out sth    sketch sth out

to draw a basic picture, without including all the details: *Laura sketched out a little map to the party for her friends from out of town.*

## SKILL

skilled, skilled, skilling

### skill up

skill up    skill up sb

to improve your skills at work or get new skills, or to make people do this: *The new training programmes are intended to help people to skill up and make themselves more attractive to potential employers.* | *plans to skill up the company's workforce*

## SKIM

skimmed, skimmed, skimming

### skim off

#### 1 skim off sth    skim sth off

skim sth off sth

if you skim off money, you take it from a large amount of money and keep it for yourself, especially when it is dishonest or other people disapprove of you doing this: *Stark skilfully*



skimmed off a portion of the profits for himself without his partners realizing it. | Public officials have been accused of skimming money off the county budget.

## 2 skim off sth skim sth off

to remove something that is on top of a liquid or surface: *Reduce heat and cook 1 hour, skimming off the foam that rises to the top of the soup.* | *Skim off the excess fat from the pan before adding the rest of the ingredients.*

## skim over/through

### skim over/through sth

to read something quickly in order to find the main facts or ideas in it: *Would you mind skimming over the brochure before I take it to the printers?* | *Before the trip, Emma went to the library and skimmed through a book about Paris.*

## SKIMP

skimped, skimped, skimping

## skimp on

### skimp on sth

to not spend enough money, time, effort etc on something, or to not use enough of something, so that the result is unsuccessful or of bad quality: *Hospitals will not save money by skimping on patient care.* | *People who skimp on breakfast usually don't save calories because they end up eating more later in the day.* | *Fairchild accused the company of skimping on safety tests and inspections.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **scrimp** on AmE

## SKIN

skinned, skinned, skinning

## skin up

### skin up

BrE informal to make a cigarette with marijuana (=an illegal drug) in it: *When Jeff started to skin up, Holly decided it was time to leave.* | *Three teenagers were caught skinning up in the park.*

## SKIP

skipped, skipped, skipping

## skip off

### skip off

informal to leave a place suddenly, especially when you should not: *He skipped off for a vacation with a girlfriend and tried not to think about work.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go off**

## skip off with

### skip off with sth

informal to take something that does not belong to you: *Someone's just skipped off with my pen.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go off with, walk off with**

## skip out

### 1 skip out

AmE informal to leave a place suddenly, especially when you are trying to avoid something: *Randall skipped out of town in the middle of the night.*

### 2 skip out

AmE informal if you skip out on someone, you suddenly leave them and end your relationship

+ on *My Dad skipped out on us when I was five.*

## SKIRT

skirted, skirted, skirting

## skirt around

ALSO **skirt round** BrE

### 1 skirt around/round sth

to avoid an important or difficult problem, subject etc: *Johnston skirts around questions about his private life, preferring to focus on promoting his latest film.* | *If you continue to skirt round the problem, it will just get worse.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **skate around/over, evade**

### 2 skirt around/round sth

to go around the outside edge of a place: *We skirted around the town, to avoid getting caught in traffic.*

## SKIVE

skived, skived, skiving

## skive off

### skive off skive off sth

BrE informal to avoid work or school by staying away or leaving without permission: *Do you fancy skiving off and going down to the pub?* | *We used to skive off school to go to the beach.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **goof off** AmE informal

### skiver N [C]

someone who avoids work or school by staying away or leaving without permission: *Everyone knew Nev was the biggest skiver in the class.*

**SKOOCH**

skooched, skooched, skooching

**skooch over****skooch over**

AmE spoken *informal* to move sideways in order to make space for another person: *I can't see. Can you skooch over!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **skooch up** AmE spoken, **move over, shove up** spoken *informal*

**skooch up****1 skooch up**

AmE spoken *informal* to move sideways in order to make space for another person: *If you skooch up a little we can all sit here.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **skooch over** AmE spoken, **move up, shove up** spoken *informal*

**2 skooch up**

AmE spoken *informal* if a shirt or other piece of clothing skooches up, it is slowly pushed up by the movement of your body while you are wearing it: *I hate this shirt – it always skooches up!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **ride up**

**SLACK**

slacked, slacked, slacking

**slack off****1 slack off**

to become slower, weaker or less busy: *Business travel normally slacks off for the entire Thanksgiving week. | Economists predict sales will slack off after the holiday season. | Air raids and bombings slacked off as the enemy retreated.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slacken off**

**2 slack off**

*informal* to make less effort than usual, or to be lazy in your work: *It was Friday afternoon and we were starting to slack off. | Rumours that Mike Tyson had been slacking off in his training were denied by his manager.*

**slacker** N [C]

someone who is lazy or does not do all the work they should: *There's no system in our office for taking action against the slackers.*

**SLACKEN**

slackened, slackened, slackening

**slacken off****slacken off**

to become slower, weaker, or less busy: *By tonight the strong winds should begin to slacken off. | I expect business to slacken off over the summer.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slack off**

**SLAG**

slagged, slagged, slagging

**slag off****slag sb/sth off** **slag off sb/sth**

BrE *informal* to talk about someone in a very critical way, especially when they are not there: *I don't know why Greta doesn't break up with Dan. She's always slagging him off. | Poor Lucy! She's always getting slagged off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dump on** AmE *informal*

**SLAM**

slammed, slammed, slamming

**slam down****slam down sth** **slam sth down**

to hit something against a surface quickly and violently: *He slammed the phone down, yelling "What's going on out there?" | I slammed my fist down on the table and told him I wouldn't be treated this way.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bang down**

**slam into****slam into sth/sb**

to crash into something with a lot of force: *The Ford's brakes failed and it mounted the pavement, slamming into a lamp-post. | All 155 passengers died instantly when the plane slammed into the Tinpane mountain on Monday.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **crash (into)**

**slam on****slam on the brakes**

to suddenly put your foot hard on the brake in order to stop your car: *The driver slammed on the brakes, but it was too late.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jam on the brakes**

**SLAP**

slapped, slapped, slapping

**slap around**ALSO **slap about** BrE**slap sb around/about**

to hit someone several times with your hand – often used about a man who hits his wife: *Sykes would come home in a bad temper, slap his wife around and shout at her.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock about, rough up** *informal*

**slap down****slap sb/sth down** **slap down sb/sth**

to rudely tell someone that their suggestions, questions, ideas etc are stupid or unreasonable: *Mr Cheney promptly slapped me down*

for asking silly questions. | Margaret would slap down anyone who was bold enough to argue with her.

### slap on

#### 1 slap a tax/ban/fine etc on sth

informal to suddenly order that something should be taxed or forbidden, or that someone should pay a fine: *In 1991 the government slapped a 50% tax on all luxury goods.* | *The EU reacted by slapping a ban on imports of UK beef.* | *Gasoline retailers have slapped a surcharge on credit card sales.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **impose, put on**

#### 2 slap sth on sth    slap on sth

##### slap sth on

to put or spread large amounts of paint, butter etc on a surface quickly and carelessly: *Dad was in the kitchen, hurriedly slapping butter on slices of bread.* | *Ellie rushed upstairs and hurriedly slapped on some make-up.*

## SLATE

slated, slated, slating

### be slated for

#### 1 be slated for sth

if an event is slated for a particular time or date etc, it is planned to happen then: *A community meeting on the Boulder Creek town plan is slated for 7 p.m. Monday.* | *The singer's debut at New York's Carnegie Hall is slated for the 17th of October.*

#### 2 be slated for sth

to be expected to appear in a particular show, television programme, magazine etc: *Newman's story was slated for publication in Resistor magazine.* | *Councilwoman Molly McKasson is slated for an appearance on the evening news.*

## SLAVE

slaved, slaved, slaving

### slave away

##### slave away

to work very hard for a long time without much time to rest: *While you've been out enjoying yourselves, we've been slaving away in the kitchen all morning.* | *I've spent the last fourteen years slaving away, just to pay off our debts.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **toil away, slog away** BrE informal

## SLEEP

slept, slept, sleeping

### sleep around

##### sleep around

informal to have sex with a lot of different people without having a serious relationship with any of them: *I don't sleep around any more, not since I met Jack.* | *A guy who's spent his youth sleeping around isn't going to find it easy to settle down to married life.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **screw around** spoken informal

### sleep in

##### sleep in

to sleep later than usual in the morning, especially because you do not have to go to work or school: *We usually sleep in on Sunday mornings.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lie in**

### sleep off

##### sleep sth off    sleep off sth

to sleep until you do not feel ill any more, especially after drinking too much alcohol: *I suppose they're sleeping off the effects of last night's party.*

**sleep it off** *The old girl's had a drink too many. Leave her there and let her sleep it off.*

### sleep on

##### sleep on sth

to delay making a decision about something until the next day or later

**sleep on it** *There's no hurry. I'm going to sleep on it, and tomorrow I'll decide what to do.*

### sleep out

##### sleep out

to sleep outside: *We used to sleep out under the stars on warm summer nights.*

### sleep over

##### sleep over

informal to sleep at someone else's house for a night: *Is it okay if I sleep over at Jim's place tonight?* | *If you don't want to drive home, you're welcome to sleep over.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay over**

**sleep-over** N [C]

a party at which children or young people stay the night at someone's house: *One night Mary Jo went to a sleep-over at a friend's house.*

**sleep through****sleep through** sth

to continue sleeping while something is happening and not be woken by it: *How did you manage to sleep through all the noise?* | *I don't remember much about the play – I must have slept through most of it.*

**sleep together****sleep together**

if two people are sleeping together, they are having a sexual relationship with each other: *When did you find out that Betty and your husband were sleeping together?* | *After their baby was born, she and Jonathan stopped sleeping together.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **have sex****sleep with****sleep with** sb NOT PASSIVE

to have sex with someone: *I'm not going to tell you how many women I've slept with.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **have sex with****S SLICE***sliced, sliced, slicing***slice off****1 slice off** sth **slice** sth **off**

to remove a piece of something from the rest of it by cutting it with one movement of a sharp knife: *Slice off the bottom of each pear so they'll stand up in the dish.* | *His knife had slipped and sliced off the tip of his forefinger.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cut off****2 slice** sth **off** sth

to reduce a cost or total by a particular amount quickly and easily: *By using volunteers we were able to slice £10,000 off the cost of the project.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cut, chop off****slice up****slice up** sth **slice** sth **up**

to cut meat, bread, vegetables etc into thin flat pieces: *Slice up the onions and add them to the meat.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cut up****SLICK***slicked, slicked, slicking***slick back****slick back** sth **slick** sth **back**

to push your hair back from your face and keep it in that style: *His black hair was slicked back tight into a pony tail.*

**slick down****slick down** sth **slick** sth **down**

to put water or another substance on your hair to keep it close to your head: *He quickly straightened his tie and slicked down his hair with water before going out.*

**SLIM***slimmed, slimmed, slimming***slim down****1 slim down**

to become thinner, especially in order to be healthier or more attractive: *After three months on the diet she had slimmed down to a healthy 61 kilos.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **trim down****slimmed-down** ADJ

a slimmed-down person has become thinner and more attractive: *A slimmed-down Sarah Ferguson is now hosting her own TV show.*

**2 slim down** **slim down** sth**slim** sth **down**

if a company slims down or is slimmed down, it makes itself smaller, by getting rid of some of its workers: *Companies have been slimming down to improve their efficiency.* | *Responding to economic circumstances, ITN began slimming down its workforce.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **downsize****slimmed-down** ADJ

a slimmed-down organization has made itself smaller, especially by getting rid of some of its workers: *A slimmed-down Wedgwood Group will be much better placed to take advantage of the worldwide recovery when it comes.*

**SLIP***slipped, slipped, slipping***slip away****1 slip away**

if someone's power or their chance of success slips away, it gradually disappears: *With its power and prestige slipping away, the Communist Party appealed for unity.*

+ from *As the game went on I could feel the championship slipping away from us.*

**2 slip away**

to die peacefully: *Tim Parry lay there on his hospital bed and quietly slipped away.*

**slip by****1 slip by**

if time slips by, it seems to pass very quickly

without you noticing it, or without you achieving very much: *The hours slipped by so quickly that he almost forgot about lunch.* | *All that time poor Emily suffered in uncomplaining silence, whilst the best years of her youth slipped by.*

## 2 let a chance/opportunity slip by

if you let a chance or opportunity slip by, you do not use it: *Here was a chance to make some money, and Mr Opie was one who never liked to let such an opportunity slip by.* | *If he really loved the girl, then why was he letting this chance slip by without telling her so?*

## slip down

### slip down easily/nicely etc

BrE if a drink slips down easily, nicely etc, it is easy and enjoyable to drink: *This wine slips down very easily.*

## slip in

### slip in sth slip sth in

to quickly mention something when you are talking or writing about something else, without emphasizing it or saying much about it: *It was a serious lecture, but I was tempted to slip in a joke about the Clinton affair.* | *Writers of detective stories often slip in a tiny clue that most readers will miss.*

## slip into

### 1 slip into sth

to put on a piece of clothing in which you feel comfortable and relaxed: *I'll just slip into something more comfortable.* | *She slipped into her nightie and slid into bed beside Tom.*

### 2 slip into unconsciousness/a coma/ a gentle sleep etc

to become unconscious or start to sleep: *If brain damage is severe, the patient may slip into a coma and die.* | *She slipped into a gentle sleep.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lapse into

### 3 slip into Italian/Polish/dialect etc

to start to use a type of language that is more familiar to you than the one you have been using, especially without intending to: *He spoke very quickly and occasionally slipped into the local Scottish dialect.*

\* SIMILAR TO: lapse into

### 4 slip into sth

to start doing something or start behaving in a particular way, although you did not intend to: *Without a job to go to, Kevin soon slipped into the habit of getting up at noon.* | *Tension increased, and it was not long before the two countries slipped into total war.*

## slip off

### 1 slip sth off slip off sth

to take off a piece of clothing quickly: *Just slip your jacket off and roll up your sleeve so I can check your blood pressure.* | *He slipped off his coat and hung it in the hall.*

● OPPOSITE: slip on

### 2 slip off

to leave a place quickly and quietly, so that no one notices you going: *"Where's Steve?" "I think he must have slipped off home."* | *We used to slip off down to the pub when the boss wasn't around.*

\* SIMILAR TO: slope off BrE informal

## slip on

### slip sth on slip on sth

to put on a piece of clothing quickly and easily: *Now, if you'll just hop out of bed and slip on your dressing gown, we'll take you along for an X-ray.*

● OPPOSITE: slip off

### slip-on shoes/slip ons ADJ

slip-on shoes are ones that you just put your feet into without having to pull them on or fasten them: *slip-on sandals* | *a pair of slip-on canvas shoes*

## slip out

### slip out

if a remark or a piece of information slips out, you mention it without intending to: *Timothy Gedge had let the truth slip out while he was drunk.* | *I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said that – it just slipped out.*

## slip out of

### slip out of sth

to take off clothes or shoes quickly: *She slipped out of her swimsuit and wrapped a towel around her.* | *I'd never seen Mum dance before but she slipped out of her sandals and danced with Auntie Jean.*

## slip over on

### slip one over on sb

especially AmE to deceive or trick someone by telling them something that is not true: *It would be easy for a smooth talker like Brad to slip one over on these simple-minded country boys.*

\* SIMILAR TO: put one over on

## slip through

### slip through

if a something that is incorrect or illegal slips through, the person or machine that is

supposed to check it does not notice it and so it is not removed or changed: *Even when a document has been given a spellcheck, some errors will inevitably slip through.*

### slip up

#### slip up

to make a careless mistake, especially when you are doing your job or playing a game: *Unless Manchester United slip up badly, they're sure to win the European Cup.* | *Your lawyer slipped up on an important detail – that's why the prosecution failed.*

#### slip-up N [C]

a careless mistake: *I'm afraid there's been a bit of a slip-up over arranging your contract.*

## SLOB

slobbed, slobbed, slobbing

### slob around

#### slob around

BrE *spoken informal* to spend time doing nothing and being lazy: *He was still slobbing around in his dressing gown at lunchtime.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **laze around, slob around**

## SLOBBER

slobbered, slobbered, slobbering

### slobber over

#### slobber over sb

*informal* to look at someone with sexual pleasure and pay a lot of attention to them, in a way that is embarrassing or offensive to other people: *It's disgusting to watch him slobbering over young women half his age.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drool over**

## SLOG

slogged, slogged, slogging

### slog away

#### slog away

BrE *informal* to work hard at something for a long time, especially something that is difficult or boring: *I shall go on slogging away until I've finished the job.*

+ **at** *Randall spent the next few months slogging away at Russian grammar.*

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

### slog out

#### slog it out

BrE *informal* if two people, teams, armies etc slog it out, they fight, compete, or argue for a long time without stopping until one side

wins: *They're never going to agree, so it's best to leave them to slog it out.* | *two of the greatest boxers of our time slogging it out at Madison Square Garden*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fight it out, slug it out** *informal*, **battle it out**

## slog through

#### slog through sth

to read or study something that is long and difficult to understand: *There was no alternative to sitting down and slogging through vocabulary lists.* | *After slogging through 384 pages of technical reports, I was beginning to understand the problem.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **plough through**

## SLOP

slopped, slopped, slopping

### slop around

#### slop around

*informal* to spend time being lazy and doing very little, wearing old, untidy clothes: *I didn't really expect to find this famous scientist slopping around in old jeans and a dirty sweatshirt.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slob around** BrE *informal*, **laze around**

### slop out

#### slop out

BrE if prisoners slop out, they empty their toilet buckets every morning: *Prisoners had to line up with their buckets to slop out before breakfast.*

#### slopping out N [U]

BrE the system in some prisons where prisoners have to empty their toilet buckets every morning: *The modernization of prisons will bring an end to slopping out.*

## SLOPE

sloped, sloped, sloping

### slope away

#### slope away

if the ground slopes away, it goes downwards: *In front of the farmhouse the land slopes away towards the river.*

### slope off

#### slope off

BrE *informal* to leave somewhere quietly and secretly, especially to avoid work, trouble etc: *He must have sloped off home when no-one was looking.* | *Scenting our dogs, the wolf turned away and sloped off into the forest.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slip off**



## SLOSH

## slosh around

## be sloshing around

*informal* if there is a lot of money sloshing around, there is more of it available than is needed: *Why can't some of that money sloshing around in European banks be used to relieve poverty in the Third World?*

## SLOT

slotted, slotted, slotting

## slot in

## slot sth in slot in sth

*informal* to get a goal in a game of football by skilfully kicking the ball into the net: *Winterburn passed the ball to Wright, who slotted it in to make the score 3-1.* | *Beckham slotted a goal in just minutes before the final whistle.*

## slot in/into

## 1 slot sth/sb in slot in sb/sth

## slot sth/sb into sth

to find a time for something or someone in a carefully planned, programme of events: *Dr Singh is extremely busy at present, but I could slot you in at 11.15 tomorrow.* | *The BBC managed to slot in a newsflash before the film started.* | *We could slot you into the afternoon session.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fit in/into**

## 2 slot in slot into sth

*BrE* to become accepted as a part of a group and to combine effectively with the rest of it: *Stewart slotted in well with the rest of the team and made a big contribution to the game.* | *new teaching materials that will slot into the existing science syllabus*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fit in/into**

## 3 slot sb into sth

to decide that someone is of a particular type or has a particular role in society: *Women are automatically slotted into the role of caring for the needs of others.* | *sociologists who try to slot people into social or economic categories*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pigeonhole, categorize**

## SLOUCH

slouched, slouched, slouching

## slouch around/about

## slouch around/about

*BrE* to stand or walk around slowly with your shoulders bent forward because you are

bored and have nothing to do: *Bored youths were slouching around on street corners, smoking and whistling at passing girls.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mooch around/about**

## SLOUGH

sloughed, sloughed, sloughing

## slough off

## 1 slough off sth slough sth off

*formal* to get rid of a feeling, memory, or quality that you do not want: *The company is now anxious to slough off its bad reputation.* | *feelings of guilt that are not sloughed off so easily*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of, shake off, cast off**

## 2 slough off sth slough sth off

if a snake or other animal sloughs off its old dead skin, that skin comes off its body when a new skin grows: *A rattlesnake may slough off its skin up to four times a year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shed**

## SLOW

slowed, slowed, slowing

## slow down

## 1 slow down slow down sb/sth

## slow sb/sth down

to start to move slowly or to make someone or something do this: *Police are asking motorists to slow down and take extra care.* | *Ice on the road slowed us down considerably.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slow-up**

● OPPOSITE: **speed up, accelerate**

## 2 slow down/up sb/sth

## slow sb/sth down/up slow down/up

to start to work or develop more slowly, or to make someone or something do this: *An industrial dispute has slowed down the production of engines at Ford's Halewood factory.* | *If business slows down, some of these workers are going to lose their jobs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slow up**

● OPPOSITE: **speed up**

**slowdown** N [SINGULAR]

when something grows or develops more slowly: *a slowdown in the US economy*

## 3 slow down

if you slow down, you become less active or work with less energy than before because you are older: *When you reach the age of 60, it's time to slow down a little.*

**slow up**1 **slow up** **slow up** sth/sb**slow** sth/sb **up**

to begin to move or work more slowly or to make something or someone do this: *The car slowed up as it approached the gate. | Computing problems slowed us up a bit.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slow down**● OPPOSITE: **speed up**2 **slow up** sth **slow** sth **up**

to make something happen or develop more slowly: *The new legislation could slow up the whole immigration process.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slow down**● OPPOSITE: **speed up****SLUG**

slugged, slugged, slugging

**slug out****slug it out**

S

informal if two or more people, teams, armies etc slug it out, they fight, compete, or argue for a long time without stopping until one side wins: *Now we can watch our political leaders slugging it out in live TV debates. | two heavyweights standing toe-to-toe and slugging it out*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fight it out**, **battle it out**, **slug it out** BrE informal**SLUICE**

sluiced, sluiced, sluicing

**sluice down****sluice down** sth **sluice** sth **down**

to wash something by throwing a lot of water over it: *The crew were sluicing down the deck with bucketfuls of seawater.*

**SMACK**

smacked, smacked, smacking

**smack of****smack of** sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

if something smacks of an unpleasant quality, attitude etc, it seems to have some of that quality, attitude etc in it: *Dawson's remarks about the Asian community smack of racism. | I wouldn't want to be involved in anything that smacks of illegality.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **savour/savor of****SMARTEN**

smartened, smartened, smartening

**smarten up**1 **smarten up** sth/sb **smarten** sth/sb **up****smarten up**

BrE to make yourself or something look neater and tidier: *Barbara had smartened herself up ready for the interview. | Smarten up, darling, you're not fit to go anywhere looking like that. | He had made up his mind to sell the old house after he had smartened it up a bit.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spruce up**2 **smarten up your act/ideas**

BrE to improve the way you think and work, so that you are more effective: *You'd better smarten your ideas up if you want to keep your job here. | This is a clear message to the manufacturers. Smarten up your act or we'll buy our machines from someone else.*

3 **smarten up**

AmE to become more wise and less foolish: *Let's hope Barbara has smartened up since her last relationship.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wise up** AmE**SMASH**

smashed, smashed, smashing

**smash down****smash down** sth **smash** sth **down**

to hit something such as a door or wall so violently that it falls to the ground: *There were complaints that police had smashed down doors and destroyed furniture while searching the premises.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **break down****smash in****smash** sth **in** **smash** in sth

to break something or make a hole in it, by hitting it violently: *Hundreds of demonstrators were smashing in the windows of government buildings | Someone had smashed his skull in with a baseball bat.*

**smash sb's face/head in** spoken informal (=hit someone hard in the face or head) *If he tries to mess me around, I'll smash his stupid face in.*

**smash up****smash up** sth **smash** sth **up**

to destroy something or damage it very badly by hitting it violently or crashing it: *A gang of thugs came into the bar and smashed the place up. | a millionaire playboy who spent*

his wilder years doing drugs and smashing up expensive cars

**smash-up** N [C]

especially BrE a serious road or train accident: *Two German tourists died in a smash-up on Highway 61 earlier today.*

## SMELL

smelled also *smelt* BrE, *smelled* also *smelt* BrE, *smelling*

### smell of

smell of sth

to have a smell that is like a particular thing: *The house still smells of paint.* | *When he came home home smelling of whiskey, she scolded him fiercely.*

\* SIMILAR TO: reek of, stink (of)

### smell out

1 smell sth/sb out smell out sth/sb

if an animal smells out something or someone, it finds them by using its sense of smell: *A fox could hide in the woods after dark, but our dogs would smell it out.*

2 smell out sth smell sth out

to discover something that someone wants to keep hidden or secret because you have a natural ability to do this: *Dobson had a cunning instinct that could smell out weakness in others.* | *They feared her because somehow she always smelt out their innermost secrets.*

3 smell out sth smell sth out

BrE to fill a place with an unpleasant smell: *The trouble with fried onions is that they smell the place out for days.*

\* SIMILAR TO: stink out informal

### smell up

smell sth up smell up sth

AmE to fill a place with an unpleasant smell: *Those cats of here make a mess on the floor and smell up the whole apartment.*

\* SIMILAR TO: stink out informal, smell out BrE

## SMILE

smiled, smiled, smiling

### smile on

fortune/fate/the gods etc are smiling on sb

especially literary used to say that someone is lucky because something good happens to them or they avoid something bad happening: *Fortune was smiling on him, and he went on to win the match easily.*

## SMOKE OUT

smoked, smoked, smoking

### smoke out

1 smoke out sb smoke sb out

to discover who is causing a problem and force them to make themselves known: *The McCarthy trials were intended to smoke out Communist sympathizers and enemy agents.*

2 smoke out sb/sth smoke sb/sth out

to force a person or animal to come out of a place by filling it with smoke: *When the honey is ready, beekeepers smoke out the bees and remove the honeycombs from the hive.*

## SMOOTH

smoothed, smoothed, smoothing

### smooth

1 smooth away sth smooth sth away

to get rid of any problems, worries, or difficulties: *The two leaders met secretly in Washington to smooth away any obstacles to the peace agreement.*

2 smooth away sth smooth sth away

to get rid of any lines or roughness on a surface so that it is completely smooth: *Oil of Ulay helps smooth away those lines and wrinkles and keeps your skin young-looking.*

### smooth down

smooth down sth smooth sth down

to make the surface of something smooth and flat, for example your clothes or your hair, especially by pressing it down with your hands: *Jenny got up and smoothed down her dress.* | *Adjusting his tie and smoothing down his hair, he walked briskly into the auditorium.*

### smooth out

1 smooth out sth smooth sth out

to make cloth or paper smooth and flat by moving your hand across it: *He smoothed out the map, and began to plan their route.*

\* SIMILAR TO: flatten

2 smooth out sth smooth sth out

to make something happen in an even and regular way without any sudden changes or problems: *The government wanted to smooth out the business cycle, and stop the swings from boom to bust.*

3 smooth out sth smooth sth out

to deal with any problems, difficulties, or disagreements, so that something can work effectively or so that people can have a good relationship with each other: *The talks are*

intended to smooth out any practical problems which may get in the way of a peace settlement.

### smooth over

smooth over sth smooth sth over

to make disagreements and other problems seem less serious by talking about them to the people involved: *I was sure that I could smooth over our little misunderstanding, and that Sergia would then be glad to have me back again.*

**smooth things over** *Perhaps it would be an opportunity to smooth things over, to apologize again and make a fresh start.*

## SMOTHER

smothered, smothered, smothering

### smother in/with

1 smother sth in/with sth

to cover the surface of something with a large amount of a substance: *Before they set off for the beach they smothered themselves in sunscreen.* | *Hubert was eating a huge piece of bread, which was smothered with a mixture of peanut-butter and raspberry jelly.*

2 smother sb with kisses

to kiss someone's face many times: *She ran to meet him and smothered him with kisses.*

## SNACK

snacked, snacked, snacking

### snack on

snack on sth

to eat small amounts of a particular food between main meals or instead of a meal: *I tend to snack on chocolate during the day when I'm working.*

## SNAFFLE

snaffle, snaffled, snaffling

### snaffle up

snaffle up sth snaffle sth up

informal to buy something quickly and eagerly: *His company was snaffled up by the Saatchi brothers in the late '80s.*

## SNAP

snapped, snapped, snapping

### snap out

snap out sth snap sth out

to say something quickly or suddenly, especially when you are annoyed or quickly giving orders: *Captain Vincent was furiously snapping out instructions to the crew.*

\* SIMILAR TO: bark

## snap out of

1 snap out of sth snap sb out of sth

to stop feeling unhappy or upset, and become more cheerful, or to make someone do this

**snap out of it** *"Come on Fran, snap out of it! Things aren't really so bad."*

**snap sb out of it** *Marie's been feeling really depressed recently, and I can't seem to snap her out of it.*

2 snap out of sth

to suddenly stop thinking pleasant thoughts that make you forget about what is really happening, or to make someone do this: *He was snapped out of his daydream by Rachel Gray, who suddenly appeared by his side.* | *The doctor snapped out of his reverie and looked over at the clock on the wall.*

## snap to

snap to it

spoken to start working quickly – used especially when telling someone they should start working: *"We need a bucket of water" he said. "Snap to it, woman!"*

## snap up

1 snap up sth snap sth up

to buy something very quickly before other people can buy it, especially because it is very cheap or you want it very much: *All the tickets for the game were snapped up in less than two hours.* | *Shoppers flooded into the store, hoping to snap up bargains on clothes, handbags etc.*

2 snap up sb snap sb up

to eagerly take the opportunity of making someone part of your team, organization etc: *Owen was snapped up by Liverpool before he'd even left school.*

3 snap up sth snap sth up

if you snap up a chance or opportunity to do something, you take it as soon as you can before it is too late: *I'm sure if they offered him the job he'd snap it up straightaway.*

\* SIMILAR TO: grab

## SNARL

snarled, snarled, snarling

### snarl up

1 snarl up snarl up sth

if traffic snarls up or is snarled up, the cars cannot move freely because the road is blocked or too busy: *The traffic was snarled up at the next junction.* | *Drivers were swearing as they got snarled up in the midday Cairo traffic.*

**snarl-up** *N* [C]

when traffic cannot move freely because the road is blocked or there are too many cars: *snarl-ups on roads out of Paris*

**2 snarl up** **snarl up sth** **snarl sth up**

if a system or process snarls up or is snarled up, it stops working because there is too much work to deal with: *The huge number of cases has snarled up the court process.*

**snarl-up** *N* [C]

when something such as an official process cannot work smoothly: *delays caused by snarl-ups at the passport office*

**3 be snarled up**

to be caught in something such as a net, a mass of branches etc, and be unable move: *Dolphins sometimes get snarled up in the nets.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be caught (up) in**

**SNATCH**

*snatched, snatched, snatching*

**snatch at****1 snatch at sth**

to quickly put out your hand to try to take or hold something: *He snatched at the steering wheel and tried to turn it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **grab at**

**2 snatch at sth**

to quickly try to use the chance to do something while you can: *Jody snatched at the chance to chat with the Prince while they were together.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **grab at**

**snatch away****snatch away sth** **snatch sth away**

to suddenly take something away from someone: *Marco tried to snatch the ring away from her.* | *In the last minute of the game United snatched the championship away with an amazing goal from Giggs.*

**snatch up****snatch up sth** **snatch sth up**

to pick something up very quickly and often violently, especially because you feel very angry or excited: *He snatched up the bottle and flung it through the open window.* | *The phone began to ring again. Cornelius snatched it up.*

**SNEAK**

*sneaked or snuck especially AmE, sneaked or snuck especially AmE, sneaking*

**sneak on****sneak on sb**

BrE *informal* to tell someone such as an employer, parent or teacher that another person has done something wrong, because you want to cause trouble for that person: *She didn't want the other girls to think that she was sneaking on them behind their backs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rat on** *informal*, **tattle on** *AmE informal*

**sneak up****sneak up**

to come near to someone very quietly, so that they do not hear or see you until you reach them: *Kate sneaked up behind him and put her hands over his eyes.*

+ **on** *A couple of rough-looking kids snuck up on him in a dark alley and robbed him of all his money.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **creep up on**

S

**SNEEZE****sneeze at****not to be sneezed at**

*spoken informal* used to say that something is so good that you should definitely consider it: *\$5000 a week was not to be sneezed at.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **not to be sniffed at** *spoken informal*

**SNIFF**

*sniffed, sniffed, sniffing*

**sniff around/round****1 sniff around** **sniff around sth**

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

*informal* to try to find out information about someone or something, especially information that they want to hide: *It won't be long before the tax office starts sniffing around.* | *Of course she'll keep quiet. She won't want the police sniffing around her place.*

**2 sniff around sb** **sniff around**

USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE *informal* to show an eager interest in someone or something when this is not wanted: *Rich families didn't want people like him sniffing around their daughters.* | *What is Pasion doing sniffing around Amstrad?*

**sniff at****1 not to be sniffed at**

*spoken informal* used to say that something is so good that you should definitely consider it: *The price, however, is not to be sniffed at: £17.50!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **not to be sneezed at**

**2 sniff at sth**

to disapprove of something and think that it is not very good – use this when you disagree with people who think like this: *The critics tended to sniff at his films, and dismiss them as being rather childish.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn your nose up at sth**

**sniff out****1 sniff out sth sniff sth out**

to find something after searching for it, especially to find out information about something that other people want kept secret, or to find something that may be useful or valuable: *Journalists are trained to sniff out a good story.* | *She had a talent for sniffing out bargains.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **nose out**

**2 sniff out sth sniff sth out**

if a dog sniffs out something, for example hidden drugs or explosives, the dog finds it using its sense of smell: *A police dog sniffed out over 400 pounds of cocaine in a camper van on the Mexican border.*

**sniff round** BrE

SEE **sniff around/round**

**SNOWED****be snowed in/up****be snowed in** ALSO **be snowed up** BrE

to be unable to leave the place where you are because there is so much snow on the ground: *Many people are snowed in and cannot get to work.* | *We were snowed up all week in a mountain cabin.*

**be snowed off/out****be snowed off** BrE

ALSO **be snowed out** AmE

if an event that has been arranged to happen is snowed off, snow prevents it from taking place: *Apparently the game's been snowed off.*

**be snowed under****be snowed under**

to have so much work, so many letters, phone calls etc, that it is difficult to deal with

everything: *I would have called you earlier but I've been absolutely snowed under.* | *The producers say they've been snowed under with applications from people who want to be on the show.*

**be snowed up**

SEE **be snowed in/up**

**SNIFF**

*snuffed, snuffed, snuffing*

**snuff out****1 snuff out sth snuff sth out**

to end something suddenly, especially something that has been developing or growing: *Tanks were sent in to control the protestors, and the democracy movement was snuffed out.* | *Lilley warned the government against snuffing out the economic recovery by raising taxes.*

**2 snuff out sth snuff sth out**

if you snuff out a candle or flame, you stop it from burning: *He turned over and snuffed out the candle on his bedside table.*

**3 snuff out sb/sth snuff sb/sth out**

*informal* to kill someone: *an innocent little boy whose young life was snuffed out in a moment of senseless savagery*

**SNUGGLE**

*snuggled, snuggled, snuggling*

**snuggle down****snuggle down**

to move into a warm comfortable position in your bed, especially in order to sleep: *With a sigh, she snuggled down under the quilt again, and was soon asleep.* | *I snuggled down in my sleeping bag and listened to the wind howling outside the tent.*

**snuggle up****1 snuggle up**

to move into a warm comfortable position lying or sitting next to someone: *It was a cold night and the children snuggled up to keep warm.*

+ to Tess snuggled up to him, her head on his chest.

\* SIMILAR TO: **cuddle up** *informal*

**2 be snuggled up**

to be lying or sitting in a warm comfortable position: *She longed to be indoors, snuggled up in bed with a good book.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be curled up**



**SOAK**

soaked, soaked, soaking

**be soaked in****be soaked in** sth

literary to contain a lot of a particular quality: *The city was soaked in history.* | *We live in a culture that is soaked in violence.*

**be soaked through****be soaked through**

to be completely wet: *By the time he got home, his jacket was soaked through.* | *You'd better take those clothes off! You look soaked through!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drench****soak up****1** **soak up** sth **soak** sth up

to enjoy experiencing or looking at something in a place: *You can stay in pretty mountain villages and soak up the scenery.*

**soak up the sun/sunshine** *Morocco is an ideal place for soaking up the sun.*

**soak up the atmosphere** (=enjoy watching and experiencing all the interesting things that are happening in a place) *I wanted to wander around the old markets and soak up the atmosphere.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **enjoy****2** **soak up** sth **soak** sth up

if something soaks up a liquid, it takes the liquid into itself: *He used a towel to soak up the blood.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **absorb****3** **soak up** sth **soak** sth up

to learn a lot of information and ideas about a subject by reading, listening to other people talking about it etc: *I read a lot of books and tried to soak up as many new ideas about gardening as I could.* | *"You've been very quiet!" "I've been soaking up your words of wisdom!"*

**4** **soak up** sth **soak** sth up

to use a lot of money, especially an unreasonably or unusually large amount: *The new satellite network soaked up more than \$65 million of public money.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **use up****5** **soak up** sth **soak** sth up

to not be badly affected by something, for example pressure, strong criticism, or difficult conditions: *The German team are famous for their ability to soak up pressure and come back to win.* | *The Toyota can soak up a lot of punishment off road.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **withstand****SOB**

sobbed, sobbed, sobbing

**sob out****sob out** sth

to say something while crying noisily: *Here she was, sobbing out her troubles to him again.* | *"It's so unfair," she sobbed out.*

**SOBER**

sobered, sobered, sobering

**sober down****sober down**

BrE to stop being so excited, worried, or frightened, and become calm: *When they'd all sobered down, he went on with his story.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **calm down****sober up****1** **sober up** **sober** sb up **sober up** sb

to gradually become less drunk or make someone less drunk: *The next day, when she had sobered up, she came over to apologize for her behaviour.* | *The coffee should have sobered him up by now.*

**2** **sober up** **sober up** sb **sober** sb up

to behave in a more serious and sensible way, or make someone do this: *The bombing helped to sober up a lot of people who had previously supported the terrorists.*

**SOCK**

socked, socked, socking

**be socked in****be socked in**

AmE if an airport, road, or area is socked in, you cannot see far because it is surrounded by bad weather: *Boston was socked in, so the plane flew straight to Philadelphia.*

**sock to****1** **sock it to** sb

informal to hit someone very hard: *Tyson socked it to him with a left to his jaw.*

**2** **sock it to** sb

informal to do something in a way that is very impressive and has a strong effect – used especially about performers and teams: *The audience is waiting for you, Frank. Get out there and sock it to them.*

## SOD

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

## sod off

## sod off!

BrE *informal* a very rude way of telling someone to go away: *Sod off and leave me alone!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **piss off** *informal*, **fuck off** *taboo*

## SOFTEN

softened, softened, softening

## soften up

## 1 soften up sb soften sb up

to make someone more likely to do what you want or believe what you want, especially by praising them or being kind to them: *I saw now she was trying to soften me up just to ask me a favour.* | *Buy her some flowers – that should soften her up a bit.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **butter up** *informal*

## 2 soften up sb/sth soften sb/sth up

to make an enemy's defences weaker so that they will be easier to attack, for example by bombing them: *Allied warships began softening up German defensive positions along the Normandy coast.* | *Strong Japanese positions were softened up by intense aerial bombardments, followed by the landing of marine assault forces.*

## 3 soften up sth soften up sth

to make something soft: *Use linseed oil to soften up the brushes.* | *The rain had softened up the ground.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **soften**

## SOLDIER

soldiered, soldiered, soldiering

## soldier on

## soldier on

to continue doing something, even though it is difficult or unpleasant and needs a lot of effort: *Hodge managed to soldier on until the end of the game in spite of his injuries.* | *The old man laughed and said "I think I can soldier on for a few more years yet!"*

\* SIMILAR TO: **struggle on**

## SOP

sopped, sopped, sopping

## sop up

## sop up sth sop sth up

to remove liquid from a surface, using something soft such as a piece of cloth or bread,

which takes the liquid into itself: *She used some garlic bread to sop up the last of the sauce on her plate.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **soak up**

## SORT

sorted, sorted, sorting

## sort out

## 1 sort out sth sort sth out

especially BrE to successfully deal with a problem, a difficult situation, or a disagreement: *The Irish star revealed that she went to a psychiatrist to sort out her problems.* | *the role of the United Nations in sorting out international disputes*

**get it sorted out** *I'll be glad when we've got everything sorted out.*

**sort yourself out/sort out your life** (=deal with your personal problems and difficulties so that you can have a normal life) *Fergie should be left in peace to sort out her life. She's had enough drama lately.* | *You've got to try and stop drinking and sort yourself out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **deal with, resolve** *formal*

## 2 sort itself out

if a situation sorts itself out, it stops being a problem without anyone trying to do anything: *Don't worry. I'm sure it'll all sort itself out in the end.*

## 3 sort out sth sort sth out

to arrange or organize things so that they are no longer untidy or badly organized, or so that they are ready to be used: *Ally wanted me to help her sort out the house.* | *We need to sort out our camping gear before we go away on holiday.* | *Beaverbrook has until November 9 to sort out his financial affairs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put sth in order**

**sort-out** N [SINGULAR]

BrE *informal* when you make a place tidy and get rid of the things you do not need: *Cathy's room could do with a good sort-out.*

## 4 sort out sth sort sth out

especially BrE to arrange to get something or to arrange for something to be done: *Working mothers often have difficulty sorting out childcare.* | *I'll call the airline and see if they can sort something out about the tickets.*

## 5 sort out sth sort sth out

especially BrE to make final decisions about something that is planned to happen by discussing it with other people and dealing with all the things that are connected with it: *The Manchester United star is set to travel north to sort out the details of his new contract.* | *Have you sorted out where you're going to*

live? | You'd have thought by now they would have sorted it out.

\* SIMILAR TO: **finalize**

## 6 sort out sth | sort sth out

to separate one type of thing from another: Steve had spotted the letter while sorting out mail for first class delivery.

**sort out sth from sth** (=separate one type of thing from another) Always sort out the whites from the other clothes, and never put them together in the same wash.

## 7 sort out sb | sort sb out

BrE informal to stop someone from causing problems or annoying you, for example by attacking them or punishing them: They had a big fight, and she had to call in the police to sort him out. | He said if I ever went near his girlfriend again, he'd come round with his mates and sort me out.

## sort through

### sort through sth

to look for something among a lot of similar things, especially when you arrange these things into a particular order: She sat down and sorted carefully through the files. She quickly found the one she was looking for.

\* SIMILAR TO: **go through**

## SOUND

sounded, sounded, sounding

### sound off

#### 1 sound off

to express strong opinions about something, especially by angrily complaining about it and saying that you think it is wrong

† **about** Here he is again, sounding off about the amount of sex and violence on our TV screens. | This is a free country and people are allowed to sound off about the fur trade and about experimenting with live animals.

#### 2 sound off

AmE if soldiers sound off, they shout out their names to show that they are there: We could hear the soldiers sound off before they began their training exercises.

### sound out

#### sound out sb | sound sb out

to talk to someone in order to find out what they think about a plan or idea, or whether they might like to do something: The President sent one of his top advisers to the Middle East to sound out Arab opinion on the deal. | Sony has already been sounding out other Japanese firms about joining the project.

## SOUP

souped, souped, souping

### soup up

#### 1 soup up sth | soup sth up

to make a car more powerful by making changes to its engine: Young men souped up their vehicles and raced along the dry lake beds around Los Angeles.

**souped-up** ADJ

a souped-up car has had its engine changed so that it is much more powerful and can go much faster: Hoodlums tore up and down the city streets, their souped-up cars blasting out loud rap music.

#### 2 soup up sth | soup sth up

to make changes to something in order to make it more powerful, effective, interesting etc than it was before – use this especially about computers and computer products: software to soup up the office e-mail

**souped-up** ADJ

something that is souped-up has been changed to make it more powerful, effective, interesting etc: He was using some kind of souped-up Macintosh computer.

S

## SPACE

spaced, spaced, spacing

### space out

#### 1 be spaced out

informal someone who is spaced out cannot think clearly, for example because they have been taking drugs, or they feel very tired: That Saturday I was fine until the afternoon. Then I began to feel totally spaced out. | Dana Carvey and Mike Meyers play the two spaced-out hosts of 'Wayne's World'.

#### 2 be spaced out

informal something that is spaced out seems very strange and unusual, like something that you might experience when you have been taking drugs: Some of the songs were really spaced out, and I couldn't make out any of the lyrics.

#### 3 space out sth | space sth out

to arrange objects or events so that there is an equal amount of space or a period of time between them: Periods of practice should be spaced out with short rest periods in between. | The trees were spaced out in a formal pattern. | Horowitz had spoken quietly, the words spaced out.

#### 4 space out

AmE informal to stop paying attention and just look at something without thinking, especially because you are tired or bored or have

taken drugs: *I totally spaced out during the meeting and didn't hear the details about our next project.*

**5** **space out** **sth**    **space** **sth** **out**

informal, especially AmE to forget something for a short time: *Tina spaced out her doctor's appointment and had to ask for a new one.*

## SPARK

sparked, sparked, sparking

### spark off

**spark off** **sth**    **spark** **sth** **off** ✗

to suddenly cause something, for example protests, violence, discussion, or interest in something: *An apparently minor incident sparked off rioting which lasted until Monday, 6 July.* | *Rosa Parks, the black American woman whose case sparked off the civil rights movement in the United States* | *Dr Pusztai's report sparked off a fierce debate about the dangers of introducing genetically modified foods.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **trigger off, set off, touch off**

## S SPEAK

spoke, spoken, speaking

### speak for

**1** **speak for** **sb**

to express the opinions, thoughts, or feelings of a person or group of people: *Shelley was a poet who spoke for the people.* | *I'm sure I speak for everyone here when I say that it has been a pleasure to work with you.*

**2** **sth speaks for itself**

used to say that something shows clearly that something is true, and there is no need for anyone to explain it or give more information: *White House staff say that the latest opinion polls speak for themselves – 70% of Americans think the President is doing a good job.*

**3** **sth is spoken for**

if something is spoken for, someone else has already arranged to have it or use it: *Sorry, this table's already spoken for.* | *Dealers say that most of the new Porsches are already spoken for.*

**4** **sb is spoken for**

if someone is spoken for, they already have a boyfriend or girlfriend, husband or wife: *All the good-looking young men were already spoken for.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be single, be unattached**

**5** **(you can) speak for yourself**

spoken used when you want to strongly disagree with someone and say that you

definitely do not have the same feelings or opinions as they do: *Speak for yourself. I don't have that kind of problem.*

**6** **let sb speak for himself/herself etc**

to let someone say what their opinion about something is, without having someone else to say it for them: *I'll bring Mr Power in and let him speak for himself.*

**7** **speaking for myself**

spoken used before you say what your opinion about something is: *Speaking for myself, I can't think of anything more boring!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **in my opinion**

**8** **I can't speak for sth**

spoken used to say that you cannot be sure that something is always true, or that it is also true about other places or things: *I can't speak for all the hotels in the region, but generally the prices are very reasonable.*

### speak of

**1** **speak of** **sth**

literary to have qualities which make you think of something else: *He wanted something that spoke of spring, that made people feel there was a celebration going on.* | *a smell which spoke of rocks and grease and the harbour at low tide*

\* SIMILAR TO: **evoke**

**2** **speak of** **sth**

formal to show clearly that something is true or exists: *The decision to cancel the project speaks of a lack of confidence in the boardroom.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **indicate**

### speak out

**speak out** ✗

to express your opinions publicly, especially to say that you disagree with something, or to criticize or oppose someone: *People lived in constant fear of the secret police, and no one dared to speak out in case they were arrested.*

+ **against** *He was one of the few politicians who had the courage to speak out against the war in Vietnam.* | *The paper spoke out recently against the arrest of Palestinian editor Maher al-Alami.*

**outsoken** ADJ

talking publicly about your opinions, especially to say that you strongly disagree with something or to strongly criticize someone, even though this may offend or annoy some people: *Chomo has been an outspoken critic of the welfare measure that President Clinton recently signed.*

**Speak up****1 speak up!** USUALLY IN COMMANDS

to begin to speak more loudly: *You must speak up! I'm a little deaf!*

**2 speak up**

to express your opinions freely, especially to support or defend someone, or protest about something: *The Catholic church has been very active in speaking up on behalf of disadvantaged Americans.* | *The victim is often afraid to speak up, for fear of sounding like a fool.*

+ for *The FBI knew I was innocent. But they never spoke up for me at the trial.*

**SPEED**

sped, sped, speeding

**speed by****speed by**

if time speeds by, it seems to pass very quickly: *The weeks sped by and soon it was time to go back to school.*

\* SIMILAR TO: fly by

**speed off****speed off**

to leave somewhere quickly or suddenly – used especially about cars or other vehicles: *She watched them as they sped off into the night.*

**speed up****speed up** **speed up sth****speed sth up**

to move, work, or happen more quickly, or make something do this: *You'd better speed up Martin, or we'll never get this done.* | *Genetic engineering techniques will speed up the development process for many vaccines.* | *I'm sorry about the delay. I'll try and speed things up a bit.*

● OPPOSITE: slow down

**SPELL**

spelt especially BrE spelled especially AmE

spelt especially BrE spelled especially AmE, spelling

**spell out****1 spell out** **spell sth out**

to explain something clearly and in detail: *The president publicly spelled out his ideas about economic reform in a speech in Houston.* | *Television companies had to run commercials spelling out the dangers of smoking.* | *What they told you wasn't true, Winston.*

*How many times do I have to spell it out for you?*

+ how/when/who etc a document that spells out how the center will be managed and operated

**2 spell out sth** **spell sth out**

to say the letters of a word separately in their correct order, for example so that someone can understand them more clearly: *Jan spelled out his name, "F-A-H-E-R-T-Y".*

**SPEW**

spewed, spewed, spewing

**spew out****spew out sth** **spew sth out****spew out**

to send out something in large quantities, or to come out of something in large quantities: *The four great chimneys to his left spewed out their fumes over the town.* | *an evil organization spewing out lies and propaganda* | *Tickertape was spewing out of the teleprinter.*

\* SIMILAR TO: pour out

**spew up****spew up** **spew up sth** **spew sth up**

BrE informal to vomit (=food comes up from your stomach and out of your mouth, because you feel ill or have drunk too much alcohol) *He got so drunk he spewed up all over the shiny boots of his commanding officer.*

\* SIMILAR TO: throw up informal, be sick, vomit

**SPICE**

spiced, spiced, spicing

**spice up****spice up sth** **spice sth up**

to make something more interesting or exciting: *Teacher Joan Flax believes that adding real-life drama can spice up a history lesson.* | *101 ways to spice up your love life*

\* SIMILAR TO: liven up, pep up

**SPIFF****spiff****spiff up sth/sb** **spiff sth/sb up** **spiff up**

AmE informal to improve someone or something by making them look cleaner or more attractive: *Christine spent an hour spiffing herself up before her date with Robert on Friday night.* | *The students worked together to spiff up their school.*

\* SIMILAR TO: spruce up

## SPILL

spilled also spilt especially BrE, spilled also spilt especially BrE, spilling

## spill out

## 1 spill out

if something spills out of a container, it comes out of it or pours out of it, usually by accident and in an untidy way: *Some clothes had spilled out of her suitcase.* | *Wine spilled out in a small pool, red and dark, like a bloodstain.*

\* SIMILAR TO: pour out

## 2 spill out

if people spill out of a place, they come out in large numbers, usually in a disorganized way: *After the concert ended, the audience began spilling out onto the road.* | *A coach-load of tourists spilled out and hurried to the cliff-top to admire the view.*

\* SIMILAR TO: pour out

## 3 spill out sth spill sth out spill out

if you spill out something or it spills out, you suddenly start to talk about it – use this especially about something that was secret or that was upsetting you: *American TV shows are full of people spilling out details of their private lives.* | *Christina put a motherly arm around her shoulder, and the whole story came spilling out.*

## spill over

## 1 spill over

if something in a container spills over, it pours over the edge, usually because the container is too full: *Make sure that the milk doesn't spill over.* | *The beer rose up the glass and began to spill over.*

## 2 spill over

if a problem or a bad situation spills over, it spreads and starts to affect other places, people etc

+ into *The fighting had spilled over into Thailand.* | *The effects of the recession spilled over into almost every aspect of American life.*

spillover N [SINGULAR]

when a situation spreads and affects other people, places etc: *Politicians are worried about the possible spillover if Scotland is given full independence.*

## 3 spill over

to develop into a much worse feeling or situation, so that people become violent or start a war

+ into *Years of hurt and frustration had spilled over into violence.* | *fears that the conflict between the two Superpowers might spill over into a full-scale nuclear war*

## SPIN

spun, spun, spinning

## spin around

ALSO spin round B&E

## spin around/round

to suddenly move quickly around, so that you are facing in a completely different direction: *He spun around in his chair to face me.* | *Someone tapped Davies on the shoulder and he spun round.*

## spin off

spin off sth spin sth off

technical to form a separate independent company from parts of an existing company: *IBM intends to spin off its German manufacturing facilities into three subsidiaries.* | *Zeneca, a new drugs firm spun off from ICI*

spin-off N [C]

a company that was formed out of parts of an existing company: *Start-up Networx Inc is a Boeing spin-off.*

● Spin-off is usually used as a noun to mean something that develops unexpectedly from something else, especially a useful product that was developed when people were trying to make something else, eg *spin-offs from the US space program in the '60s*. Spin-off is also used to mean a television programme, film etc that is based on another one and uses some of the same characters, eg *a spin-off from the series 'Friends'*.

## spin out

spin out sth spin sth out

BrE to make something continue for as long as possible, or make food, money etc last for as long as possible: *She'd only prepared the first part of the class, so she tried to spin it out for as long as she could.*

## spin round BrE

SEE spin around

## SPIRIT

spirited, spirited, spirting

## spirit away

spirit away sb/sth spirit sb/sth away

to take someone or something away quickly and secretly or mysteriously: *After the press conference, the royal couple were spirited away in a big black limousine.*



**SPIT**

spat, spat, spitting

**spit out****1 spit out sth spit sth out**

to make something come out of your mouth by blowing it, in order to get rid of it: *Rawls spat out a big watermelon seed, which landed somewhere in the corner of the room.*

**2 spit it out!**

spoken used to ask someone to tell you something that they seem too frightened or embarrassed to say: *Come on man, spit it out!*

**spit up****spit up spit up sth**

AmE if a baby spits up, they bring food or drink up from their stomach out through their mouth: *The baby spat up on my shirt and now I have to have it dry cleaned.*

**SPLASH**

splashed, splashed, splashing

**splash down****splash down**

if a spacecraft splashes down, it lands in the sea. A spacecraft is a vehicle that can travel in space: *The Apollo astronauts are due to splash down in the Pacific Ocean at around 4 pm local time.*

**splashdown** N [C,U]

when a spacecraft lands in the sea: *The crew managed to make radio contact just before splashdown.*

**splash out****splash out**

BrE informal to spend a lot of money on something, especially something expensive which you do not need, but you buy for your own enjoyment: *I feel like splashing out a bit. Let's go to that new French restaurant.*

+ on Actor *John Thaw has splashed out £425,000 on a fourth home for himself and his wife Sheila Hancock.* | *To improve its image, the firm is splashing out \$5 million on sponsoring a boat in the round-the-world yacht race.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lash out** BrE informal

**SPLIT**

split, split, splitting

**split off****1 split off split off sth split sth off**

if part of something splits off, or you split it

off, it becomes separated from the rest: *A strange group of white rocks had split off from the cliff.* | *The nationalists want to split Quebec off from the rest of Canada.* | *Work is split off from people's family lives, and it has been so since the start of the Industrial Revolution.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **separate**

**2 split off**

if people split off from a party or organization, they stop being members of it and form a new party or organization: *Some IRA members were unhappy with the agreement, and split off to form the so-called 'Real IRA'.*

+ from *The Social Democrats split off from the Labour Party because of ideological differences.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **break away**

**3 split off**

to leave the group of people, vehicles etc that you are with and move away from them: *Several of the men split off, leading their dogs up a steep track into the heart of the forest.*

+ from *One plane split off from the others and flew down low over the village.*

**split on****split on sb**

BrE informal to tell someone in authority, for example a teacher, that someone has done something wrong: *Don't worry. Robert's reliable, he won't split on us.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tell on, tattle on** AmE informal

**split up****1 split up sth split sth up split up**

to divide something into different parts or groups, or to separate into different parts or groups: *"None of us believed that it was right to split up the company," said Bill Toner.* | *They all split up and went their own separate ways.* | *This process causes the carbon and oxygen molecules to split up.*

+ into *Many of the larger houses are being split up into flats.* | *Our teacher split us up into three groups.*

**split up sth between/among sb** (=divide something so that each member of a group has part of it) *The former Soviet armed forces were split up between the new states.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **divide up, divvy up** AmE informal

**2 split up**

if two people split up, they end their romantic relationship or marriage: *I think it will be a real shame if Mick and Jerry do split up.* | *When her parents split up, she went off to live with her mother.*

+ with Comedian Freddie Starr is splitting up with his wife after 18 years of marriage.

\* SIMILAR TO: **break up**

### 3 split up

if a band or group splits up, they stop performing or working together, usually because of an argument: *Why do you think the Beatles split up? Was it because of a personality clash between John and Paul?* | *Rumours have been flying around Manchester that the band are about to split up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **break up**

## SPOIL

### be spoiling for

#### be spoiling for a fight/for trouble

to want to have a fight or argument with someone and try to make this happen: *Williams shouted "Are you saying I don't know how to do my job?" He was obviously spoiling for a fight.*

## S SPONGE

sponged, sponged, sponging

### sponge down

#### sponge down sth/sb

#### sponge sth/sb down

to wipe something or someone with a sponge in order to clean them. A sponge is a piece of a soft substance which has a lot of holes and takes in water very easily: *Madeleine sponged down all the windows and cleaned off all the grime.* | *One of the nurses was sponging him down in bed.*

### sponge off/on

#### sponge off/on sb

to get money or other things from other people without paying them back or doing anything for them in return – used to show disapproval: *Seb's parents were very rich, and he just sponged off them. He never had to do a day's work in his life.* | *They're just sponging off the backs of ordinary taxpayers! I don't see why I should give them any of my money.*

## SPOON

spooned, spooned, spooning

### spoon out

#### spoon out sth spoon sth out

to use a spoon to put food onto someone's dish: *The waiter was standing there spooning out peas.* | *Instead of bringing the curry through, they spooned it out in the kitchen.*

## SPOUT

spouted, spouted, spouting

### spout on/off

#### spout on/off

informal to talk a lot about something in a boring way, especially without thinking about what you are saying, or without knowing a lot about the subject

+ about a boring old man who kept spouting on about how young people have no sense of duty.

\* SIMILAR TO: **go on** informal, **bang on** AmE informal

## SPRAWL

sprawled, sprawled, sprawling

### be sprawled out

#### be sprawled out

to be sitting or lying with your arms or legs stretched out in a very relaxed or careless way: *They lay there sprawled out on the sidewalk, surrounded by empty bottles of cheap whiskey.* | *Ted was asleep, legs sprawled out, head thrown back, mouth wide open.*

**sprawl out** (=move into a position in which you are sprawled out) *He came in and sprawled out on the sofa in front of the TV.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stretch out**

## SPREAD

spread, spread, spreading

### spread out

#### 1 spread out sth spread sth out

to open something that is folded and lay it flat on a surface: *Sandison spread out the map on the table and studied it closely.* | *He spread a towel out on the sand and sat down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay out**

#### 2 spread out sth spread sth out

to arrange a group of things on a surface, so that you can look at them or use them: *They put a rug down on the ground and spread all the food out on it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay out**

#### 3 spread out/be spread out

to cover a large area – use this especially about a city, area of land etc that you are looking at from above: *The lights of the city spread out in front of them.* | *The wide sweep of the Bay of Naples spread out far below us.* | *Then Napoleon turned and surveyed the camp spread out before him.*

4 **be spread out**

if a group of people or things are spread out, they cover a wide area and are far apart from each other: *Books and records were spread out all over the floor.* | *In many African countries the population is spread out over a huge area.*

5 **spread out sth**    **spread sth out**

to move your arms, legs, fingers etc, and stretch them so that there is a wide space between them

**spread out your arms/legs/fingers etc**  
*Diane leant back and spread out her arms along the back of the sofa.* | *The officer made him spread his legs out, then searched through his pockets to see if he was carrying a weapon.*

**spread out its wings** *The eagle spread out its wings and soared down into the valley below.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stretch out**

6 **spread out**

if a group of people spread out, they move apart from each other so that they cover a wider area: *He ordered his men to spread out and search the surrounding fields.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fan out**

7 **spread out**    **spread out sth**

**spread sth out**

to move outwards and cover a wide area, or to make something do this: *Shock waves spread out from the epicenter of the earthquake.* | *Spread out the pastry so that it covers all of the bottom of the dish.*

8 **spread out sth**    **spread sth out**

to arrange for something to happen or be done in stages over a period of time

**+ over** *You can spread out the cost over a year and pay a little each month.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stagger**

9 **spread out**

to stretch out your body so that it covers a wide area, or move your things so that they cover a wide area, especially so that you feel you have plenty of space: *The good thing about having a big house is that it gives you more room to spread out.*

10 **spread out**

if a period of time spreads out in front of you, you can imagine what it will be like and you know what will happen: *A bright future spread out before him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lie ahead**

**spread over**

**spread sth over sth**

to arrange for something to happen or be done in stages over a period of time: *The tax increases will be spread over the next three years.* | *The Wimbledon championships are spread over two weeks.*

**SPRING**

*sprang, sprung, springing*

**spring back**

**spring back**

if something that has been moved, pressed or stretched springs back, it quickly returns to its original position or shape: *The branch sprang back and hit him in the face.* | *Bake the cake for 45 minutes, or until the top springs back when touched lightly in the centre.*

**spring for**

**spring for sth**

AmE informal to pay for something: *I'll spring for a pizza if you go pick it up.*

**spring from**1 **spring from sth**

to come from or be caused by something: *Many of her ideas spring from personal experience.* | *Marshall said his interest in electronics sprang from his teenage years as a radio operator in Pasadena.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come from, originate (from)** BrE

2 **where did you/he/she etc spring from?**

*spoken* used to show surprise when you suddenly see someone that you thought was somewhere else: *Where did you spring from, Jennifer? I thought you had already left.*

**spring on**1 **spring sth on sb**

to tell someone something that shocks or surprises them: *The government sprung a surprise on investors when it lowered interest rates.* | *Her family doesn't know about her engagement yet. She plans to spring it on them this weekend.*

2 **spring sth on sb**

to suddenly do something or give someone something that shocks or surprises them: *Troops were forced to flee when rebels sprang an ambush on them.*

**spring up****1 spring up**

to suddenly appear or start to exist: *Out-of-town shopping centres seem to be springing up everywhere these days.* | *Beautiful flowers had sprung up on the barren hillside.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sprout up**

**2 spring up**

to stand up suddenly: *Major Sanderson sprang up with joy when he heard that his daughter was safe.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jump up**

**SPROUT**

sprouted, sprouted, sprouting

**sprout up****sprout up**

to suddenly appear or start to exist, especially in large numbers: *Businesses and factories have sprouted up on both sides of the border.* | *A whole new generation of music sprouted up, with bands like Catatonia and Stereophonics.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spring up**

**SPRUCE**

spruced, spruced, sprucing

**spruce up****spruce up** **spruce up** **sth****spruce** **sth** **up**

to make yourself or something look tidier and more attractive: *Paul went upstairs to spruce up a bit before dinner.* | *Wealthier people moved into the area, and spruced up the old buildings and storefronts.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **smarten up**

**SPUR**

spurred, spurred, spurring

**spur on****spur** **sb** **on**

to encourage someone to try harder in order to succeed: *The course was really tough, but the desire to make her family proud of her spurred her on.*

**spur sb on to do sth** *Recent discoveries are spurring us on to find a better treatment for the disease.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **urge on**

**SPUTTER**

sputtered, sputtered, sputtering

**sputter out****sputter out**

if an engine or machine sputters out, it makes a series of quick short sounds and gradually stops working: *The engine sputtered out, and Melinda steered the car to the side of the road.*

**SPY**

spied, spied, spied

**spy on/upon**

● **Spy upon** is more formal than **spy on** and is mostly used in writing.

**spy on/upon** **sb/sth**

to watch someone or something secretly in order to get more information about them: *Carey spied on US diplomats and military officials in Berlin.* | *'Harriet the Spy' is a popular children's novel about an 11-year-old girl who spies on her friends and neighbours.*

**spy out****1 spy out** **sth**

to get more information about something by going and looking at it, often secretly: *The soldiers immediately assumed that the men were there to spy out their defenses.* | *In 1846, Young sent 148 people to spy out the Salt Lake region.*

**2 spy out** **sb/sth**

to find a particular kind of person or thing, after looking for them: *James is really good at spying out talented new musicians.*

**spy upon**

SEE **spy on/upon**

**SQUARE**

squared, squared, squaring

**square away****square** **sth** **away** USUALLY PASSIVE

AmE to finish or make something ready, especially by adding final details: *Peter needs another day to get things squared away at home.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **finish off** especially BrE

**square off****square off**

AmE to fight or play against someone in a sport: *Arizona and Stanford square off in the Rose Bowl on Sunday.*

+ against *A few hundred youths squared off against police at the Alma bridge.*

### square up

#### 1 square up

informal to pay someone money that you owe them, especially after discussing together how much you owe: *I'll pay for the drinks now and we can square up later.*

+ with *Sandy had better square up with the credit card company soon.*

\* SIMILAR TO: settle up

#### 2 square up

BrE to prepare to fight or compete with someone: *Watch Channel Five tonight as Mike Tyson squares up to Evander Holyfield.* | *Sixty schools are squaring up to compete in the Northern Schools Cricket Championships.*

### square up to

#### square up to sb/sth

BrE informal to deal with a difficult situation or person in a determined way: *Kathleen finally squared up to her brother and refused to lend him any more money.*

\* SIMILAR TO: face up to

### square with

#### 1a square with sth

if something such as an action, statement, or idea squares with something else, it seems right or similar when compared with it: *Denise's behaviour squares with her beliefs about animal rights.* | *His story didn't square with the witnesses' testimonies.*

#### 1b square sth with sth

if you square two actions, statements, ideas etc with each other, you show that they are right or similar when compared with each other: *How can you square such violent actions with your religious beliefs?*

#### 2 square sth with sb

to get someone to allow or agree to something: *I'll take the day off if I can square it with my boss.*

\* SIMILAR TO: clear

## SQUASH

squashed, squashed, squashing

### squash in/into

#### 1 squash in squash into sth

#### squash yourself in

#### squash yourself into sth

to push yourself into a small space: *He*

*squashed in, sharing the back seat with his mother and sisters.* | *Five of us squashed ourselves into one hotel room to save money.* | *Passengers on the plane squashed into their seats and fastened their seatbelts.*

\* SIMILAR TO: squish in/into informal, squeeze in/into

#### 2 squash sth in squash sth into sth

to push something into a small space or container: *Is it possible to squash another sweater in your suitcase?*

\* SIMILAR TO: squish in/into informal, squeeze in/into

### squash up

#### squash up

to move closer together in order to make space for someone or something else: *Football fans were forced to squash up as a record number of people attended the match.* | *We can get four people on the back seat if you all squash up.*

## SQUAT

squatted, squatted, squatting

### squat down

#### squat down

to bend your knees under you and balance close to the ground on your feet: *Omar squatted down to pet the little dog.* | *"Can you count to five, Robbie?" I asked, squatting down next to him.*

## SQUEAK

### squeak by

#### squeak by squeak by sb

AmE to only just succeed in doing something for example passing a test or defeating someone: *My boyfriend scored incredibly high on the exam, but I just squeaked by.* | *The Bears squeaked by the Spartans last season, winning 35-34.*

\* SIMILAR TO: squeak through

### squeak through

#### squeak through sth squeak through

to only just succeed in doing something, for example passing a test or winning something: *Prime Minister Michel Rocard squeaked through a no-confidence vote in parliament.* | *Bradley squeaked through with 51 percent of the vote.*

**SQUEAL**

squealed, squealed, squealing

**squeal on**

squeal on sb

informal to tell someone in authority about something wrong or illegal that another person has done: "The cops found out about the robbery." "Someone must have squealed on us." | Would you squeal on a friend for smoking marijuana?

\* SIMILAR TO: **inform on, grass on** BrE informal**SQUEEZE**

squeezed, squeezed, squeezing

**squeeze in/into**

1 squeeze in sb/sth squeeze sb/sth in

squeeze sb/sth into sth

to manage to do something or meet someone even though you are very busy or do not have much time: *On Wednesdays Allen can usually squeeze in a round of golf.* | *She is able to squeeze workouts into her schedule by getting up early in the mornings.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fit in**

2 squeeze in squeeze in sb/sth

squeeze sb/sth in squeeze sb/sth in sth

squeeze sb/sth into sth

squeeze into sth

to push or fit someone or something into a small space: *I think we can squeeze in a couple more people.* | *We were all squeezed into a tiny room.* | *In the end, they managed to squeeze the tent into Jan's rucksack.* | *These jeans are a bit tight but I can still squeeze into them.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **squash in/into, squish in/into** informal**squeeze out**

1 squeeze out sth squeeze sth out

to get air, liquid, or another substance out of something by pressing it: *Gently squeeze out the juice and seeds from the lemon.* | *Could you squeeze a little more toothpaste out of the tube?*

2 squeeze sb out

to prevent someone from taking part in a particular activity or business, or from staying in a particular area or job: *Big supermarkets are squeezing out smaller shops who can't offer such low prices.* | *Hodkinson was squeezed out in the battle for control of the company.*

+ of *Low-income families claim they are being squeezed out of the neighbourhood by high rents.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **push out**

3 squeeze out sth squeeze sth out

to produce or achieve something, especially by using a lot of effort: *The Indians managed to squeeze out a victory in the final minutes of the game.*

**squeeze out of**

squeeze sth out of sth/sb

to get something that you want from someone or something, especially when there is not much of it or when they do not want to give it to you: *Gannett eventually squeezed \$6 million out of the budget to pay for the new building.* | *Politicians found numerous schemes to squeeze more money out of their constituents.*

**SQUIRM**

squirmed, squirmed, squirming

**squirm out**

1 squirm out

AmE to only just succeed in escaping from a bad situation.

+ of *Edberg squirmed out of every tough situation and managed to win the match.*

2 squirm out

AmE to avoid doing something that you do not want to do

+ of *Dan squirmed out of the meeting by claiming he had too much work to do.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get out of****SQUIRREL**

squirrelled, squirrelled, squirreling

**squirrel away**

squirrel away sth squirrel sth away

to save something and put it in a safe or secret place so that you can use it at a later time: *Hasselhof had several million dollars squirrelled away in Swiss bank accounts.* | *I took the candy and squirrelled it away in my bedroom.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hoard****SQUISH**

squished, squished, squishing

**squish in/into**

squish in squish in sb/sth

squish sb/sth in squish sb/sth in sth

squish into sth squish sb/sth into sth

informal to push or fit someone or something into a small space: *The kids will all squish*



into the old building until a new school can be built. | Can you squish my jacket in your bag? | It's pretty crowded in the back seat, but I think we can squish another person in.

\* SIMILAR TO: **squash in/into, squeeze in/into**

## STACK

stacked, stacked, stacking

### stack up

#### 1 stack up

to form into a neat pile, or to make something form into a neat pile, by putting things on top of each other: *Stack up the chairs in your classroom before you leave.* | *Boxes of food were stacked up in the warehouse, ready to be delivered to needy families.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pile up**

#### 2 stack up

to gradually increase in number: *Your phone messages really stacked up while you were on vacation.* | *The bills are stacking up on my desk.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pile up**

#### 3 stack up

if planes stack up or are stacked up near an airport, they have to fly around the airport until they are given permission to land: *Bad weather caused dozens of flights to stack up near Kennedy Airport.*

#### stack-up N [C]

when several planes are flying around an airport waiting for permission to land: *Stack-ups at Heathrow are causing delays for hundreds of travellers.*

#### 4 stack up

AmE *informal* if something stacks up to another thing, it is as good or better than the other thing

➔ **to/against** *Cable operators said satellite TV fails to stack up to cable in some areas.*

**how sth stacks up** (=whether it is as good as other things of the same kind) *Parents want to know how their children's schools stack up against others.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **compare**

#### 5 stack up

AmE *informal* to happen in a particular way: *How did the meeting stack up this afternoon?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go**

#### 6 sth doesn't stack up

used to say that something does not make sense: *Why would she abandon her only child? The story just doesn't stack up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **add up, make sense**

## STAFF

staffed, staffed, staffing

### staff up

staff up staff up sth

especially AmE to increase the number of people working for a company or organization: *The top priority should be to staff up the law enforcement agencies.*

## STAKE

staked, staked, staking

### stake on

stake sth on sth

to risk losing something that is valuable or important to you if a plan is not successful: *Roberts has staked his political career on his tax proposal.* | *Microsoft wisely staked its future on the Windows operating system, which became enormously successful.*

### stake out

#### 1 stake out sth stake sth out

AmE if someone stakes out a building, they watch it to see who is coming and going or what is happening inside: *The man apparently stakes out the check-cashing store and knew when the delivery of cash would be made.* | *Reporters have staked out her home and are offering \$10,000 for an interview.*

#### stakeout N [C]

AmE when someone watches a building to see who is coming and going or what is happening inside, especially because something illegal is happening there: *Detectives were on stakeout for armed robbers.*

#### 2 stake out a claim

to say publicly that you think you have a right to have or own something: *The tribes have both staked out their claim to the territory.*

#### 3 stake out sth stake sth out

to mark or enclose an area to show that it belongs to you or that you plan to use it: *We staked out a spot on the beach and sat down on a blanket.* | *Better stake out a table before it gets any more crowded.* | *Wayne and Delores staked out the corner of the garden where they planned to grow the flowers.*

#### 4 stake out sth stake sth out

*formal, especially AmE* to publicly explain your opinion on a particular subject: *Both Foley and Mitchell staked out positions that oppose the president's plan.* | *Coles has staked out his conservative political policies.*

#### 5 stake out sth

AmE to be successful in a particular area of business: *In three years, they have staked out 30% of the shoe market.*

## STAMMER

stammered, stammered, stammering

## stammer out

stammer out sth    stammer sth out

to say something with difficulty, using a lot of pauses and repeated sounds because you are nervous or because you have a speech problem: *Manson began to stammer out excuses, hoping Kelly would believe him.*

## STAMP

stamped, stamped, stamping

## stamp on

1 stamp on sb/sth

*informal* to use force or authority to quickly stop someone from doing something or to quickly stop something from happening – used especially to show disapproval: *City officials stamped on our plan to develop the land into a shopping mall. | Our boss stamped on every suggestion we made, and then decided to cancel the project.*

2 stamp sth on sth

if you stamp your style or character on something, you influence it in your own personal way: *The two designers have stamped their unique style on the room. | Patty's ability to stamp her personality on a piece of music impressed her teachers.*

## stamp out

1 stamp out sth    stamp sth out

to completely get rid of something that is dangerous or that you strongly disapprove of, such as crime or disease: *Police believe they have nearly succeeded in stamping out illegal drugs in the neighbourhood. | Haider attacked the Austrian government for failing to stamp out corruption.*

\* SIMILAR TO: eliminate, eradicate

2 stamp out flames/a fire

to stop something from burning by stepping hard on the flames: *After attempting to stamp out the flames, the boy called the fire department.*

3 stamp out sth    stamp sth out

to make a shape or object by pressing hard on something or using a machine or tool: *The dough is put into a cutter that stamps out 1,048 ravioli at one time.*

## STAND

stood, stood, standing

## stand around

ALSO stand about BrE

## stand around/about

to stand somewhere and not do anything: *There are lots of young men standing around on street corners, obviously without a job to go to. | Photographers were standing around, all hoping to get a picture of Arnold Schwarzenegger.*

\* SIMILAR TO: loiter

## stand against

1 stand against sth

to oppose a person, organization, plan, decision etc: *Today America is more determined to stand against terrorism, and to bring terrorists to answer for their crimes.*

2 stand against sb

to compete with someone for a political position: *Republicans are unsure who will stand against the Democratic candidate in November's election. | Heselstine said he could not foresee the circumstances in which he would stand against Mrs. Thatcher.*

## stand apart

1 stand apart

to be different or separate from others of a similar type: *Excellent service will make our company stand apart.*

+ from *The only film that stands apart from all the other war movies is 'Saving Private Ryan'.*

2 stand apart

to avoid being involved with other people or their activities: *Finn tends to stand apart and watch as others take control of the board meetings.*

## stand aside

1 stand aside

to move so that someone can go past you: *Stand aside, please, and let the runners pass. | The shopkeeper demanded that we stand aside and not block the entrance to his store.*

\* SIMILAR TO: step aside, move aside

2 stand aside

to decide not to become involved in an argument, fight or difficult situation: *Soldiers stood aside last Sunday when demonstrators broke windows at the French Embassy building. | When war broke out in Bosnia, the leader of the European Union asked America to stand aside.*

**3 stand aside**

to leave your job or official position and let someone else have it: *Edgar was pressured to stand aside after the bribery scandal.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **step aside, step down**

**stand back****1 stand back**

to move backwards so that you are a short distance away from someone or something: *The artist stood back and admired the painting when he'd finished.* | *A gunman ordered the receptionist to stand back as he took the money from the drawer.*

+ from *Standing back from the table, Sandy counted the number of people sitting in the room.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **step back, move back**

**2 stand back**

to think about a difficult problem or situation in the way a person who is not directly involved would think about it, in order to solve it or understand it better: *I think we should stand back and give this issue some long, careful thought.* | *Holden was upset that people didn't stand back and truly question the consequences of war.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **step back**

**3 stand back**

to decide not to take action or become involved in a situation, even though you or someone else would like you to take action or become involved: *How can people just stand back when so many families need help?* | *"We can't just stand back and let the fire burn itself out," said a Forestry Service official.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sit by, sit back**

**4 stand back**

if a building stands back from something, it is a short distance from it: *Our house stands back from the road a bit, so you won't be able to see it until you drive up.*

**stand between**

**stand between sb and sth**

if something stands between you and something else, it stops you from achieving it or from getting into a situation: *For millions of Americans, Social Security benefits are the only thing standing between them and poverty.* | *Is the only thing standing between you and a beautiful wedding the fact that you haven't found the person you want to marry?*

**stand by****1 stand by**

to allow something to happen when you should be doing something to try to stop it:

*Muldrow stood by and did nothing to stop the robbery.* | *"I will not stand by and accept the corruption that is destroying Cambodia," Jeldres said.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sit by**

**bystander** N [C]

someone who is in the area where something unexpected happens, and watches instead of becoming involved: *Bystanders watched as a young man threatened to jump from the 110-storey World Trade Center.*

**2 stand by sth**

to continue to say that something is definitely true or to do what you said you would do, and not change your mind: *At the news conference, Asbell stood by his story and denied any involvement in the murder.* | *He stands by his belief that education must change to keep up with society's needs.* | *The President will probably stand by his earlier decision to appoint Taylor.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stick by**

**3 stand by sb/sth** NOT PASSIVE

to stay loyal to something, or to continue to give someone help and support when they are in a difficult situation: *Kate and Louie agreed to stand by their son Matt as he recovered from his drug addiction.* | *Fox has said he stands by his company's work, despite customer complaints.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stick by**

● OPPOSITE: **abandon, desert**

**4 stand by**

to be ready to help someone or do something: *Operators are standing by, ready to take your order.* | *While firefighters stood by, crews dug down near the break and sealed off the gas line.*

**stand by to do sth** *Buses were standing by to take hotel guests to the airport.*

**standby** N [C]

something that is ready to be used if needed: *Powdered milk is a good standby for emergencies.*

**stand down****1 stand down**

to agree to leave your job or official position, or stop trying to be elected, so that someone else can do it instead: *I'm prepared to stand down in favour of another candidate.* | *Powell's announcement that she would stand down from her seat on the directors' board shocked shareholders.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **step down**

**2 stand down**

if someone who has been answering questions in a court of law stands down, they stop answering questions and leave the place

where they have to stand to answer them: *Danielle stood down, clearly upset by the questions the lawyers had asked her.*

**3 stand sb down** **stand down**

to officially tell a soldier or group of soldiers that they are no longer needed for duty, or to stop being on duty: *The last American Air Force Squadron at the airbase stands down from active duty today.* | *Allied forces in the Gulf have been stood down.*

**stand for**

**1 stand for sth** NOT PASSIVE

to represent a word, phrase, or idea: *What does 'UNHCR' stand for?* | *Schools are working with a network called SHAPE, which stands for 'Shaping Health As Partners in Education'.* | *For centuries in literature, the swan has stood for purity and virtue.*

**2 stand for sth**

to support a particular set of ideas, principles, or values – used especially about political leaders or groups: *Martin Luther King stood for fairness and racial equality.* | *Our group stands for justice, and we want citizens to realize the discrimination minorities face every day.*

**3 not stand for sth**

to refuse to accept a situation without complaining or trying to change it: *You can't ban cars from the city centre – people wouldn't stand for it.*

**sb won't/wouldn't stand for sth** "I won't stand for swearing in my house," said Peggy indignantly.

\* SIMILAR TO: **put up with, tolerate**

**4 stand for sth**

to try to be elected for a political position or a position in an organization: *Robertson and Young decided not to stand for positions on the board of directors.* | *Senator Finkle must stand for election again in 2002.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run for**

**stand in**

**stand in**

to do someone else's job for a short period of time

+ **for** *Quarterback Jeff Kemp stood in for Jim McMahon, who suffered four broken ribs last Sunday.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fill in**

**stand-in** N [C]

someone who does another person's job for a short period of time, or who does something instead of someone: *A stand-in accepted Gorbachev's Peace Prize medal for him.*

**stand off**

**stand off** sb/sth

AmE to prevent someone or something from coming close enough to attack you: *The gunman stood off police for about two hours before surrendering.*

**stand-off** N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

a situation in which neither side in a battle or argument can get an advantage: *Police surrounded the building and a stand-off continued until shortly before 7 a.m.*

**stand out**

**1 stand out**

to be very easy to see or notice: *The ads are meant to stand out and catch people's attention.* | *They painted the door blue, to make it stand out.* | *One man in a tweed jacket and purple tie stood out in a crowd of people in shorts and T-shirts.*

+ **against** *Theresa's short, bleached blond hair stands out against her dark clothing.*

**stand out a mile** spoken (=used to emphasize that something stands out) *Of course he's rich – it stands out a mile!*

**stands out like a sore thumb** (=someone or something is very easy to notice because they are different from the people or things around them) *To many residents, the statue stands out like a sore thumb.*

**2 stand out**

to be clearly better than other similar things or people: *There are some interesting paintings in the exhibition, but one artist's work really stands out.*

+ **as** *Darren always stood out as an athlete.*

+ **among** *One performer who stood out among the rest was the 16-year-old boy from Montgomery, Alabama.*

+ **from** *Her experience in office management made Holly stand out from 50 other qualified candidates.*

**outstanding** ADJ

better than other similar things or people: *What do you see as your outstanding accomplishment in city government?*

**standout** N [C]

AmE someone or something that is better than other similar people or things: *The standout at the Fourth Avenue Garden Cafe is the middle-eastern influenced food.*

**stand out against**

**stand out against** sth

to publicly say that you are strongly opposed to a plan or idea, especially when other people do not support you: *Am I the only person who is willing to stand out against the budget cuts?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **oppose**

**stand out for****stand out for** *sth*

to continue to demand a particular thing and refuse to accept anything else: *The workers' union stands out for fair labour laws and health insurance for all employees.*

**stand over****stand over** *sb*

to stand very close to someone and watch as they do something, especially to make sure they finish it or do it correctly: *I can't work with you standing over me like that. | Mom always stood over us, making sure we ate everything on our plates.*

**stand round** *BrE*

SEE **stand around**

**stand to****stand to** *sb/sth*    **stand** *sb/sth* **to****stand to**

*BrE* to order a soldier to move into a position so that they are ready for action, or to move into this position: *Reports of a German advance came through, and we were ordered to stand to.*

**stand together****stand together**

if people or groups stand together, they are loyal to each other and work together to achieve the same things: *Politicians from all parties have promised to stand together and protect our national security. | Today the United States and Czechoslovakia stand together, united in their pursuit of the democratic ideal.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stick together**

**stand up****1 stand up**

to move into a standing position after you have been sitting or lying down: *A drunken fan sitting near me suddenly stood up and started yelling at the pitcher. | When Regaldo stood up and moved toward the stage, security guards reached out to stop him. | I stood up and started putting on my coat "Thanks for the tea. I'll give you a call next week."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get up**

● OPPOSITE: **sit down**

**2 stand sb up**

to fail to meet someone after promising that you would meet them, especially someone that you were starting a romantic relationship with: *It's not like Gina to just stand us up*

*and not call. | Tommy had been inside waiting and wondering why his date had stood him up. | Looks like I've been stood up again.*

**3 stand up**

if something stands up, it is proved to be true or correct, when people examine it closely or try to question it

+ **under** *The judge's decision is expected to stand up very well under any appeal the defendants try to make.*

**stand up in court** (=be successfully proved in a court of law) *Is there enough evidence to make the accusations stand up in court?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hold up**

**4 stand up**

to stay healthy in a difficult environment or stay in good condition after being used a lot: *The trees stood up pretty well during the snowstorms this winter.*

**5 stand up and be counted**

to clearly say what you think about something, even though doing this could be dangerous or cause trouble for you – used when saying that everyone in a group should do this: *If we don't stand up and be counted, we're going to suffer the consequences.*

**stand up for****stand up for** *sb/sth*

to support or defend a person, idea, or principle when they are being attacked or criticized: *"We're here standing up for freedom against our oppressors," one demonstrator declared. | Friends and colleagues stood up for O'Connell when the legal board questioned her professional ethics.*

**stand up for yourself** *You have to stand up for yourself and refuse to let your employer take advantage of you.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **defend, stick up for**

**stand up to****1 stand up to** *sth* NOT PASSIVE

to be strong enough not to be harmed or changed by something: *How well will this light-coloured carpet stand up to dirt and spills? | Some dishes cannot stand up to high oven temperatures.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **withstand**

**2 stand up to** *sb/sth*

to defend yourself and refuse to let a powerful person or organization treat you badly or unfairly: *Standing up to an abusive boss can be risky. | Mrs. Thatcher was the first British leader to stand up to the Unions. | It took a lot of courage for one man to stand up to the tobacco industry.*

**3 stand up to scrutiny/inspection**

formal If something stands up to scrutiny or inspection, it remains true, correct, or believable even when people examine it closely: *Low's studies stood up to close scrutiny from experts in the field.*

**STARE**

stared, stared, staring

**stare down** AmE

ALSO **stare out** BrE

**1 stare sb down/out stare down/out sb**

to look into someone's eyes for a long time so that they start to feel uncomfortable and look away from you: *Mrs. Finch stared me down, fearless and severe.* | *Although he was frightened, Fenton stood tall and stared out the gunmen.*

**2 stare down sth stare sth down**

AmE formal to deal with a difficult situation or opponent in a determined and successful way: *Prisoners of war in Vietnam stared down death for seven years.* | *Ryutaro Hashimoto, the man who stared down the United States in last year's car trade dispute, was elected Prime Minister of Japan.*

**START**

started, started, starting

**start back**

**1 start back**

to begin the journey back to the place where you started from: *Shouldn't you start back before it gets dark?*

+ to *As they start back to the cabin, Gary realizes his keys are missing.* | *We waved goodbye to Uncle Rick and started back to the village.*

**2 start back**

to suddenly move backwards away from something because you are frightened or surprised: *She started back as the mouse ran across the kitchen floor.*

**start for**

**start for sth**

to begin going to a particular place: *"I've got to go," Laura said, starting for the door.* | *Without hesitation, they climbed into the car and started for the sea.*

**start in**

**1 start in**

AmE to begin criticizing or complaining about someone or something: *Don't start in again, Jeff, or I'll leave right now.*

+ on *Before I knew it, my mother had started in on my wife.*

**2 start in**

AmE to begin eating something

+ on *Marge started in on her seven-layer rum cake.*

**start in on**

**start in on sth**

AmE to begin doing or dealing with something: *Julia starts in on the assignment without asking questions.* | *When I arrived at work, Kent had already started in on our project.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **begin, start**

**start off**

**1 start off start off sth start sth off**

to begin doing something in a particular way

**start off (sth) by doing sth** *I'd like to start off by thanking my friends and family who have supported me during this difficult time.* | *The Ducks started off the season by defeating Washington State and Texas Tech.*

**start off (sth) with sth** *Start your weekend off with a gourmet dinner and a bottle of California's finest wine.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **begin, kick off** informal

**2 start off**

to begin your life or career in a particular way: *How sad for a child to start off in life with such a cruel father and a weak mother.*

+ as *Following her own dreams, she started off as an English teacher and later became a writer.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start out**

**3 start off**

to begin in a particular way

+ as *What had started off as a joke soon became a very serious matter.* | *'Dead Ringers' starts off as a black comedy, but ends as a tragedy.*

**start off on the right/wrong foot** (=begin to do something in a way that is likely to be successful or unsuccessful) *Many political experts say that the Clinton presidency started off on the wrong foot during the first six months.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start out**

**4 start off**

to begin a journey, or to begin moving in a particular direction: *Quinn insisted on starting off at 6:00 so we would reach Santa Fe before dark.* | *The bus started off down the road, leaving Lorene behind.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set off, set out**



**5 start sb off start off sb**

to help someone begin an activity: *Danielson starts the students off with stretching exercises and some basic drills.*

**6 start off start sb off**

especially BrE to begin laughing or crying a lot, or begin talking a lot about something that you often talk about, or to make someone do this: *Don't mention Tammy's name to Martin – you'll start him off.*

+ **about** *Bernice started off about her medical problems, telling us every detail of her knee surgery.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set off**

**start on****1 start on sth**

to begin doing something, especially something that needs to be done: *Don't wait until the last minute to get started on your college applications.* | *Let's get started on the campfire before it gets dark.*

**2 start on sth**

to begin eating or drinking something, or to begin taking a drug: *My son was 13 when he started on marijuana.* | *"Do you think you should start on another beer?" "You'd better not. You're supposed to be driving us home."*

**3 start sb on sth**

to make someone start doing something regularly, especially because it is good for them: *We started Ellen on solid foods when she was four months old.* | *When I became ill, Dr. Nelson started me on antibiotics.*

**4 start on sb**

BrE to begin criticizing someone or complaining to someone about something: *After yelling at me for leaving the kitchen a mess, Mom started on Gary for coming home late.*

+ **at** *Ray's wife started on at him about how he spends too much time in the pub.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start in** AmE, **lay into** informal

**start out****1 start out**

to begin to go somewhere: *We started out at 10 o'clock in the morning, and reached Ambleside by 5 pm.* | *My father and I started out for the church, as we did every week.* | *Before you start out, stock up on drinking water and high-energy snack food.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set off**, **set out**

**2 start out**

to begin your life or career in a particular way: *Jerry Seinfeld started out on amateur nights at the comedy clubs.*

+ **as** *Cardoso started out as a singer in small clubs, and later released the hit "Song of Too Much Love".*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start off**

**3 start out**

to begin to exist in a particular way: *Starting out with the purchase of six local companies, U.S. Delivery quickly spread across the country.*

+ **as** *Jose's taco shop originally started out as a fast food take-out restaurant.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start off**

**4 start out to do sth**

to intend to do something from the beginning: *Originally the group started out to make a concert film with backstage clips in it.* | *"I didn't start out to be a model," says Yasmin. "I did it once, and then more work just kept coming."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set out**

**start over****start over start sth over**

AmE to do something again from the beginning, especially because you want to do it better: *Slow down and start over, please. I can't understand a word you're saying.* | *Let's start the game over – Brian was cheating.*

**start up****1 start up sth start sth up start up**

to begin to exist and operate, or to make something do this – used about businesses, organizations, programmes, and systems: *Do you have the money to start up your own store?* | *There were rumours that Jesse Jackson had decided to start up a talk show on CNN instead of running for president.* | *At least a half-dozen new high-tech businesses have started up in Scotts Valley since January.*

**start-up** ADJ

related to beginning and developing a new business, organization, programme etc: *Start-up costs for the new recycling program are expected to be about \$60,000.*

**start-up** N [C]

a small newly developed business, organization, programme etc: *From a start-up in 1982, the company has grown to 2,600 employees and yearly sales of \$550 million.*

**2 start up sth start sth up**

if you start up an engine, car, machine etc, or it starts up, it begins to work: *Arthur got into the car and started it up without any problems.* | *My computer always takes a long time to start up.*

### 3 start up start up sth start sth up

if a sound, event, or activity starts up, or someone starts it up, it begins to exist or happen: *When the music started up, Ed was the first person on the dance floor.* | *The hunting season starts up again in August.*

## STARVE

starved, starved, starving

### starve for

**be starving for sth** **be starved for sth**

AmE to want something very much because you have not had it for a long time: *Most depressed patients are starving for human contact.* | *I was away in the Army and always starved for news from home.*

\* SIMILAR TO: long for, yearn for

### starve into

**starve sb into submission/surrender etc**

to force people to do what you want by preventing them from getting food or money until they do it: *The US navy thought the Japanese could be starved into submission through a blockade.*

### starve of

**starve sb/sth of sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to prevent someone or something from having something that they need, for a long time; with the result that they suffer in some way: *Luther Reynolds was a cold hard man, who had been starved of love as a child.* | *Radio broadcasting has been starved of funds in recent years.*

\* SIMILAR TO: deprive of

### starve out

**starve out sb** **starve sb out**

to force people to leave a place by preventing them from getting food: *The government tried to avoid direct attack by surrounding the island and starving out the rebels.*

## STASH

stashed, stashed, stashing

### stash away

**stash sth away** **stash away sth**

informal to put something in a safe or secret place, especially a large amount of money or something valuable: *He had millions of dollars stashed away in a Swiss bank account.* | *Works of art exist to be seen, and should not be stashed away in cellars.*

\* SIMILAR TO: hide away, hoard away

## STAVE

staved, staved or stove, staving

### stave in

**stave sth in** **stave in sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to hit or kick something so violently that it is completely broken or crushed: *The door had been staved in, and torn half off its hinges.*

\* SIMILAR TO: break down, smash down

### stave off

**stave off sth** **stave sth off** ✕

if you stave off something bad or unpleasant, you prevent it from happening or delay it from happening: *Nowadays there are various ways to stave off the effects of ageing.* | *We must get food and medical supplies to the area immediately if we want to stave off a human catastrophe.*

\* SIMILAR TO: prevent, avert formal

## STAY

stayed, stayed, staying

### stay away

#### 1 stay away

to deliberately not go to a place: *During the strike up to 90% of the workers were reported to have stayed away.*

+ from *Local authorities have warned people to stay away from the river as a health precaution.*

\* SIMILAR TO: keep away

#### 2 stay away

USUALLY IN COMMANDS

to deliberately avoid seeing someone or trying to form a relationship with them: *"I wish you'd just go away." Rachel shouted, "and stay away!"*

+ from *Jack had warned her to stay away from Derek because he couldn't be trusted.*

\* SIMILAR TO: keep away

### stay away from

**stay away from sth** ✕

to avoid doing or getting involved in something, especially something that is not good for you: *I had hoped that my children would stay away from acting as a profession.* | *After his death, Jonathon's family held a press conference, begging others to stay away from drugs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: keep away from

### stay behind

**stay behind**

to remain somewhere when other people

have left: *As a punishment, several of the children had to stay behind after school. | I stayed behind to prepare my speech while the others went off for the day.*

## stay down

### 1 stay down

if food that you have eaten stays down, you are able to eat it and it stays in your stomach instead of coming back up and making you sick: *I've only been giving her liquids – nothing else will stay down.*

### 2 stay down stay down sth

BrE if a child stays down at school, he or she has to repeat a year at school, instead of moving up to the next class: *Matt's teacher said that if he didn't improve he might have to stay down next year.*

**stay down a class/year** *Research has shown that many youngsters with behavioural problems have stayed down a class at least once.*

## stay in

### stay in

to remain at home, especially in the evening: *Sarah hadn't been out for a long time, preferring to stay in and look after Bradley.*

- \* SIMILAR TO: **stop in**
- OPPOSITE: **go out**

## stay off

### 1 stay off sth stay off

BrE to not go to school or work, especially because you are ill: *You don't look well at all – I think you'd better stay off and go back to bed.*

**stay off school/work** *When my mother came out of hospital, she still had to stay off work for two or three weeks.*

### 2 stay off sth stay off

to not drink, eat, or take something that is bad for you, for example alcohol or drugs: *If you are expecting a baby, the best advice is to stay off alcohol altogether. | He's trying very hard to stay off drugs now.*

- \* SIMILAR TO: **keep off**

### 3 stay off

if weight stays off after you have succeeded in losing it, you do not get fatter and heavier again: *I can lose weight quite easily, but it never stays off.*

### 4 stay off sth

to avoid talking about a particular subject, especially because it might upset someone: *I think we'd better try and stay off politics.*

- \* SIMILAR TO: **keep off** especially BrE

## stay on

### 1 stay on

to stay in a place longer than other people or longer than you planned: *Why don't you stay on and have dinner with us, if you're not in any hurry? | Lesley decided to stay on in Greece and try to find a teaching job.*

### 2 stay on

to continue working for longer than expected or planned, either in your usual job or in a different one: *James's contract was finished, but he agreed to stay on for a further six months.*

+ as *Everyone was pleased that Andrew Stavenger was staying on as managing director of the company.*

### 3 stay on

BrE to continue to study at school or university instead of leaving to get a job: *I wish I'd stayed on and gone to university but my family didn't encourage it.*

## stay out

### 1 stay out

to not come home at night, or to come home late, especially when someone is expecting you: *Phil had never stayed out without phoning me before, so I was really worried. | At home there were always rows if Lisa stayed out late with her friends.*

- \* SIMILAR TO: **stop out** BrE informal
- OPPOSITE: **stay in**

### 2 stay out (on strike)

if workers stay out, they continue to refuse to work because of an argument with their employer about pay, working conditions etc: *Teachers in some places stayed out on strike for several weeks.*

- COMPARE: **come out** BrE

## stay out of

### stay out of sth

to not become involved in a situation, activity, discussion etc: *This is a very unpleasant business, and if I were you I'd stay out of it. | Stephen had always made it one of his goals to stay out of debt and never borrow money.*

- \* SIMILAR TO: **keep out of, steer clear of**

## stay over

### stay over

to spend the night at someone else's house instead of going home: *We were all invited to bring sleeping bags and stay over after the party. | I'm staying over at a friend's house tonight.*

- \* SIMILAR TO: **sleep over**

**stay up****stay up**

to go to bed later than usual

**stay up late** *It was Saturday night and we'd decided to stay up late and watch the horror movie on TV.*

**stay up all night** (=not go to bed at night at all) *The essay was due in the next day, and I had to stay up all night to finish it.*

**stay with****stay with**

to continue to use, do, have etc a particular thing, instead of stopping or changing to something new: *It's a very long book but stay with it – it's really worth reading. | It's important to stay with a fitness programme long enough to feel the benefits of it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stick with**

**STEADY****steady on**

S

**1 steady on!**

BrE informal used to tell someone that what they are saying is too extreme, especially when they are criticizing someone or something: *Steady on, Marc! You're talking about my best friend, you know. | Hey, steady on! This is a public meeting.*

**2 steady on!**

BrE informal used to tell someone that they should do something more slowly and steadily: *"Steady on, mate," Billy shouted, "that beer has to last all evening!"*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slow down**

**STEAL**

stole, stolen, stealing

**steal away****1 steal away**

to leave a place quietly, so that no one will notice you or try to stop you: *Katherine listened to this conversation for a few minutes, before stealing away back to her bedroom.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slip away, slip off, slope off**

**2 steal away sth/sb steal sth/sb away**

to take something or someone away, especially in a quiet, secret way: *She was terrified that someone might try to steal her baby away.*

**steal over****1 steal over sb**

literary if a feeling steals over you, you gradually feel it more and more: *When he began to*

*sing, I felt a warm deep pleasure steal over me.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come over**

**2 steal over sb's face**

literary if an expression steals over someone's face, it gradually becomes more and more noticeable: *Freddie stared at her, watching an expression of contempt steal over her face.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come over sb's face**

**3 steal over sth**

literary if sound or light steals over a place, you gradually hear or see it more and more: *The first rays of daylight stole over the mountains.*

**steal up****steal up**

to move quietly towards someone or something until you are very near them: *a leopard stealing up in silence through the darkness*

+ on *Carrie had stolen up on him from behind and thrown her arms round his neck.*

**STEAM**

steamed, steamed, steaming

**steam off****steam off sth steam sth off**

to use steam to remove something that is stuck onto a surface, especially a stamp from an envelope: *I used to steam off stamps that came from abroad, so that I could trade them for others.*

**steam up****1 steam up/get steamed up**

if a glass surface steams up or gets steamed up, it becomes covered with steam so that you cannot see anything through it: *It was so hot inside that my glasses began to steam up.*

**be steamed up** *I don't know what they were doing in the car, but the windows were all steamed up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mist up, fog up**

**2 get steamed up**

BrE informal to become very annoyed, angry, or excited about something: *There's no point in getting steamed up – there's nothing we can do.*

**be steamed up** *Some of the nurses at the hospital were really steamed up about the news.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get steamed** AmE informal

## STEEP

## be steeped in

## be steeped in sth

if something or someone is steeped in a particular quality, type of behaviour etc, they have been so strongly influenced or affected by it that it has become part of them: *Children in the West are growing up in a culture steeped in sex, violence and drug abuse.*

**be steeped in history/tradition** *Oxford is a beautiful city; steeped in history and tradition.*

## STEER

steered, steered, steering

## steer away from

## steer away from sth/sb

to avoid talking about a particular subject or becoming involved with someone or something: *As a writer, she preferred to steer away from political messages. | Linda decided that in future she was going to steer away from musicians and artists.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **steer clear of**

## STEM

stemmed, stemmed, stemming

## stem from

## stem from sth

to develop as a result of something: *Many of the problems stemmed from a lack of communication between managers and executives.*

**stem from the fact that** *His depression stemmed from the fact that he had never really got over his father's death.*

## STEP

stepped, stepped, stepping

## step aside

## step aside

to leave your job or an official position, especially so that someone else can do it instead of you: *Many people felt that the old King should step aside and give his son a chance. | Ed Taylo, President of Pencom Software, has stepped aside to make way for someone younger.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **step down, stand down**

## step back

## step back

to think about a problem or a situation in a

new way, especially with less emotion, so that you are able to understand it and deal with it better: *It's not always easy to step back when it's your own family involved.*

**+ from** *I think we need to step back from the situation and work out why the company has failed to perform well.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand back**

## step down

## step down

to leave an important job or official position, especially so that someone else can do it instead of you: *In 1990 the President announced that he was stepping down as party leader.*

**+ from** *Vice chairman Alan Binder said that he would step down from the central bank when his present contract expired.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand down, step aside**

## step forward

## step forward

to offer to help: *Many volunteers stepped forward to provide the necessary support.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come forward**

## step in

## step in

to try to help or stop the trouble when a situation is difficult or there is an argument: *Gary stepped in to calm things down between the boys. | Compaq computer corporation stepped in to provide Connor with \$12 million in start-up funding.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **intervene** formal

## step on

## step on it ALSO step on the gas AmE

informal to hurry and drive faster – used especially when telling someone to drive faster: *If you don't step on it, we'll miss the plane!*

## step out

## 1 step out

to go out for a short time: *I just stepped out to have a cigarette.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **nip out** BrE, **pop out** BrE

## 2 step out

to appear in public looking attractive in the clothes you are wearing: *All eyes were on the Princess last night as she stepped out in a stunning wrap-around dress.*

**step out in style** *Leave your faded jeans in a drawer if you're planning to step out in style this spring.*

**3** **step out**

BrE old-fashioned to have someone as your boyfriend or girlfriend, and spend a lot of time with them

+ with Michael Wrighton, the film director, is stepping out with actress Jenny Seaman.

\* SIMILAR TO: **go out**

**step up****1** **step up sth**    **step sth up**

to increase the amount of effort, pressure etc, or increase the speed of something: *In the second half, United stepped up the pressure and took the lead.* | *The government is stepping up its efforts to encourage people to continue their education.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **increase**

**2** **step up (to the plate)**

AmE to agree to help someone or take responsibility for doing something: *People will have to step up if they want a crime prevention program in their neighbourhood.* | *It is easier to criticize others than to step up to the plate yourself.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **help out**

**3** **Step right up!**

AmE spoken used about a public show or other event, especially an outdoor one, to call people who are passing to come and watch the show or buy things: *Step right up for the Greatest Show on Earth!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **Roll up, roll up!** BrE

**STICK**

stick, stuck, sticking

**stick around****1** **stick around**

informal to stay in a place, especially because you are waiting for something: *If you stick around for a while, I'm sure you'll find some sort of job.* | *It looked like there was going to be trouble, but I didn't stick around to watch.*

**2** **stick around**

to stay in the same job, or with the same boyfriend or girlfriend: *Few of the girls have any chance of promotion – they don't stick around long enough.* | *What you need is someone you can trust, who you know will stick around because he loves you.*

**stick at****1** **stick at sth**

to continue to work hard at something, even if it is difficult or unpleasant

**stick at it** *You'll never be good at anything*

*unless you stick at it.* | *Mark hated the course but he stuck at it, eventually passing his exams with honours.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **keep at, stick to, persevere**  
formal

**2** **stick at sth**

to stop at a particular amount or number instead of increasing or decreasing: *The club proposes to stick at around fifty members, which is a manageable size.*

**3** **be stuck at sth**

to stop at a particular point or level and be unable to make any more progress: *Many of the children had a history of neglect, and were stuck at an early stage of development.* | *The path to becoming a financial director is very difficult, and a lot of people get stuck at a lower level.*

**4** **stick at nothing**

informal to be willing to do anything, even if it is illegal, in order to achieve something

+ to do sth *We were dealing with corrupt officials, who would stick at nothing to preserve their privileges.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stop at**

**stick by****1** **stick by sb**

to continue to give support or help to someone when they have got problems or are in trouble: *I promise I'll stick by you, whatever happens.*

**stick by sb through thick and thin** (=stick by someone whatever happens) *His wife, Alison, was a wonderful woman, who stuck by him through thick and thin.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand by**

● OPPOSITE: **abandon, desert**

**2** **stick by sth**

to choose not to change a decision, opinion, or statement, because you think it is right, even when other people do not agree: *I made that decision a long time ago, and I intend to stick by it.* | *The Wall Street Journal's London office says that the paper is sticking by its story.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand by**

**stick down**

**stick sth down**    **stick down sth**

BrE to write something quickly, especially because you are in a hurry or not sure what to do: *Why don't you stick your name down – you can always change your mind later.* | *I had no idea what I was supposed to write, so I just stuck anything down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **jot down, scribble down**



**stick in/into****get stuck in/get stuck into** *sth*

BrE *informal* to start doing something with a lot of enthusiasm: *All right, everyone. Roll your sleeves up and get stuck in!* | *By the time I got there I was too exhausted to get stuck into the debate.*

**stick on****1 be stuck on** *sth/sb*

*informal* to like a particular idea or object so much or be so attracted to one person that you do not want to consider anything or anyone else: *Lex is completely stuck on the idea of going to Spain again, but I'd really like a change.* | *She's still really stuck on Kyle.*

**get stuck on** *Don't get stuck on that house – it's really too expensive for us.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be hung up on** *AmE informal*

**2 stick** *sth* **on** *sb*

BrE *informal* to suggest or prove that someone did something wrong or illegal: *But Mike wasn't even in the country at the time, so they can't stick the robbery on him!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pin on/upon**

**stick out****1 stick out** ✕

if something sticks out, it points outwards or upwards, beyond the end of something: *He'd be quite good-looking if his ears didn't stick out so much.*

✦ **of** *I realized that the boat had hit a log that was sticking out of the water.*

✦ **from** *His hair stuck out from under his cap.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **protrude** *formal, jut out*

**2 stick your tongue out/ stick out your tongue**

to push your tongue out of your mouth, especially as a rude sign to someone: *When she asked him to help her, he just stuck out his tongue and laughed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put your tongue out** *BrE*

**3 stick** *sth* **out**    **stick out** *sth*

to push part of your body away from the rest of your body: *If you stand up straight and don't stick your stomach out, you'll look slim.*

**4 stick out** ✕

if a quality or fact sticks out, it is very clear and obvious: *The thing that sticks out is that there are no women involved in the project.*

**stick out a mile** *BrE spoken* (=used to emphasize that something stands out) *Look, Terry, it sticks out a mile that something's worrying you – what is it?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand out**

**5 stick out like a sore thumb**

if something sticks out like a sore thumb, it is very noticeable because it looks so different to other people or things that are around: *The new building stuck out like a sore thumb.* | *There aren't many foreigners in this part of the country – any stranger sticks out like a sore thumb.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand out like a sore thumb**

**6 stick** *sth* **out**

to continue doing something that you find difficult or unpleasant for as long as possible or until it is finished

**stick it out** *I hated law school, but Dad said that I had to stick it out for at least a year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **see out, see through**

**7 stick your neck out**

*informal* to take a risk by giving your opinions about something when you know you may be wrong or people may disagree: *I quickly realized that it would be better not to stick my neck out in meetings.*

**8 stick out in your mind**

if something or someone sticks out in your mind, you remember them more clearly than any others: *Of all the storms I've seen, that one sticks out in my mind as being the worst.*

**stick out for****stick out for** *sth*

to continue demanding something until you get it, instead of accepting something less or different: *The company offered him a smaller car, but Vic stuck out for the Jaguar.* | *The City of London, which owns the land, stuck out for a rent that was three times the market value.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hold out for**

**stick to****1 stick to** *sth*

to continue doing what you have decided or promised to do, instead of changing to something else: *Watt says he intends to stick to his plan of retiring early next year.* | *Julius never discussed anything with his family; he simply made a decision and then stuck to it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stick with, keep to**

**2 stick to** *sth*

to limit yourself to doing one particular thing or having only a particular amount: *If I have to drive, I always stick to only one glass of wine.* | *George was never ambitious; he was happy to stick to writing and gardening.*

**stick to doing sth** *It'll be quicker if we stick to using the highways as much as possible.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **keep to**

**3 stick to the subject/point/facts etc**

to only talk about things you are supposed to talk about, or things that are definite: *Please stick to the point, or we'll never finish the meeting.* | *It's impossible to make any progress if we don't stick to the facts.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **keep to**

**4 stick to your guns**

*informal* to refuse to change your mind about something even though other people are trying to persuade you that you are wrong: *Amelia stuck to her guns although it made her very unpopular for a while.*

**5 stick to your story**

to not change what you have already said or described and continue to say that it is true: *He's still sticking to his story that he was at home when the crime was committed.*

**6 stick to the rules**

to do exactly what you are expected to do or what is allowed: *Women were expected to stick to the rules – get married, have children, grow old.*

## S

**7 stick to your word**

to do exactly what you have promised to do: *Marcia had said she would help, and she was determined to stick to her word.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **keep your promise**

**8 stick it to sb**

*AmE informal* to make someone suffer, especially by making them pay a lot of money for something: *Stick it to them, Rickey – I think they should give you at least \$10 million a season!*

**stick together****stick together**

if people stick together, they continue to support each other even when they are in a difficult situation: *In the old days families stuck together no matter what happened.* | *When a team loses a game there's a lot of questioning, but you have to stick together and continue to fight.*

**stick up****1 stick up**

if something sticks up, it points upwards or above the surface of something: *Gordon was still in his pyjamas, his hair sticking up at all angles.*

+ **out of/through/from** *In the river, islands of rock stuck up out of the water.*

**2 stick 'em up!**

*spoken* used when threatening someone with a gun and telling them to put their hands up

in the air: *"Stick 'em up!" yelled Stavros. "You're under arrest."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hands up!**

**stick-up** N [C]

when someone tries to steal money by threatening people with a gun: *"Put up your hands! This is a stick-up!"*

**stick up for****1 stick up for sb**

to defend or support someone, especially when they are being criticized: *Thanks for sticking up for me in front of the boss the other day.*

**stick up for yourself** *I was determined to be more confident, more able to stick up for myself at work.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand up for**

**2 stick up for sth**

to defend or fight for something that is important: *If a client doesn't agree with you, you must stick up for what you believe, but calmly and intelligently.*

**stick with****1 stick with sth**

*informal* to continue doing or using something as before, instead of changing to something different: *An enormous range of new products is available, but many people prefer to stick with what they know and trust.* | *I learnt to draw with pencil years ago, and I have largely stuck with the same technique.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stick to**

**2 be stuck with sb/sth**

*informal* to be unable to change or get rid of something or someone: *Now that the new road has been built, we're stuck with heavy traffic coming through the town.*

**get stuck with** *I got stuck with Sarah's mother for most of the evening.*

**3 stick with sth**

*informal* to continue doing something even though it is difficult or there are problems: *I think I'll stick with the job for another year at least.*

**stick with it** *The number one problem for so many people is: should I get divorced or stick with it?*

**4 stick with sb**

*informal* to stay close to someone: *If you don't want to get lost, you'd better stick with me.*

**5 stick with sb**

*informal* if something sticks with you, you remember it clearly for a long time: *One thing he said then has stuck with me ever since.*

6 **stick with sb**

informal to support someone when they are in a difficult situation or have problems: *I have some close friends who are prepared to stick with me.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stand by, stick up for**

## STING

stung, stung, stinging

**sting for****sting sb for sth**

informal, especially BrE to charge someone a lot of money for something, especially an unreasonably large amount: *Last time I took my car in for a service, they stung me for about £400. | How much did they sting you for?*

## STINK

stank, stunk, stinking

**stink up****stink up sth** **stunk sth up**

AmE informal to play or perform very badly: *The Lakers stunk up their home court and practically handed their game to the Bulls.*

**stink up/out****stink up/out sth** **stink sth up/out**

informal to fill a place with a very unpleasant smell: *There was some old fish in the bin which had stunk out the whole kitchen. | Martin wears these old sandals which really stink the place up.*

## STIR

stirred, stirred, stirring

**stir in/into****stir in sth** **stir sth in****stir sth into sth**

to mix one substance with another, using a spoon to move them around together – use this especially about food: *Add the eggs and then stir in the sugar and dried fruit. | Mr Blakey sat at the table stirring sugar into his tea.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mix in**

**stir up**1 **stir up sth** **stir sth up**

if someone stirs up trouble or bad feeling between people, they deliberately cause it or encourage it

**stir up trouble** *The chief minister accused his political opponents of trying to stir up trouble in the state.*

**stir things up** *He was an unpleasant boy, who used to stir things up with his nasty sly remarks.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **provoke, incite** formal

2 **stir up sth** **stir sth up**

to cause people to have a particular strong feeling or emotion: *The huge statue of the leader was designed to stir up emotions of awe and respect. | News of the murder spread fast, stirring up panic in the neighbourhood.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **create** formal

3 **stir up sth** **stir sth up**

to make dust, mud, sand etc rise up in the air or in water and move around: *A truck sped past us, stirring up a cloud of dust as it went. | The floodwater stirs up mud and clay from the river bed.*

4 **stir up controversy/debate etc**

if something stirs up a controversy or debate, it makes people argue about it or spend a lot of time discussing it: *The report stirred up fierce controversy when it was published last year.*

5 **stir up memories**

to make you remember events in the past, especially from a long time ago: *Seeing Simon again had stirred up so many memories from her youth.*

6 **stir up sb** **stir sb up**

to make someone feel angry about something, often deliberately: *Critics said that the programme was biased and was intended to stir people up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **provoke** formal

## STITCH

stitched, stitched, stitching

**stitch up**1 **stitch up sth/sb** **stitch sth/sb up**

to sew the edges of a wound together, especially after someone has had an operation in hospital: *The nurse cleaned the wound, then the cut was stitched up. | Mrs. Garton was very annoyed when she found out she'd been stitched up by a junior doctor.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sew up**

2 **stitch up sth** **stitch sth up**

to sew pieces of material together in order to make or repair something: *I've split these trousers – can you stitch them up for me?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sew up**

### 3 **stitch up** sb **stitch** sb **up**

BrE *informal* to make someone seem guilty of a crime by deliberately giving false information to the police or someone else in authority: *You stitched me up, you rat – I got two years for those burglaries and I didn't do them!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **frame**, **set up** *informal*

#### **stitch-up** N [C]

*informal* when someone deliberately gives false information to make a person seem guilty of a crime: *It was a stitch-up – he didn't do it!*

### 4 **stitch up** sb **stitch** sb **up** USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE *informal* to deceive someone, especially in order to gain money from them: *We were really stitched up – we trusted him with our savings and we lost the lot!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **swindle**, **cheat**

### 5 **stitch up** sth **stitch** sth **up**

*informal* to complete a deal or agreement and achieve what you want

**stitch up a deal** *Shiraz has stitched up deals all over the world to boost sales.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sew up**

## STOCK

stocked, stocked, stocking

### **stock up**

#### **stock up**

to buy a lot of something, especially food or drink, for example because it is cheap or in order to keep it for when you need it later

+ **on** *We'll stock up on wine and beer while we're abroad.*

+ **for** *Supermarkets were busy with people stocking up for Christmas.*

+ **with** *Residents boarded their houses and stocked up with provisions as the hurricane headed towards them.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **load up on**, **get in**

## STOKE

stoked, stoked, stoking

### **stoke up**

#### 1 **stoke up** sth **stoke** sth **up**

to add more coal or wood to a fire so that it is full and burns well: *She stoked up the stove to get the oven nice and hot.*

#### 2 **stoke up** sth **stoke** sth **up**

to encourage people's anger, hate, or disagreement to grow and become stronger: *Stories in the press have stoked up anti-government feeling.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stir up**

### 3 **stoke up**

especially BrE *informal* to eat or drink a lot, especially because you will not eat or drink again for a long time: *I like to stoke up with a big breakfast, because I don't eat much lunch.*

+ **on** *a lively restaurant where you can stoke up on pasta, pizza, or chips for just a few dollars*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fill up**

## STOOP

stooped, stooped, stooping

### **stoop to**

#### **stoop to** sth

to do something that you know is bad or wrong in order to achieve something: *Ray would stoop to anything to get what he wanted.* | *The news editor must be short of good stories to stoop to this level of reporting.*

**stoop to doing sth** *I don't believe she would stoop to lying.*

## STOP

stopped, stopped, stopping

### **stop at**

#### **stop at nothing**

to be willing to do anything, even if it is cruel, dishonest, or illegal, in order to get what you want

**stop at nothing to do sth** *Drug addicts will stop at nothing to get money for their next fix.* | *Mike Calder was a hard, cold man who would stop at nothing to get what he wanted.*

### **stop away**

#### **stop away**

*informal* to decide not to go somewhere that you usually go to, because something is wrong or different from usual: *If the manager sells all the team's decent players, the fans are going to stop away.*

+ **from** *You really ought to stop away from school if you're not feeling too well.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay away**

### **stop behind/back**

#### 1 **stop back**

AmE to come back to a place a short time later: *Can you stop back later? I'm kind of busy right now.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come back**

#### 2 **stop behind**

BrE to stay in a place after other people have gone, especially because you have work to

do there: *I'll stop behind for a couple of hours after school to get this marking finished.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay behind**

## stop by

**stop by** **stop by sth**

to visit a person or place for a short time, especially when you are on your way to somewhere else: *I want to stop by and see Tracy on the way home.*

**stop by (sth) to do sth** *In the morning, Kim stopped by the post office to check the mail. | When Rena was out of town, Miles stopped by to feed her cats.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **call in, stop in, come by** especially AmE, **drop by** informal, **pop in** informal

## stop in

### 1 stop in

informal to visit a person or place for a short time, especially when you are on your way to somewhere else: *She worked just round the corner from my house and often stopped in for a visit.*

+ **at** *Stop in at the Coffee Plantation for Tucson's smoothest jazz!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stop by, drop by** informal

### 2 stop in

BrE informal to stay at home instead of going out somewhere, especially in the evening: *"Are you coming for a drink?" "No, I'm stopping in tonight."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay in**

● OPPOSITE: **go out**

## stop off

**stop off**

to stop during a journey, for example in order to see something or someone, or to have a rest: *On the way back home, he stopped off to look at a house he was thinking of buying.*

+ **at/in etc** *Boats will take you up and down the river, stopping off at Richmond, Kew, and Greenwich.*

+ **for** *The driver's home was nearby, so they stopped off for a mint tea there.*

**stop-off** N [C]

a short visit that you make during a journey, for example to rest or to see someone or something: *The flight takes 14 hours with a stop-off in Singapore.*

**stop-off** ADJ

a stop-off point or place is a place where you stop during a journey, especially to rest: *The town is attractive and is a useful stop-off point on the route across the mountains.*

## stop on

**stop on**

BrE to stay somewhere, especially for longer than you had planned or longer than other people: *It was decided that Charles would leave next day for London, and that I would stop on here for another month. | The couple brought medicines to the village and stopped on to nurse the children back to health.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay on**

## stop out

**stop out**

BrE informal to stay out late at night at a club, party etc: *Lizzie stopped out all night on Saturday. | Mum won't let me stop out late.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay out**

## stop over

### 1 stop over

to stay somewhere for a night or a few days during a long journey, especially in order to rest or visit someone: *The Foreign Minister will stop over in Paris on his way to the conference for talks with French officials.*

**stopover** N [C]

a short stay somewhere for a night or a few days during a long journey: *There are no direct flights, so we'll have a two-day stopover in Delhi. | The town is often used by tourists as a stopover en route to Turkey.*

### 2 stop over

BrE informal to sleep at someone else's house when you have been visiting them: *Malcolm and the kids came for a meal on Saturday and stopped over.*

## stop up

### 1 stop up sth stop sth up

to fill a hole and prevent anything coming out or going in: *There's a hole in this pipe. I need something to stop it up with. | People are so concerned about draughts – they stop up every little opening and the house gets stuffy and airless.*

### 2 stop up

BrE informal to not go to bed at the normal time and stay up late, especially in order to do something

**stop up to do sth** *I stopped up to watch the baseball and it went on until after twelve.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay up**

### 3 be stopped up

AmE if your nose or head is stopped up, it is blocked with thick liquid because you have a cold: *I have a headache, my nose is stopped up and I feel terrible.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be blocked up, be bunged up** BrE

**STORE**

stored, stored, storing

**store away**

store away sth store sth away

to put things in a safe place and keep them until you need them: *The maize is left to dry in the sun before being stored away in wooden chests.* | *All the data is stored away on the computer's back-up disk once a week.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **store****store up**

1 store up sth store sth up

to collect and keep a supply of something so that you can use it in the future: *Squirrels store up nuts for the winter.* | *At the beginning of the war, people started storing up goods for emergencies.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hoard, lay up, squirrel away**

2 store up sth store sth up

to remember things so that you can use them or tell someone about them later: *Writers store up these experiences for use in their novels.* | *If you make a mistake, he'll store it up and use it against you later.*

3 store up problems/trouble etc (for the future)

BrE to do something that will cause problems in the future: *Reducing interest rates now will only store up problems.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay up**

4 store up sth store sth up

to deliberately not allow yourself to show your strong feelings, especially for a long time: *Children who store up their feelings rather than expressing them often have problems later on.* | *All the anger she'd stored up in seven years of marriage came pouring out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bottle up****STOW**

stowed, stowed, stowing

**stow away**

1 stow away sth stow sth away

especially BrE to put or pack something somewhere carefully and neatly until you need it again: *We took the bags out to the car, and when Dad had got them all stowed away, we set off.* | *Some works of art had been stowed away in store rooms of Russian provincial museums for years.*

2 stow away

to hide on a ship, plane etc in order to travel without paying: *At the age of thirteen, Bill stowed away on a ship bound for Cork.*

stowaway N [C]

a person who hides on a ship, plane etc in order to travel without paying: *Sam had been a stowaway on a ship from Shanghai to San Francisco.*

**STRAIGHTEN**

straightened, straightened, straightening

**straighten out**

1 straighten out sth/sb

straighten sth/sb out

to deal with a problem, disagreement, or confused situation successfully: *There were a few technical problems, but I talked to the engineers and we straightened everything out.* | *It was a misunderstanding - I'm sorry I didn't get it straightened out at the time.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sort out, deal with**

2 straighten sb out straighten out sb

to deal with someone's bad behaviour or personal problems: *His parents got him a job, hoping that would straighten him out, but he ran away again.* | *I told him that until he got his life straightened out I wasn't going to see him again.*

**straighten yourself out** He'd had a drink problem in the past, but he'd managed to straighten himself out.

\* SIMILAR TO: **sort out**

3 straighten out straighten out sth

straighten sth out

to become straight or to make something straight: *The road is narrow and very twisty for about a mile and then it straightens out.* | *Sylvia sat down on the bench and straightened out her legs.* | *The application form got crumpled - I tried to straighten it out, but I think I made it worse!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **straighten****straighten up**

1 straighten up straighten yourself up

to stand upright again after bending down, or to make your back completely straight: *She bent over to tie her shoes and couldn't straighten up again.* | *Ellie put down the brush, straightened up, and glared at William.* | *Mike straightened himself up and tried to look confident.*

2 straighten up sth straighten sth up

straighten up

to make a place tidy: *Maintenance staff went on strike leaving workers to straighten up their own offices.* | *I made a feeble attempt to straighten things up, tossing clothing into the laundry bag and clearing dishes from the sink.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tidy up**



**3** **straighten up**

AmE to begin to behave well after behaving badly: *If you don't straighten up, we'll go home right now!*

**STRAIN**

strained, strained, straining

**strain at****strain at sth**

if something or someone strains at a rope, chain etc, they pull hard at it with a steady pressure, for example in order to escape: *The bear pawed the air in fury, straining at the massive steel collar round its neck. | The little boats strained at their anchors.*

**strain off****strain off sth**    **strain sth off**

if you strain off a liquid, you separate it from solid things by pouring it through something with very small holes in it: *When the pasta's cooked, strain the water off through a sieve. | Cook the tomato mixture for thirty minutes, remove from the heat and strain off any remaining liquid.*

**STRAP**

strapped, strapped, strapping

**strap in/into****strap in sb**    **strap sb in****strap sb into sth**

to fasten someone into a seat in a car, plane etc using a strong belt, in order to help to keep them safe if there is an accident: *Make sure your passengers are all strapped in before you set off.*

**strap yourself in** *He took one of the two pilot seats and began to strap himself in.*

**strap up****strap up sth**    **strap sth up**

BrE to tie a narrow piece of material around part of your body to support it when it has been injured: *Play was halted while the goalkeeper's knee was strapped up. | She fell and twisted her ankle badly – the doctor strapped it up and told her to rest.*

**STRETCH**

stretched, stretched, stretching

**stretch away****stretch away**

if an area of land stretches away, it continues for a long distance

**+ across/to/from/beyond etc** *To the west were the Great Plains, stretching away across Wyoming to the Rocky Mountains. | At the back is a formal garden, stretching away past ponds and flower beds to a pergola.*

**stretch away into the distance** *It's the best beach resort in Greece, with five miles of sand stretching away into the distance.*

**stretch out****1 stretch out/stretch yourself out**

to lie down in a relaxed way with your legs straight, especially in order to rest

**+ on** *He stretched himself out on the bed and closed his eyes.*

**be stretched out** *When I got home, Paula was stretched out on the sofa, watching TV.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lie down, sprawl out**

**2 stretch out sth**    **stretch sth out**

if you stretch out your arms or legs, you move them away from your body and make them straight: *He sat down by the fire, stretched his legs out, and made himself comfortable.*

**stretch out your hand** (=hold your hand straight out in front of you in order to take something or touch someone) *"Oh John," she said, and stretched out her hand to squeeze his.*

**3 stretch out**

if an area of land stretches out, it continues for a very long distance, especially as far as you can see: *I was stunned by the beauty of the rolling hills that stretched out towards the Mustang Mountains.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stretch away**

**4 stretch out**

if a period of time stretches out in front of you, it seems to be going to continue for a long time

**stretch out before/in front of sb** *Dan was bored; he felt his life stretching out before him – years and years of the same old routine.*

**5 stretch sth out**    **stretch out sth**

to make something last for a longer period of time than is usual or expected: *The lawyers could stretch this case out for ten years or more. | "Ohhh," said his teacher, stretching the sound out for maximum effect.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spin out**

**6 stretch sth out**    **stretch out sth****stretch out**

AmE if you stretch out a piece of clothing, or it stretches out, it becomes bigger and looser by being worn or pulled, especially in a way that spoils it: *No, you can't wear my sweater; You'll stretch it out.*

## STREW

## be strewn with

## 1 be strewn with sth

to be covered with a lot of things in an untidy way: *The plastic bags were ripped open and his front lawn was strewn with garbage.* | *There was a small desk, strewn with books and papers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: be littered with

## 2 be strewn with sth

to be affected by a lot of problems or unpleasant things: *Watson's injury is the latest disaster in a career strewn with misfortune.* | *The world of TV is strewn with broken marriages.*

## STRIKE

struck, struck, striking

## strike at

## strike at sth/sb

to have a harmful effect on something or someone: *This law strikes at the most vulnerable groups in our society.*

**strike at the (very) heart of sth** *an issue that strikes at the heart of our democracy*

\* SIMILAR TO: hit

## strike back

## strike back

to attack or criticize someone after they have attacked or criticized you: *United scored early in the second half, but Rangers struck back with two more spectacular goals to win the match.* | *Their rivals have taken 80% of the cola market and the company is keen to strike back.*

+ **at** *Government officials struck back at their critics saying that military action was essential to prevent further bloodshed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: hit back, fight back

## strike down

## 1 strike down sb strike sb down

USUALLY PASSIVE

if someone is struck down by something, they are suddenly killed or badly injured by it: *The following morning he was dead, struck down by a massive heart attack.* | *Buddy Lamont had been struck down by a sniper's bullet.*

## 2 strike down sb strike sb down

USUALLY PASSIVE

if someone is struck down by an illness, they are suddenly affected by it, usually severely: *Thousands of people have been struck down*

*by the mystery illness.* | *Guests were struck down by food poisoning after a wedding reception in Scotland yesterday.*

## 3 strike down sth strike sth down

AmE if a court strikes down a law, it decides not to allow it: *The Supreme Court struck down the Act because it violates the U.S. constitution.*

## be struck off

## 1 be struck off (sth)

BrE if a doctor, lawyer etc is struck off because they have done something wrong, their name is removed from the official list and they are not allowed to continue their work: *Dr Cox was found guilty and struck off for professional misconduct.*

**be struck off the register** *The 47-year-old solicitor faces being struck off the register.*

## 2 strike off

to start moving in a particular direction, especially in a confident or determined way

+ **along/across/towards etc** *"This way," he called back, striking off towards the village.*

\* SIMILAR TO: strike out

## strike on

## 1 strike on sth

to suddenly think of an idea or a solution to a problem: *Richard eventually struck on a plan for solving his financial difficulties.* | *In 1514, the German astronomer Werner struck on a way to use the position of the moon as an aid to navigation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: hit on, come up with

## 2 be struck on sb/sth USUALLY NEGATIVE

BrE spoken informal if you are not struck on someone or something, you do not like them very much, or you do not think that they are very good: *"Do you want to go to that pizza place again?" "I wasn't very struck on it last time."*

\* SIMILAR TO: be keen on

## strike out

## 1 strike out

to start moving in a particular direction, especially in a confident or determined way

+ **along/across/towards/into etc** *She struck out across the lake with a smooth, practised crawl.* | *Picking up our bags, we struck out towards the mountains.*

\* SIMILAR TO: strike off

## 2 strike out

to try to hit someone, using a sudden, violent movement: *He grasped my collar. I struck out and hit him across the chest.*

+ at *Without warning, he struck out at Davis, knocking him to the ground.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hit out, lash out**

### 3 **strike out**

to start to do something new and exciting in a confident independent way, especially a new type of work

**strike out on your own/alone** *In 1981, Tony left the company and struck out on his own, making and repairing electric guitars.*

### 4 **strike out sth** **strike sth out**

to draw a line through a word or piece of writing to show that it should not be there: *Strike out any statements that you disagree with.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cross out, delete**

### 5 **strike out**

AmE to do something badly or unsuccessfully: *She struck out. That was the worst performance I have ever seen.*

### **strike up**

#### 1 **strike up a conversation/friendship/relationship etc**

to start a conversation or friendly relationship with someone: *At lunch, I struck up a conversation with a physician who sat at our table. | a story about a boy and a dog who strike up a friendship*

#### 2 **strike up** **strike up sth**

old-fashioned if a band of musicians strikes up, they start to play their instruments: *In the big hall, the musicians struck up and people began to dance. | As the President walked in the band struck up 'The Star-Spangled Banner'.*

**strike up a tune** *The accordionist struck up a lively tune and the procession moved off.*

#### 3 **strike up a deal**

to arrange a deal, especially with another company

+ with *Auspex Systems, the California network server company, struck up a deal with IBM recently.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **strike**

### **strike upon**

SEE **strike on**

## STRING

strung, strung, stringing

### **string along**

#### 1 **string sb along**

informal to deceive someone for a long time, especially by pretending that you love them

or that you will help them in some way: *"She had no intention of marrying him, then?" "No, she was just stringing him along." | Are you serious about lending me the money; you're not stringing me along?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lead on, deceive**

#### 2 **string along**

BrE spoken to go somewhere with someone, especially because you have nothing else to do: *I thought I'd string along to see what they were up to.*

+ with *If you're going into town, I'll string along with you.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tag along** informal

### **string out**

#### 1 **string out sth** **string sth out**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if something is strung out somewhere, it is spread there in a long line: *Tables had been set up in the meadow and lights strung out in the trees. | I could see the village in the distance, the tiny shops and houses strung out along the bay.*

#### 2 **string out sth** **string sth out**

informal to make something last for a longer period of time than is wanted or necessary: *There was no point in stringing the relationship out – she would just tell him that it was over and leave. | a process that could string out the dispute for months*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drag out, prolong** formal

### **string together**

#### 1 **string together sth**

**string sth together**

to join things together, adding one thing after another: *a series of computer commands that are strung together on a single line | Disney wanted to do more than string short cartoons together; he wanted to make a full-length animated movie.*

#### 2 **string words/a sentence together**

to succeed in saying something that other people can understand: *He'd had so much to drink that he couldn't even think, let alone string a sentence together. | I used to speak really good Spanish, but I don't think I could string two words together now.*

### **string up**

#### 1 **string up sth** **string sth up**

to fasten something in a high position, especially something that forms a long line: *Workmen were busy stringing up the Christmas lights in the centre of town. | On summer evenings he would lie in the hammock strung up in the tiny courtyard.*

**2** string up sb string sb up

to kill someone by tying a rope around their neck and making them hang from it: *If he's the bomber, they ought to string him up!* | *films about tough lawmen coming to town to string up horse thieves*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hang**

## STRIP

stripped, stripped, stripping

**strip away**

**1** strip away sth

to remove something that prevents you from seeing what someone or something is really like: *The TV cameras have stripped away the mystery around the royal family by revealing their private behaviour and personal problems.* | *a book that strips away layers of deceit and pretence to show the art world as it really is*

**2** strip away sth

to remove the surface of something, or remove a layer of something that is covering a surface: *Strip away the old paint and sand the wood down.* | *Rabbits cause damage to young trees by eating their leaves and stripping away their bark.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **strip off**

**3** strip away sth

to get rid of rights or traditions that have existed for along time: *Women's economic and legal rights were stripped away, making them economically dependent on their husbands.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take away**

**strip down**

**1** strip down sth strip sth down

to separate an engine or piece of equipment into pieces in order to clean or repair it: *Nigel spent the weekend stripping down his motor-bike.* | *The men sat hunched over cleaning rags and oil, stripping down their SA80 rifles and machine guns.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dismantle**

**2** strip down sth strip sth down

to make something much simpler or more basic

+ to *Mooney's songs, inspired by folk music, have been stripped down to the essentials.* | *He vowed to strip his life down to basics, and went to live in a small cabin on a mountainside.*

**stripped-down** ADJ

made much simpler or more basic: *Apple's new product, called the 'Internet Box' is a stripped-down version of a personal computer, designed just for using the Internet.*

**strip down to**

**strip down to your underwear/pants etc**

to quickly take off all your clothes except your underwear etc: *Paul stripped down to his swimming trunks and jumped into the lake.* | *She stripped down to her bra, filled the basin, and gave herself a good wash.*

**strip of**

**1** strip sb of sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to take away something important from someone, for example their title, property, or power, especially as a punishment: *Johnson was stripped of his Olympic medal after tests showed he had taken illegal drugs.* | *Captain Evans was found guilty of fraud and stripped of his rank.* | *The people had been stripped of all they possessed, including animals, food, and personal belongings.*

**2** strip sth of sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to remove a lot of something from something else: *The mountainside has been stripped of trees so that a new paper mill can be built there.* | *a simplified form of religious worship stripped of all ritual*

**strip off**

**1** strip off sth strip sth off strip off

to quickly take off clothes that you are wearing or that someone else is wearing: *Boris loosened his tie, stripped off his clothes, and a moment later he was in the pool beside her.* | *She stripped off his shirt and started kissing his chest.*

**strip off** (=take off all your clothes) *Jack stripped off and jumped into the shower.*

**2** strip off sth strip sth off

to remove the surface of something or remove a layer of something that is covering a surface: *Strip off all the old wallpaper and repair any holes in the plaster.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **strip away**

**strip out**

**1** strip out sth strip sth out

if you strip a room or building out, you take everything out of it so that you can paint it or change it: *A developer had stripped the house out and converted it into four self-contained apartments.* | *They stripped out the interior of the building and completely redesigned it.*

**2** strip out sth strip sth out

BrE if you strip information out of a calculation, you do not include it because you want to see the results without it: *Stripping out currency changes, the company's sales were up 11.7 percent.*

**STRUGGLE**

struggled, struggled, struggling

**struggle on**

struggle on ✂

to continue doing something even though it is very difficult: *The two climbers struggled on, despite the severe weather conditions, and eventually made it to the summit.* | *The Lester Horton Dance Theatre struggled on in the face of mounting debts, but was finally forced to close in 1997.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **press on, soldier on****STUB**

stubbed, stubbed, stubbing

**stub out**

stub out sth stub sth out ✂

to stop a cigarette from burning by pressing the end of it against something hard: *Christine leaned over and stubbed out her half-smoked cigarette in the ashtray.* | *"Tell you what," said Mark, stubbing his cigar out messily in his saucer. "Why don't we see him now?"*

**STUFF****be stuffed up**

be stuffed up

informal to be unable to breathe properly through your nose because you have a cold: *He's got a sore throat and he's all stuffed up, poor thing.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be bunged up** BrE, **be stopped up** AmE informal**STUMBLE**

stumbled, stumbled, stumbling

**stumble across**

stumble across sth/sb NOT PASSIVE

to find something or someone when you did not expect to find them and were not looking for them: *Maria Kaczynski stumbled across an old diary of her father's when she was cleaning one day.* | *Boyce was killed because he stumbled across something he shouldn't have seen.* | *The trouble began when a policeman stumbled across a gang of about 20 youths known as 'the Chelsea Boys'.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come across, stumble on/upon****stumble on/upon**

● **Stumble upon** is more formal than **stumble on** and is used mostly in writing.

stumble on/upon sth NOT PASSIVE

to discover something, especially something

important or interesting, when you did not expect to and were not looking for it: *Alexander went home, little knowing that he was about to stumble upon one of the greatest discoveries of this century.* | *Whilst wandering around the backstreets, we stumbled on a wonderful little fish restaurant run by a local family.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stumble across****STUMP**

stumped, stumped, stumping

**be stumped for**

be stumped for ideas/words/an answer etc

to be unable to think of an idea, a reply, or anything to say: *The author seemed somewhat stumped for a reply to such an unusual question.* | *"Er..." said Zach thoughtfully, feeling a little stumped for words.*

**stump up**

stump up stump up sth

BrE informal to pay money, especially when it is difficult or you do not want to: *That's ten quid you owe me. Come on, stump up.*

+ for *Those wishing to enjoy the club's luxury facilities will have to stump up £20,000 a year for membership.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cough up** informal**SUBJECT**

subjected, subjected, subjecting

**subject to**

1 subject sb to sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to force someone to experience something very unpleasant: *She was subjected to years of battering and abuse before she finally divorced her husband.* | *An African-American friend told me that she is subjected to racist behavior every day.* | *Human rights groups complained that the men had been subjected to torture during interrogation.*

2 subject sth to tests/analysis/scrutiny etc

to test something or examine it carefully: *Drugs are subjected to rigorous testing before they can be marketed.* | *The airplane wing is being subjected to scrutiny, as it is thought that the crash could have been caused by a fault in its design.* | *In her report, Patricia M. Morgan subjects government crime statistics to careful analysis.*

3 be subjected to sth

to be affected by physical forces such as heat, light, energy etc: *When rocks are subjected to very high temperatures, structural changes occur.* | *They warned us that if the building were subjected to the force of a major earthquake it would certainly collapse.*

**SUBMIT**

submitted, submitted, submitting

**submit to****1** submit to sth/sb

to accept the authority or power of someone or something and do what they demand: *If we submit to threats of violence now, we shall only encourage further aggression.* | *Religious leaders had taught us that women must submit to their husbands in all matters.*

**2** submit yourself to sth

formal to allow something to be done to you, even though you do not want it to happen: *Walden agreed to submit himself to questioning.* | *Joshua Morris submitted himself to the first body-search of the day, carried out by a stern official in khaki uniform.*

**SUBSCRIBE**

subscribed, subscribed, subscribing

**subscribe for****subscribe for** sth

BrE to agree to buy shares (=the equal parts that a company is divided into): *Each employee may subscribe for up to £2000 worth of shares.*

**subscribe to****1** subscribe to sth

formal if you subscribe to an idea or opinion, you agree with it or support it: *The Soviet government only employed those teachers who subscribed to the Marxist version of history.*

**subscribe to the view/theory that** *I have never subscribed to the view that parents should be blamed for their children's bad behaviour.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **agree with****2** subscribe to sth

to pay for copies of a newspaper or magazine to be sent to you, or to pay for a television, telephone, or Internet service: *Subscribe to New Internationalist magazine for a year, and receive a free map of the world.* | *An estimated 19.8 percent of San Diego's adults subscribe to a computer online service.* | *Subscribe to the Movie Channel for only \$9.99 a month.*

**SUCCEED**

succeeded, succeeded, succeeding

**succeed in****succeed in** sth

to do what you have been trying or wanting to do

**succeed in doing sth** *Environmental campaigners have finally succeeded in convincing the government of the need to invest in public transport systems.* | *Negotiators have not yet succeeded in establishing a ceasefire.* | *Very few people who go on diets succeed in losing weight and keeping it off.*

**succeed in sth** *In 1999, Rodman succeeded in her ambition to climb K2 Peak.*

**SUCK**

sucked, sucked, sucking

**get sucked in/into****get sucked in/into**

to gradually become more and more involved in a bad situation or harmful activity, so that it becomes difficult to get out of or stop doing

**get sucked in/into** *Jonno started hanging round with a gang, and got sucked into a world of petty crime and drug abuse.* | *There are fears that if war breaks out in the Balkans again, other countries might get sucked in.*

**be sucked in/into** *Now men too have been sucked into the quest for physical perfection, making up 25% of all cosmetic surgery clients.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be/get dragged into****suck off****suck sb off** **suck off sb**

taboo if someone sucks a man off, they move their lips and tongue along his sex organs to give him sexual pleasure: *Then she unzipped him and sucked him off. Just like that.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give sb a blow job** informal, **perform oral sex on sb** formal

**suck up to****suck up to** sb

informal to try to make someone in authority like you by doing nice things for them or saying nice things to them, in a way that is not sincere: *She's always sucking up to the boss – it makes me sick.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **creep (up) to** BrE spoken**SUCKER**

suckered, suckered, suckering

**sucker into****sucker sb into sth**

informal to persuade someone to do something they do not want to do, especially by tricking them or lying to them: *Charlie was really good at suckering people into extra work.*



**sucker sb into doing sth** Jackie suckered me into paying for her dinner.

## SUE

sued, sued, suing

### sue for

#### sue for peace/mercy

formal to ask a government, king etc to stop attacking you or to not harm you: *The sight of Charles and his great army filled the Saxons with fear, and they sued for peace.* | *The prisoners sued for mercy at King Henry's feet.*

## SUFFER

suffered, suffered, suffering

### suffer from

#### 1 suffer from sth

to have an illness, especially a serious one: *Seventeen children from the same school were admitted to hospital suffering from diarrhea, stomach cramps, vomiting and fever.* | *Deborah suffered from periods of deep depression, but she was a proud woman, and didn't tell anyone about it.*

#### 2 suffer from sth

to have a particular disadvantage: *Indian laboratories suffer from a lack of resources.* | *The hill country of Monferrato frequently suffers from drought, because no substantial rivers run through it.* | *The Economic Development Administration was set up to develop stable economies in areas that suffered from persistent unemployment.*

## SUIT

suitied, suited, suiting

### suit to

#### 1 be suited to sth

to be the right person or thing for a particular purpose, job, or situation: *Students have created a wildlife garden suited to the needs of disabled people.*

**be suited to doing sth** *I think you realise quite quickly if someone is not suited to working in the emergency services.*

**be well/ideally/perfectly suited to sth** *Declan McGonagle has a background perfectly suited to his new post as director of the museum.* | *The debate is not over who is best suited to run the country, but which politician is the least corrupt.*

## 2 suit sth to sth

formal to make something exactly right for something else: *Suit the punishment to the crime.* | *Most teachers use a variety of approaches and methods in their work, suiting them to the needs of each class.*

### suit up

#### suit up

AmE to put on a uniform or special clothes, especially for playing a sport: *Young will suit up for tonight's game against the Pittsburgh Penguins.* | *The astronauts suited up and took their first walk in space.*

## SUM

summed, summed, summing

### sum up

#### 1 sum up sth sum sth up

to describe something using only a few words: *"Hey, how was your date?" Vanessa summed it up in a word: "Hell".* | *My friend Hope sums up the philosophy of life in Italy this way: "If you are going to have a meal, you might as well have it on a beautiful plate."*

#### 2 sum up sum up sth sum sth up

if you sum up at the end of a meeting, lesson, speech, or piece of writing, you state the most important points again: *Once we've shown you the video, Gary will come back and just sum up very briefly, and then we'll answer any questions.* | *There's a paragraph at the end of each chapter that sums up the main points.*

**to sum up** (=used before summing up at the end of a speech or report) *So, to sum up, we need to concentrate on two things – staff training and improved communication.*

\* SIMILAR TO: summarize

#### summing-up N [C]

a statement giving the most important facts but not the details of something, especially made by the judge at the end of a trial: *In his summing-up, the judge warned the jury that it was dangerous to convict someone on the evidence of one victim alone.*

#### 3 sum up sb/sth sum sb/sth up

to show the most typical qualities of someone or something: *Andy Warhol's pictures seemed to sum up the new consumer society of the 1960s.* | *It was a damp, dark room with very little furniture. The place seemed to sum up Kai's bleak and empty life.*

\* SIMILAR TO: epitomize formal

#### 4 sum up sb/sth sum sb/sth up

BrE to quickly form a judgement or opinion about someone or something: *She's a clever*

young woman. She'll soon sum up the situation. | He looked long and hard at the younger executive as if trying to sum him up.

\* SIMILAR TO: **suss out** spoken informal, especially BrE

## SUMMON

summoned, summoned, summoning

### summon up

#### 1 summon up sth

to try very hard to find something such as courage, energy, or strength in yourself, because you need it to do something: *Geoffrey summoned up all his powers of concentration and looked down at the exam paper.*

**summon up the courage/strength etc to do sth** *She lay there panting for a while, trying to summon up the strength to move.*

**summon up a smile** *"You look a little pale." Paige summoned up a smile. "I'm fine."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **muster up**

#### 2 summon up sth

if something summons up a memory, thought or image, it makes you remember it or think of it: *The smell of the sea summoned up memories of childhood holidays, of long days spent playing on the beach.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **evoke, conjure up**

#### 3 summon up sth

to succeed in getting people to help you, or in getting something that you need for a particular purpose: *Because of our late arrival, the hotel restaurant could summon up only half-cold packet soup and some dry bread.* | *Rita had summoned up a group of supporters. Most of them did look a little strange.*

#### 4 summon up sb/sth

to communicate with the spirits of dead people, and tell them to come to you: *They stand in a ring and hold hands, and summon up the spirits of the dead.* | *He cried out in a voice that would summon up the devil from the deepest part of hell.*

## SURGE

surged, surged, surging

### surge up

#### surge up

if an emotion surges up, you suddenly feel it very strongly: *Rage surged up within her. "If I had a knife," she thought "I would kill him."* | *Rudskov looked around in despair and felt panic surging up inside him, taking his breath away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rise up, well up** literary

## SUSS

sussed, sussed, sussing

### suss out

#### suss out sb/sth

#### suss sb/sth out

spoken, especially BrE to discover what someone or something is really like, or to discover something that you did not know before: *It didn't take me long to suss her out.*

+ **what/which/how etc** *Ray used to give us all free drinks until the bar manager sussed out what he was doing and sacked him.* | *I'm just trying to suss out how this dishwasher works.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work out, figure out**

## SWAB

swabbed, swabbed, swabbing

### swab down

#### swab down sth

#### swab sth down

to wash walls or the floor thoroughly, especially a ship: *I found Rafael on the ship, swabbing down the deck.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wash down**

### swab out

#### swab out sth

#### swab sth out

especially BrE to clean something with a piece of cloth and a cleaning product that destroys bacteria (=very small living things that can cause disease) *Make sure all the WCs are swabbed out with disinfectant.*

## SWALLOW

swallowed, swallowed, swallowing

### swallow down

#### swallow down sth

#### swallow sth down

to make something that is in your mouth go down your throat and towards your stomach: *Christina shook two pills out of the bottle and swallowed them down.* | *Stewart swallowed down his wine and got up.*

### swallow up

#### 1 swallow up sth

#### swallow sth up

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a large country, company, or organization swallows up a smaller one, the smaller one becomes part of the larger one: *The tiny island state was swallowed up by Indonesia in 1976.* | *A lot of the old publishing firms have been swallowed up by huge multinationals.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take over, absorb**

## 2 swallow up sth swallow sth up

USUALLY PASSIVE

if something swallows up a large amount of money, it uses all of it, so that the money is not available for other things: *I got a pay rise, but it was swallowed up by the increase in train fares.*

\* SIMILAR TO: eat up

## 3 swallow up sb/sth swallow sb/sth up

literary if something such as darkness, a cloud, or a crowd swallows someone or something up, it hides them so that they cannot be seen: *The storm had swallowed up the daylight. Sheets of dense gray rain fell from the sky. | No sooner did the moon spill its silver light over the fields than it was swallowed up by cloud. | She watched as Blake walked down the street, until he was swallowed up by the crowd.*

\* SIMILAR TO: engulf

## SWAP also SWOP BrE

swapped, swapped, swapping  
swopped, swopped, swopping

### swap around

ALSO swap round BrE

#### swap sth around/round

to move two or more things so that each one is in the place the other one was in before: *Jake poured orange juice into her glass and vodka and orange into his, then swapped them round when she wasn't looking. | Have you been swapping the furniture around again?*

\* SIMILAR TO: swap over BrE

### swap over

## 1 swap over

if two people swap over, one starts doing the thing that the other one was doing before, or they change places so that one is sitting in the place where the other was sitting before: *I'll play from this end first and then after a couple of games, we'll swap over. | We shared the driving – I drove the first part of the journey up to Birmingham, and then we swapped over.*

\* SIMILAR TO: change over, switch over

## 2 swap sth over

BrE to move two things so that each one is in the place that the other one was in before: *Sally always comes to school with her shoes on the wrong feet, and her teacher has to swap them over for her.*

\* SIMILAR TO: swap around/round

## SWARM

swarmed, swarmed, swarming

### swarm with

#### be swarming with sth

if a place is swarming with people or insects, it is full of large numbers of them and they are moving around: *The museum was swarming with tourists – you couldn't really see anything properly. | The room was hot and stuffy, and swarming with flies.*

## SWATHE

swathed, swathed, swathing

### be swathed in

#### be swathed in sth

to be wrapped or covered in cloth or clothing: *The Emperor sat on his throne, swathed in a golden robe of richly embroidered silk. | rich women swathed in costly furs | Carter was lying on a stretcher, his head swathed in bandages.*

\* SIMILAR TO: be wrapped in sth

## SWEAR

swore, sworn, swearing

### swear by

#### swear by sth

if you swear by something, you are certain that it always works well and tell other people to use it: *Margaret swears by vitamin C pills – she says she never gets colds. | It's a new miracle anti-aging cream, and according to the article, many Hollywood celebrities swear by it.*

### swear in

## 1 be sworn in

if someone is sworn in at the beginning of a new job in government or the army, they make an official promise in a special ceremony: *President Hafez al-Assad was sworn in for a fourth term in office on March 12.*

+ as *Only hours after Kennedy's death, Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as President.*

swear in sb *General Zamora swore in new commanders of the armed forces on November 19th.*

## 2 be sworn in

to give an official promise in a court of law, before you take part in a trial: *After every member of the jury has been sworn in, the judge introduces the lawyers.*

**swearing-in** *N* [C]

an official ceremony when someone who has a new job in government or in the army promises to be honest and loyal: *The swearing-in took place this morning at the presidential palace.*

**swear off**

**swear off** | *sth*

if you swear off a particular habit or pleasure, such as cigarettes or alcohol, you decide to stop it because it is bad for you: *Froggy discovered religion, and swore off alcohol, sex, and even gambling. | Jay had sworn off love. "Too painful, darling."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give up, renounce** *formal*

**swear to**

**1 swear to** | *sth*

to be willing to say that something is true because you are sure about it: *A man recognized you, Marco. He saw you take the money and will swear to it.*

**I can't swear to it.** *spoken I think it was Sue I saw, but I couldn't swear to it.*

**2 be sworn to secrecy/silence**

if you are sworn to secrecy or silence, you have promised someone that you will not tell their secret: *"What's Julia planning for my birthday?" "I can't tell you - I've been sworn to secrecy."*

**SWEAT**

sweated, sweated, sweating

**sweat off**

**1 sweat off** | *sth*    **sweat** | *sth* | **off**

to get rid of an illness by sweating a lot. When you sweat, liquid comes out of your skin because you are hot: *You've got a fever - stay in bed and sweat it off.*

**2 sweat off** | *sth*    **sweat** | *sth* | **off**

to make your body weigh less by doing hard physical exercise and sweating: *Boxers work hard to sweat off as much weight as they can before they are weighed.*

**sweat out**

**1 sweat it out**

*informal* to work hard and continuously for long periods, especially in hot conditions: *The men had been toiling away for six months - sweating it out in blistering heat from 6 am until 9 pm every day.*

**sweat your guts out** (=work with a lot of effort) *We've been sweating out guts out trying to get this job finished on time.*

**2 sweat it out**

*informal* to wait anxiously for news that is very important to you: *"The poor guy keeps asking what is going to happen to him." "Well, leave him to sweat it out for a while." | Van Os is sweating it out, while the coach decides which 16 players he will be taking to the Olympics.*

**sweat out of**

**1 sweat** | *sth* | **out of** | *sb*

*BrE informal* to find out information from someone by asking them of questions in a threatening way: *The police finally sweated the other names out of him.*

**2 sweat something out of** | *sb*

to force someone to give you money even though they have very little money: *The extra millions of dollars will be found from taxes sweated out of the country's impoverished citizens.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **screw out of**

**SWEEP**

swept, swept, sweeping

**be swept along**

**be swept along** | *(by sth)*

to be very excited by something, so that you are persuaded to do something or like something without stopping to consider if it is right or good: *Iain hadn't intended to rob the store - he had been swept along by Tommy's drunken madness. | It's difficult even for an old cynic like me to avoid being swept along by the romance of those old Hollywood films.*

**sweep aside**

**1 sweep aside** | *sth*    **sweep** | *sth* | **aside**

to refuse to consider something that someone says, and treat it as unimportant: *Berry argued that buying an airline was over-ambitious, but Branson swept all objections aside. | Britain swept aside French protests last night and ordered the restart of the GATT trade talks.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **brush aside, dismiss**

**2 sweep aside** | *sb*    **sweep** | *sb* | **aside**

to defeat someone very easily: *The Democrats held control of Congress until the Republicans swept them aside in 1994. | Rosset, the Olympic tennis champion, swept aside Germany's Carl-Uwe Steeb 6-2, 6-2 to win the Kremlin Cup tournament yesterday.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take apart** *informal*

**3 sweep aside** | *sth*    **sweep** | *sth* | **aside**

to get rid of something very quickly in order to replace it with something else, especially

in a way that destroys something valuable: *Writing in 1934, George Orwell feared that modernisation would sweep aside Burmese culture. | Whole forests have been swept aside to grow crops for western consumers.*

### sweep away

- 1 sweep away sth sweep sth away

to get rid of laws, beliefs, or traditions because they are considered to be old-fashioned or wrong: *Sooner or later, the social practices that keep Japanese women out of good jobs will be swept away by economic circumstances. | Switzerland's economy minister is sweeping away some of the conventions that have stifled competition in the domestic market for the past half-century.*

\* SIMILAR TO: get rid of, do away with

- 2 be swept away

to be so excited by someone or something, that you feel very strong emotions and forget about other things: *Psychologists claim that men are more likely than women to fall in love and be swept away. | I think she was swept away by his wealth and power. She loved fantasising about wearing beautiful dresses, and being chauffeur-driven everywhere. | Giselle danced, swept away by the music.*

\* SIMILAR TO: get carried away, be swept up by/in

### sweep out

- sweep out sth sweep sth out

to clean dust or dirt from the floor of a room by using a brush: *The cellars hadn't been swept out for years and the dust lay thick everywhere.*

### sweep up

- 1 sweep up sweep up sth

- sweep sth up

to clean dust and dirt from a floor using a special brush: *The guests had all gone, and the cleaner was sweeping up. | The barman scowled as he swept up the broken glass.*

- 2 be swept up by/in sth

to be so excited by someone or something, that you feel very strong emotions and forget about other things: *The people cheered and danced in the streets, swept up in the euphoria of victory.*

\* SIMILAR TO: by swept away, be carried away

- 3 sweep sb/sth up sweep up sb/sth

to pick someone or something up with one quick movement: *He swept her up in her arms and kissed her. | Gillian swept up the coins and put them in her pocket.*

\* SIMILAR TO: scoop up

- 4 be swept up in sth

to become involved in a dangerous situation that you cannot avoid or escape: *The vast majority of the victims were innocent people, swept up in Stalin's campaign of terror. | Whilst on a business trip to Europe, she is swept up in an adventure of danger and intrigue involving drugs, crime, and romance.*

\* SIMILAR TO: be caught up in

## SWEETEN

sweetened, sweetened, sweetening

### sweeten up

- sweeten up sb sweeten sb up

informal to try to persuade someone to do what you want by being nice to them or giving them presents or money: *Take him out to lunch – try to sweeten him up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: butter up, soften up

## SWELL

swelled, swollen, swelling

### swell up

- 1 swell up

if part of your body swells up, it becomes larger and rounder than usual, because of an injury or illness: *His ankle's swollen up, but it's not broken. | Joyce felt her top lip swell up and she tasted blood.*

\* SIMILAR TO: puff up

● OPPOSITE: go down

- 2 swell up

to gradually increase in size: *If the window isn't painted, moisture is absorbed in wet weather, and the wood swells up.*

## SWERVE

swerved, swerved, swerving

### swerve from

- not swerve from sth

formal to be determined that nothing will stop you from trying to achieve an aim or follow a plan or principle: *Chernomyrdin, meanwhile, declared that Russia "will not swerve from its program of economic reform."*

## SWILL

swilled, swilled, swilling

### swill down

- 1 swill down sth swill sth down

informal if you swill down a drink, you drink

it quickly: *He poured himself another glass of beer and swilled it down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock back** *informal*

**2** **swill down** *sth* **swill** *sth* **down**

*informal* if you swill down food with a drink, you drink something while you are eating it

+ **with** *They had steak and chips, swilled down with plenty of cheap red wine.*

**3** **swill down** *sth* **swill** *sth* **down**

*BrE* to clean a place, by throwing a lot of water over it: *We went outside with buckets of hot water and began to swill down the courtyard.*

**swill out**

**swill out** *sth* **swill** *sth* **out**

to clean the inside of something by moving water around in it quickly: *Mike poured the soup into bowls then quickly swilled out the pan. | The dentist gave me a cup of bright pink liquid and told me to swill my mouth out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rinse out**, **wash out**

**S** **SWIM**

**be swimming in**

**be swimming in** *sth*

to contain a lot of something or be surrounded by a lot of something – used especially to say that a food contains too much of something: *The main courses were swimming in cream and butter, and I felt rather full.*

**SWING**

*swung, swung, swinging*

**swing around**

ALSO **swing round** *BrE*

**1** **swing around/round**

to suddenly turn around so that you are facing the opposite direction: *Bill heard a sound and swung around, startled. | I watched as Gambotti's car swung around in the parking lot and then sped off. | Julius swung round to face her. "You won't touch my money – and you won't touch me."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spin around**

**2** **swing around/round**

to change your opinion completely, so that you support something that you used to oppose, or oppose something that you used to support: *Meanwhile, in Italy, several senior government ministers who used to support closer European co-operation have suddenly swung round to oppose it. | American public opinion is gradually swinging around in favour of tougher gun-control laws.*

**swing at**

**1** **swing at** *sb*

to try to hit someone by swinging your arm in order to hit them with your hand or something that you are holding: *"You're a murdering bastard." Jack swung at him and missed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **swipe at**

**2** **swing at** *sth*

to try to hit the ball in a game such as baseball: *I saw the coach frowning as I swung at a series of pitches, missing each one.*

**swing by**

**swing by** **swing by** *sth*

*AmE informal* to visit a place or person for a short time before going somewhere else: *I'll swing by the grocery store on my way home from work.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stop by**

**swing round**

SEE **swing around**

**SWIPE**

*swiped, swiped, swiping*

**swipe at**

**1** **swipe at** *sb*

to try to hit someone by swinging your arm: *He tried to swipe at her but lost his balance and fell back into the chair.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **swing at**

**2** **swipe at** *sb/sth*

to criticize someone or something: *'Heathers' is a sharp-edged black comedy which mercilessly swipes at American youth culture.*

**SWITCH**

*switched, switched, switching*

**switch around**

ALSO **switch round** *BrE*

**switch** *sb/sth* **around/round**

to move two or more things or people so that each one is in the place that the other was in before, or is doing the job or activity that the other was doing before: *Claudia dropped the sleeping pills into her own mug, stirred swiftly and then rapidly switched the mugs round. | Absences could easily be covered because most of the staff knew each others' rotas and could easily be switched around.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **swap over/around**



**switch off****1 switch off sth** **switch sth off****switch off**

to make something stop working by using a switch – use this about things that use electricity, for example lights, televisions, or computers: *Sylvie switched the lights off and went to bed.* | *"What are you watching that rubbish for?" he said, and switched off the television.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn off**

● OPPOSITE: **switch on**

**2 switch off**

especially BrE to stop listening or paying attention to what someone is saying, because it is not interesting: *When my wife's colleagues all start talking about their work, I just switch off.* | *You shouldn't make your speech too long, or people will switch off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tune out** AmE informal

**3 switch off**

to stop thinking about your work or problems, and relax: *I play squash after work to help me switch off.* | *Sometimes she can't get to sleep, because she just can't switch off.*

**switch on****1 switch on sth** **switch sth on****switch on**

to make something start working by using a switch – use this about things that use electricity, for example lights, televisions, or computers: *Can you switch the light on?* | *My sister switched on the radio, and began to dance around the kitchen.* | *You can't put the disk in until I've switched on.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn on**

● OPPOSITE: **switch off**

**2 switch on a smile**

BrE to smile at someone when this is not sincere: *Switching on her brightest, falsest smile, she turned to him: "It's been very nice to meet you, Mr Burns".*

**3 be switched on**

BrE spoken to be intelligent, and quick to notice and understand things that are happening around you: *This new headteacher, Mr Collins – he's meant to be pretty switched on.* | *The ones who were going to succeed were those who acted more efficiently and were more switched on.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be on the ball** informal

**switch over****1 switch over**

to change from one method, system, product etc to a different one

+ to *I've switched over to telephone banking because it's more convenient.* | *The power failure created chaos throughout the city and forced three hospitals to switch over to their emergency generators.*

+ from *A new high-speed rail service would encourage millions of passengers to switch over from air travel.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **switch over, change over**

**switchover** N

the change from one system, method etc to a different one: *The switchover to less labor-intensive technologies has caused a serious unemployment problem.*

**2 switch over**

BrE to change from one television or radio station to another: *There's a film on the other channel – does anyone mind if I switch over?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

**3 switch over**

if two people switch over, they each start doing the job or activity that the other one was doing before: *If you get tired of driving we can always switch over.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **change over, swap over**

**switch round** BrE

SEE **switch around**

**SWIVEL**

swivelled, swivelled, swivelling BrE

swiveled, swiveled, swiveling AmE

**swivel around**

ALSO **swivel round** BrE

**1 swivel around/round**

to turn around, so that you face the opposite direction: *Dr Schmidt swivelled around in his chair to face the window.* | *"Your figure's very attractive," Mrs. Mounce swivelled round on her heel, and stared at him.*

**swivel your head/eyes around** *"There's Phil Aldrich!" Shirley whispered. Liz swivelled her head round to have a look at him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn around, swing around**

**2 swivel around/round**

if something swivels around, or if you swivel it around, it turns around a central fixed point: *The spotlight swivels around and can be pointed in any direction.* | *She swivelled the camera around and scanned the room.*

**SWOOP**

swooped, swooped, swooping

**swoop down****1 swoop down**

if a bird or plane swoops down, it suddenly moves down towards the ground, especially to attack something: *The gull swooped down and plucked a fish out of the water.* | *At least once a day, enemy bombers would swoop down on the city, sending people scurrying into shelters.*

**2 swoop down**

if a group of soldiers, police officers etc swoop down, they make a sudden surprise attack

+ on *Narcotics officers swooped down on locations in the Bay Area, arresting at least 17 major suppliers of cocaine and other drugs.* | *The police swooped down on them in a dawn raid, and all five gang members were arrested.*

**SWOP**SEE **SWAP****SWOT**

swotted, swotted, swotting

**swot up**

swot up | swot up sth | swot sth up

BrE *informal* to learn as much as you can about a subject, especially before a test or examination: *I've got to swot up French irregular verbs for a test tomorrow.*

+ on *Gill's swotting up on German history.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **revise, mug up** BrE *informal*

**SYPHON**SEE **SIPHON**

# T

## TACK

tacked, tacked, tacking

### tack on/onto

tack sth on    tack on sth

tack sth onto sth    USUALLY PASSIVE

to add something new to something that is already complete, especially in a way that looks wrong or that spoils the original thing: *It was a beautiful old stone house with an unpleasant modern extension tacked on at the back.* | *The film has an extraordinary surprise ending, tacked onto the end of the original story.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **add on**

### tack up

1 tack sth up    tack up sth

to fasten something to a wall, post etc using small nails: *I couldn't help noticing the lists of rules that were tacked up all over the school.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pin up**

2 tack up sth    tack sth up

BrE to sew the bottom or edge of a piece of clothing using long loose stitches, especially before sewing it more carefully with smaller stitches: *I'll just tack up the bottom of the sleeves, and then you can try them for length.* | *She was wearing an old black dress with the hem roughly tacked up.*

3 tack up sth    tack sth up    tack up

BrE to put the equipment needed for riding onto a horse's back and head: *Alexander yelled at me to tack up the little brown pony.*

## TAG

tagged, tagged, tagging

### tag along

tag along

informal to go somewhere with someone, especially when they have not asked you to go with them: *If you're going into town, do you mind if I tag along?*

+ with *Mitch was such a popular guy – there was always a crowd of people wanting to tag along with him.*

### tag along behind

tag along behind    tag along behind sb

informal to follow behind someone when they

are going somewhere, especially because you walk more slowly than they do: *Madeleine always used to tag along behind her older brother and his friends.*

### tag on

1 be tagged on

informal to be added to the end of something that is said or written: *On the rare occasions that he did remember to say thank you, it was usually just tagged on as an afterthought.*

2 tag on

to go somewhere with someone, especially when they have not asked you to go with them: *A guide was showing people round, so we tagged on and saw a lot we would not have seen otherwise.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tag along**

## TAIL

tailed, tailed, tailing

### tail away

SEE **tail off/away**

### tail back

tail back

BrE if traffic tails back, a long line of it forms and moves very slowly, for example because the road is blocked: *Traffic tailed back for twelve miles after an accident closed the inside lane of the motorway.*

**tailback** N [C]

BrE a long line of traffic that is moving very slowly or not moving at all: *On the way home we ran into a five-mile tailback on the M1.*

### tail off/away

1 tail off/away

to gradually become less, smaller etc, and often stop or disappear completely: *Demand usually tails off in August, but this year sales have continued to rise.* | *After a few years the number of visitors coming to the park began to tail off.*

2 tail off/away

BrE if a person's voice tails off or away, it gradually becomes quieter and then stops: *The old lady's voice tailed off when she saw the expression in his eyes.* | *Jack started to explain but his words tailed away, and Holly knew that he was making an excuse.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **trail off**

T

## TAILOR

tailored, tailored, tailoring

## tailor to

tailor sth to sb/sth

to make something so that it is exactly right for what a particular person, organization etc needs or wants: *GHN Consultants will create a personal development programme that is tailored to the individual requirements of each individual executive.*

## TAKE

took, taken, taking

## be taken aback

be taken aback

to be surprised or shocked, especially so that for a moment you do not know what to say: *Philip seemed slightly taken aback by this sudden request. | Anyway, I did some radio interviews, but was quite taken aback when I found myself on the front page of the New York Times.*

## take after

take after sb

to be like your mother, father, grandfather etc, because you look like them, or because you have a similar character, or similar abilities: *Becky's really pretty. She takes after her mother. | "You a good cook Paul?" "Of course he is. He takes after his dad, don't you Paul?"*

## take against

take against sb

BrE to start to dislike someone, especially without a good reason: *Bernard was engaged to a very pretty young woman, but for some reason his mother took against her. | Young's boss had taken against him, describing him as "arrogant and conceited".*

● OPPOSITE: take to

## take along

take along sb/sth take sb/sth along

to take someone or something with you when you are going somewhere: *My grandmother used to visit a lady in Lakeshore Drive, and sometimes she took me along. | The company sometimes lets employees take their spouses along on business trips. | Let's take a picnic along - there are some really nice places to stop.*

## take apart

1 take sth apart

to separate something into the different parts

that it is made from: *Danskin was taking his gun apart so that he could clean it. | Gegg spent the day taking his motorbike engine apart, but he couldn't work out what was wrong with it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: dismantle formal, strip down

● OPPOSITE: put together

2 take sb apart

informal to attack someone cause them serious injuries: *If you don't get out of here, mister, we're going to take you apart. | I had beaten him in a fair fight, but no boy would admit that a girl had taken him apart.*

\* SIMILAR TO: thrash informal

3 take sb apart

informal to beat someone very easily in a game, sport, or fight: *The Falcons' quarterback was injured, and the Packers took them apart.*

\* SIMILAR TO: walk all over sb, sweep aside

4 take sth apart

if you take a room, house etc apart, you look in every part of it because you are searching for something: *The police came and took the place apart, but they didn't find anything.*

5 take sth apart

to carefully examine what someone has written in order to consider and criticize the ideas in it: *The tutor marked our assignments, and then took them apart one by one, in front of the whole class.*

\* SIMILAR TO: pull apart

6 take sb apart

to criticize someone very strongly: *Clinton got taken apart by the press after his affair with Monica Lewinsky.*

\* SIMILAR TO: roast informal

## take around

ALSO take round BrE

take sb around/round

take around/round sb

to walk around a place with someone who has not been there before, and show them the most interesting and important things there: *A guide took us round the palace and gardens. | Ralph met Helen and Theresa at the station, and then took them around the town.*

\* SIMILAR TO: show sb around

## take aside

take sb aside

to separate someone from the rest of a group, so that you can talk to them without the other people hearing: *After the meeting Madame Mattli took Paula aside. "I have been*

watching you work," she said, "and I am very impressed."

### take away

#### 1 take away sth take sth away

to remove something from where it is: *Have you finished with the cookies? Shall I take them away?* | *Cans and glass bottles are put into separate bins so that they can be taken away for recycling.*

+ from *She took her hands away from her eyes and looked again.*

\* SIMILAR TO: remove

#### 2 take away sth take sth away

to remove something that someone needs or wants, so that they do not have it any more: *Building a new shopping mall would take away one of the last remaining green spaces in the area.* | *We pray for those who have been wrongly imprisoned, and have had their freedom taken away.*

+ from *By cutting pensions, the government is taking money away from those who need it most.*

#### 3 take away sb take sb away

if someone takes you away, they force you to go somewhere with them when you do not want to go: *The police came in the middle of the night and took him away.* | *All the men in the village were killed, and the women and children were taken away.*

#### 4 take sb away

to take someone with you when you go to stay in another place: *I'm taking the kids away for a few days.*

#### 5 take away sth take sth away

to make a feeling or taste disappear: *Joe took the medicine, then drank some orange juice to take the taste away.* | *The nurse gave him something to take away the pain.*

#### 6 take away sth take sth away

if you take one number away from a second one, you reduce the second one by that number: *253 take away 30 is 223.*

+ from *Take \$40 away from the total.*

\* SIMILAR TO: subtract

#### 7 take away sb take sb away

if something takes you away from a place or activity, it stops you from being in that place or doing that activity

+ from *My Dad's job took him away from home a lot, and he was hardly ever there while we were growing up.* | *All this paperwork is taking teachers away from what they should be doing – teaching the children.*

#### 8 take away sth take sth away

to learn something from an experience, and to remember what you have learnt so that it helps you in the future: *I was not a very successful student, but one thing I did take away from my time at university was a great love of English literature.* | *When a relationship breaks up, think about what you have learned about yourself, and take this away with you.*

#### 9 to take away

BrE if you buy food in a restaurant to take away, you buy it to eat somewhere else: *Two burgers and two teas to take away, please.*

\* SIMILAR TO: to go AmE

#### takeaway N [C]

BrE a hot meal that you buy in a shop or restaurant and eat somewhere else: *I can't be bothered to cook – let's get a takeaway.*

#### takeaway N [C]

BrE a shop that sells hot food that you take and eat somewhere else: *I'm going to the Chinese takeaway – d'you want anything?*

#### 10 take it away!

spoken used to tell a group of performers, especially musicians, to start performing: *And now our final number from the Delta Jazz Quartet! Take it away, boys!*

### take away from

#### take away from sth NOT PROGRESSIVE

to make something seem less good, less impressive, less real etc: *They won more easily because there weren't many other competitors, but that shouldn't take away from their achievement.* | *Being a film critic does somehow take away from the enjoyment of going to the movies.* | *The victim was an innocent man. No explanation by his killers can take away from that fact.*

\* SIMILAR TO: detract from formal

### take back

#### 1 take back sth take sth back

to return a book or something else to the library or shop that you borrowed it from: *Can you take my library books back for me?* | *I've got to take these videos back to Blockbuster Video before they close.*

\* SIMILAR TO: return

#### 2a take back sth take sth back

to return something to the shop that you bought it from, because it is unsuitable or of poor quality: *These trousers are a bit small – I'll have to take them back.*

\* SIMILAR TO: return

#### 2b take back sth take sth back

if a shop takes back goods that you have bought there, they agree to give you your

money back because the goods are unsuitable or poor quality: *They'll take it back if you've still got the receipt.*

**3** **take back sth**    **take sth back**

to admit that you were wrong to say something: *Dad leaped to his feet and glared at me. "You will take that remark back and apologize immediately!" he roared. | "I don't love you any more!" she cried. Immediately she wished that she could take it back, but it was too late.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **retract** formal

**4** **take sb back**

to make you remember a period of time in the past: *That song 'Lili Marlene' takes me back a bit – we used to sing it during the war.*

+ to *The prosecutor took her back to that terrible day once more. "What did his face look like?" he asked in a hushed voice.*

**5** **take sb back**

if a story, film etc takes you back to a time in the past, it is about events that happened at that time: *The latest film from Merchant Ivory, takes us back to 18th century France, when Thomas Jefferson found love in pre-revolutionary Paris.*

**6** **take back sth**    **take sth back**

to get control or possession of something again after losing it, especially by using force: *In 1847, the Maya rose against the Europeans, and took back 90 percent of their ancestral lands.*

**7** **take back sb**    **take sb back**

if you take someone back after an argument or after separating from them, you agree to let them live or work with you again: *She once told me that if Reggie ever left her for another woman, she'd never take him back. | "I got my old job again," she said. "Mrs James has taken me back."*

**8** **take back sth**    **take sth back**

AmE if you wish that you could take something back, you wish that you had not done it: *Are there any of her TV shows that she would take back? "Yes – the first three. They were disastrous." | That one play lost us the game. I wish I could take it back.*

### take down

**1** **take down sth**    **take sth down**

to remove something that is fixed to a wall: *We have to take the Christmas decorations down today. | The red star was replaced by a red rose, and the huge portrait of Lenin was taken down.*

● OPPOSITE: **put up**

**2** **take down sth**    **take sth down**

to remove a temporary structure by separating it into pieces: *They're taking the scaffolding down tomorrow. | Can you help me take the tent down?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dismantle** formal

● OPPOSITE: **put up**

**3** **take down sth**    **take sth down**

to write down something that someone is saying or something that can be seen for a short time only: *Let me take down your name and phone number. | It it hadn't been for a sharp-eyed shopkeeper who took down the registration number of the car, the thieves might never have been caught.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get down** informal

### take for

**1** **take sb for sth** ✕

to think that someone is something that they are not: *I wondered if the tourists took me for a New Yorker. | He had taken her for a working-class girl. Now, hearing her accent, he realized his mistake.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mistake (for)**

**2** **take sb for a fool/an idiot**

to treat someone as if they are stupid: *"I love you, I swear. She means nothing to me," he insisted. "God, do you take me for a fool?"*

**3** **what do you take me for?**

spoken used to show that you are offended because someone has treated you as if you are very stupid or a very bad person: *What do you take me for! Do you think I'd leave a child to drown? | You don't honestly expect me to agree to a statement like that, do you? What do you take me for?*

### take in

**1** **take in sth**    **take sth in** USUALLY NEGATIVE

**a** to understand and remember facts and information: *She did tell me what time we were supposed to be there, but I didn't take it in. | The guide told us a lot about the place, but it was too much to take in. | I'm always so sleepy when I go to classes – I can't take in very much.*

**b** to understand news or information and realize its meaning and importance, especially very bad or shocking news that is difficult to believe: *I had cancer. I sat staring into my cup of tea, trying to take it in. | He felt weak and started shaking. Mary was speaking to him, but he did not take in the words.*

**2** **be taken in** ✕

to be completely deceived by someone or something so that you believe a lie: *We were*



completely taken in by his charming confident manner. | *The advertisement looked perfectly genuine – a lot of people were taken in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be deceived, be fooled**

**3a** **take in sb** **take sb in**

to let someone live in your home in return for payment: *Amette couldn't afford to pay her mortgage any more, so she took in a lodger.*

**3b** **take in sb** **take sb in**

to let someone stay in your home or in your country when they have nowhere else to stay: *How could you be so ungrateful! Have you forgotten how we took you in when you were homeless and looked after you?* | *Jordan took in vast numbers of refugees from Iraq and Kuwait.*

**4** **take in sth** **take sth in**

to include something – use this especially about the places visited on a trip, or the activities of a business: *The bike ride will take in some of the loveliest parts of the county, including Belvoir Park Forest.* | *Not everyone is convinced that he is experienced enough to run a business that takes in 32 regional newspapers, 17 magazines, and five television networks.* | *The Queen's tour of the Caribbean will take in the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, the Bahamas and Bermuda.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **include**

**5** **take in sth** **take sth in**

to notice all the details or qualities of something when you look at it: *She felt furious with Guy as she strolled around the crowded exhibition, too preoccupied to take in much of her surroundings.* | *The next morning the kids went on a pony ride while I stepped back and took in some of the breathtaking scenery.*

**6** **take in sth** **take sth in**

especially spoken to take your car to a garage, or take a broken piece of equipment to a shop to be repaired: *I've got to take the car in tomorrow – there's something wrong with the exhaust.*

**7** **take in a movie/show etc**

AmE to go to see a film, play etc: *On Saturday night we can take in a movie and maybe get a pizza afterwards.* | *I know they're cultured. They'd much rather take in a ballet than go to a bar.*

**8** **take in sth** **take sth in**

AmE to collect or earn an amount of money: *How much did the store take in today?* | *Denver International Airport must take in at least \$304 million in revenues next year to cover its operating costs.*

**9** **take in sth** **take sth in**

to make a piece of clothing narrower so that it fits you: *I've got a skirt that's quite nice, but it needs taking in.* | *Ellie stared at the dress critically. "It wouldn't look so bad if we took off all the frills and took the waist in a little."*

● OPPOSITE: **let out**

**10** **take in sb** **take sb in**

if the police take you in, they make you go to a police station, because they think you know something about a crime or are guilty of one: *Morris was taken in by the police and charged with armed robbery.*

**take sb in for questioning** *Mrs Roxie Farmer was taken in for questioning at Royal Hill police station, but claimed she knew nothing.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **detain** formal

**11** **take in air/food/water**

if people or animals take in air, food, or water, it goes into their bodies: *Jellyfish take in air through their skin.* | *If you take in fewer calories than your body needs, you will lose fat.*

**intake** N [C]

the amount of food, drink etc that you take into your body: *Lower your intake of fat and alcohol to improve your health.*

**an intake of breath**

when you breathe in, especially suddenly because you are shocked or angry: *She heard a sharp intake of breath and muttered a curse before he slammed the phone down.*

**12** **take in washing/sewing etc**

to earn money by doing washing or sewing for other people in your own home: *My mother took in washing, and cleaned people's houses on a casual basis.*

**13** **take in sb** **take sb in**

if an organization such as school, college, or hospital takes you in, they accept you as a student or patient: *The college plans to take in more overseas students next year.*

**intake** N [C]

the people who are accepted by an organization at a particular time, or the number of people accepted by an organization at a particular time: *This year's intake on the diploma course is particularly good.* | *an increase in the intake of foreign students*

**take into**

**1** **take sb into sth**

BrE if something takes you into a particular job or activity, it makes you decide to start doing it: *What took you into acting in the first place?*

**2** **take sth into the future/  
into the next century**

to make something more modern, so that it will be good and effective in the future: *We are designing new buildings that will take the city into the next century.* | *The party needs a new voice, a new vision. It needs a new leader to take it into the future.*

**take off**

**1** **take off sth**    **take sth off**

to remove something that you are wearing: *She took her clothes off and got into bed.* | *"Hot chocolate?" he asked Dooley, when they'd taken off their coats.* | *I forgot to take off my make-up last night.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **remove**

● OPPOSITE: **put on**

**2** **take off**

if a plane or bird takes off, it leaves the ground and rises into the air: *The plane took off into the night sky.* | *What time does your plane take off?* | *A dog jumped into the lake, and the ducks took off and flew over the park.*

● COMPARE: **lift off**

● OPPOSITE: **land**

**take-off** N [C,U]

when a plane rises into the air at the beginning of a flight: *We have to check in at least one hour before take-off.*

T

**3** **take sth off**

to arrange to spend some time away from your normal work in order to have a holiday or do something else: *Why don't you take some time off – you need a break.*

**take a day/week etc off** *I take two weeks off every summer and go canoeing, far away from phones or any other links with the office.*

**take Monday, Tuesday etc off** *I'm taking Thursday off to go Christmas shopping.*

**4** **take off**

to suddenly start being successful: *Handler was a young actor whose career was just about to take off.* | *Internet shopping will really take off when people become convinced that it's safe to type in their credit card numbers.*

**take-off** N [U]

when a product, business, industry etc starts being successful: *An agricultural revolution took place in the eighteenth century, resulting in an economic take-off.*

**5** **take off**

*informal* to leave somewhere suddenly, especially without telling anyone: *What's wrong with Ian? He just took off without saying goodbye.* | *She was such a wild young girl – I was afraid that one day she might just take off and disappear.*

**6** **take sb off**

to move someone away to a place, or make them go there with you

+ **to** *Two people had been dug out of the snow by rescuers, and taken off to hospital.* | *Myong-Hwan had been home less than ten days when the police came to the house and took him off to jail.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cart off** *informal*

**7** **take sb off**

*BrE informal* to copy the way that someone speaks or behaves in order to make people laugh: *Peter's really good at taking people off.* | *He does Tony Blair brilliantly – it's so funny.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mimic, impersonate**

**take-off** N [C]

when someone copies the way that someone else speaks or behaves in order to make people laugh: *Donna did a brilliant take-off of the principal.*

**8** **take yourself off**

*informal, especially BrE* to go somewhere: *I took myself off for a walk, hoping to forget about my problems.*

+ **to** *Please, Norman, take yourself off to a tailor and get yourself a decent suit.* | *His wife had complained of a headache and had taken herself off to bed.*

**9** **take sb off sth**

to stop someone from doing a particular type of work, usually because they are doing it badly: *Detective Bachinski was taken off the case, and is suspected of taking bribes.* | *The psychiatrist thinks I'm insane, and they're going to take me off combat duty and send me home.*

**10** **take off sth**    **take sth off**

**take sth off sth**

to take a particular amount or number from a total: *When I complained, they agreed to take \$10 off the price.* | *Will the examiner take points off for spelling mistakes?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **deduct**

● OPPOSITE: **add on**

**11** **take sb off sth**

to stop giving someone a particular type of medicine: *Dr Brown's taken me off Prozac – it wasn't doing me any good.* | *"You act like my mom before the doctor took her off those pills," said Stu. "They made her like a robot."*

● OPPOSITE: **put on**

**12** **take sth off**

*BrE* if a bus, train, or plane service is taken off, it is stopped: *The 6.15 train to London has been taken off.* | *People who live in rural areas are complaining that many of their bus services have been taken off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **axe**

13 **take sth off**

if a play or a television or radio show is taken off, it is no longer performed or broadcast: *The play failed to attract a big enough audience, and was taken off after only a few nights.*

**take sth off the air** (=stop broadcasting a television or radio show) *TV comedy show 'Nothing Sacred' was taken off the air, after thousands of people wrote in to complain that it was offensive to Christians.*

**take on**1 **take on sth/sb** **take sth/sb on**

to agree to do some work or to accept a responsibility: *Don't take on too much work—the extra cash isn't worth it.* | *When Mr Clifford married a young widow with five children, he must have known what he was taking on.* | *Madonna took on her biggest role ever in Alan Parker's movie 'Evita'.* | *a school that takes on difficult pupils*

2 **take on sb** **take sb on**

to start to employ someone: *We're taking on 50 new staff this year.* | *She had an interview with a law firm in Glasgow and they took her on.*

3 **take on sth** NOT PASSIVE

to begin to have a particular quality or appearance: *Matt's face took on a worried look.* | *Seemingly innocent words like 'brown' and 'hamburger' take on new meaning in drug users' slang.* | *The role of hospital managers has taken on increased importance since the reorganization of the health service.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **assume** formal

4 **take on sb** **take sb on** NOT PASSIVE

to compete against someone or start an argument or fight with someone, especially someone who is bigger or more powerful than you: *Nigeria will take on Argentina in the first round of the World Cup on Saturday.* | *Mason is ready to take on Mike Tyson for the championship title.* | *Opposition groups were preparing to take on the Communist Party in Bulgaria's first free elections.*

+ **at** *I don't want to fight, but I'll take you on at any game you like.*

5 **take on sth** **take sth on**

to start having a debt by borrowing money: *I feel sorry for young people now, being forced to take on huge mortgages.* | *The banks are always looking for ways to encourage customers to take on more debt.*

6 **take on sth** **take sth on**

if a ship, plane, train etc takes on passengers, goods, or fuel during a journey, passengers get on or goods or fuel are put into it when it stops somewhere: *The ship stopped in the port*

*of Mukalla, and took on a cargo of dates.* | *The flight goes via Bahrain, where we stop for refuelling and take on more passengers.*

7 **take it on yourself to do sth**SEE **take upon/on****take out**1 **take out sth** **take sth out**

to remove something from a bag, box, your pocket etc: *Scott felt in his pocket and took out a bunch of keys.* | *With clammy fingers he took out a packet of cigarettes and tried to light one.*

2 **take sb out**

to go with someone to a place such as a restaurant, theatre, or club, when you are paying for everything, or when you are showing them a place that they have not been to before: *These friends of my parents came over from Greece, and I had to take their son out and show him around.* | *Charles felt terribly nervous. Would it be obvious that this was the first time he'd taken a girl out?*

+ **to** *It was Mother's Day, so we took Mom out to lunch.*

+ **for** *Tommy had taken Cilla out for dinner a few times, and they had got along really well.*

3 **take out a loan/mortgage/insurance policy etc**

to arrange to start using a financial service provided by a bank or insurance company: *Wheatley took out an insurance policy that would have paid him more than \$1 million in the event of a serious injury.* | *I just took out a \$100,000 loan to buy a new boat.*

4 **take out sth** **take sth out**

to get money from a bank: *I took out £300 to spend on holiday.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **withdraw**

5 **take out sth** **take sth out**

to borrow a book from a library: *You can't take more than six books out at once.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **borrow**

6 **take out sb/sth** **take sb/sth out**

informal to kill someone or destroy something, especially with a gun or bomb etc: *Cruise missiles took out enemy radar, and then air strikes on military targets began.* | *Our order were to take out the sentries guarding the bridge.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **kill, destroy**

7 **take out sb** **take sb out**

informal to hit someone and make them become unconscious: *Lewis was a big guy.*

who looked as if he could take a man out with one punch.

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock out**

### 8 take sth out

to spend some time not working or not doing what you usually do

**take time out** *Why don't you take some time out to be with the children?*

**take a year out** BrE (=spend a year travelling or doing jobs, between leaving school and starting a university course) *Andy's thinking of taking a year out and travelling round Europe.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take off**

### 9 take out sth

BrE to go to a court of law and make an official complaint about someone, or get an official order telling someone that they must or must not do something: *His wife left him because of domestic violence, and took out a court order to keep him away from her.* | *Local people took out a private lawsuit against the oil company over water contamination.*

**take out a summons** (=get an official order that says someone must appear in a court of law) *The police advised her to take out a summons against her neighbours for noise nuisance.*

## T take out of

### 1 take it out of sb / take a lot out of sb

informal to make you feel very tired: *Starting a new job takes a lot out of you.* | *Cilla flopped down on the couch. "Looking after children really takes it out of you – they've got so much energy."*

### 2 take sb out of himself/herself

BrE to stop someone from thinking about their problems and feeling unhappy: *Reading interesting books is a great way of taking you out of yourself.* | *It's not good for a young girl to be on her own so much – she needs someone to take her out of herself.*

### 3 take sth out of sth

to make an activity less difficult, less boring, less enjoyable etc

**take the worry/strain/boredom etc out of sth** *Comprehensive travel insurance takes the worry out of holidaying abroad.* | *software that takes the boredom out of formatting disks*

**take the fun/joy etc out of sth** *These new regulations take all the joy out of motoring.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **remove**

## take out on

### take sth out on sb

to treat someone badly because you are angry and upset, even though it is not their fault

**take it out on sb** *Don't take it out on me – it's not my fault you've had a bad day.* | *My husband is very unhappy at the moment, and has been taking it out on me and the children.*

**take your anger/frustration etc out on sb** *Well, whatever's happened, for God's sake stop taking your frustrations out on me. I'm absolutely sick of your moods.*

## take over

### 1 take over take over sth

#### take sth over

to start being responsible for something or doing a job that someone else was responsible for before you: *Bonnie Fuller is to take over the editor's job at Cosmopolitan magazine.* | *We'll stop halfway, and I'll take over the driving.* | *Legendary coach Shula announced his retirement after 26 years with the team. So who will take over?*

+ as TOKYO, Jan 11 – Ryutaro Hashimoto took over as Japan's prime minister today.

+ from Edouard Michelin took over from Francoise, his father, as head of the family firm.

### 2 take over sth take sth over

to get control of a company by buying it or by buying most of its shares (=the equal parts into which the ownership of a company is divided): *Midland Bank was taken over by Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank last year.* | *The engineering company T-1 has taken over the Dowty Group, based in Cheltenham.* | *City experts predict that hundreds of jobs may be lost.*

**takeover** N [C]

when a company gets control of another company by buying most of its shares: *Following its takeover of Coalite, Anglo United are selling eight businesses worth \$300m.*

**takeover bid** (=an attempt to get control of a company) *Kingfisher fought off a £1.8 billion takeover bid by Dixons.*

### 3 take over take over sth

#### take sth over

to get control of a place or a political organization, especially by using force: *In January 1976, Moroccan forces took over Western Sahara.* | *The narcotics dealers have taken over the city. They control businesses, politics,*

everything. | *When the communists took over in 1945, they were determined to industrialize Yugoslavia.*

**takeover** N [SINGULAR]

when someone gets control of a place, especially by using force: *the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia*

**4 take over sth take sth over**

if a particular kind of people or things take over a place, large numbers of them appear there, so that there are more of them than were there before – use this when you wish the changes had not happened: *Every summer the town is taken over by tourists.* | *The garden had been seriously neglected, and had been completely taken over by weeds and brambles.*

**5 take over/take over sth**

if something takes over or if it takes over your life, it starts to have a very big effect on you and you do not think about anything else: *When you run your own company, it's easy to let work take over completely.*

**take over your life** *Once the baby is born, it will completely take over your life.*

**6 take over**

if a feeling takes over, you start to feel it strongly and it controls your behaviour: *I saw the ball coming towards me, then my instincts took over; I leapt in to the air and caught it.* | *She knew she had to stay calm – she mustn't allow panic to take over.*

**7 take over sth take sth over**

to start living in or using a house or other building: *I'm going to be working in Singapore for six months, so a friend is taking over my flat.* | *Stacey's bookstore is expanding, and taking over a larger building on Market Street.*

**8 take over take over sth**

to start to control what other people are doing, in an annoying way: *This was a nice place to work until she came to work here and started trying to take over.* | *It's always difficult discussing things when there's a man in the room. They always take over the conversation.*

**take over from**

**take over from sth/sb**

especially BrE to become more successful, popular, or important than something or someone else, and replace them as the most successful, popular, or important one: *Digital cameras will eventually take over from conventional cameras.*

† as *Mel Gibson has taken over from Arnold Schwarzenegger as Hollywood's most popular actor, according to a survey.* | *London is taking over from Paris as Europe's fashion capital.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **supersede, replace**

**take round** BrE

SEE **take around**

**take through**

**take sb through sth**

to show someone how something is done by explaining all the different parts or stages to them, or by doing it with them: *The dance teacher took her class through a new routine.* | *It was only a short scene, but the director took the actors through it twelve times before he was satisfied with it.* | *I'm just going to take you through the business plan, and then I'll answer any questions.*

● COMPARE: **go through**

**take to**

**1 take to sb/sth** NOT PASSIVE

to start to like a person or place, especially when you first meet them or first go there: *I took to Paul as soon as I met him.* | *Ray's brother Billy came running in, and we took to each other right away.* | *"How's your daughter getting on at university?" "Oh she loves it. She took to it straight away."* | *Muriel never took to country life, and always longed to go back to the city.*

● OPPOSITE: **take against** BrE

**2 take to sth**

to start doing something regularly

**take to doing sth** *A group of us took to meeting in a bar called Harry's every day after work.* | *She goes to concerts and buys trendy clothes, and has even taken to wearing black nail varnish.*

**take to drink/drugs** (=start drinking a lot of alcohol or using drugs) *When Tom's wife left him, he fell apart, and took to drink, drugs, and gambling.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **start**

**3 take to sth** NOT PASSIVE

to enjoy and be good at doing something, especially the first time you try it: *Yanto jumped onto the motorbike and started it. He took to it like a natural.*

**take to sth like a duck to water** (=learn how to do something very easily because you are naturally good at it) *Lillie went to her first tap dancing lesson when she was four, and took to it like a duck to water.*

**4 take to sth**

to go into or on to something

**take to the hills/lifeboats etc** (=in order to escape from danger) *Villagers were fleeing their homes in terror and taking to the hills.* | *The ship was now ablaze, and the only escape was to take to the lifeboats.*

T



**take to the streets** (=in order to protest)  
*After a student was killed by the police, an estimated five hundred thousand protestors took to the streets.*

**take to your bed** (=because you are ill) *My fever returned and I took to my bed.*

**take to the road/air/skies/seas etc** (=start a journey by road, air, or sea) *Around 5 million Californians will take to the road over the long holiday weekend. | There was a distant roar as a squadron of Mig 15s took to the skies.*

## take up

### 1 take up sth take sth up

to start doing a particular activity or kind of work: *When did Bryan take up golf? | The government is trying to encourage more graduates to take up teaching.*

### 2 take up sth take sth up

to start to have a new position of responsibility: *Peter Stefanini is leaving the company to take up a directorship with Croda International.*

**take up a post** *Professor Andrew Likierman is to take up his post as Chief Accountancy Adviser to the Treasury on December 1.*

### 3 take up sth take sth up

to use a particular amount of time, space, or effort: *A new baby will take up all your time and energy. | I had an essay to write, which took up most of the weekend. | My old clothes take up a lot of space, but I just can't throw any of them away. | I don't want to take up too much of your valuable time, but I need to have your opinion on something.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **occupy** formal

### 4 take up an offer/opportunity/challenge

to accept an offer, opportunity, or challenge (=something difficult and exciting that you have not done before) *So far a quarter of Britain's schools have taken up the offer of half-price computers. | Each year more and more amateur runners take up the challenge of the New York Marathon. | The long-term unemployed are being encouraged to take up training opportunities that will increase their chances of finding employment.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **accept**

● OPPOSITE: **reject, turn down**

**take-up** N [U]

BrE the rate at which people buy or accept something that is being offered: *Despite all the advertisements, the take-up has been slow.*

### 5 take up sth take sth up

to try to make people pay attention to a problem or an unfair situation, by complaining or protesting, or by arguing in support of

someone's rights: *Father Ramirez took up the issue of land reform on behalf of peasant farmers.*

† **with I'm going to take the matter up with my lawyer.** | *If you are not satisfied with our service, you'd better take it up with the manager.*

**take up a cause** (=support a principle or someone's rights) *Protestors are demanding equal rights for gay men and women, and several newspapers have taken up their cause.*

**take up sb's case** (=argue in support of someone's legal rights) *MP Stephen Collins has taken up the case of Bob Doyle, a British lorry driver, wrongly imprisoned in the Middle East.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pursue**

### 6 take up a suggestion/recommendation/proposal

to do what someone suggests or advises that you should do: *The government asked the committee to write a report, and then failed to take up any of its recommendations. | No one has taken up our suggestion that the working week should be cut to 30 hours.*

### 7 take up sth take sth up USUALLY PASSIVE

to start to use ideas, designs, or ways of doing things that someone else has developed: *Keynes's economic theories were taken up by political parties throughout Europe and America. | The styles that appear on the Paris catwalks are then taken up by high street stores. | The technique was developed by researcher Stephen Smyth, and was later taken up by the communications industry, and used in their systems worldwide.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **adopt**

### 8 take up a position

to move to the exact place where you are supposed to be, so that you are ready to do something: *US soldiers took up positions a few hundred yards away, to block a road leading to the canal. | The flower sellers took up their positions in the market square.*

### 9 take up sth take sth up

literary to pick something up and hold or carry it: *Rouget took up his pen, and began to write. | She flopped down on the bed, staring at me as she took up a cigarette and lit it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pick up**

● OPPOSITE: **put down**

### 10 take up sth take sth up

to continue a story or activity that was started by someone else, or that you started before but had to stop: *Last October pollution reached record levels. Our environment correspondent Peter Brown takes up the story...*



**take up where sb left off** *After the war I returned to college, hoping to take up where I'd left off.* | *Marco's new wife turned all her attention to looking after him, taking up where his mother left off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pick up, resume**

**11** **take up sth** **take sth up**

to remove something that is fixed to the floor or the ground: *We're going to take up the carpet and put down a wood-block floor.*

**12** **take up sth** **take sth up**

to reduce the length of a skirt, dress, pair of trousers etc: *This dress will be OK if I just take it up a few inches.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shorten**

● OPPOSITE: **let down**

● COMPARE: **take in, let out**

**13** **take up sth** **take sth up**

to start singing a song that someone else has started singing, or start shouting something that someone else has started shouting: *A woman shouted "Hallelujah", and those around her took up the cry.* | *She banged the piano keys and the crowd began to take up the refrain.*

**14** **take up sth** **take sth up**

if a plant or animal takes up a substance, that substance goes into it: *The seeds of some aquatic plants take up water and swell quickly.* | *As we get older our bodies become less efficient in taking up some nutrients.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take in**

**take up on**

**1** **take sb up on sth**

to accept an offer that someone has made: *I was surprised that she didn't take me up on my offer to drive her to Chimayo.* | *"I'll cook you dinner if you like." "I might just take you up on that."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **accept**

**2** **take sb up on sth**

to ask someone to explain what they have just said, because you disagree with them: *Let me take you up on one or two of those points.* | *He was quick, she noticed, to take her up on any casual remark.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pick sb up on sth** BrE

**take up with**

**1** **be taken up with sth**

to be very busy doing something and give it all of your attention: *She was so taken up with the children, that she had not noticed her husband was unhappy.* | *Jo's completely taken up with work at the moment.*

**2** **take up with sb** NOT PASSIVE

informal to become friendly with someone and spend a lot of time with them, especially someone who will be a bad influence on you: *Now Janet has taken up with millionaire singer, Starbuck Williams.* | *He's taken up with a group of lads from Rhyl. He came home blind drunk last night.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get in with sb**

**take upon/on**

**take it upon/on yourself to do sth**

formal to decide to do something without asking anyone for permission or approval: *A junior official had taken it upon himself to hand my report to the press.* | *My ex-husband took it on himself to make these arrangements when he had no right to do so.*

**TALK**

*talked, talked, talking*

**talk around**

ALSO **talk round** BrE

**talk around/round sth**

to discuss a subject in a general way without really dealing with the important parts of it: *They wasted a whole hour just talking around the problem, and never coming directly to the point.*

**talk at**

**talk at sb**

to talk to someone without giving them a chance to speak or without listening to what they are trying to tell you: *We teachers spend a lot of time talking at children. We ought to spend much more time listening to what they have to say.*

**talk back**

**talk back**

to answer your parent, teacher, manager etc rudely after they have criticized you or told you to do something

+ to *I'd never let a child of mine talk back to me like that.* | *Another City player, Allen, was shown a red card for talking back to the referee.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **answer back**

**talk down**

**1** **talk sth down** **talk down sth**

BrE to talk in a way that makes something seem less good or successful than it really is: *The Prime Minister accused his critics of talking Britain down.* | *pessimists who talk down the achievements of our manufacturing industries*

- 2** talk down sth    talk sth down  
talk sb down

to try to reduce the cost of something, or keep it low, by persuading someone that it should not be so high

**talk down prices/wages etc** *Employers will do everything they can to talk down wages. | the ability of a dealer to talk the price down while a transaction is being negotiated*

**talk sb down to sth** (=persuade someone to reduce a price to a particular amount) *She was asking \$300 rent, but we talked her down to \$220.*

- 3** talk sb/sth down    talk down sb/sth

to give instructions to someone who is operating the controls of an aircraft, so that they can bring the aircraft down safely, especially when there is a problem: *If a trainee pilot got into difficulties, a flying instructor would talk him down.*

- 4** talk sb down    talk down sb

to persuade someone to come down from a high place when they are threatening to jump off and kill themselves: *Police with loudhailers were trying to talk down a youth threatening to jump from a 29th-floor window.*

### talk down to

talk down to sb

to talk to someone as if you believe that they are less intelligent than you are: *My father always explained things and never talked down to me. | You have to realize that kids are not stupid – they know when they're being talked down to.*

\* SIMILAR TO: patronize

### talk into

talk sb into sth

to persuade someone to do something by explaining to them why they should do it: *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!"*

**talk sb into doing sth** *If Louis tries to talk you into investing in his business, just say no.*

**talk yourself into doing sth** (=make yourself believe that you should do something) *It isn't true, but she's talked herself into believing it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: persuade, talk sb round BrE

● OPPOSITE: talk out of

### talk out

- 1** talk sth out    talk out sth

*informal* to discuss a problem with someone thoroughly in order to agree on a way of solving it: *We needed time to talk things out and decide what was best for the future.*

+ **with** *If there was a problem, she could always talk it out with her mother.*

**talk it out** *Instead of shouting at each other, why don't you sit down and talk it out quietly and calmly?*

- 2** talk yourself out

to talk so much that you have nothing more to say: *Flora listened patiently, hoping he would talk himself out and go away.*

### talk out of

talk sb out of sth

to persuade someone not to do something that they were intending to do, by explaining to them why they should not do it: *If you're still determined to leave, don't let them talk you out of it.*

**talk sb out of doing sth** *She tried to talk me out of leaving.*

**talk yourself out of sth** especially BrE (=make yourself believe that you should not do or feel something) *She did her best to talk herself out of her feelings for Guido, but she knew in her heart that she loved him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: dissuade sb from doing sth

● OPPOSITE: talk into

### talk over

talk sth over    talk over sth

to discuss a problem or situation calmly with someone, in order to understand it better and decide how to deal with it: *If you're worried about your work, come and see me and we'll talk it over. | Teenagers need a chance to talk over their sexual feelings and anxieties.*

+ **with** *It's often helpful to talk things over with a professional counsellor.*

\* SIMILAR TO: discuss

### talk round

SEE ALSO talk around

talk sb round

BrE to persuade someone to change their opinion and agree with you: *Dad doesn't like the idea of us going away together, but I'm sure I can talk him round.*

+ **to** *We could never talk the girl round to our way of thinking.*

\* SIMILAR TO: bring sb round

**talk through****1 talk sth through** **talk through sth**

to discuss all the details of a problem, idea, plan etc in order to understand it better and decide what to do: *I'm sure if we sit down and talk things through, we can come to some sort of agreement.* | *By allowing patients to talk through their problems, doctors can help them to cope with their illness.*

+ with *Before you make your final decision, talk it through with someone you trust.*

**2 talk sb through sth**

to explain something slowly and carefully to someone so that they understand it and deal with it: *If you have a problem with the software, just phone us and we'll talk you through it.* | *Dr Cameron spent some time talking me through the operation, so that I would know exactly what they were going to do to me.*

**talk to****talk to sb**

spoken to speak to someone severely and tell them that their behaviour, work etc is not good enough: *I'm going to have to talk to Barry.* *He was late again this morning.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tell off**

**talk-ing-to** N [SINGULAR]

informal if you give someone a talking-to, you speak to them severely and tell them that their behaviour, work etc is not good enough: *If you ask me, what that girl needs is a good talking-to.*

**talk up****1 talk up sth** **talk sth up**

to keep saying how good or successful something is, especially when you want to make other people interested or persuade them that it is very good: *Travel agencies have been talking the place up as a great new tourist resort.* | *Businessmen remain gloomy, despite the government's efforts to talk up the economy.*

**2 talk up sth** **talk sth up**

to try to increase the price or value of something by telling people that it is worth a lot: *Some optimists are still talking up share prices.* | *The United States is unlikely to want to talk the dollar up, as there are fears that this would harm exports.*

**TAMP**

tamped, tamped, tamping

**tamp down****tamp down sth** **tamp sth down**

BrE to press a substance down so that it becomes more solid and firm: *The old man*

*nodded and tamped down the tobacco in his pipe.* | *Tamp down the soil before you lay the paving slabs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **press down**

**TAMPER**

tampered, tampered, tampered

**tamper with****tamper with sth**

to make changes to something in a way that is dangerous, illegal, or has a bad effect, when you have no right to do this: *Someone had tampered with the brakes of the car.* | *The police were accused of tampering with the evidence.* | *Congress, however, had opposed any such tampering with the Bill of Rights.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **interfere with**

**TANGLE**

tangled, tangled, tangling

**tangle up****be tangled up**

if string, wire, rope etc is tangled up, it is twisted together in a way that is annoying because you cannot easily separate it and use it: *The wires were all tangled up and I couldn't work out which was the one for the fax machine.*

**get tangled up** *How has this rope got so tangled up?*

**tangle up in****1 get tangled up in sth**

to become caught or trapped in something such as branches, ropes, or wires, and be unable to get free: *Dolphins often get tangled up in nets used for tuna fishing.*

**be tangled up in sth** *My legs were tangled up in the weeds in the river.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be caught in**

**2 get tangled up in sth**

to become involved in a situation that it is difficult to get out of: *I managed to get myself tangled up in a real mess!*

**be tangled up in sth** *Don't you realize that you're tangled up in something that will probably end in disaster?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be mixed up in sth**

**tangle with****1 tangle with sb/sth**

AmE informal to argue or fight with someone or something: *Garamendi tangled with politicians about compensation for California residents.*

2 **tangle with** sb

AmE informal to play a game against another person or team: *The Arizona Wildcats get ready to tangle with North Carolina today in Chapel Hill.*

## TANK

tanked, tanked, tanking

**tank up**1 **get tanked up** BrE informal **tank up**

AmE informal

to drink a lot of alcohol, especially so that you become very drunk: *He went off and got tanked up at the local pub.* | *The fans tank up at the bar before the game.*

**be tanked up** *Some of the lads were so tanked up they could hardly walk.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get drunk**

2 **tank up** **tank up** sth

AmE informal to put fuel in a car, plane etc: *The plane will stop in Oakland to tank up for the flight to Tokyo.*

## TAP

tapped, tapped, tapping

**tap for****tap** sb **for** sth

informal to persuade someone to give you money or information: *Raoul's been here again this afternoon, trying to tap Gerard for a loan.* | *Back in my apartment, I re-read the article and considered who I could tap for more information.*

**tap in****tap in** sth **tap** sth **in**

to put information, numbers etc into a computer or other machine, by pressing the buttons on it: *Tap in your personal identification number, then tell the machine how much money you want to take out from your account.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **key in, enter**

**tap into**1 **tap into** sth

to use energy, information, money etc that comes from a large supply: *The Soviets have been tapping into oil supplies under the Caspian Sea since the 1940s.* | *The new software allows consumers to tap into the Internet via their phones.*

2 **tap into** sth

to use a computer to illegally get into other people's computer systems, in order to find

and use information: *The court was told that Bedworth had managed to tap into computers at universities all over the world.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hack into**

3 **tap into** sth

to understand what people are interested in or worried about, and make use of this in what you do: *As a teacher you have to tap into your students interests and approach a topic from that angle.* | *Both films were made in the 1930s and tapped into public anxiety about the prospect of war.*

4 **tap into the market**

to start using an area as a place to sell your company's products: *The conference will provide a marvellous opportunity for the company to tap into the vast markets of North America.*

**tap out**1 **tap out** sth **tap** sth **out**

to produce a series of sounds by hitting a surface lightly and regularly: *As he played he tapped out the rhythm with his foot.*

2 **tap out** sth **tap** sth **out**

to write words or numbers on a typewriter, computer, or other machine, especially in a noisy way: *With one finger, Maya started tapping out the opening paragraph of her story.* | *The secretary grabbed the phone and began tapping out the number.*

3 **tap out** sb **tap** sb **out**

AmE to use all someone's energy or money so that they are unable to fight against you any longer: *It's part of their strategy to keep us in court and tap us out.*

## TAPE

taped, taped, taping

**tape up****tape** sth **up** **tape** **up** sth

to fasten tape around something, in order to protect it or hold it together: *The box should be carefully taped up to avoid any damage to the goods.*

## TAPER

tapered, tapered, tapering

**taper off**1 **taper off**

to gradually become less in amount, strength, size etc: *The rise in the value of the yen started to taper off at the end of the 80s.* | *Oil production tapered off and the country was forced to find new sources of revenue.*

**2 taper off**

if something tapers off, it becomes narrower at one end: *The road was narrower here, and it eventually tapered off into a track.*

● OPPOSITE: **open out, widen**

**TART**

tarted, tarted, tarting

**tart up****1 tart sth up** **tart up sth**

BrE informal to try to make a place look more attractive or more modern by decorating or changing it – used especially to show disapproval: *The hotel's been tarted up now, and has lost a lot of its charm.* | *The new owners had tried to tart the place up and make it look like an American-style diner.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **smarten up, spruce up**

**2 tart yourself up**

BrE informal to put on clothes, make-up, jewellery etc in order to make yourself look more attractive – used about girls or women, especially to show disapproval or when speaking humorously: *Gina was one of those girls who like to tart themselves up in tight skirts and high heels when they go out in the evening.*

**get (yourself) tarted up** *We'd better go upstairs and get ourselves tarted up.*

**be tarted up** *They were all tarted up for a night on the town.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **doll yourself up** informal

**3 tart sth up** **tart up sth**

BrE informal to make something seem more interesting and exciting by changing it in some way – used especially to show disapproval: *If these news shows don't attract more viewers, the pressure will be on to tart them up a bit.* | *He had to tart up his designs before they were accepted.*

**TATTLE**

tattled, tattled, tattling

**tattle on****tattle on sb**

AmE informal to tell a person in authority about something wrong that someone has done – used especially about children telling their parents, teacher etc: *I suppose you'll go and tattle on me!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tell on** informal, **sneak on** BrE informal

**TAX**

taxed, taxed, taxing

**tax with****tax sb with sth**

formal to say that someone has done something wrong, and ask them for an explanation: *Critics have taxed the government with failing to carry out a proper investigation.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **accuse (of)**

**TEAM**

teamed, teamed, teaming

**team up****team up**

to join together with another person or organization in order to do something together: *Henry Laconte and Guy Forget teamed up to give France a crushing 5-0 victory.*

+ **with** *Chrissie Hynde teamed up with reggae band UB40 to record the old Sonny and Cher hit 'I got you babe'.* | *WWF has teamed up with tour operator Discover the World to offer trips to wild places and conservation projects.*

**TEAR**

tore, torn, tearing

**tear apart****1 tear sth apart** **tear apart sth**

to make people argue or fight with each other, so that a relationship ends, or a family, group, country etc becomes divided: *For years Mozambique had been torn apart by civil war.* | *The stresses and strains of modern life are tearing families apart.*

**tear itself apart** *After President Tito died Yugoslavia began tearing itself apart.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull apart**

**2 tear sth apart** **tear apart sth**

to make something break into pieces by pulling it violently in different directions: *Willy grabbed the loaf of bread, tearing it apart and eating it hungrily.* | *The fox is torn apart by the hounds in a matter of seconds.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull apart**

**3 tear sth apart** **tear apart sth**

to destroy a building or a room completely and often violently: *The factory was torn apart by a huge explosion.*

**4 tear sth apart** **tear apart sth**

to criticize an idea, piece of work etc very severely: *The book was torn apart by the critics when it first came out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull apart**

**5** **tear sb apart** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to make someone feel very upset and worried: *Kelly couldn't bear to think of him with another woman. It was tearing her apart.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull apart**

**tear at**

**tear at sth/sb**

to pull violently at something or someone: *Lucy tore at the envelope and quickly read the letter. | She leapt at him in a fit of rage, tearing at his face.*

**tear away**

**tear sb away**

to make someone stop doing something, when they are so interested in doing it that they do not want to stop: *Once he's in front of the television, it's practically impossible to tear him away from it.*

**tear yourself away** *Do you think you could tear yourself away from that computer for just one minute and listen to me? | We don't see much of Stella these days. She can't seem to tear herself away from her new boyfriend.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drag away** informal

**be torn between**

**1** **be torn between sth and sth**

if you are torn between two things, you find it difficult to choose one of them or to decide which one is more important to you: *For a long time Clarissa had been torn between her family and her career. | It seemed a very long way and I was torn between going back and going on.*

**2** **be torn between sth**

if you are torn between two different feelings, you feel both of them strongly: *He would come running up the stairs, torn between anxiety for her and fear of disturbing Miss Willard.*

**tear down**

**tear sth down**    **tear down sth**

to deliberately destroy a building, wall etc because it is not needed any more or is not safe: *Broadway's Fulton theatre was torn down in 1982 to make way for a hotel. | The church had been so badly damaged that it had to be torn down and rebuilt.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **demolish, pull down**

**tear into**

**tear into sb/sth**

informal to criticize someone or something

very severely and often unfairly: *After the game the manager really tore into the team.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay into**

**tear off**

**tear off sth**    **tear sth off**

to take off a piece of clothing as quickly as you can: *Ben tore off his jacket and dived into the river.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rip off, strip off**

**tear up**

**1** **tear sth up**    **tear up sth**

to tear something made of paper or cloth into a lot of small pieces because you want to destroy it: *Aldo read the letter quickly, then tore it up and threw it on the fire. | Demonstrators outside the hotel tore up pictures of the president and sang an old nationalist song.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rip up**

**2** **tear sth up**    **tear up sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

to destroy or damage something an area of land: *Huge areas of rainforest are being torn up every day by the logging companies.*

**3** **tear up an agreement/contract etc**

to state that you no longer accept an agreement, contract etc, and will not be controlled by what it says: *The Football Association has threatened to tear up its agreement with the BBC unless a compromise can be found.*

**TEASE**

teased, teased, teasing

**tease out**

**1** **tease out sth**    **tease sth out**

to find and understand new information or meaning when it is not clear or obvious: *Lothar was considered to be a scholar, able to tease out new meanings from ancient texts. | Now business researchers are beginning to tease out exactly what makes a good manager.*

**2** **tease sth out of sb**

to persuade someone to tell you something that they do not want to tell you: *I finally managed to tease the truth out of George.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drag out, prise out**

**3** **tease out sth**    **tease sth out**

BrE to remove something from somewhere by pulling it very gently and slowly: *Oscar slowly reached into his trouser pocket and teased out a fresh handkerchief. | She sat at the window, rubbing her hair dry and carefully teasing out the knots.*



## TEE

teed, teed, teeing

## tee off

## 1 tee off

to hit the ball for the first time at the beginning of a game of golf, or when you move on to the next hole: *Mr Sangster will tee off at 8 am today, at the tournament in Jersey.* | *David Miller had just teed off at the fifteenth hole in the competition.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drive off**

## 2 tee off

AmE to begin an event or activity: *The celebration teed off with a round of champagne.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **begin, kick off**

## 3 tee sb off tee off sb

AmE informal to make someone angry: *It really tees me off that he never helps with the housework!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **annoy, piss off** informal

## tee up

## 1 tee up

to play golf, especially in a competition: *Fred Couples and David Love will tee up in Madrid on November 5th.*

## 2 tee up/tee up the ball

to put a golf ball on a tee (= a short stick placed in the ground), so that it is ready for you to hit

**tee up the ball** *We watched him tee up the ball, then step back.*

## TEEM

teemed, teemed, teeming

## teem down

## teem down USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE to rain very heavily: *At that moment the rain began teeming down, and we all ran for shelter.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pour down**

## teem with

## teem with sth/sb USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

if a place is teeming with people or animals, it is very full of them: *Almost all of the Greek islands are teeming with tourists in the summer.*

**be teeming with life** *It may look like just a muddy old pond, but as David Attenborough explains, it's teeming with life.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be full of**

## TELL

told, told, telling

## tell against

## tell against sb

BrE formal to make someone less likely to succeed in achieving or winning something: *I badly wanted the job, but I knew that my age would probably tell against me.* | *The lack of training told against us, and we finished 47th out of 63.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **count against**

## tell apart

## tell sb/sth apart NOT PROGRESSIVE

if you can tell people or things apart, you can see the difference between them, so that you recognize each of them and do not confuse them: *The twins looked so alike that only their parents could tell them apart.*

**be difficult/hard/impossible to tell sth apart** *Except for the difference in eye colour, it's impossible to tell the males and females apart.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **distinguish**

## tell from

## tell sth/sb from sth/sb

if you can tell one person or thing from another, you can see or realize the difference between them, so that you do not confuse them: *The two types of mushroom are very similar and it's difficult to tell one from the other.* | *It is expected that by this age most children will be able to tell right from wrong.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **distinguish** formal

## tell of

## tell of sb/sth

literary to describe the details of an event or person: *The story tells of a young village man who makes his way to the capital looking for work.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be about**

## tell off

## tell sb off tell off sb

if someone in authority such as a teacher or a parent tells you off, they speak to you angrily about something wrong that you have done: *Miss McHale will tell you off if she sees you doing that!*

**be/get told off** *Shelley was one of those kids who are always in trouble at school, always getting told off.* | *Hurry up – I don't want to be told off for being late again!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tick off** BrE, **reprimand** formal

**telling-off** N [C]

BrE when someone speaks to you angrily about something wrong that you have done: *I've already had one telling-off from Dad today for drinking his beer.*

**tell on****1** tell on sb

informal to tell someone in authority such as a teacher or a parent about something wrong that someone you know has done – used especially by children: *I'll tell on you if you don't give me my pen back. | Please don't tell on me – my parents will kill me if they find out!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **split on** informal, **tattle on** AmE informal

**2** tell on sb

to have a bad effect on your health, or make you feel very tired – used about someone who has been working very hard or using a lot of effort, or drinking a lot of alcohol: *It was clear that the long hours and the pressure of the work were beginning to tell on Stephen. | All those years of heavy drinking were starting to tell on her.*

**TEND**

tended, tended, tending

**T****tend to**

## tend to sb/sth

formal to look after someone or something, by making sure they are all right and have what they need or want: *She hurried back to tend to the needs of her guests. | Anna was in her greenhouse, tending to her plants.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **attend to**

**tend towards**

ALSO **tend toward** AmE

## tend towards sth

if someone tends towards a particular attitude or type of behaviour, they usually have that kind of attitude or behave in that way: *I suppose he tends towards the right of the political spectrum. | Boys are more likely to take risks, whereas girls tend toward being more cautious.*

**TENSE**

tensed, tensed, tensing

**tense up****1** tense up

if you tense up, you become tense, nervous or worried instead of being relaxed: *Every time the phone rang, she tensed up, not knowing whether to answer it or not.*

**tensed up** ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN]

tense, nervous or worried, instead of relaxed: *Whatever's the matter? You're all tensed up.*

**2** tense up tense up sth tense sth up

if your muscles tense up or you tense them up, they become hard and tight, especially because you feel nervous or not relaxed, or when you are preparing to do something: *I could feel the muscles in the back of my neck tensing up. | Ingmar's big body tensed up, as though he was expecting to be punched.*

**tensed up** ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN]

if your muscles are tensed up, they feel hard and tight: *Can you give me a massage? My shoulders are all tensed up.*

**TEST**

tested, tested, testing

**test out****1** test out sth test sth out

to test a new product or idea in order to see whether it works well or will be popular: *A group of children were asked to test out the new Nintendo game for the Mercury News. | When you buy a sleeping bag test it out in the shop – put it on the floor, get inside and get the feel of it.*

+ on *The drug still hasn't been tested out on humans.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **try out**

**2** test sb out

to do or say something in order to find out what someone's reaction is and how they behave: *He was testing me out, leaving all that cash lying about. He wanted to see if I was honest.*

**TESTIFY**

testified, testified, testifying

**testify to**

## testify to sth

to show clearly that something is definitely true: *The growing number of empty shops in the High Street testify to the depth of the recession. | He'd been drinking again – his whole behaviour and appearance testified to that.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be evidence of sth**

**THAW**

thawed, thawed, thawing

**thaw out****1** thaw sth out thaw out sth

if you thaw frozen food out, you put it somewhere where it can warm up until it is

no longer frozen: *How about a pie – there's one in the freezer and I can thaw it out in the microwave.*

\* SIMILAR TO: defrost

## 2 thaw out

if frozen food thaws out, it becomes warmer and no longer frozen: *Keep the freezer door shut can you, or the food will start to thaw out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: defrost

## 3 thaw out thaw out sth

thaw sth out

if a person thaws out or they thaw out part of their body, they become warmer or they make their body warmer after being outside and getting very cold: *"Sit down by the fire, Miles, and thaw out," Father Poole said. "You must be frozen." | I put my fingers over the stove and tried to thaw them out.*

## THIN

thinned, thinned, thinning

### thin down

#### 1 thin sth down thin down sth

to make a liquid weaker and less thick, by adding water or another liquid to it: *The sauce tastes OK, but I think it needs thinning down. | If the paint colour's too strong, try thinning it down by mixing in a little water.*

\* SIMILAR TO: water down

#### 2 thin down

if a person or a part of their body thins down, they become thinner: *After I started the 'Body Shop' classes my hips really started to thin down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: slim down

### thin out

#### 1 thin out

if people, cars, houses etc thin out, there starts to be fewer of them, because some have moved away, or because you have moved past most of them: *The crowd had thinned out now, and only a few people were left in the square. | I don't usually go home until after 5.30, when the traffic begins to thin out. | The Bangkok suburbs began to thin out, revealing fields in the distance and palm trees.*

#### 2 thin out sth thin sth out

to remove some plants or branches that are growing too closely together, in order to make space for others to grow: *In early summer you should thin out the young plants to about three inches apart.*

## THINK

thought, thought, thinking

### think ahead

#### think ahead

to think carefully and plan for what might happen or what you might do in the future: *A lot of these problems could be prevented by thinking ahead and taking action early.*

+ to *We are now thinking ahead to the third phase of development, which involves rebuilding the factory and adding a new office block.*

### think back

#### think back

to think about things that happened to you in the past

+ to *The speed at which the computer has changed American life seems even more amazing when I think back to my childhood.*

### think of

#### 1 think of sth

to find a new idea, suggestion etc by thinking about it: *I'll have to think of some way of showing them how grateful I am. | During the next twelve months, we need to think of other services that we can offer to customers. | That's a brilliant idea – I hadn't thought of that before!*

\* SIMILAR TO: come up with, think up

#### 2 think of doing sth

to consider doing something soon or in the future: *I'm thinking of retiring next year. | She thought of ringing him, in the hope of catching him at home.*

\* SIMILAR TO: consider

#### 3 what do you think of ...?

used to ask what someone's opinion is about something: *"Well, what do you think of it, Henry?" Noreen said, indicating the painting on the wall behind him. | I'll ask Simon what he thinks of the idea.*

\* SIMILAR TO: make of

#### 4 think of sb/sth

if you think of someone or something in a particular way, that is your opinion of them or your feeling towards them

+ as *She still thought of Scotland as her home. | Geography's quite an unpopular subject because it's generally thought of as boring.*

**think of sb/sth in that way** *You're an adult now, and it's time you learnt to think of yourself in that way.*

\* SIMILAR TO: consider, regard (as)

## 5 think of sth/sb

to remember someone you knew or something you saw or did in the past: *Lynn remembered the hotel clearly, but she couldn't think of its name.* | *I sat on the balcony, thinking of my grandmother's house in the country, where I used to go as a child.*

## 6 think of sb

to consider the needs or wishes of another person when you are making a decision about something: *"You never think of me, do you?" Dinah said.* *"What about my future, my career?"* | *I can't just please myself, you know. I have a family to think of too.*

\* SIMILAR TO: consider

## 7 think of sb USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

spoken to think about someone at a particular time, especially when they are unhappy or doing something difficult: *Good luck in the exam – I'll be thinking of you.*

## 8 I wouldn't think of sth

I would never think of sth

spoken used to say very firmly that you would not do something or allow something, in any situation: *I wouldn't think of allowing a twelve year old girl to go to a pop concert alone!*

\* SIMILAR TO: wouldn't dream of (doing) sth

## 9 be well/highly thought of

if someone or something is well thought of or highly thought of, other people have a good opinion of them: *Kerrison is well thought of and we'll probably appoint him if we can get the authorities to agree.*

## 10 what was sb thinking of?

spoken used to ask why someone behaved in a particular way – use this when you disapprove of what they did: *"What were you thinking of?" Lucien asked in horror.* *"You know we haven't got that much money!"*

## think out

## 1 think sth out think out sth

to plan something carefully and in detail before you do it: *It was clear that the thieves had thought it all out in advance, and knew exactly what they were doing.*

**be carefully/well/badly etc thought out**  
*Such a proposal would need to be carefully thought out before it could be presented to the public.*

\* SIMILAR TO: work out

## 2 think sth out think out sth

to think carefully about a situation, problem, plan etc, and think especially about what might happen as a result of it: *"You're much*

*too young to get married," my mother said.* *"You haven't thought it out properly."*

\* SIMILAR TO: think through

## think over

## think sth over think over sth

to think very carefully about an idea or plan before you decide whether you will accept it or agree to it: *Government ministers are still thinking over the unions' demands.*

**think it over** *It was a wonderful offer so I agreed to think it over for a couple of days.*

\* SIMILAR TO: consider, mull over

## think through

## think sth through think through sth

to think carefully about a situation, problem, plan etc, and think especially about what might happen as a result of it: *The article suggested that the United Nations was taking action without fully thinking through the consequences.*

\* SIMILAR TO: think out

## think up

## think up sth think sth up

to find a new idea, suggestion etc by thinking about it and using your imagination or intelligence: *Everyone in the room was told to try and think up a new and exciting name for the book.* | *We're really looking for someone who is able to think up new projects and carry them through.*

\* SIMILAR TO: think of, come up with

## THIRST

thirsted, thirsted, thirsting

## thirst for

ALSO **thirst after** BrE

## thirst for/after sth

literary to want something very much: *Buchanan was one of those men who thirst for power and success.* | *He was clearly thirsting for revenge.*

\* SIMILAR TO: hunger after/for, yearn for

## THRASH

thrashed, thrashed, thrashing

## thrash about/around

## thrash about/around

to move from side to side and move your arms around in a violent and uncontrolled way: *Just at that moment the girl began to moan and thrash about, her pain suddenly returning.* | *I rushed to the side of the bridge,*

and could just make out someone thrashing around in the water below

\* SIMILAR TO: **flail around**

### thrash out

thrash out sth    thrash sth out ✕

to find the answer to a problem, reach an agreement, produce an idea etc, by discussing something in detail and for a long time: *The two sides met in an attempt to thrash out their problems.* | *The Prime Minister and his cabinet were today continuing their meeting aimed at thrashing out a spending plan for the coming year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hammer out**

## THRIVE

thrived, thrived, thriving

### thrive on

1 thrive on sth

to enjoy or be successful in a particular situation or condition, especially one that other people or organizations find difficult to deal with or disapprove of: *Jake thrived on conflict; there was no one who enjoyed a good argument more than he did.* | *Some companies have great difficulty coping with change, while others seem to thrive on it.* | *governments which thrive on secrecy and paranoia*

2 thrive on sth

to grow well with a particular food or in particular conditions: *Young toddlers can thrive on a diet of milk but they need to drink large quantities.* | *Some types of algae thrive on industrial waste.*

## THROTTLE

throttled, throttled, throttling

### throttle back/down

throttle sth back/down

throttle back/down sth

throttle back/down

if you throttle back the engines on a plane, boat etc, you make them work more slowly so that the plane, boat etc stops going faster: *When the plane reached 10,000 feet, the pilot throttled back the engines.*

## THROW

threw, thrown, throwing

### throw aside

throw aside sth    throw sth aside

to suddenly get rid of an old idea, belief, or feeling that you had: *We must throw aside the*

*old prejudices and learn to live with our former enemies.* | *Throwing aside their loyalty to Tsar Nicholas, many officers changed sides and joined the Revolution.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cast aside**

### throw at

throw yourself at sb

informal to try very hard to attract someone's attention and show them that you want to have a sexual relationship with them: *She'd thrown herself at that man, Henchard, and made a complete fool of herself.*

### throw away

1 throw away sth    throw sth away

to get rid of something that you do not want or need: *I shouldn't have thrown away the receipt.* | *Do you want to keep these catalogues, or shall I throw them away?* | *I can't find Corrie's letter – I must have thrown it away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chuck out** informal, **throw out**

**throwaway** ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

a throwaway product is one that can be thrown away after it has been used: *soft drinks in throwaway bottles*

**throwaway society** N [SINGULAR]

a society in which products are designed to be thrown away after a short time, so that a lot of things are wasted: *We live in a throwaway society. Why repair things when it's so cheap to replace them?*

2 throw away sth    throw sth away

to waste an opportunity or lose an advantage – used when you think someone is silly if they do this: *This could be the best chance you've ever had – don't throw it away.* | *It would be foolish to throw away all that we have achieved over the past five years.* | *In a brief fit of carelessness, United threw away their two goal lead.*

### throw back

throw back sth    throw sth back

informal to drink all of an alcoholic drink quickly: *Ted threw back three shots of whiskey before we had even ordered dinner.* | *She poured herself a brandy, threw it back and poured out another.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock back** informal

### throw back at

throw sth back at sb

throw back sth at sb

to criticize someone by reminding them of something dishonest, wrong, or stupid that they said or did in the past: *George Bush had said "No new taxes." It was a promise that the*

President's critics would throw back at him repeatedly in the years to come.

### be thrown back on

be thrown back on sth/sb

to be forced to rely or depend on something or someone because of a change in your situation: *Homeless and jobless, Joss was thrown back on what little support his parents could offer.* | *When you are out there on your own, you're thrown back on your own resources and you have to learn to cope.*

### throw down

#### 1 throw down a challenge/the gauntlet

to invite someone to argue, fight, or compete against you: *The National Union of Miners had thrown down a challenge to the government.* | *After lunch Marcia threw down the gauntlet and challenged me to a game of tennis.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lay down, challenge**

#### 2 throw down your weapons/arms etc

if soldiers throw down their weapons, they stop fighting, usually because they have been defeated: *Realizing that their situation was hopeless, the rebels threw down their arms and surrendered.*

### throw in

#### 1 throw in sth throw sth in

to include more things with the thing that you are selling to someone, without increasing the price: *The person selling the house may offer to throw in carpets and curtains as part of the deal.* | *The price includes two nights in a three-star hotel, with breakfast and a sight-seeing tour thrown in.*

#### 2 throw in sth throw sth in

to add something to a performance, a story, an idea etc in order to improve it or make it more interesting: *We could throw in a song or two to liven up the performance.*

**thrown in for good measure** (=added to get the result that is wanted) *It's basically a detective story with a little sex thrown in for good measure.*

#### 3 throw in your lot with sb

throw your lot in with sb

especially BrE to decide to support someone and work with them, so that your future depends on their future: *At first Italy remained neutral, but in 1915 she threw in her lot with the allies and entered the war.* | *former socialists who had thrown their lot in with the conservatives*

#### 4 throw in sth throw sth in

to add a remark or piece of information during

a conversation, speech etc: *We were all wishing Debbie luck – even her old rival, Kay Jones, threw in a word or two of encouragement.*

#### 5 throw in sb/sth throw sth/sb in

to send soldiers into a battle that has already started: *General Rawlinson continued to throw in his troops, and by midday 100,000 men were involved in the battle.*

#### 6 throw in sb throw sb in

to put a new player into a team immediately before or during a match: *So many of our players had injury problems that we had to throw in four new lads from the reserves.*

#### 7 throw in sth throw sth in

BrE if you throw in a job, you leave, especially when you are not going to start another job: *She threw in a good job with an insurance company just so she could follow her boyfriend out to Hawaii.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **quit, pack in** (spoken), **chuck in** BrE informal

### throw in/into

throw sb in/into sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to put someone in prison, especially before they have been judged in a court of law

**be thrown in jail/prison** *Anyone caught selling liquor was likely to get thrown in jail.* | *Many of the rioters were arrested and thrown into prison.*

### throw into

#### 1 throw sb into confusion/panic

to make people feel very confused, afraid etc: *Everyone was thrown into confusion by the news of Gandhi's death.* | *Within days Hungary was in revolt and the Soviet leadership was thrown into panic.*

#### 2 throw sth into turmoil/chaos/disarray

to suddenly make something very confused and badly organized: *A failure of the computer system threw London's ambulance service into chaos.* | *The world's money markets were thrown into turmoil last night.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **plunge sth into**

#### 3 throw sth into doubt/question/uncertainty

to suddenly make people uncertain whether something is true, or whether something will happen: *These shocking events throw into doubt the whole future of the Olympic Games.*

#### 4 throw yourself into sth

to start doing an activity or job eagerly and with a lot of effort: *Now Julia threw herself into her work, staying up late every night.*



**throw off****1** throw off sth    throw sth off

to remove a piece of clothing quickly and carelessly: *She threw off her clothes and stepped into the shower.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rip off**

**2** throw off the yoke/shackles/chains

literary to get free from something that has been limiting your freedom: *Russia has at last thrown off the shackles of communism. | nations that were struggling to throw off the yoke of colonial rule*

**3** throw off sth    throw sth off

BrE to succeed in getting rid of an illness that is not very serious: *I've had this cold for several weeks and I can't seem to throw it off. | She's taken a long time to throw off the illness, and she's still not fully fit.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of, shake off**

**4** throw off sth    throw sth off

to succeed in getting rid of a problem or an unpleasant feeling that has been having a bad effect: *Carnival is a time to throw off your worries and dance the night away. | The city has been making great efforts to throw off its negative image.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get rid of, shake off**

**throw on**

## throw on sth    throw sth on

to put on a piece of clothing quickly and carelessly: *Throwing on a dressing-gown, I stumbled downstairs to open the door.*

**throw out****1** throw out sth    throw sth out

to get rid of something that you do not want or do not need: *We threw out lots of stuff when we moved house. | Do you think I should throw these roses out? They're dead aren't they? | I hope you haven't thrown out yesterday's paper – there was something I wanted to read.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **throw away, chuck out** informal

**2** throw sb out    throw out sb

informal to force someone to leave a house, school, job, organization etc: *We can't throw him out in this kind of weather – he's nowhere else to go.*

+ of *Wayne was thrown out of school for taking drugs. | Pop star James Atkin was thrown out of a hotel after his band, EMF, held a wild party there.*

**be thrown out of work** (=lose your job) *Hundreds of men were thrown out of work when Smith's shipyard closed on Teesside.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **kick out, boot out** informal

**3** throw out sth    throw sth out

if a parliament, a committee, or a court of law throws out a plan, suggestion, claim etc they refuse to accept it or make it legal: *The Senate had thrown out a bill for welfare reform the previous year. | Claims against British tobacco companies have been thrown out by the courts.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reject, turn down**

**4** throw out sth    throw sth out

BrE to produce large amounts of heat, light, smoke etc and send it out in all directions: *These electric radiators throw out a lot of heat. | Some of the bigger candles can throw out a lot of light.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give off**

**throw over**

## throw sb over    throw over sb

old-fashioned to end a romantic relationship with someone: *They'd been going out together for about a year when he threw her over for someone else.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **ditch, dump**

**throw overboard**

## throw sth overboard

## throw overboard sth

to completely get rid of an idea or system that seems useless or unnecessary: *By 1949 Stalin had thrown overboard all thoughts of negotiating with the West. | The Labour Party's old principles of socialism were thrown overboard in the scramble to get elected.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **abandon, ditch**

**throw to**

## throw sb to the lions/wolves/sharks etc

**a** to kill someone by feeding them to wild animals: *In ancient Rome, the Emperor Nero threw Christians to the lions. | When galley slaves were too weak to row, they were thrown to the sharks.*

**b** to deliberately put someone into a situation where they will be severely criticized or punished: *Clinton knew that if his supporters deserted him, he would be thrown to the wolves.*

**throw together****1** throw sth together

## throw together sth

to produce something quickly without planning it carefully, using whatever things you have available: *I'm afraid it isn't much of a meal – just something I threw together while you were unpacking. | cheap little houses*

T

thrown together by some builder for a quick profit | *Charlie had thrown the show together at short notice.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put together, cobble together**

- 2 **throw sb together** **throw together sb**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a situation throws people together, they meet and get to know each other because of the situation they are both in: *This is the story of a beautiful young heiress and a poor country boy who are thrown together on a transatlantic voyage.*

### throw up

- 1 **throw up sth** **throw sth up**

especially BrE if something throws up new ideas, new problems or new people, it produces them: *The report throws up some interesting questions.* | *The newborn British rock culture was throwing up great performers like Cliff Richard.*

- 2 **throw up** **throw up sth**

**throw sth up**

informal to bring food or drink up from your stomach and out through your mouth, because you are feeling ill: *The smell was so disgusting, it made you want to throw up.* | *My stomach clenched and I threw up my dinner.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **vomit, be sick, puke up** informal

- 3 **throw up sth** **throw sth up**

to quickly build or make something such as a wall or fence: *Citizens threw up barricades around the Kremlin.* | *Thames Valley Police threw up roadblocks on the stretch of motorway leading to the airport.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put up, erect** formal

- 4 **throw up sth** **throw sth up**

BrE informal to suddenly leave a job or a course of study, especially when you are not going to start another job or course of study: *He threw up a good job, sold his house, and went off to join one of these religious cults.* | *You have a brilliant future to look forward to. It would be crazy to throw it all up now.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chuck in** BrE informal, **jack in** BrE informal

- 5 **throw up sth** **throw sth up**

to make dust, sand, water etc rise into the air, by driving or running over it: *Khalil saw a truck approaching, throwing up huge dust-clouds as it bumped along the rutted track.*

## THRUST

thrust, thrust, thrusting

### thrust aside

- 1 **thrust aside sth** **thrust sth aside**

to get rid of a something that is preventing you from making enough progress, by introducing a new system, method etc: *The new agricultural strategy thrust aside the supposed limitations of the existing system.* | *Boeing thrust aside the practises of the past, and completely revised its management philosophy and approach.*

- 2 **thrust aside sth** **thrust sth aside**

USUALLY PASSIVE

to refuse to consider something, especially someone's complaints, protests etc - used especially to show disapproval: *All our complaints were thrust aside and ignored.*

### thrust on/upon

● **Thrust upon** is more formal than **thrust on** and is mostly used in writing.

**thrust sth on/upon sb** USUALLY PASSIVE

formal if something is thrust on you, you are suddenly forced to deal with it or accept it: *Fame was thrust upon Gooden at an early age.* | *Ryan graciously accepted the public responsibilities that were thrust on him.*

### thrust up

**thrust up**

literary if something tall thrusts up, it is much higher than the things around it and is easy to see: *A needle of rock thrust up through the earth, like a stone sword.* | *Skyscrapers thrust up from the waterfront.*

### thrust upon

SEE **thrust on**

## THUMB

thumbed, thumbed, thumbing

### thumb through

**thumb through sth**

to turn the pages of a book, magazine etc, but not read it carefully: *She sat in the dentist's waiting room thumbing through an old copy of Vogue magazine.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **glance through, flick through** BrE, **leaf through**

**THUMP**

thumped, thumped, thumping

**thump out****thump out** sth

informal if you thump out a song on the piano, you play it very loudly and by hitting the keys with a lot of force. The keys are the black and white parts of the piano that you press to make sounds: *Jenny was in the music room, thumping out 'The Rose' on her old stand-up piano.*

**TICK**

ticked, ticked, ticking

**tick away****1 tick away** **tick away** sth

if a clock or watch ticks away it shows the time and makes regular sounds as time passes: *The hotel walls were so thin I was able to hear a watch ticking away in the next room.*

**tick away the hours/minutes etc** *Night was approaching and in the hall the old grandfather clock was ticking away the minutes.*

**2 tick away**

if time ticks away, it passes, especially when you are waiting for something exciting or important to happen: *Magic Johnson threw the ball up the court as the seconds ticked away just before the end of the game.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tick by****tick by****tick by**

if time ticks by, it passes, especially when you are waiting for something to happen: *As the minutes ticked by, the audience grew impatient for the show to start. | The days were ticking by, and I still hadn't found the courage to call her.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tick away****tick off****1 tick off** sth **tick** sth **off****tick** sth **off** sth

BrE to mark things on a list to show that they are finished or have been dealt with: *Make sure that you tick off the jobs when they are completed. | The guests' names were ticked off when they arrived.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **check off****2 tick** sb **off** **tick off** sb

BrE to tell someone angrily that they should not have done something – used especially about parents, teachers etc talking to children: *Mrs. Brownfield ticked us off for talking in class.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **scold**, **tell off**, **reprimand** formal**ticking off** N [SINGULAR C]

BrE informal when a parent, teacher etc speaks to a child in an angry way and tells them they should not have done something: *Unless you want a ticking off from your Mum, you'd better get home soon.*

**3 tick** sb **off** **tick off** sb

AmE informal to make someone angry: *I wish he wouldn't do that. It really ticks me off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **annoy****4 tick** sth **off** **tick off** sth

AmE informal to read a list of things, especially by counting each thing on the list with your fingers: *He ticked off the names of the actors and what films they have starred in.*

**tick over****1 tick over** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE if a company, organization, system, etc is ticking over, it continues to operate, especially without producing very much, without making progress, or without having any problems: *The firm had enough work to keep it ticking over for the next few months. | The British film industry ticked over during the 1950s, without any real artistic ambition. | Peter's father went down to the factory now and again, to make sure things were ticking over smoothly.*

**2 tick over** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

BrE if an engine or machine ticks over, it works slowly and steadily. Use this especially to say that a car engine operates slowly when the vehicle is not moving: *He told his driver to wait outside and keep the engine ticking over. | I can hear a strange noise when the engine ticks over.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **idle****3 sb's brain/mind is ticking over**

BrE if someone's brain or mind is ticking over, they are thinking about something, for example because they are trying to decide what to do, or they are interested in something: *Her brain was ticking over rapidly, as she was trying to think of a way out of her current situation. | Mandy had brought him some books of puzzles to help him keep his brain cells ticking over while he was in hospital.*

**TIDE**

tided, tided, tiding

**tide over****tide** sb **over**

if you have enough money or food to tide you over, you have enough money to continue, or enough food so that you do not feel hungry: *My Dad lent me some money to tide me over until I get paid. | The guests were given coffee and cookies to tide them over until dinner.*

## TIDY

tidied, tidied, tidying

## tidy away

tidy sth away tidy away sth

BrE to put things back in the place where they should be, especially after you have been using them: *Anthea looked at her watch and began to tidy her papers away.* | *All the dinner things had been neatly tidied away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: put away, clear away

## tidy up

tidy up tidy up sth tidy sth up

BrE to make a place look neater by putting things in their proper places: *Would you mind tidying up a bit before the guests arrive?* | *They waited while the maids tidied up their hotel room.*

**tidy up after sb** (=make a place look neater after someone has made it untidy) *She got fed up with tidying up after her husband all the time, and went back to live with her mother.*

\* SIMILAR TO: clear up

tidy-up *n* [SINGULAR]

BrE when you make a place look neater by putting things in their proper places: *I'll just give the house a quick tidy-up and then we can go out.*

2 tidy yourself up

especially BrE to make yourself look tidier or cleaner, for example by washing your face or brushing your hair: *Janine went upstairs to tidy herself up before her date.* | *Trish insisted on tidying herself up in the nearest ladies' lounge.*

\* SIMILAR TO: smarten yourself up

3 tidy up sth tidy sth up

especially BrE to make a few small changes to something, especially a piece of written work, in order to improve it or finish it: *I just want to tidy up a few things and then you can read it.*

## TIE

tied, tied, tying

## tie back

tie back sth tie sth back

to fasten your hair or something that hangs down so that it is pulled back: *Her long hair was tied back in a red scarf.* | *Could you help me tie back the curtains?*

## tie down

1 tie sb down

to stop someone from being free to do what they want to do: *He said he loved her, but he didn't want to be tied down.* | *Buying an expensive house could tie you down financially for a long time.*

2 tie down sb sth tie sb/sth down

to force large numbers of soldiers to stay in a particular place so they cannot go somewhere else where they are needed: *The Allies had tied down twenty German divisions in Italy.* | *"We don't want our troops to get tied down in a land war in Asia," the captain explained.*

3 tie down sth/sth tie sth/sb down

to fasten a thing or a person onto something using a piece of rope or string, so that they cannot move: *Make sure all the boxes are securely tied down.*

+ to *They kept him tied down to a chair with a bag over his head.*

\* SIMILAR TO: strap (down)

4 tie sb down

to make someone promise or agree that they will definitely do something

+ to *You need to tie him down to a particular date for the wedding.*

## tie in with

1 tie in with sth

to be similar to or connected with something else, especially something that contains the same information or ideas: *What you're saying doesn't tie in with what other people say about him.* | *These findings tie in with recent research in the field of genetics.*

\* SIMILAR TO: fit in

tie-in *n* [SINGULAR]

a connection or similarity to something else: *There must be a tie-in somewhere.*

2 tie in with sth

if a book, record, concert etc is intended to tie in with something else, it is intended to be produced or happen at the same time, and they are connected with each other in some way: *Springsteen has released a new album to tie in with his current US tour.* | *The book was published to tie in with the popular 'Inspector Morse' TV series.*

\* SIMILAR TO: coincide (with)

tie-in *n* [C]

a product, such as a record, toy, or book, that is connected to a new film, TV programme etc: *Tie-ins often generate more profit than the original film.*

## tie up

## 1 tie up sb tie sb up

to tie a person or animal to something using a rope so that they cannot move or escape: *Police said the two men tied up store employees before taking money from the cash register.* | *I tied my horse up and walked to the top of the hill.*

## 2 tie up sth tie sth up

to fasten something together using a string or rope: *In the basement they found a wooden box tied up with string.* | *We tied up the newspapers and took them to the recycling centre.*

## 3 be tied up

spoken to be very busy, with the result that you cannot see someone or do something: *Sorry, I couldn't see you earlier – I've been tied up in a meeting all morning.* | *According to her diary she's tied up all next week.* | *Can I call you later? I'm a bit tied up at the moment.*

## 4 get tied up

spoken if you get tied up, something happens which prevents you from going somewhere or doing something: *Sorry I'm late. I got tied up.* | *We got tied up on the freeway because of an accident.*

\* SIMILAR TO: get held up

## 5 tie up sth tie sth up USUALLY PASSIVE

if a machine, phone etc is tied up, someone is using it continuously, and this prevents other people from being able to use it: *I've been trying to reach him, but the lines have been tied up all morning.* | *The Internet tends to get tied up at this time of day and it's incredibly slow.*

## 6 tie up sth tie sth up

to finish arranging or dealing with all the details of something such as an agreement, a plan, or a problem: *Will the details of the contract be tied up before the end of the year?* | *Make sure you tie up the travel arrangements by the weekend.*

## 7 tie up sth tie sth up

BrE if you tie up your shoelaces (= the strings you use to fasten your shoes), you fasten them in a knot: *How old were you when you learned to tie up your own shoelaces?*

\* SIMILAR TO: do up BrE, lace up

## 8 tie up tie up sth tie sth up

to tie a boat to something, especially so that you can stop somewhere after you have been sailing: *It was almost dark when they tied up at the boatyard.* | *Gridley hoped to tie up his tiny sailboat next to the barge.*

\* SIMILAR TO: moor

## be tied up with

## be tied up with sth

to be very closely connected with something: *A lot of his emotional problems are tied up with his childhood.* | *Christianity in Africa is tied up with its colonial past.*

## TIGHTEN

tightened, tightened, tightening

## tighten up

## 1 tighten up sth tighten sth up

## tighten up

to make a rule, law, or system more strict: *French authorities say they plan to tighten up the immigration laws.*

+ on *Airlines are tightening up on security after warnings of terrorist attacks.*

## 2 tighten up tighten up sth

## tighten sth up

if your muscles tighten up, or you tighten up your muscles, they become stiff, especially because you have done a lot of exercise, or because you are nervous: *These exercises will help to tighten up your stomach muscles.* | *The muscles in my leg suddenly tightened up and I had to stop swimming.*

## 3 tighten up sth tighten sth up

to turn something, such as a screw, so that another thing is firmly held in place: *Tighten up the screws to keep the axle from slipping forward.*

● OPPOSITE: loosen

## 4 tighten up tighten up sth

## tighten sth up

if a team, organization, group etc tightens up, its members work together in a more effective way and make fewer mistakes: *Milan have tightened up their defence and they will be a hard team to beat.*

## TILT

tilted, tilted, tilting

## tilt at

## tilt at sb

BrE to publicly criticize someone or something in a speech, newspaper article etc: *Sewell often uses his articles to tilt at modern artists like Damien Hirst.*

**TINKER**

tinkered, tinkered, tinkering

**tinker around**ALSO **tinker about** BrE**tinker around/about**

informal to make small changes to something such as a machine or system in order to repair it or improve it

+ **with** *He spent all morning tinkering around with the engine and trying to get it to work.*

**tinker with****tinker with** sth

if you tinker with something such as a machine or a system you make small changes to in order to repair it or improve it: *My Dad used to like tinkering with engines. | The government should stop tinkering with the educational system and let teachers get on with their jobs. | When the company tried to tinker with the taste of its products, thousands of people wrote in to complain.*

**TIP**

tipped, tipped, tipping

**T****tip down****it's tipping down**

BrE spoken informal used to say that it is raining very hard: *It's been tipping down all morning.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pour down, bucket down**

**tip off****tip off** sb **tip** sb **off**

to secretly tell or warn someone about something, especially the police, the authorities, or news reporters: *The drug dealers were arrested after police were tipped off by local residents.*

+ **about** *Someone must have tipped off the press about Madonna's visit.*

**tip-off** N [C]

a secret warning or message about something that is happening: *Acting on an anonymous tip-off, police raided the house.*

**tip over****tip over** **tip over** sth **tip** sth **over**

if an object tips over, or if you tip it over, it falls on its side: *Bud was so mad he tipped his chair over. | I knocked the milk jug and it tipped over onto the table. | The boat tipped over and they were all thrown into the sea.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock over, overturn**

**tip up****1 tip up** sth **tip** sth **up**

if you tip up a container, you move it so that its contents start to pour out: *She tipped up her glass and finished the beer. | Stevens tipped up the wheelbarrow and emptied all the rocks out onto the ground.*

**2 tip up** **tip up** sth **tip** sth **up**

if an object tips up, or if you tip it up, one end goes down and the other end goes up, for example because something heavy has been put on one end of it: *A fat man sat down at one end of the bench, and the whole thing tipped up. | They had to tip the table up to get it through the door.*

**TIRE**

tired, tired, tiring

**tire of****1 tire of** sth/sb

to become bored with something or someone, especially someone or something that used to interest you or that you used to like: *His parents kept giving him lots of toys, but he soon tired of them. | Maybe after a few years of marriage she'll start to tire of him and want someone else.*

**tire of doing sth** *Voters were beginning to tire of hearing the same old clichés from politicians.*

**2 sb never tires of doing** sth

used to say that someone does something so much that it annoys you: *Dan never tired of telling people what an excellent basketball player he was.*

**3 sb never tires of** sth

used to say that someone likes something very much and never becomes bored of it: *Paul never seems to tire of Grover's stories.*

**tire out****tire** sb **out** **tire out** sb

to make someone very tired: *A full day of shopping tired us out. | James has so much energy - he always tires me out.*

**tire yourself out** (=work so hard or do something so much that you become tired) *Take a rest, kid. You'll tire yourself out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **exhaust, wear out, do in** spoken

**tired out** ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN]

very tired: *They were both so sleepy, tired out from feeding, bathing, and putting the children to bed.*



**TODDLE**

toddled, toddled, toddling

**toddle off/along****toddle along/off**

BrE informal to leave a place and go somewhere else, especially by walking there: *I think it's time I toddled off home.* | *You two toddle along – I'll catch up with you in a minute.*

**TOG**

tagged, tagged, tagging

**be tagged out/up****be tagged out/up**

BrE informal to be wearing special clothes for a particular occasion or activity: *They were all tagged up in their walking gear.*

**get tagged up** (=put on special clothes for a particular occasion or activity) *I'd better go and get tagged up for the meal.*

**tag yourself out/up** (=put on special clothes for a particular occasion or activity) *The boys had tagged themselves out in the latest fashions.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be dressed up, be decked out**

**TOIL**

toiled, toiled, toiling

**toil away****toil away**

formal to work very hard for a long period of time: *In the past, men toiled away in the fields while women took care of the cooking and cleaning.* | *When you think about artists, you probably think of poor painters toiling away in tiny studios.*

**+ at** *Lawmakers have been toiling away at the budget, feeling pressure to balance it before the session ends.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slave away**

**STONE**

toned, toned, toning

**tone down****1 tone down sth tone sth down**

to make something such as a speech, performance, or piece of writing less extreme, offensive, or critical: *TV bosses have told them to tone the show down, claiming there are too many sex scenes and too much bad language.* | *If Newland doesn't tone down his message, he will probably lose supporters.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **moderate**

**2 tone down sth tone sth down**

if you tone down the colour of something, you make it less bright: *Makeup can be used to help tone down a reddish complexion.* | *To tone down a room that is too stimulating, select light-coloured paint and accessories.*

**3 tone down sth tone sth down**

to change your behaviour or style of clothing so it attracts less attention than before: *You can tone down the dress with a black cardigan and make it suitable for work.*

**tone in****tone in**

BrE if something tones in with the other things next to it, they look good together, especially because they have similar colours

**+ with** *Choose a colour scheme for the curtains that will tone in with the rest of the room.* | *The new bridge has been designed to tone in with the rest of the area's historic buildings.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **fit in, match**

**tone up****tone up sth tone sth up tone up**

to make your body or muscles firmer and stronger by doing physical exercises: *Aerobics really tones up your muscles.* | *People can use the new exercise video to tone up without spending a lot of time or money.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shape up**

**TOOL**

tooled, tooled, tooling

**tool up****1 tool up**

BrE if a factory or business tools up, it gets the equipment it needs to produce something: *Airplane factories were able to tool up quickly when the war began.*

**be tooled up** *The Wolverton factory was not yet tooled up to produce the new trains.*

**2 be tooled up**

BrE informal to be carrying weapons so that you are ready to fight or cause trouble: *The gang were all tooled up with baseball bats and they started smashing the place up.*

**TOP**

topped, topped, topping

**top off****1 top off sth top sth off**

to finish something that has been very successful or enjoyable by doing one last thing

+ with *We topped off the evening with a meal in one of my favourite restaurants.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **round off**

**2** to top it (all) off

especially spoken used when you want to mention one final thing when you are talking about something, especially something very surprising: *She spent the whole of our date talking about her previous boyfriends. Then to top it all off, she suggested we go and visit one of them!*

**3** top off

AmE if prices of something top off at a particular level, that is the most expensive price

+ at *Tickets topped off at \$75. | A local beer is available, starting at \$1.50 a glass and topping off at \$6.75 a pitcher.*

**4** top off sth top off

AmE to fill a partly empty container with liquid: *Let me top off your drink.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **top up** BrE

**top out**

top out

AmE if something tops out, it reaches the highest level possible: *Monday's temperature should top out at 40 degrees. | My car tops out at about 65 miles per hour.*

**top up**

**1** top up sth top sth up

especially BrE to fill a partly empty container with liquid: *I'll just top up the coffee pot.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **top off sth** AmE

**2** top up sth top sb/sth up

especially BrE to put more drink in someone's glass or cup to make it full again: *Can I top up your beer? | Do you want me to top you up?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **top off** AmE

top-up <sup>N</sup>[C]

especially BrE if you give someone a top-up, you put more drink into their glass or cup to make it full again: *Would you like a top-up?*

**3** top up sth top sth up

BrE to increase the amount of something, especially the amount of money that you earn, so that it reaches the level you want: *I took a job in the evenings to top up my income. | You can increase your monthly payments if you want to top up your pension.*

**TOPPLE**

topples, toppled, toppling

**topple over**

topple over topple sth over

to become unsteady and fall over, or to make something do this: *The high wind just toppled the boats over. | Mark had dirty dishes piled so high they looked like they were going to topple over at any moment.*

**TOSS**

tossed, tossed, tossing

**toss around**

ALSO **toss about** BrE

**1** toss sth around/about

toss around/about sth USUALLY PASSIVE

to move or shake something in a rough and often violent way. Use this especially to talk about something being shaken by the power of the sea or the wind: *The little boat was tossed around by the waves. | The plane was tossed about by the storm.*

**2** toss sth around/about

toss around/about sth

to talk about a plan, idea, or suggestion, usually without considering it in a serious way: *Ken and I had tossed around the idea of visiting Greece this summer, but in the end we decided that it would be too expensive.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **play with, toy with**

**3** toss sth around/about

toss around/about sth

if people toss a ball or other object around, they throw it to each other for fun: *The kids went outside and started tossing a football around.*

**4** toss sth around/about

toss around/about sth

to use a word or phrase without thinking carefully about what it means, especially by saying that someone or something is much more important or better than they really are: *People often toss around words like 'genius' and 'living legend', but in his case they're all true.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **bandy about/around**

**toss back**

**1** toss back sth toss sth back

to drink something very quickly, especially alcohol: *His friends had been tossing back beers all day.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **toss down, knock back, drink**

**2** **toss back your head**

if you toss your head back, you move your head backwards suddenly, because you are laughing or upset: *He read the letter, then tossed back his head and laughed.* | *Tossing her head back defiantly, Tina refused to admit she was wrong.*

**3** **toss back your hair**

if you toss back your hair, you move your head so that your hair is no longer in front of your face: *Kelly tossed back her hair and leaned forward to read the article.*

**toss down**

**toss down sth** **toss sth down** ✕

to drink something very quickly, especially alcohol: *Before going home, Brandon managed to toss down four more shots of vodka.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **toss back, knock back, drink**

**toss for**

**toss for sth** **toss sb for sth**

if two people toss for something, they decide who can do or have something by throwing a coin in the air, and trying to guess which side will be on top when it lands: *The two teams tossed for the kick-off.* | *"Who gets the last piece of cake?" "I'll toss you for it."*

\* SIMILAR TO: **flip for** AmE, **toss up** BrE

**toss off****1** **toss off sth** **toss sth off**

to produce something quickly and without much effort: *Some writers seem to be able to toss off a new book every few months.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock off, knock out**

**2a** **toss off** **toss yourself off**

BrE informal if a boy or man tosses off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs: *Kevin was tossing off over a porn mag, when he looked up and saw Neil and Rhys spying at the window.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, jack off** AmE informal

**2b** **toss sb off**

BrE informal to make a boy or man sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs: *"I'll toss you off for a tenner," the prostitute offered.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **masturbate, jack off** AmE informal

**toss up**

**toss up**

BrE if two people or teams toss up for something, they decide who will do or have something by throwing a coin in the air, and trying to guess which side will be on top when it lands: *They tossed up to see who would play*

*first.* | *Why don't we toss up for it? If you win, you get to keep the money.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **toss for, flip for** AmE

**toss-up** N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

when you do not know which of two things to choose, or when you cannot say which of two things are better or more successful because they seem very equal: *It was a toss-up between the chocolate ice cream and the vanilla sundae, and I finally chose the chocolate ice cream.*

**TOT**

*totted, totted, totting*

**tot up**

**tot up sth** **tot sth up**

BrE informal to add together numbers or amounts of money in order to find the total: *At the end of the game we'll tot up the points and the winner will be declared.* | *Ernest counted out the money and I quickly totted it up in my head.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **add up, total up**

**TOTAL**

*totalled, totalled, totalling* BrE

*totalled, totaled, totaling* AmE

**total up**

**total up sth** **total sth up** **total up** T

to add together numbers or amounts of money in order to find the total: *Could you mark each other's work, please, and then total up your scores.* | *After the meal I began to total up – it wasn't going to be cheap.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **add up**

**TOUCH**

*touched, touched, touching*

**touch down**

**touch down**

if a plane touches down, it lands on the ground, especially at an airport: *Margaret closed her book as the plane touched down at Istanbul airport.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **land**

● OPPOSITE: **take off**

**touchdown** N [C,U]

when a plane lands on the ground, especially at an airport: *The accident took place seconds after touchdown.*

**touch for**

**touch sb for sth**

BrE informal to borrow money from someone: *While I'm here, could I touch you for the loan of a pound or two till next week?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tap for**

**touch off****touch off sth**

to cause something to start happening suddenly: *Nicosia's announcement that it would purchase the Russian air defence system touched off the latest crisis.* | *The incident had touched off a wave of rioting that spread throughout the occupied territories.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spark off, trigger off**

**touch on/upon**

● **Touch upon** is more formal than **touch on** and is mostly used in writing.

**touch on/upon sth**

to mention or talk about something for a short time and without giving very many details: *The book mentions Cromwell's activities in Ireland, but only touches on them briefly.* | *Negotiations for the treaty touched on border issues.* | *This aspect of Weston's work is barely touched on by most critics.*

**touch up****1 touch up sth touch sth up**

to improve something by changing it a little or adding more to it, often in order to hide marks or faults: *I didn't buy the Peugeot, because some of the paintwork looked as though it had been recently touched up.* | *Dominique looked in the car mirror and touched up her lipstick, before driving quickly off down the road.*

**2 touch sb up touch up sb**

BrE *informal* to touch someone's body without their permission in an annoying and unpleasant way in order to get sexual pleasure: *This guy sitting beside me started playing with my hair and touching me up.* | *people who like touching up young boys*

\* SIMILAR TO: **feel up** *informal*

**touch upon**

SEE **touch on/upon**

**TOUGH**

toughed, toughed, toughing

**tough out****tough it out**

to deal with a difficult situation or strong opposition by being very determined and refusing to give up: *Despite all the protests Marcos tried to tough it out, thinking that the Americans would support him.*

**TOUGHEN**

toughened, toughened, toughening

**toughen up****1 toughen up sth toughen sth up**

to make rules or laws stricter and more effective: *We will use our EC Presidency to toughen up regulations on animal experiments.*

**2a toughen sb up toughen up sb**

to make someone become stronger, less gentle, and more able to deal with difficult situations: *His parents sent him to survival school last summer to toughen him up a bit.*

**2b toughen up**

to become stronger, less gentle, and more able to deal with difficult situations: *Intense competition is good for you – it forces you to toughen up and wise up.*

**TOUT**

touted, touted, touting

**tout as**

**tout sth/sb as sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

to praise something or someone and say that they are extremely good or likely to be very successful: *Tobin has been touted as a possible future prime minister of Canada.* | *San Francisco is widely touted as an ideal place to live.* | *The manufacturers are touting it as the safest car on the road.*

**tout for**

**tout for business/trade/custom etc**

BrE to try to persuade people to buy the goods or services you are offering: *There were five butchers in the street then, and the shopkeepers used to stand in the street touting for business.*

**TOWEL**

towelled, towelled, towelling BrE

toweled, toweled, toweling AmE

**towel off**

**towel off towel off sth**

**towel sth off**

to use a large cloth called a towel to dry your body, face etc: *I was just towelling off after my shower, when I heard a knock at the door.* | *Wooley finished shaving and towelled off the soap.*

**TOWER**

towered, towered, towering

**tower above/over****1 tower above/over sb/sth**

to be much taller than someone or something else, especially so that they seem small: *We saw St Paul's Cathedral towering above us in the mist.* | *Roy was already over 6 feet tall, and he towered over his classmates.*

**2 tower above/over sb/sth**

to be much better, more important etc than other people or organizations

**tower above (all) the rest** *Soseki was not a well-known writer in America, but in Japan he towered above all the rest.*

**TOY**

toyed, toyed, toying

**toy with****1 toy with sth** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE ✕

if you toy with an idea or a possibility, you think about it and consider it, but not very seriously: *Len's not sure what to study at university – he's been toying with various possibilities.*

**toy with the idea of (doing) sth** *I had been to France several times, and was toying with the idea of buying a house there.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **flirt with**

**2 toy with sth** ✕

to keep touching something or moving it about, especially while you are thinking about something else: *He toyed with his keys as he spoke.* | *We sat there toying with our food and trying to be polite to each other.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **play with**

**3 toy with sb** USUALLY PROGRESSIVE

to treat someone in a way that is not sincere or fair and is likely to upset them, for example by pretending to like them: *Rourke was not what he seemed – he had been toying with her that day on the river.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **play with, string along**

**TRACE**

traced, traced, tracing

**trace out****1 trace out sth** **trace sth out**

to mark or write something carefully and clearly: *I got out the map and traced out the route that we would have to take.*

**2 trace out sth** **trace sth out**

*formal* to describe and explain clearly something that is complicated, in order to understand it or make it clear to other people: *In his book he traces out the latest theories about how the mind works.*

**TRACK**

tracked, tracked, tracking

**track down****track down sb/sth** **track sb/sth down**

to manage to find someone or something after a lot of effort, by searching for them or following any information that is available about them: *Police have managed to track down thirty people who were in the town centre when the attack occurred.* | *Apparently it's always impossible to track down stolen jewellery – it just disappears.*

**TRADE**

traded, traded, trading

**trade down****trade down**

to sell an expensive house, car etc, in order to buy one that is cheaper: *Many homeowners decide to trade down in late middle-age, in order to get cash for retirement.*

● OPPOSITE: **trade up**

**trade in****trade sth in** **trade in sth** ✕

to give a car, piece of equipment etc that you own as part of the payment for a new one you are buying

+ **for** *We traded our big old van in for a smaller, more modern one.*

**trade off****1 trade off sth** **trade sth off**

to balance one thing against another when you are trying to decide what is the best or most acceptable thing to do

+ **against** *You have to trade off the increased viewing charges against the number of new channels you can watch.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **balance**

**trade-off** N [C]

an acceptable balance between two or more opposing things: *the trade-off between leisure and work*

**2 trade off sth** **trade sth off**

to give something up, or accept something you do not want in order to have something

that is more important: *Israel may have to trade off some of its territorial gains in order to secure a lasting peace in the Middle East.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give up, concede**

### trade-off N [C]

something that you have to accept in order to have something else that you do want and that is more important: *Binder tolerates inflation as a trade-off for healthy economic growth.*

## trade on/upon

● **Trade upon** is more formal than **trade on** and is mostly used in writing.

### trade on/upon sth

to use something in order to get an advantage for yourself, especially in a dishonest or unfair way: *The newspapers accused her of trading on her relationship with the Prince.* | *He was able to trade on people's fears of the communists.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **exploit**

## trade up

### trade up

to sell a cheap house, car etc in order to buy one that is more expensive: *Our car's getting a bit old now, so we're thinking of trading up and getting something a bit sportier.*

● OPPOSITE: **trade down**

## trade upon

SEE **trade on**

## TRAFFIC

trafficked, trafficked, trafficking

### traffic in

#### traffic in sth

to buy and sell illegal goods, especially drugs: *The government has increased the penalties for trafficking in drugs and firearms.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **deal in**

## TRAIL

trailed, trailed, trailing

### trail off

ALSO **trail away** BrE

#### trail off/away

if a person's voice trails off, it gradually becomes quieter and then stops: *Emily's voice trailed away; it was clear that she was very upset.* | *"I know I should have told you but..." At that point he trailed off and stared at his feet.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tail off**

## TRAIN

trained, trained, training

### train on/upon

● **Train upon** is more formal than **train on** and is mostly used in writing.

#### train sth on/upon sb/sth

to aim a gun, camera etc at someone or something and keep it pointing at them: *All the TV cameras and microphones were trained on him, but Mellor refused to comment.* | *The man stood beside the sofa, the black revolver trained on her.*

## train up

#### train sb up

#### train up sb

especially BrE to teach someone a particular job, skill or subject, until they reach the necessary standard: *The company takes new graduates, and trains them up over a period of two years.*

## train upon

SEE **train on**

## TRAMPLE

trampled, trampled, trampling

### trample on/upon

● **Trample upon** is more formal than **trample on** and is mostly used in writing.

#### trample on/upon sb/sth

to treat someone badly and unfairly, ignoring their rights or feelings: *Don't try to be nice to everyone all the time – you'll just end up getting trampled on.* | *Rich countries like the US think they can just trample on places like Cuba and get away with it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **walk all over sb**

## TREAT

treated, treated, treating

### treat with

#### treat with sb/sth

old-fashioned formal to try to reach an official agreement about something with other people or countries: *In 1875 a commission was sent out from Washington to treat with the Sioux Indians.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **negotiate**



**TRESPASS**

trespassed, trespassed, trespassing

**trespass on/upon****trespass on sb's hospitality/generosity/good nature etc**

BrE *old-fashioned formal* to use more than you should of someone else's time, help etc, especially when they have already been very generous: *Fabia would have liked to stay longer but she felt that she must not trespass on his hospitality.*

**TRICK****trick out****be tricked out**

*literary* to be decorated or dressed in a particular way: *a picture of a young model tricked out in fur boots and a fur-lined bikini*

+ **in** *There were a number of pleasure boats on the lake, tricked out in all the brightest colours.*

**TRICKLE**

trickled, trickled, trickled

**trickle down****trickle down**

if money, advantages, profits etc trickle down from the richest people in society to the poor, some of the money etc passes slowly to the poor people: *In Russia the news is looking better; with wealth beginning to trickle down from the rich at the top.* | *The idea is that if tax breaks are given to the wealthy, the benefits will trickle down to lower income groups.*

**trickle-down** ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

used to describe what happens when the money obtained by the richer groups in society has a good economic effect on the lives of everyone: *If industry is doing well, there is a trickle-down effect on the whole economy.*

**TRIFLE**

trifled, trifled, trifling

**trifle with****trifle with sb/sth**

to treat a person or their feelings without respect, in a way that shows you do not care about them: *She felt that Hector had been trifling with her affections.* | *He was a man not to be trifled with.*

**TRIGGER**

triggered, triggered, triggering

**trigger off****trigger off sth** **trigger sth off**

especially BrE to cause a particular event, illness, or reaction to begin: *the events which triggered off the First World War* | *Dr Pushtai's report triggered off an intense debate about the safety of genetically modified foods.* | *Stress can trigger off a number of illnesses, such as heart disease or diabetes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spark off, set off****TRIM**

trimmed, trimmed, trimming

**trim down****1 trim down**

to reduce your weight by eating less and exercising

+ **to** *Jim started exercising and eating low-calorie food, and trimmed down to less than 150 lbs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slim down****2 trim sth down** **trim down sth**

to reduce the size, number, or amount of something

+ **to** *The new edition of the book was trimmed down to just eighty-two pages.* | *Noriega merged the two organizations and trimmed them down to twenty-two employees.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cut down****trimmed-down** ADJ [ONLY BEFORE A NOUN]

reduced in size, number, or amount: *a trimmed-down version of the original*

**trim off****trim off sth** **trim sth off**

to cut small pieces off something because they are not needed or in order to make something look neater: *Cut the chicken into thin strips and trim off any fat.* | *I asked the hairdresser to trim an inch off all round.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cut off****TRIP**

tripped, tripped, tripping

**trip out****1 trip out** **trip sb out**

AmE *spoken informal* if you trip out or something trips you out, it seems very strange or surprising to you: *I started saying some things in Russian, and she just tripped out.* | *The whole thing is so weird, it really trips me out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **freak out** *informal*

**2** trip out

AmE *informal* to experience strange things in your mind because of the effects of an illegal drug: *Sally tripped out for eight hours after taking LSD for the first time.*

**trip over****1** trip over sth trip over

to fall or nearly fall because you hit your foot against something on the ground: *Apparently he'd tripped over a fallen branch, breaking his arm.* | *Lilly lost her balance, tripped over and landed in a pile of leaves.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **trip up, fall over**

**2** trip over your words

to make mistakes when you are speaking because you are nervous or excited, for example by not saying words clearly, or by repeating words: *Simon continued his story, tripping over his words in his excitement.*

**3** be tripping over yourself/each other to do sth

if people are tripping over themselves to do something, they are very eager to do it, especially when this seems very surprising: *Suddenly everyone in Washington was tripping over themselves to praise Flynt.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be falling over yourself**

**trip up****1** trip up trip sb up trip up sb

especially BrE to fall or nearly fall, especially because you hit your foot against something on the ground, or to make someone do this: *The path's very uneven – careful you don't trip up.* | *Someone put out a foot and tripped the boy up as he was trying to escape.*

**trip up on sth** *She tripped up on a branch which sent her flying into the bushes.*

**2a** trip sb up trip up sb

to deliberately cause someone to make a mistake, especially by making them say something that they did not intend or want to say: *I wondered why the police had asked me that again. Were they trying to trip me up?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **catch out**

**2b** trip up

to make a mistake, especially by saying something that you did not intend or want to say: *Sally realized that she would have to be more careful, or she could easily trip up in conversation.*

**TRIUMPH**

triumphed, triumphed, triumphing

**triumph over****triumph over sth/sb**

to succeed in defeating something or someone, especially after a difficult struggle: *Karen is back for the last games of the season, having triumphed over her injuries.* | *In 1984 Detroit triumphed over their main rivals, the San Diego Padres.*

**TROT**

trotted, trotted, trotting

**trot off****trot off**

*informal* to leave or go somewhere walking quite quickly: *Joe trotted off and came back a couple of minutes later holding a parcel.* | *Each weekday I trotted off to meet my father from his work.*

**trot out****trot out sth trot sth out**

to repeat something without thinking about it and without being sincere: *I couldn't believe it when she trotted out the same old excuse again.* | *Politicians always trot out the same old clichés when they're being interviewed.*

**TRUCKLE**

trucked, truckled, truckling

**truckle to****truckle to sb**

BrE *old-fashioned formal* to show too much respect to someone, in a way that shows you are prepared to do whatever they tell you or accept whatever they say: *The President was accused of truckling to dictators.*

**TRUMP**

trumped, trumped, trumping

**trump up****trump up sth trump sth up**

to invent information or facts in order to make someone appear guilty of a crime: *The whole thing was trumped up by the authorities in order to shut him up.*

**trump up charges against sb** *After Kattina's arrest, the police trumped up charges against her and she was deported to Beirut.*

**trumped-up** ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]  
invented in order to make someone appear guilty of a crime: *trumped-up charges* | *There was some trumped-up nonsense about false expense claims, but we all knew the real reason why she left.*

## TRUSS

trussed, trussed, trussing

### truss up

- 1 **truss sb up** **truss up sb** USUALLY PASSIVE

especially BrE to tie someone's arms and legs very tightly with ropes, so that they cannot move or escape: *The girl had been kidnapped, trussed up in the boot of a car, and driven to Spain.*

- 2 **truss sth up** **truss up sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

especially BrE to prepare a chicken, duck etc for cooking, by tying its legs and wings into position: *We looked at all the turkeys, trussed up ready for Christmas.*

## TRUST

trusted, trusted, trusting

### trust in

- 1 **trust in sb**

formal to feel confident that you can trust someone: *Hennard was a difficult man, who never seemed to talk to or trust in any of his colleagues.* | *You know you can trust in me.*

- 2 **trust in sth**

formal to feel confident that something is good, right etc and will be successful: *None of us know what the future will be like, but we have to trust in our own ability to deal with it.*

### trust to

**trust to sth/sb**

to depend on something, especially luck or your memory to help you do something: *Don't trust to luck – make sure you get proper advice.* | *It is important always to check the information first and not trust to memory.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rely on**

### trust with

**trust sb with sth**

if you trust someone with something valuable or the responsibility for doing something, you depend on them to look after it carefully or deal with it in a sensible way: *I could never trust Dan with money – he just went out and spent it all on beer.* | *Can the Socialists be trusted with the job of running the economy?*

## TRY

tried, tried, trying

### try back

**try back**

to phone someone or go to their house again later, after you have tried to phone or see them before: *Simon isn't here right now. Can you try back in about an hour?*

### try for

**try for sth** NOT PASSIVE

especially BrE to try to get or achieve something that you really want: *The team were anxious to get on with the game and try for a second goal.*

**try for a baby** (=try to have a baby) *Many of the couples who attend the clinic have been trying for a baby for years and years.*

### try on

- 1 **try sth on** **try on sth**

to put on a piece of clothing to see if it fits you or to see if you like it: *I spent two hours trying on every coat in the shop, but none of them were just right.*

**try sth on for size** *I'm afraid we haven't got the jacket in black, but would you like to try the blue one on for size?*

- 2 **try it on**

BrE spoken to behave in a way that you know is not acceptable, in order to see whether someone will try to stop you, or whether they will allow you to behave like that: *Jake turned up uninvited at the last party, and he might try it on again this time.*

+ **with** *Kids always try it on with a new teacher – so don't worry about that.*

- 3 **try it on**

if a man tries it on with a woman, he starts touching or talking to her in a sexual way in order to see how much she will allow him to do

+ **with** *I came back into the living-room to find one of the other men trying it on with my girlfriend.*

### try out

- 1 **try out sth** **try sth out**

to use something for the first time in order to see whether it works well, or whether you like it: *The school is trying out a new method which claims to help children learn to read more quickly.* | *Doctors are trying out a new vaccine which it is claimed may help prevent cancer.*

+ on *The recipe sounded delicious, so I thought I'd try it out on my husband.*

### try-out N [C]

if you give something a try-out, you use it for the first time in order to see if it works well, or whether you like it: *I gave one of their bikes a try-out last weekend, and it was fantastic.*

## 2 try out sth try sth out

to practice a skill or something you have learned in order to try to improve it: *If we went to France, it would give you the opportunity to try out your French.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **practice**

## 3 try sb out try out sb

to get someone to do some work for you for a short time before deciding whether to employ them permanently: *We'll try you out for a couple of weeks, and if you work well you can stay.*

### try-out N [C]

when you get someone to do some work for you for a short time, to see whether you want to employ them permanently: *Evans said that they should get Jack Nicholson for the role, so he was invited in for a try-out.*

## 4 try out

AmE to compete or perform in front of a group of people who decide who should be chosen for a team, play, performance etc

+ for *Joan tried out for the school basketball team. | She's currently trying out for a part in the new James Bond film.*

### try-out N [C]

an event at which people who want to be in a sports team, play etc are tested, so that the best can be chosen for it: *I had a couple of try-outs for the college hockey team.*

## TUCK

tucked, tucked, tucking

### tuck away

## 1 be tucked away

if a place is tucked away somewhere, it is in a quiet area where very few people go: *The hotel is tucked away in a quiet little side street.*

## 2 be tucked away

if something or someone is tucked away somewhere secret, they are kept hidden there so that people will not see them or know about them: *The key to the cellar was kept tucked away behind some old books. | Elsie had always known that her husband had another woman tucked away somewhere.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be hidden away**

## 3 tuck sth away tuck away sth

to put something in a safe or secret place: *Annie read out some of the letter, and then tucked it away, saying the rest was private. | His fingers touched the wallet, now tucked away in his inner pocket.*

## 4 tuck away sth tuck sth away

if you tuck away money, you save it rather than spending it: *The new scheme involves tucking away between £50 and £100 each month into a savings account. | For twenty-seven years Pereira tucked something away each week, so that he could buy a house before retiring.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put away, stash away, put aside**

## 5 tuck away sth tuck sth away

informal to eat a lot of food, especially quickly and with enjoyment: *In five minutes Archie had tucked away ten slices of pepperoni pizza.*

sb can tuck it away BrE (=they can eat a lot of food) *Some of these children can really tuck it away!*

### tuck in

## 1 tuck sb in

to make someone, especially a child, feel comfortable in bed by pulling the sheets and blankets firmly around them: *Adam took the little girl back to bed, tucked her in and kissed her goodnight.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tuck up** especially BrE

## 2 tuck sth in tuck in sth

to push the end of a piece of clothing, sheet, blanket etc inside or under something, in order to make it look tidy or stay in place: *He stood up, tucking his shirt in at the waist and reaching for his tie. | She pulled the blankets across the bed and tucked them in.*

## 3 tuck in sth tuck sth in

informal to move a part of your body inwards, so that it does not stick out so much

**keep sth tucked in** *Try and keep your elbows tucked in while you're eating.*

## 4 tuck in

BrE informal to start eating something with enjoyment: *The waiter brought our meal and we all tucked in.*

**tuck in!** (=used when you want to tell people to start eating) *Come on, everyone, tuck in!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dig in** informal, **dive in**

### tuck into

#### tuck into sth

BrE informal to start eating something with enjoyment: *By that time we were starving.*

and we tucked into a delicious meal of steak and chips followed by ice-cream.

\* SIMILAR TO: **dig into**

## tuck up

### 1 tuck sb up

especially BrE to make someone, especially a child, feel comfortable in bed, by pulling the sheets and blankets firmly around them

**be tucked up in bed** *At last, when all the children were tucked up in bed, we sat down and opened a bottle of wine.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tuck in**

### 2 be tucked up

BrE informal to be comfortable, warm, and safe somewhere: *What are you doing here at this time of night, instead of being tucked up at home?* | *It was so cold that we decided to spend the day reading, tucked up in our warm hotel.*

### 3 tuck sth up tuck up sth

to move your legs or feet close to your body or under your body so that you are sitting on them: *I sat down on the sofa, tucked my knees up and began to write.* | *The sight of her sitting there, with her legs tucked up under her, gave him the greatest pleasure.*

### 4 tuck sth up tuck up sth

to push something that is hanging down so that it goes up or under something else, especially in order to keep it tidy, hidden etc: *I waited while Carrie tucked her hair up under her swimming cap.*

## TUG

tugged, tugged, tugging

## tug at

### 1 tug at sth

to pull something quickly and strongly: *We all tugged at the rope, but the boat refused to move an inch.* | *Frankie was sitting in a chair, covered in mud, tugging at his wet boots.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **yank (at)**

### 2 tug at sb's sleeve/arm

to pull someone's clothes or arm several times to try and attract their attention, or make them come with you: *"Mister," Willie said tugging at Tom's coat sleeve, "Mister, what's that?"*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pull at, yank (at)**

### 3 tug at sb's heart/heartstrings

to have a strong effect on someone's emotions: *a very sad story that really tugs at your heartstrings*

## TUMBLE

tumbled, tumbled, tumbling

## tumble down

### 1 tumble down

if a wall or building tumbles down, it falls to the ground and is destroyed

**come tumbling down** *Do you remember the excitement there was when the Berlin wall came tumbling down?*

**tumbledown** ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a tumbledown building is old and in such bad condition that parts of it are falling down: *There was a tumbledown shed at the bottom of the garden.*

### 2 tumble down

to be destroyed or fail, and no longer exist: *Throughout the country change was coming quickly, barriers tumbling down.*

**your world is tumbling down** (=a lot of bad things happen to you and you feel very shocked or upset) *She felt that everything was going wrong – her world was tumbling down around her.*

**come tumbling down** *With the liberal atmosphere of the 1960s many old prejudices came tumbling down.*

## tumble to

### tumble to sth

BrE informal to suddenly understand something or realize what is happening, especially something that is secret or not obvious: *We'd been married eighteen months before I tumbled to the fact that he was playing around with other women.* | *Molly must have been ill for at least six months before I finally tumbled to it.*

## TUNE

tuned, tuned, tuning

## tune in

### 1 tune in

to listen to or watch a particular programme on radio or television: *More than 3.5 billion people are expected to tune in for the opening of the Olympic Games.*

**+ to** *Nathan always tunes in to the football game on Monday nights.* | *If it's Saturday afternoon, he'll probably be tuned in to the football on TV.*

### 2 be tuned in

to understand what other people are thinking or feeling, or know exactly what is happening in a particular situation: *As a character, John is very sensitive, very aware, very tuned in.*

† to *In order for the company to increase its profits, we must be more tuned in to our customers' needs.*

### 3 tune in

if you tune in to other people's feelings, ideas, needs etc, you have a good understanding of them

† to *The best way to encourage your child is to tune in to his or her interests and provide suitable activities.*

## tune into

### 1 tune into sth

to listen or watch a particular programme on radio or television: *Last week, 4.3 million people tuned into 'The Late Show'.*

### 2 be tuned into sb/sth

to understand someone's feelings or ideas very well: *It's difficult to stay tuned into the needs of young people.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be tuned in**

## tune out

### 1 tune out sth tune sth out

AmE *informal* to ignore something or stop listening to it: *Harget says he hopes people won't start tuning out warnings about the virus, because they've heard them so many times before.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **ignore**

### 2 tune out

AmE *informal* to stop paying attention and stop listening or watching something, especially because you are tired or bored: *He often seems to just tune out and go off into a world of his own.*

## tune up

### 1 tune up tune up sth tune sth up

when musicians tune up their instruments, they prepare to play by making changes to their instruments until they produce the correct sounds: *At last the orchestra had finished tuning up, and the audience became silent. | The band were tuning up their guitars backstage, and getting ready for the concert.*

### 2 tune up sth tune sth up

to make changes to a car's engine, so that the car works better or goes faster: *The new test for gasoline-powered vehicles will force more owners to tune up their engines.*

**tune-up** N [C]

when you make changes to a car's engine so that it works better or goes faster: *I took my van to Mike's Service Centre for a tune-up.*

### 3 tune up

AmE to prepare for an important event, especially a sports event or a concert, by practising in an event that is not so important

† for *Ballesteros tuned up for the Morocco Open by playing for Europe in a special international match against Africa. | Travis played a few gigs in Las Vegas last month, to tune up for the tour.*

**tune-up** N [C]

AmE when you prepare for an important event by practising in an event that is not so important: *The swimmer Gary Hall Junior faces a challenging tune-up in May, when US Olympians compete at the Phoenix Swim Club, his home pool.*

## TURF

turfed, turfed, turfing

## turf out

### 1 turf sb out turf sb out

BrE *informal* to force someone to leave a place or an organization: *If you don't get out of bed soon, I'll come and turf you out!*

† of *At half past eleven the landlord turfed us out of the pub. | About forty people were turfed out of the company last year, because of cuts in the budget.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **kick out**

### 2 turf sth out turf sth out

BrE *informal* to throw out things that you no longer want or need: *You're not turfing that lovely jacket out, are you?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **throw out, chuck out** *informal*

## TURN

turned, turned, turning

## turn against

### 1 turn against sth/sb

to stop liking or supporting someone or something: *Vincent was upset by Moore's critical comments. Why had the man turned against him? | By now it was clear that public opinion had turned against the Republicans.*

### 2 turn sb against sb/sth

to influence a person so that they do not like or support someone or something any more: *Miss Brodie thought I was trying to turn the other girls against her. | If you give students books that are too advanced for them, it can turn them against reading.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **set against**

### 3 turn against sb

if an event turns against someone, it starts to go badly for them although it was going well



before: *In 1942 the war began to turn against the Japanese.*

**the tide turns against sb** (=things start to go badly for someone, and they stop being successful, or people stop supporting them) *The tide turned against the Labour government and they were narrowly defeated.*

## turn around

ALSO **turn round** BrE

### 1 turn around/round

**turn sb/sth around/round**

to turn so that you are facing in the opposite direction, or to make something do this: *Simpson turned around in his chair and looked out of the window.* | *Can you help me turn the sofa round?*

### 2 turn sth around/round

**turn around/round sth**

to make a business, organization, economy etc successful again after it has been unsuccessful: *There are no quick solutions for turning around a sinking economy.* | *A new management team was brought in to turn the company around.*

**turn things around** *I'm sure if we get the right sort of financial backing we can turn things round.*

### 3 turn around/round

if a business, school, economy etc turns around, it starts to become successful after it has been unsuccessful: *In just a year the firm has turned around from a £106 million loss to an £11 million profit.*

**turnaround** ALSO **turnround** BrE N [C]  
a complete change from a bad situation to a good one, especially for a business or a country's economy: *the recent sharp turnaround in Mexico's financial situation*

### 4 turn around/round and ...

spoken used to say that someone suddenly does something that is unexpected or unreasonable: *You can't tell other people what to do, and then turn around and say that you aren't going to do it yourself.* | *The company got rid of 200 permanent employees, then turned round and hired others on a temporary basis.*

### 5 turn sth around/round

to consider something in a different way, or change the words of something so that it has a different meaning: *You can of course turn the whole idea around and look at it from another angle.* | *I think it's more interesting to turn the question around, and ask ourselves why some people do not break down, even though they have a strong genetic disposition to do so.*

### 6 turn around/round sth

**turn sth around/round**

to complete the process of making a product or providing a service: *We guarantee we can turn your order around in under a month.*

**turnaround** ALSO **turnround** BrE N

[SINGULAR]

the time it takes to complete the process of making a product or producing a service: *a 3-week turnaround*

## turn aside

**turn aside sth** **turn sth aside** 

to refuse to accept something: *Tokyo has politely turned aside an invitation from Peking for Emperor Akihito to visit China.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reject, turn down**

## turn away

### 1 turn sb away

**turn away sb**

to not allow someone to enter a place: *The guy at the desk turned me away because I didn't have a membership card.* | *When they got to the concert they were turned away because they didn't have a ticket.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **refuse sb admission** formal

### 2 turn sb away

**turn away sb**

to refuse to help someone when they ask for help: *When a member of your own family asks you for money, you can't just turn them away.* | *We've got so much business at the moment that we're having to turn new clients away.*

## turn away from

### 1 turn away from sth/sb

to stop supporting someone, or stop using or being interested in something: *Voters turned away from him in the opinion polls after he was involved in a series of scandals.* | *A lot of teachers are turning away from traditional teaching methods.*

### 2 turn sb away from sth/sb

to make someone stop supporting someone or stop using or being interested in something: *It was feared that foreign influences might turn the people away from their religion.*

## turn back

### 1 turn back

to stop when you are travelling and start going back in the direction that you came from, especially because it is dangerous or impossible for you to continue: *The Captain had been advised to turn back, due to very bad weather conditions.*

**2** turn sb back    turn back sb

to make someone stop when they are traveling and go back in the direction they came from, especially because it is impossible or dangerous for them to continue: *Border patrols were turning back as many as thirty thousand refugees a day.* | *Police used tear gas to turn back demonstrators who marched towards the Palace on Friday afternoon.*

**3** turn back USUALLY NEGATIVE

if you cannot turn back, you cannot change your plans and do something different

**can't turn back** *We've already spent so much money that we can't turn back.*

**there's no turning back** *Stubbs nervously accepted the offer, realizing that there was no turning back now.*

**4** turn back the clock/turn the clock back

if someone wants to turn the clock back, they want to go back to the past, for example because they think things were better then or because they wish that something had not happened: *The Minister was accused of wanting to turn back the clocks to the 1950s, when most women didn't work outside the home.*

**5** turn back sth    turn sth back

to fold over one part of a piece of paper or material: *Tabitha turned back the corner of the page, closed the book and lay down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn over**

**turn down**

**1** turn sth down    turn down sth

to reduce the amount of sound, heat etc produced by a machine such as a radio or a cooker: *Could you turn that music down – we can't hear ourselves speak!* | *After half an hour, turn the oven down to a low heat.*

● OPPOSITE: **turn up**

**2** turn down sth/sb    turn sth/sb down

to decide not to accept an offer or an opportunity to do something: *Nowadays some men are turning down promotion in order to give more time to their families.* | *Rose finally married Reg Potter, fifty years after she'd first turned him down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **pass up, reject**

**3** turn down sb/sth    turn sb/sth down

to refuse to do what someone asks or suggests: *The City Council turned down a request to raise police officers' salaries by 6%.* | *At the end of the evening the committee voted on the proposal and turned it down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reject**

**turn in**

**1** turn in sth    turn sth in

to give something to a person in authority so that they can deal with it, especially an illegal weapon or something that has been lost: *The security forces arrested three hundred militants and ordered them to turn in their weapons.*

+ to *I'm still hoping that someone will find my wallet and turn it in to the police.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hand in**

**2** turn in sb    turn sb in

*informal* to tell the police where a criminal is, or to take a criminal to the police: *One of the other gang members turned him in.*

**turn yourself in** (=go to the police and admit that you are responsible for a crime) *Grimes finally turned himself in, saying he deeply regretted what he had done.*

**3** turn sth in    turn in sth

*AmE* to give a finished piece of work to a teacher or your manager: *Only 17 students turned their papers in on time.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hand in, give in** *BrE*

**4** turn in

*informal* to go to bed: *Well, I think I'll turn in now – I have to get up early tomorrow.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **retire** *formal*

**5** turn in sth

to produce a particular result, especially a good one: *The company's chairman said it would turn in better results for the year as a whole.*

**turn in a profit** *Pilkington turned in pre-tax profits up 6% to 147 million.*

**6** turn in a good/superb/ fine etc performance

to perform in a particular way, especially very well: *Michael Gambon, who played the judge, turned in a fine performance.* | *Many of the younger athletes turned in memorable performances.*

**turn into**

**1** turn into sth/sb

to change and become a different type of thing or person: *It started off as a dream, but quickly turned into a nightmare.* | *When I saw him again, he'd lost a lot of weight and turned into a really good-looking boy.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **change into**

**2** turn sth into sth

to change something so that it becomes a different thing or is used in a different way: *The old barn next to the manor house had been turned into flats for old people.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **convert (into)**

3 **turn sb into sb**

to change someone's life so that they become a different type of person: *The film turned Leonardo diCaprio into a huge star overnight. | You'll never turn me into a lawyer, Dad. I'm not cut out for it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **make into**

**turn off**1 **turn off sth** **turn sth off**

to make a light, machine, or engine stop working, or to stop the flow of gas, water, or electricity, by pressing a switch, turning a tap etc: *Don't forget to turn off all the lights when you go to bed. | Can you turn the tap off for me?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **switch off**

● OPPOSITE: **turn on**

2 **turn off sth** **turn off**

to leave the road or path that you are going along, and start going along another, usually smaller one: *Stephen turned off the main road into an almost empty side-street. | I'm sure we should have turned off at the last exit.*

**turn-off** *N* [C]

a road which leads off another, usually bigger road: *Go slowly or we'll miss the turn-off.*

3 **turn sb off** **turn off sb**

**turn sb off sth**

*informal* to make someone decide that they do not like something or are not interested in it: *I loved the house from the outside, but the decoration inside really turned me off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **put off**

**turn-off** *N* [C]

something that you do not like, because you find it boring or unpleasant: *Having to learn all the history of the place was a real turn-off.*

4 **turn sb off** **turn off sb**

*informal* if something about a person turns you off, it makes them unattractive to you, so that you do not want to have a sexual relationship with them: *An American report into male sexuality revealed that heavy make-up turned most men off.*

● OPPOSITE: **turn on**

**turn-off** *informal N* [C]

something that makes a person unattractive to you, so that you do not want to have a sexual relationship with them: *Bad breath is a real turn-off.*

**turn on**1 **turn on sth** **turn sth on**

to make a light, machine, or engine start working, or start the flow of gas, water, or

electricity, by pressing a switch, turning a tap etc: *I turned on the radio and listened to the six o'clock news. | Could you turn the oven on, if you're going in the kitchen? | Marion walked over to the overhead projector and turned it on.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **switch on**

● OPPOSITE: **turn off**

2 **turn on sth** **turn sth on**

to start using a particular way of speaking or behaving, especially when you are not being sincere

**turn it on** *Craig's brilliant at entertaining people – he can turn it on whenever he wants.*

**turn on the charm** *"Come in, have a drink," he said, smiling at her and turning on the charm.*

3 **turn sb on** **turn on sb**

*informal* to make someone feel sexually attracted or excited: *Dave just didn't turn her on any more.*

**turn-on** *N* [C]

something that makes you feel sexually attracted or excited: *Most men find short skirts a turn-on.*

4 **turn sb on** **turn on sb**

*informal* to interest or excite someone a lot: *Crime fiction just doesn't turn me on.*

**turn on/upon**

● **Turn upon** is more formal than **turn on** and is mostly used in writing.

1 **turn on/upon sb** NOT PASSIVE

to suddenly attack someone, either physically or with unpleasant words, especially when it is very unexpected: *We watched in horror as the dog turned on the little girl. | Peter turned on Rae, screaming, "Get out of my sight!"*

\* SIMILAR TO: **round on/upon** *BrE*

2 **turn on/upon sth**

to depend on something in order to be successful or work well: *The whole future of the company turns on the success of this one product. | Whether we win the case or not turns on the exact terms of your contract.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **depend on/upon**, **hinge on/upon** *BrE*

3 **turn sth on/upon sb**

to suddenly aim something such as a gun, a light, or an angry look at someone: *The police officer turned his torch on the back of the house. | I was terrified she would turn the gun on me.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **train on/upon**

4 **turn on/upon sth**

BrE *formal* if your thoughts or a conversation turns on a particular subject, you think about or discuss that subject: *Stephen wasn't listening to the others – his thoughts turned on the journey in front of him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn to**

**turn on to****turn sb on to sth/sb**

*informal* to make someone start to like something or become interested in it: *It was a neighbour of mine, a professor, who turned me on to modern art.*

**turn out**1 **turn out the light/turn the light out**

to make an electric light stop working by pressing a switch: *Don't forget to turn out the lights when you come to bed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn off, switch off, put out**

● OPPOSITE: **turn on**

2 **turn out**

to happen in a particular way or have a particular result

**turn out fine/well** *Don't worry about the interview, it'll all turn out fine.*

**turn out to be** *The holiday turned out to be the best we've ever had.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work out**

3 **turn out**

if something turns out to be true, you find that it is true, although this is surprising: *I felt terrified about going to see my bank manager, but he turned out to be highly sympathetic.*

**it turns out (that)** *During the discussion it turned out that every one of the students in the room had tried cannabis.*

**as it turned out** *As it turned out, Jane knew all about the affair anyway.*

4 **turn out**

if a child turns out in a particular way, that is the type of person they become: *The Hedges were such an odd family, but all of the children had turned out perfectly normal.*

**turn out to be** *Although very shy as a child, he eventually turned out to be a natural leader.*

5 **turn out**

if people turn out for an event, they go to watch it or take part in it

+ **for** *Over 200 parents turned out for the school sports day. | On Saturday only a few hundred people turned out to see the game.*

**turnout** N [C]

the number of people who come to watch an event or take part in it: *The turnout for the election was about 70%.*

6 **turn out sth** **turn sth out**

to make or produce something, especially in large quantities: *Toyota's new factory will turn out 100,000 pick-up trucks a year. | Russia turns out more graduate engineers than any other country in the world.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **produce, churn out**

7 **turn sb out** **turn out sb**

to force someone to leave a place, especially a place where they are living: *The building was sold, and hundreds of people were turned out on to the streets.*

+ **of** *Many farm workers lived in fear of being turned out of their homes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **throw out**

8 **turn sth out** **turn out sth**

to remove something from the container in which it has been made or kept: *Allow the cake to cool in the tin, and then turn it out onto a plate.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **empty out**

9 **turn out sth** **turn sth out**

BrE if you turn out a cupboard, pocket or other container, you empty it in order to clean and tidy it or see what is in it: *I'm going to turn out all the kitchen cupboards next weekend. | The teacher told us to turn out our pockets in front of her.*

**turnout** N [C]

BrE when you clean and tidy a room, cupboard etc and throw away the things you do not want: *This room's such a mess – it needs a thorough turnout.*

10 **be well/beautifully/nicely etc turned out**

BrE to be wearing good, beautiful etc clothes: *The music was wonderful and the choir was beautifully turned out.*

**turn over**1 **turn over** **turn over sb****turn sb over**

to move so that you are facing in a different direction when you are lying down, or to move someone so that they do this: *Patrick turned over in bed, to discover that Judy had already gone downstairs. | The nurses gently turned her over and straightened out the sheets.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **roll over**

2 **turn over sth** **turn sth over**

to move something so that you can use, look at, or listen to the other side of it: *Could you turn over the cassette? | Juliet picked up the silver bowl, turning it over in her hand.*

**turn over a page** BrE *If you turn over the page, you will see the diagram that relates to these statistics.*

3 **turn over** **turn sth over**

BrE to change to a different programme on the television by pressing a button: *The film was so boring that we turned over half way through it.* | *Do you mind if I turn the TV over to watch the news?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **switch over** BrE

4 **turn over sb** **turn sb over**

to take a criminal to the police, or to tell the police where a criminal is

+ to *The FBI caught Rostov and turned him over to the CIA.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn in**

5 **turn sth/sb over** **turn over sth/sb**

to give something or someone to a person or authority so that they can deal with them or be responsible for them

+ to *Terry and his two-year old sister Tiffany were unharmed in the attack, and were turned over to relatives.* | *The government seems to want to turn much of public healthcare over to the private sector.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hand over**

6 **turn sth over** **turn over sth**

to give something such as a business or a piece of property to someone, so that they become the legal owner of it

+ to *I expect Mr Busby will turn the shop over to his son when he retires.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hand over**

7 **turn over sth** **turn sth over**

especially BrE if a business turns over an amount of money, it makes that amount in a particular period of time: *The new company, Essential Computing, turned over £500,000 in its first year.*

**turnover** N [SINGULAR]

the total amount of money made by a business in a particular period of time: *an annual turnover of \$5.6 million*

8 **turn sth over** **turn over sth**

to think carefully about something in order to understand it or make a decision about it: *I took a cigarette from the pack, turning over what Connors had told me.*

**turn sth over in your mind** *She said she needed a few days to turn it over in her mind.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chew over**, **mull over**, **consider**

9 **turn sth over** **turn over sth**

**turn over**

if someone turns a car engine over or it turns over, it starts: *Hicks turned the engine over,*

*felt for the accelerator and backed into the Harpswell Road.* | *It was a very cold morning and the engine wouldn't even turn over.*

10 **turn sth over**

BrE informal to search a place thoroughly, or to steal things from a place, in a way that causes a lot of damage or makes the place very untidy: *The police went in and turned the whole house over to see if there were any drugs.*

**turn the place over** *We came back from holiday to find the place had been turned over, and all my jewellery taken.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **do over**

**turn over to**

**turn sth over to sth**

**turn over sth to sth**

BrE to start to use a building or a piece of land for a particular purpose: *The mill was once used for silk production, but was later turned over to piano making.* | *From that time on, more and more of the land was turned over to sugarcane production.*

**turn round**

SEE **turn around/round**

**turn to**

1 **turn to sb**

to go to someone for advice, sympathy, or help: *I felt very alone at that time – there was no one I could turn to.* | *Wyman turned to Suzanne Accosta, an old friend, during the court battle with his wife, Mandy.*

**turn to religion** *Many people turn to religion during difficult periods in their lives.*

2 **turn to alcohol/drugs/crime/violence etc**

to start doing something bad, for example being involved in criminal activities, taking illegal drugs, or drinking too much alcohol, especially because you are unhappy: *During the months following her husband's death, Joan turned to alcohol for comfort.* | *The scheme could give jobs to thousands of youngsters who might otherwise turn to crime.*

3 **turn to sth**

to look in a particular place or use a particular thing, in order to get the kind of help, information etc that you need: *Eventually the police turned to Germany in their search for information.* | *The earthquake cut off the telephone lines, and people had to turn to the radio for news about their families.*

4 **turn to sth**

to start a new type of work or habit: *Brenda Fricker worked for the Irish Times newspaper.*

before turning to acting. | Apparently more and more people are turning to vegetarianism each year.

**5** **turn to sth**    **turn sth to sth**

to start talking, thinking, or writing about a particular subject, or start dealing with a something new: *The speaker then turned to other aspects of society, including the home and family.*

**turn your attention/thoughts/efforts etc to sth** *Haggart looked down suddenly, turning his attention to some papers on his desk.*

**a conversation turns to sth** (=it starts to be about a particular subject) *Eventually the conversation round the table turned to the subject of money.*

**turn up**

**1** **turn up sth**    **turn sth up**

to increase the amount of sound, heat etc produced by a machine such as a radio, heater, or cooker: *It's really cold in here. Can you turn up the heating?* | *She was in the bathroom with the radio turned up to full volume.*

● OPPOSITE: **turn down**

**2** **turn up**

to arrive somewhere, especially when you are expected there: *Rachel knew that Ross would be very worried if she didn't turn up.*

† **for** *In the end, only nineteen competitors turned up for the race.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **show up**

**3** **turn up**

if something that is lost or missing turns up, someone finds it, especially in an unexpected place: *I haven't found your watch yet, but I'm sure it will turn up sooner or later.* | *The car used in the robbery, which was stolen in London, turned up in Birmingham on Tuesday.*

**4** **turn up sth**    **turn sth up**

to find something by searching thoroughly for it: *A search by the state police and FBI failed to turn up anything suspicious.* | *Raids on terrorist hideouts over the years have turned up thousands of weapons.*

**5** **turn up**

if a job or an opportunity turns up, it becomes available, especially in an unexpected way: *Don't worry, I'm sure a job will turn up soon.* | *I've been looking for a house around here for months, but nothing at all has turned up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come up**

**6** **turn up sth**    **turn sth up**

BrE to make a skirt, trousers etc shorter, by folding up the bottom edge and sewing it: *It's a lovely dress, but you'll need to turn it up an inch or two.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take up**

**turn upon**

SEE **turn on**

**TYPE**

typed, typed, typing

**type in/into**

**type in sth**    **type sth in**

**type sth into sth**

to put information into a computer by typing: *Pulman sat down at his computer and quickly typed in his name.* | *The missiles can only be fired if an operator types a six-digit code into the computers.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **enter, key in**

**type out**

**type out sth**    **type sth out**

to produce a copy of something that you have written, by typing it on a computer or a typewriter: *Gail was in the office typing out the lunch menus.* | *Michael had typed the poem out and sent it to me, asking for my comments.*

**type up**

**type up sth**    **type sth up**

to produce a neat or complete copy of something that someone has written by typing it on a computer or a typewriter: *Could you type up this letter for me?* | *It was my job to attend all the meetings and to type up my notes from them afterwards.*



# U

## URGE

urged, urged, urging

### urge on

- 1 **urge sb on**   **urge on sb** ✕

to encourage someone to keep on making an effort or to keep on doing something: *As Seb neared the winning-post, he heard Sarah's voice above the noise of the crowd, urging him on.* | *Congress, urged on by Bob Dole, was withholding aid from US missions in certain countries.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **egg on**

- 2 **urge on sth**   **urge sth on** ✕

to try to make an animal go faster, especially a horse: *Tristan loosened the reins, and urged the horse on with his heels.*

### urge on/upon

● **Urge upon** is more formal than **urge on** and is mostly used in writing.

**urge sth on/upon sb**

**urge on/upon sb sth**

to try to persuade someone that they must

do something or must behave in a particular way: *The Soviets then changed their position, urging caution on Nasser.* | *MacArthur had urged on Taft the importance of concluding a peace treaty quickly.*

## USE

used, used, using

### use up

- ✦ **use up sth**   **use sth up**

to use all of something so that there is none left: *I had already used up the film in both my cameras.* | *We used up all our money in the first week of the holiday.*

## USHER

ushered, ushered, ushering

### usher in

**usher in sth**

formal to cause something new to start, or to be at the start of something new: *The discovery of oil ushered in a new era of employment and prosperity.*

# V

## VAMP

vamped, vamped, vamping

### vamp up

#### 1 vamp up sth vamp sth up

to try to make something seem new or more exciting by changing it or adding things to it: *songs from the sixties that have been vamped up for today's audiences* | *Writers have been told to vamp up the storyline, or the show will be scrapped.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **spice up, jazz up** *informal*

#### 2 vamp it up

BrE *informal* if a woman vamps it up, she wears clothes that make her look sexually attractive to men: *She really vamped it up at the end-of-term ball, and wore a tight-fitting dress with a plunging neckline.*

## VEER

veered, veered, veering

### veer off

#### veer off

to suddenly go in a completely different direction: *At that point the road veered off towards the left.*

## VEG

vegged, vegged, vegging

### veg out

#### veg out

spoken *informal* to relax and do nothing when you are feeling lazy or very tired: *When I go home after work I normally just veg out in front of the TV.*

## VENTURE

ventured, ventured, venturing

### venture forth

#### a venture forth

*formal or humorous* to go somewhere, especially somewhere that may be dangerous or somewhere that seems strange and unusual: *When I finally ventured forth into the mountains, I was impressed by the beauty of the scenery.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sally forth** *literary or humorous*

#### b venture forth

*formal or humorous* to leave the place where you live and go somewhere else, especially when you do not do this very often: *Merrick would occasionally venture forth for trips to the theatre.*

## VERGE

verged, verged, verging

### verge on/upon

● **Verge upon** is more formal than **verge on** and is mostly using in writing.

#### verge on/upon sth NOT PASSIVE

to be almost the same as an extreme feeling, quality, or situation, especially one that is very bad or serious: *He thought her behaviour was verging on insanity.* | *Morrissey's feelings for him verged on infatuation.*

**be verging on the impossible/ridiculous etc** (=be close to being impossible, ridiculous etc) *Property prices here are verging on the ridiculous.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **border on**

## VEST

vested, vested, vesting

### be vested in

#### be vested in sb/sth

*formal* if power is vested in a person or group, they officially have that power, especially according to the laws of a country: *the powers which are vested in Congress by the US constitution* | *Executive authority is vested in a Governor, who is elected for a four-year term.*

### vest with

#### 1 vest sb with sth

*formal* to officially give someone the power to do something: *The Reformation had vested the monarch with the power to suspend Parliament.*

#### 2 be vested with sth

*formal* if something is vested with a particular quality or value, it is thought to have it: *Because of their position, the islands have been vested with great political and economic significance.*

## VISIT

visited, visited, visiting

## visit on/upon

● **Visit upon** is more formal than **visit on** and is mostly used in writing.

**visit sth on/upon sb/sth** USUALLY PASSIVE

formal to cause something very unpleasant or harmful to happen to someone or something: *Newspapers described the terrible suffering that was being visited on the people.* | *Look at the devastation that has been visited on our schools by the lack of sufficient funds.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **inflict** formal

## visit with

**visit with sb**

AmE to spend time talking to someone in a friendly way: *Joe had a chance to visit with his old friend Logan while he was in Maryland.*

## VOTE

voted, voted, voting

## vote down

**vote sth down**    **vote down sth**

to decide not to accept an idea or plan by voting: *The proposal to build a sports stadium on the site was voted down.*

## vote in/into

**vote sb/sth in**    **vote in sb/sth**

**vote sb/sth into sth**

if people vote in a person or group, or vote them into an official position, they give them enough votes in an election for them to win an official position of power: *The Democrats were voted in by a big majority.* | *Stuart Wilson was voted in to take the office of captain.*

**be voted into office** *Bangler soon gained the support of the electors and was voted into office.*

● OPPOSITE: **vote out**

## vote out

**vote sb/sth out**    **vote out sb/sth**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if people vote out a person or group, they do not give them enough votes in an election for them to stay in their official position of power: *Stephen Webb was voted out as director, after a disagreement with the management board.*

**be voted out of office/power** *The President of Nicaragua was voted out of office on February 25th.*

● OPPOSITE: **vote in/into**

## vote through

**vote through sth**    **vote sth through**

USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to officially approve a law or plan by voting to accept it: *The law, banning traffic in the city centre, was voted through six days ago.* | *At a special meeting yesterday, proposals for a new airport were voted through by a huge majority.*

## VOUCH

vouched, vouched, vouching

## vouch for

1 **vouch for sth** ✓

to say that you know for certain that something is true, real, or of a high standard: *Les knows the builders personally and can vouch for their reliability.* | *Several people were prepared to vouch for what Becky was saying.* | *I've never been to the Skyroom restaurant, so I can't vouch for it.*

2 **vouch for sb**

to say that you know someone personally and can promise that they have a good character

**can/could vouch for sb** *John was refused entrance to the club, until somebody arrived who could vouch for him.*

V

# W

## WAD

wadded, wadded, wadding

### wad up

wad sth up    wad up sth

AmE to press something such as a piece of paper or cloth into a small tight ball: *She wadded up her candy bar wrapper and threw it into the garbage can.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **crumple up, screw up** BrE

## WADE

waded, waded, wading

### wade in

wade in

to become involved in a situation or start talking to someone, especially in a way that annoys people because they feel they are being interrupted, attacked, or told what to do: *The demonstration began peacefully enough, but then the police waded in with batons and CS gas. | I can't just wade in there and start telling her how she should bring up her own children.*

### wade through

wade through sth

to spend a lot of time reading or dealing with something that seems very long and boring: *You have to wade through pages and pages of fashion advertisements before you can find anything interesting to read. | Employers are busy people and do not have time to wade through a thirty page resume.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **plough/plow through**

## W

## WAFFLE

waffled, waffled, waffling

### waffle on

waffle on

BrE to talk or write using a lot of words, without saying anything important, or without saying clearly what you mean: *I asked him if I could have more money, but he just waffled on without giving me a straight answer.*

+ **about** *What's he waffling on about now?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drone on, witter on** BrE informal

## WAIT

waited, waited, waiting

### wait around

ALSO **wait about** BrE

#### wait around/about

to stay in the same place and do nothing while you are waiting for something to happen, someone to arrive etc: *We had to wait around for hours at the airport while they got the plane ready for take-off.*

**keep sb waiting around** BrE (=make someone wait around) *Sorry to keep you waiting around. I'll be back in a minute.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **keep sb waiting**

### wait behind

#### wait behind

BrE to stay somewhere after the other people have left, for example in order to speak to someone about something: *Jonathan asked her to wait behind after the meeting.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay behind**

### wait in

#### wait in

BrE to stay at home and wait for someone to arrive: *The store said they'd deliver the bed yesterday. I waited in all day but no one came.*

### wait on

#### 1 wait on

to bring someone everything they want or need: *The princess was accustomed to being waited on by a team of maids and servants.*

**wait on sb hand and foot** (=bring someone everything they want, so that they do not need to do any work at all – often used humorously when saying that someone is lazy) *My last boyfriend expected to be waited on hand and foot.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wait upon** formal

#### 2 wait on sb

especially AmE to serve food and drink to someone, especially in a restaurant: *Tammy was waiting on a group of noisy teenagers.*

#### 3 wait on sb

AmE to sell goods to someone in a shop: *For five years he waited on customers in the family grocery store.*

#### 4 wait on

to wait for a result or decision, especially before deciding what to do next: *We're still waiting on the results of the blood test.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wait for, wait upon** formal

**wait out****wait out sth**   **wait sth out** ✓

to wait until something unpleasant has finished: *Jim and Huck waited out the storm in a cave on Jackson's island.*

**wait it out** (=wait until something unpleasant has finished) *I'm sure she won't be angry with you forever. The best thing you can do is wait it out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sit out****wait up****1 wait up**

to wait and not go to bed until someone comes back home: *We waited up all night, but she didn't appear till the following day.*

† **for** *Don't wait up for me. I'll probably be late.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stay up****2 wait up!**

AmE used in order to tell someone to stop because you want to talk to them or go somewhere with them: *"Wait up!" Howard called to his sister. "Can I come too?"*

**wait upon****1 wait upon sb**

formal to bring someone everything they want or need: *While we were guests in the palace, the Emperor's servants waited upon us, and obeyed our slightest wish.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wait on****2 wait upon sth**

formal to wait for a result or decision, especially before deciding what to do next: *Congress must wait upon the decision of the Supreme Court before taking any further action.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wait on, wait for****WAKE**

woke, woke, waking

**wake up****1 wake up**

to stop sleeping: *I woke up at six o'clock this morning.* | *She woke up to find that he had gone.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **awake** literary**2 wake up sb**   **wake sb up**

to make someone stop sleeping, or make someone feel less sleepy: *Can you wake me up at 7.30?* | *He was woken up by the sound of traffic outside his window.* | *Have some coffee. It'll wake you up.*

**3 wake up**

to start to listen or pay attention to something: *Wake up! You almost hit that car!*

**wake up to****wake up to sth**

to start to realize that something is important and pay attention to it, for example a new situation, a problem, or something that may be dangerous: *Companies are finally waking up to the fact that it's actually cheaper to let people work from home.* | *In the mid eighties people started waking up to the dangers of AIDS.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **realize, acknowledge** formal**WALK**

walked, walked, walking

**walk all over****walk all over sb**

to treat someone badly, especially by always making them do what you want them to do without considering what they want: *You need to be quite firm with kids or they'll walk all over you.* | *You've got to stand up for yourself – you shouldn't just let other people walk all over you.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **trample on****walk away****1 walk away**

to leave a bad situation and not stay and try to make it better: *She can't just walk away after 15 years of marriage.*

† **from** *It's easy for you – you can just walk away from all this. I actually have to live here.*

**2 walk away**

to leave after an accident without having any serious injuries: *A man walked away unhurt after falling from a fifth floor window.* | *Amazingly, both drivers walked away with only minor injuries.*

**walk away with****walk away with sth**

to win easily a prize or competition: *Most people thought that Tiger Woods would walk away with the championship.*

**walk in on****walk in on sb**

to go into a room and see someone doing something that they do not want other people to see: *Her husband walked in on them while they were in bed together.*

**walk into****1 walk into sth**

to get a job very easily: *People think that if you've been to Oxford you can just walk into any job you want.*

**2 walk into sth**

to become involved in an unpleasant or dangerous situation without intending to: *Without realising it, they had walked into a fight between two rival drug gangs.*

**walk off****1 walk off walk off sth**

to walk away and leave a person or place, especially in a way that shows you are annoyed: *She turned and walked off without saying goodbye. | McEnroe walked off the court in protest at the umpire's decision.*

**2 walk off sth walk sth off**

to go for a walk in order to make your stomach feel less full, or in order to get rid of pain, especially a headache: *We were all feeling rather full after lunch, and we decided to try and walk it off.*

**walk off with****1 walk off with sth** NOT PASSIVE

to win something easily, for example a prize or competition: *Emma Thompson walked off with the Best Actress Award.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **walk away with**

**2 walk off with sth** NOT PASSIVE

to steal something or take something from someone without asking their permission: *Someone's just walked off with my beer.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **steal, make off with**

**walk out****1 walk out**

to leave a performance or meeting before the end, because you do not like it or because you feel annoyed about something: *Several people walked out halfway through the film because they thought it was too violent.*

+ of *Only two weeks ago, Anderson walked out of talks with Leeds boss David O'Leary after an argument over money.*

**2 walk out**

to stop working in order to protest about something: *Twenty staff walked out yesterday when a colleague was fired for refusing to work overtime.*

**walk-out** N [C]

when a group of workers stop working in order to protest about something: *Car workers staged an unofficial walk-out in*

*protest at the company's 2.5 per cent pay offer.*

**3 walk out**

to leave your wife, boyfriend etc suddenly and end your relationship with them: *His wife walked out after 20 years of marriage.*

**walk out on****1 walk out on sb**

to leave your wife, boyfriend etc suddenly and end your relationship with them: *Dorothy's first husband walked out on her, leaving her with three children to bring up on her own.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **desert**

**2 walk out on sb/sth**

to not do something that you have agreed to do with someone, or that you are responsible for: *You're not going to walk out on the deal are you? | We'd be completely stuck if she decided to walk out on us now.*

**walk through****walk sb through sth**

AmE to explain something to someone slowly and carefully so that they understand it completely: *The software has a beginner's tutorial that will walk you through the process of creating your own stationery and greetings cards.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **guide (through)**

**WALL**

walled, walled, walling

**wall in****1 wall in sth wall sth in**

to surround an area with a wall: *Part of the garden had been walled in, to make a sheltered spot for growing tender plants.*

**2 wall in sth/sb wall sth/sb in**

to surround an area or person: *The grey tower blocks walled in the space completely. | The shopkeeper sat behind his counter, walled in by racks of cheap watches, pens, and cassettes.*

**3 wall yourself in**

if you wall yourself in, you put yourself in a position where you are no longer free to change what you are doing: *The bureaucrats were prisoners of their own system. They had walled themselves in.*

**wall off****1 wall off sth wall sth off** USUALLY PASSIVE

to build a wall around or in front of something to separate it from the surrounding



area: *The garden was walled off to protect it from the wind.* | *Several of the caves had been walled off with rocks or bits of old timber.*

**2** wall off sb/sth wall sb/sth off

USUALLY PASSIVE

to keep someone or something completely separate from other people, things, countries etc: *It had clearly been Dad's intention to wall off his past entirely.*

+ from *Burma was effectively walled off from the rest of the outside world.* | *The drug works by walling off the bacteria from the other cells, so that they cannot affect the rest of the body.*

**wall up**

**1** wall up sth wall sth up USUALLY PASSIVE

to fill an entrance, window etc with bricks, stone etc so that it is completely blocked: *The only doorway had been walled up long ago.* | *Two of the windows were walled up, and there was very little natural light.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **brick up/in**

**2** wall up sb wall sb up USUALLY PASSIVE

to completely enclose someone in a small space by building a wall to block the entrance, so that they cannot escape and will certainly die: *the ghost of an unfortunate woman who was walled up in a small room and left to starve to death* | *When the house was demolished, two complete skeletons were found walled up in the basement.*

**WALLOW**

wallowed, wallowed, wallowing

**wallow in**

**1** wallow in self-pity/misery/despair etc

to experience feelings of great sadness and not try to stop them or change your situation, because you seem to enjoy these feelings, or want to get sympathy from other people: *Although we do feel sympathy for Blanche, she seems to wallow in her own self-pity.* | *The film is definitely one to avoid, unless you enjoy wallowing in misery.*

**2** wallow in luxury/splendour etc

to enjoy being in a place that is very comfortable and expensive: *Two of us spent £45 wallowing in the glorious splendour of Marrakech's best Moroccan restaurant.* | *I was insulated from the more unpleasant aspects of city life, wallowing in the luxury of the Savoy Hotel.*

**3** wallow in nostalgia/sentimentality etc

to enjoy spending a lot of time thinking about memories of the past, or about feelings of love and sympathy that seem rather insincere:

*Victorian painters used to love to wallow in sentimentality.* | *The old-timers sit back and wallow in nostalgia as they listen to their favourite bands from the 40s and 50s.*

**WALTZ**

waltzed, waltzed, waltzing

**waltz off with**

waltz off with sth

informal to take something without the owner's permission: *While they were at the airport someone had waltzed off with their guitars.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go off with** informal, **walk off with**

**waltz through**

waltz through sth

informal to succeed in doing something very easily, especially passing a test, course etc: *The first woman Royal Marines recruits have waltzed through their military training.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **sail through**

**WANDER**

wandered, wandered, wandering

**wander off**

wander off

to leave the place where you are supposed to be, or the person you are with, without saying where you are going: *Oh there you are you naughty boy! How many times has Mummy told you not to wander off like that?* | *Sometimes he just wanders off for days on end – we get frantic, not knowing where he is.*

**WANT**

wanted, wanted, wanting

**want for**

not want for anything/want for nothing

to have everything that you need, especially because someone will provide it all for you: *I have worked long and hard to make sure that my children want for nothing.* | *She wanted to soothe and calm him and, in the same instant, tell him that he would never want for anything.*

**not want for money/food etc** *The girl won't want for money – her wealthy uncle will see to that.*

**want in**

want in

informal to want to be involved in a plan or business deal that someone else is arranging or involved in: *Red Roof Inns and Hampton*

W

*Inns have both done well. Now the rest of the industry wants in.*

+ on *Other record companies wanted in on the deal.*

● OPPOSITE: **want out**

### want out

#### 1 want out

*informal* to want to stop being involved in an activity, plan, relationship, or business deal that you are taking part in: *She can't afford to carry on with the payments and she desperately wants out.* | *Three months after Josh joined the gang, he wanted out.*

+ of *Brown says he wants out of the Boston team.*

● OPPOSITE: **want in**

#### 2 want out

*AmE* to want to leave a place: *Excuse me, I want out, please.*

+ of *I want out of this bar – it's way too crowded in here!*

## WARD

*warded, warded, warding*

### ward off

ward off sth ward sth off

to prevent something from harming you, or prevent a disease from affecting you: *In Africa the masks are used to ward off evil spirits.* | *Like many men in their 50s, he takes aspirin daily to ward off heart-disease.* | *In order to ward off a possible environmental disaster, the government has banned the growing of genetically modified crops.*

## WARM

*warmed, warmed, warming*

### warm through

warm sth through

to heat food gently until it is warm: *Stir for 5 minutes until the vegetables are warmed through and coated with sauce.*

### warm to

ALSO **warm up to** *AmE*

#### 1 warm to sth warm up to sth

to become more interested in something, start to agree with something, or start to like something and want to do it: *My wife was completely against leaving the baby with anyone else at first, but now she's beginning to warm to the idea.* | *Mark soon warmed to the task and continued with renewed confidence.* | *Voters are starting to warm up to the idea*

**warm to your subject/theme** (=become more interested or excited as you continue talking about something and want to talk about it more) *By now Terry had warmed to his subject, and was explaining at length his views on women drivers.*

#### 2 warm to sb warm up to sb

to start to like someone: *Pinney warmed to the young poet immediately, and asked him back to his home.* | *Hannah had been slow to warm up to her father.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **take to**

### warm up

#### 1 warm up warm up sb/sth

warm sb/sth up

to become warmer, or make something or someone warmer: *In spring the weather soon starts to warm up.* | *It'll take a few minutes for the central heating system to warm up the room.* | *Come inside and have a drink. It'll warm you up.* | *I tried running down the road to warm myself up.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **heat up**

#### 2 warm up sth warm sth up

warm up

to heat food, especially food that has already been cooked, so that it is hot enough to eat, or to become hot enough to eat: *She put the lasagne in the oven to warm it up.* | *Do you want me to warm up some soup for you?* | *Some home-made apple pie was warming up in the microwave.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **heat up**

#### 3 warm up

to do gentle physical exercises to prepare your body just before playing a sport, dancing etc: *The athletes are warming up for the race.*

**warm-up** *N* [C]

when you do gentle physical exercises to prepare your body just before playing a sport, dancing etc: *The players were doing some stretching exercises as a warm-up.*

**warm-up** *ADJ* [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

worn or used for warming up: *Sally takes off her warm-up jacket and runs onto the basketball court.*

#### 4 warm up warm up sth

warm sth up

if an engine, machine etc warms up, or you warm it up, it starts to be ready to work properly, usually a short time after switching it on: *He waited for the photocopier to warm up.* | *As soon as the rain stopped, Woolley got into one of the planes and started warming up the engines.*

## 5 warm up warm up sth

## warm sth up

if musicians, singers, or performers warm up, they practise just before a performance: *The band had very little time to warm up before they went on stage.*

## warm-up N [C]

when musicians, singers, or performers practise just before a performance: *After a quick warm-up the guys were ready to go on stage.*

## 6 warm up

to perform at a concert, on a television programme etc before the main performer or the main part of the show: *Sheryl Crow is due to warm up for the Rolling Stones on their American tour.* | *Warming up for tonight's show will be blues fiddler Heather Hardy.*

## warm-up ADJ [ONLY BEFORE NOUN]

a warm-up band, act etc warms up for the main performer or the main part of the show: *When I saw the Sex Pistols in 1976, the Clash were one of the warm-up bands.*

## 7 warm up

if a situation or an event such as a party warms up, it becomes more exciting, enjoyable, or people start to feel very strongly about it: *After midnight, things started to warm up and the party really got going.* | *America's war of words with Iraq is starting to warm up.*

## warm up to

SEE **warm to**

## WARN

warned, warned, warning

## warn against

## warn against sth warn sb against sth

to tell someone that they should not do something because it may be dangerous or cause something bad to happen: *Military planners are warning against a land invasion, saying that large numbers of troops might be killed.* | *Her financial adviser warned her against such a risky investment.*

**warn (sb) against doing sth** *The US Embassy warned Americans against visiting southern Egypt.* | *Pregnant women have been warned against using the drug, after reports that it may cause abnormalities in unborn children.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **warn off**

## warn away

## warn sb away warn away sb

to tell someone that they should not go near

something, especially because it may be dangerous: *The battleship fired a single shot to warn them away.* | *The snake's markings are intended to warn away predators.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **warn off**

## warn off

## 1 warn off sb warn sb off

to tell people that they should not go near something, especially because it may be dangerous: *The army had put up signs warning people off.* | *Some animals mark their territory to warn off rivals.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **warn away**

## 2 warn sb off warn sb off sth

## warn off sb

to tell someone that they should not do something or use something because it may be dangerous or cause something bad to happen: *The actor has been warned off alcohol after a health scare.*

**warn sb off doing sth** *Doctors should have warned people off using the drug much earlier.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **warn against**

## WASH

washed, washed, washing

## wash away

## 1 wash away sth wash sth away

if water washes something away, it carries it away, usually with great force: *The water rushed down the narrow streets, washing away cars like matchsticks.* | *Floods spread to new areas of Bangladesh and hundreds of homes were washed away.* | *fears that the white cliffs of Dover are being washed away by the sea*

## 2 wash away sth wash sth away

to remove something using water or some other liquid; *They washed away the blood the next morning, so that there was no evidence that a crime had ever taken place.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wash off**

## 3 wash away sth wash sth away

to get rid of unhappy feelings, thoughts or memories: *She hoped that one day all her troubles would somehow be washed away.*

## wash down

## 1 wash down sth wash sth down

to clean all of the surface of something, for example a car or a wall, using water: *He washed the car down, dried it and then waxed it.* | *Next morning Carolyn washed down the woodwork in the kitchen, and cleaned out the fridge and food cupboards.*

**2 wash sth down wash down sth**

to drink something with or after food, or with medicine to help you swallow it: *They ate pasta, washed down with several bottles of cheap Italian wine.* | *Let your child wash the medicine down with a mouthful of their favourite drink.*

**wash off****1a wash off sth wash sth off**

wash sth off sth

to remove dirt or other unwanted substances from the surface of something using water: *Your hands are covered in oil – you'd better go upstairs and wash it off.* | *She went into the bathroom to wash off her make-up.* | *He washed the mud off the potatoes, then put them in a pan.*

**1b wash off**

if something such as dirt or a mark on the surface of something washes off, it is removed by washing: *Don't worry about the stain on the carpet. It'll easily wash off.*

**2 wash sb/sth off wash off sb/sth**

to wash a person or animal and remove the dirt, blood etc from their body: *His mother washed him off and put him to bed.*

**wash out****1 wash out sth wash sth out**

to quickly wash the inside of a cup or a container in order to clean it: *Hannah washed out the vases and filled them with fresh flowers.* | *These cups are really dirty! Don't you ever wash them out?*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rinse out**

**2 wash out sth wash sth out**

to wash clothes in order to clean them, especially by hand: *There was no washing machine, so we had to wash out our clothes in the sink.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rinse out**

**3 wash out wash out sth**

wash sth out

if something such as dirt or a mark washes out or if you wash it out, it is removed by washing: *Emulsion paint can easily be washed out, providing it's fresh and hasn't had a chance to dry.*

**4 be washed out**

BrE if a game or other event is washed out, it cannot take place or cannot continue, because of rain: *England's first match against Australia was washed out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rained off** BrE, **rained out** AmE

**washout** N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

BrE when a game or other event cannot take place or continue because of rain: *The first day at Wimbledon was a washout.*

**5 be washed out**

if someone is washed out, they are very tired and have no energy to do anything: *You'd better sit down and have a rest. You look washed out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be shattered**, **be exhausted**

**wash over****1 wash over sb**

if a feeling washes over you, you suddenly feel it very strongly: *Maybe he doesn't love me anymore, thought Juliet, and a deep feeling of sadness washed over her.* | *His apparent lack of emotion was impossible to bear, and a sudden wave of anger washed over her.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **come over**, **engulf** *formal*

**2 let sth wash over you**

if you let something wash over you, you relax and enjoy it, or you do not pay close attention to it and think of other things: *She lay back and closed her eyes, and let the music wash over her.* | *Marjorie understood little of their conversation. She was content just to let it wash over her.*

**wash up****1 wash up wash up sth wash sth up**

BrE to wash plates, dishes, knives etc, especially after a meal: *Since you made lunch, I'll wash up.* | *Ruth was helping behind the bar, washing up the glasses.*

**washing-up** N [U]

BrE if you do the washing-up, you wash plates, dishes, knives etc, especially after a meal: *Susan was doing the washing-up and Simon had insisted on helping her.*

**2 wash up**

AmE to wash your hands, especially before eating: *Go wash up, boys. It's almost dinner time.*

**3 wash up sth wash sth up wash up**

if something is washed up by the sea, it is carried onto the shore and left there by the sea: *Her body was found washed up on a Moroccan beach.* | *Wreckage from the dinghy was washed up a few miles up the coast.*

**4 be washed up**

if someone is washed up, they are no longer successful in their life or their job, and it is very difficult for them to change this situation: *Benn's critics are saying that he's washed up, and that his career in international boxing is over.* | *The former star said he knew he was washed up when no one seemed to recognize him anymore.*

## WASTE

wasted, wasted, wasting

## waste away

## 1 waste away

to become very thin and weak, especially because you are ill or are not getting enough food: *By this time she couldn't stand or walk. She was wasting away. | Sam lay dying of AIDS in a New York hospital, his body visibly wasting away. | I'm only allowed one meal a day on this diet. I'm wasting away!*

## 2 waste away

to feel very bored and unhappy because your skills and abilities are not being used: *One unemployed man said "It's not just the money. Work gives you something to do. I feel I'm just wasting away."*

## 3 waste away

if something wastes away, it gradually becomes smaller or weaker until it disappears: *The leaves become brown at the edges, and start to waste away. | If you don't use your muscles, they waste away.*

## WATCH

watched, watched, watching

## watch for

## watch for sth

to pay attention in order to notice something if or when it happens: *"This is it," said Emily, watching for Mungo's reaction. | The police were hiding in the bushes, watching for drug smugglers trying to cross the border.*

## watch out

## watch out USUALLY IN COMMANDS

to be careful and pay attention because something bad may happen – used especially when warning someone to be careful: *"Watch out!" whispered Daniel. They glanced around and saw Miss Turnbull coming straight towards them. | You're going to become an alcoholic if you don't watch out. | Inter Milan are a strong team, and United had better watch out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **look out!** spoken

## watch out for

## 1 watch out for sth/sb NOT PASSIVE

to be careful to notice something or someone because they could be dangerous, could cause problems etc: *Watch out for injuries while exercising. Always stop as soon as you begin to feel any pain. | Watch out for thieves when you're travelling on the subway. | A common problem to watch out for is grey mould on the leaves.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **look out for**

## 2 watch out for sth NOT PASSIVE

to be careful to notice something because it may be interesting, exciting, or useful – used especially when recommending something to someone: *Watch out for the band's new record, which is climbing up the US charts. | Visitors should watch out for Sidney the green parrot, who flaps around the garden performing his imitation of a ringing telephone.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **look out for**

## watch over

## 1 watch over sb/sth

to guard or take care of someone or something: *Can you watch over the children for me till I get back? | The two policemen took it in turns to watch over him. | We managed to cross the mountains safely – God must have been watching over us.*

## 2 watch over sb/sth

to watch and make sure that someone behaves properly or something happens in the correct way: *Today there was no boss to watch over him, and he could do what he liked. | The treasury watches over all government spending.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **keep an eye on sb/sth**

## WATER

watered, watered, watering

## water down

## 1 water down sth water sth down

to change a plan, system, statement etc so that it is much less effective or powerful, in order to make it more acceptable – used to show disapproval: *Gaidar's economic reforms were watered down by the Russian parliament. | Environmental campaigners say that tougher controls on pollution from cars have been watered down because of pressure from the car industry.*

## watered-down ADJ

changed and made much less effective or powerful: *Blair's watered-down version of socialism | The ANC favours a watered-down form of regional government.*

## 2 water down sth water sth down

to add water to alcoholic drinks and make them weaker, especially in order to deceive people by serving them less alcohol than they have paid for: *The bar staff aren't very friendly, and I'm sure they water down the drinks.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dilute**

## watered-down ADJ

watered-down alcoholic drinks have had water added: *The drinks were watered-down, and I wasn't very impressed with the food either.*

W

**WAVE**

waved, waved, waving

**wave aside**

wave aside sth    wave sth aside

to refuse to accept what someone says, especially because you do not think it is important: *The judge waved all their objections aside and sentenced them to three months in jail.* | *Chapman appointed him as chief trainer, waving aside protests about his lack of experience.* | *"Forgive me Marshal," said Karr. Marshal Tolonen waved aside his apology and walked away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: brush aside

**wave away**

wave away sb    wave sb away

wave your hand to tell someone that you do not want to talk to them or do not want them to come near you: *She tried to talk to Rodman, but he rudely waved her away.* | *The waiter started to come towards us, but Margaret waved him away.*

**wave down**

wave down sth/sb    wave sth/sb down

to make a vehicle stop by waving your arms at the driver: *Yuko managed to wave down a taxi and asked to be taken to Shibuya station.* | *The officer stepped out into the street, and raised his hand to wave the driver down.*

\* SIMILAR TO: flag down

**wave off**

1 wave sb off    wave off sb

to wave goodbye to someone as they leave: *Mrs Dale waved her husband off to work, then went back inside the house.* | *We all went down to the airport to wave her off.*

\* SIMILAR TO: see off

2 wave sb off sth    wave sb/sth off

to wave your arms to tell someone or something to leave a place, especially because they should not be there: *The referee waved him off the field.* | *A park keeper was waving some boys off the grass.*

**wave on**

wave sb on    wave on sb

to wave your hands to tell someone, especially a driver, to continue moving forwards: *The guard looked at his papers, then waved him on.* | *Police were waving the other drivers on.* | *Sergeant Finch rolled down his window and waved on a truck laden with fresh fruit.*

**wave through**

wave sb through    wave through sb

to wave your hands to tell someone that they can go through or enter a place: *The customs officer at the airport waved them straight through.*

**WEAN**

weaned, weaned, weaning

**wean off**

wean sb off sth

to make someone stop using something that is harmful, by gradually reducing the amount that they can have: *Dr Rossdale said he tried to wean her off the sleeping tablets.* | *It is extremely difficult to wean a child off junk food.* | *These substances are being used to help wean the world off its dependence on CFCs, which are damaging the ozone layer.*

**be weaned on**

be weaned on sth

to be influenced by something because you experience it regularly when you are young: *a generation weaned on TV and computer games* | *I was weaned on a regular diet of Hollywood fantasy at my local cinema.*

**WEAR**

ware, worn, wearing

**wear away**

wear sth away    wear away sth

wear away

if something wears away or is worn away, it becomes thinner and gradually disappears because it has been used a lot or rubbed a lot: *The mountain path has been worn away by tourists over the years.* | *The sea has worn away the softer rocks.* | *The paint on the doors and windows has gradually worn away.*

**wear down**

1 wear sb down    wear down sb

to gradually make someone feel tired and so less able or less determined to do something: *Constantly being criticized wears you down.* | *Worn down by the long night's march, we had little energy left for the fight.*

\* SIMILAR TO: grind down

2 wear down sth    wear sth down

wear down

if something is worn down, or wears down, it becomes thinner and smoother because



something has been rubbing against it over a period of time: *Both my shoes have worn down at the heel. | rocks worn down by the relentless action of sea and wind*

✦ *to He was driving on a tyre that was worn right down to the bare canvas.*

### wear in

wear in sth    wear sth in

to wear new boots or shoes for short periods of time until they become more comfortable: *I'm not going on any long walks till I've worn in my new boots.*

### wear off

wear off

if a feeling or the effect of something such as a drug wears off, it gradually becomes weaker and disappears: *The effects of the anaesthetic were starting to wear off. | Learning a language is hard work, and your early enthusiasm may soon wear off.*

**the novelty wears off** (=you stop feeling excited about something because it is no longer new) *Would she become bored with married life once the novelty wore off?*

### wear on

wear on

if a period of time wears on, it seems to pass very slowly

**as the day/months/year etc wore on** *As the night wore on and there was no news of them, Corrie grew more and more anxious. | It became clear, as the long campaign wore on, that the Republicans were in deep trouble.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **draw on**

### wear out

1 wear out sth    wear sth out

wear out

if you wear out clothes, materials, equipment etc, or if they wear out, they gradually become weak or damaged by being used a lot until they cannot be used any longer: *After only a month Terry had worn out the soles of his shoes. | Do sit down and stop pacing around – you'll wear out the carpet. | When the motor wears out, it is easy to replace.*

**worn-out** ADJ

worn-out things have been used so much that they have become weak or damaged and can no longer be used: *the cost of replacing worn-out equipment*

2 wear sb out    wear out sb

USUALLY PASSIVE

to make someone feel extremely tired: *Long hours of working in the hotel kitchen had worn her out.*

**wear yourself out** *You must take a break sometimes – you'll wear yourself out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **exhaust, tire out, do in** spoken

**worn out** ADJ [NOT BEFORE NOUN]

extremely tired: *Come in and sit down. You look absolutely worn out. | Mick was worn out after a hard day at the office.*

### wear through

wear through    wear through sth

wear sth through

if a piece of material wears through, or is worn through, a hole is gradually made in it where the material has been made thinner and weaker by being rubbed or used a lot: *I needed a new schoolbag – the leather strap on my old one had almost worn through. | The soles of her boots were completely worn through after her 400 mile walk through the Andes.*

✦ *to In one place the carpeting had worn right through to the floorboards.*

## WEARY

wearied, wearied, wearying

### weary of

weary of sth

literary to become bored with something and stop being interested in it: *Lewis was now beginning to weary of college life.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **tire of**

## WEASEL

weaseled, weaseled, weaseling

### weasel out

weasel out

AmE informal to not do something that you had promised or agreed to do, especially in a dishonest way: *Don't try to weasel out and say you don't remember what happened.*

✦ *of Fife is trying to weasel out of \$25 million in debts.*

## WED

### be wedded to

1 be wedded to sth

formal to believe strongly that a particular idea or way of doing something is right, so that you would not be willing to accept something different: *Most Republicans were wedded to conservative economic policies. | The Vatican remains firmly wedded to traditional moral values.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be committed (to)**

**2 be wedded to sth**

*formal* if you are wedded to a particular activity, it is the most important thing in your life and you think of nothing else: *A passionate jazz enthusiast, Kennedy is totally wedded to his music.* | *She might have enjoyed a fuller life if she had not been so fervently wedded to her job.*

**WEDGE****be wedged in****be wedged in**

to be stuck in a small space: *Firemen had difficulty freeing the injured driver, who was wedged in behind the steering-wheel.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be trapped**

**WEED**

weeded, weeded, weeding

**weed out****weed out sb/sth** **weed sb/sth out**

to get rid of some people or things from a group, because they are unsuitable or not good enough: *A committee was established to weed out corrupt party officials.* | *First we need to weed out any data that is no longer valid.* | *a system of tests designed to weed out candidates who lack leadership qualities*

**WEIGH**

weighed, weighed, weighing

**weigh against****1 weigh sth against sth**

to consider carefully whether one thing is more important or better than another, before making a decision: *The potential benefits of nuclear power must be weighed against the risks.* | *Certainly, you'll get a bigger pension if you go on working, but you've got to weigh that against the fact that your health's suffering.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **balance against, set against**

**2 weigh against sb/sth**

*formal* if something weighs against someone or something, it has a bad effect and makes them less likely to be successful: *Her former links with the communist party are bound to weigh against her if she stands for election.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **count against**

**weigh down****1 weigh sb down** **weigh down sb**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are weighed down with something you are carrying, you cannot move easily because it is too heavy

*be weighed down with Sue and Brian staggered home, weighed down with shopping bags.*

**2 weigh sb down** **weigh down sb**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if you are weighed down by problems, responsibilities, or feelings of sadness, they make you feel very worried or unhappy: *Paul's mother was now weighed down by the burden of responsibility that had fallen upon her.* | *the terrible feeling of hopelessness that had been weighing her down ever since Howard died*

**3 weigh down sth** **weigh sth down**

USUALLY PASSIVE

if a problem weighs down an organization, it prevents it from growing and being successful: *By 1990 the company was already weighed down by a heavy burden of debt.* | *a banking crisis that was weighing down Japan's economy*

**weigh in****1 weigh in**

to start to take part in a discussion or argument by adding your own opinions, advice, suggestions etc

+ **with** *Everyone weighed in with their own suggestions of who should captain the team.* | *Weighing in with her view, Elfriede made it plain that she would not support closing the theatre.* | *Amnesty International weighed in with a condemnation of Utah's capital punishment law.*

**2 weigh in**

to provide support in order to help make something successful

+ **with** *When the exhibition seemed doomed to failure, the Arts Council weighed in with financial support.* | *Mike Newell weighed in with two fine goals to secure victory for Rovers.*

**3 weigh in**

to be weighed and have your weight officially recorded before taking part in a boxing match, horse race, or other sports competition: *Coming up to his first race of the season, Rogers weighed in over 12 pounds lighter than any other jockey on the circuit.*

+ **at** *Michael Hopper, who weighed in at 15 stone 10lbs, beat Scotland's Colin Brown in the Boxing Association Championships.*

**weigh-in** *n* [SINGULAR]

when a boxer is weighed before a fight or a rider is weighed before a horse race: *At the weigh-in Bruno tipped the scales at 247 pounds against Tyson's 220 pounds.*

**weigh into****1 weigh into sb**

to criticize someone very strongly: *Immediately, Senator Brown's critics weighed into him with allegations about his business interests.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **attack, lay into** informal

**2 weigh into sth**

to start to take part in a discussion or argument by expressing your opinion very strongly: *Churchill weighed into the debate with a speech that silenced all opposition.*

**weigh on****1 weigh on sth**

AmE to have the effect of reducing prices, profits, values etc: *Forecasts for warmer weather weighed on heating oil and gas prices.* | *Problems with the federal budget weighed on the dollar.*

**2 weigh on sth**

AmE to have the effect of making something less successful or less effective: *Jack is so dedicated to his job that it's weighing on his marriage.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **affect**

**weigh on/upon**

● **Weigh upon** is more formal than **weigh on** and is mostly used in writing.

**weigh on/upon sb**

if troubles, problems, or duties weigh on you, they make you feel worried and not relaxed: *The question of her children's future constantly weighed on her.*

**weigh on sb's mind** *Lisa's very quiet – I'm sure there's something weighing on her mind.*

**weigh heavily on** *His responsibilities weigh heavily on him.*

**weigh out****weigh out sth weigh sth out**

to weigh an amount of something taken from a larger amount, in order to get the exact amount you want: *I watched as he weighed out 200 grams of coffee beans and ground them up.*

**weigh up****1 weigh up sth weigh sth up**

to carefully consider a plan or choice by comparing all the advantages and disadvantages involved, so that you can make a decision: *I think we should weigh up all the advantages and disadvantages of having a hospital right in the centre of the town.* | *After carefully weighing up the costs and potential*

*benefits of using solar energy, the committee gave its approval.*

● COME ARE: **mull over**

**2 weigh sb up weigh up sb**

to spend time watching someone, talking to them, and listening to them in order to form an opinion about them: *I think we spent a little time weighing each other up before we became friends.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **size up**

**weigh upon**

SEE **weigh on/upon**

**weigh with****weigh with sb**

formal if something weighs with someone, it influences their decisions: *Obviously the opinions of national newspapers will weigh with senior politicians.*

**weigh heavily with** *The fact that she is close to the president will weigh heavily with the committee.*

**WEIGHT**

weighted, weighted, weighting

**weight down****weight down sth weight sth down**

to put something heavy on top of an object, or fasten something heavy to an object, in order to make it sink or prevent it from moving: *The sheets of corrugated iron that covered the roof were weighted down with heavy stones against the spring gales.* | *Gazman's body was found weighted down at the bottom of a lake.*

**WELCH/WELSH**

welched, welched, welching  
welshed, welshed, welshing

● Some people think that **welsh on** is insulting to Welsh people, but in fact the origin of this phrasal verb is not connected with Wales.

**welch on****welch on sth/sb** NOT PASSIVE

to not do something that you have promised to do for someone, especially to not pay them money that you promised them: *Former clients are accusing them of welching on deals they had agreed on the telephone.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rat on** informal

W

**WELD**

welded, welded, welding

**weld together**

weld sb/sth together

weld together sb/sth

to firmly unite and join together different groups, parts, organizations etc: *Mr Kohl now faced the task of welding together the two Germanies into one nation.* | *a tough training programme that had welded us together into a cohesive fighting force*

**WELL**

welled, welled, welling

**well up****1 well up**

*literary* if tears well up in your eyes, they come into your eyes and you want to cry: *Donna felt tears welling up in her eyes, but she fought back the pain.* | *He turned away so that Anne would not see the tears that were welling up in his eyes.*

**2 well up**

*literary* if a feeling wells up in you, you suddenly feel it more strongly: *Anger welled up inside him.* | *A moment of panic welled up in her as she thought to herself, "I must get away."*

\* SIMILAR TO: rise up

**3 well up**

if liquid wells up, it rises to the surface with sudden force: *Dark blood welled up from the wound on the back of his head.* | *Pools of crude oil welled up from the ground.*

**WELSH****welsh on**SEE **welch on**

W

**WHACK**

whacked, whacked, whacking

**whack off**

whack off

*informal* if a boy or man whacks off, he makes himself sexually excited by rubbing his sexual organs

\* SIMILAR TO: masturbate, jerk off *AmE informal***WHALE**

whaled, whaled, whaling

**whale on****1 whale on sb**

*AmE informal* to hit someone many times or criticize them strongly: *Darren threw his sister to the ground and began whaling on her.* | *My mother totally whaled on me last night when I showed her my grades.*

**2 whale on sth**

*AmE informal* to hit something or play with it in a rough way, using a lot of force: *He just whales on the guitar and creates a horrible noise.* | *Lester whaled on the ball, trying to hit a home run.*

**WHEEL**

wheeled, wheeled, wheeling

**wheel around**ALSO **wheel round** *BrE***wheel around/round**

to turn around suddenly, especially because you are angry or surprised: *Hearing a voice behind him, Henry wheeled around, his sword in his hand.* | *Unable to ignore this insult, Elinor wheeled round in fury to face his rival.*

\* SIMILAR TO: swing around, whip around

**wheel out****1 wheel out sth/sb** **wheel sth/sb out**

to use someone or something to support your opinion or in order to persuade people that you are right: *A number of scientific experts were wheeled out to support the government's assurances about the safety of nuclear power.*

**wheel out the big guns** (=show the most important people that are available, to help you achieve something) *The Tories are wheeling out the big guns to help their campaign.*

**2 wheel out sth/sb** **wheel sth/sb out**

to use the same things or people that you have often used before, in a way that is boring: *Christmas television is so tedious – they wheel out the same old films year after year.*

**wheel round**SEE **wheel around**

**WHILE/WILE**

whiled, whiled, whiling  
wiled, wiled, wiling

**while/wile away**

while away sth    while sth away

if you while away a period of time, you spend it in a pleasantly relaxing way: *We whiled away the long afternoon over a game of cards. | the garden where I wiled away many happy hours watching the birds*

\* SIMILAR TO: **idle away**

**WHIP**

whipped, whipped, whipping

**whip around**

ALSO **whip round** B/E

whip around/round

to turn around very quickly, especially because you are angry: *He whipped around in fury, and I took a nervous step backwards. | Henry gave a bitter laugh. His wife whipped round at him. "You're laughing at me?" she demanded.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wheel around**

**whip into**

whip sb into a frenzy/fury/fervour

to make people feel very excited or angry about something, especially by talking to them: *We gather in a crowd and whip one another into a frenzy of enthusiasm | a speaker who had the power to whip his audience into a fervour of indignation*

**whip out**

whip out sth    whip sth out

to quickly bring something out from your pocket, bag etc: *Before I could stop him, Drew whipped out his revolver and fired a shot over their heads. | On a sudden impulse, I whipped my checkbook out and wrote out a donation of \$500 to Greenpeace.*

**whip round** B/E

SEE **whip around**

**whip through**

whip through sth

to do a piece of work or read something very quickly: *Louise managed to whip through the rest of her routine paperwork before lunch. | Some people can whip through a document in a few minutes and remember all the details.*

**whip up**

1 whip up sth/sb    whip sth/sb up

to make a lot of people feel interested, excited, or angry about something: *a propaganda campaign designed to whip up support for the war effort | They were accused of trying to whip up anti-American feeling. | Mosley's attempt to whip up the crowd with his nationalistic slogans*

\* SIMILAR TO: **stir up**

2 whip up sth    whip sth up

to quickly make something to eat: *If you girls are hungry, I can whip up something to eat in no time. | Whip up this delicious sweet in five minutes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rustle up**

3 whip up sth    whip sth up

to mix cream or the clear part of an egg very quickly with a fork until it is stiff: *Whip up the cream into soft peaks and fold it into the yoghurt.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **whip, whisk**

4 whip sth up    whip up sth

if the wind whips up dust or the surface of water, it makes it rise up with a sudden violent movement: *A strong wind whips up clouds of red dust from the dry plains. | raging seas whipped up by a force nine gale*

**WHISK**

whisked, whisked, whisking

**whisk away/off**

whisk sb away/off    whisk away/off sb

USUALLY PASSIVE

to take someone quickly away from a place: *Immediately after the show, the new Miss America was whisked away in a chauffeur-driven limousine. | Willis and four men were whisked off to jail for the night.*

**whisk up**

whisk up sth    whisk sth up

to mix liquids or soft foods very quickly so that air is mixed in, especially using a fork or a special kitchen tool: *The cocktail consisted of brandy whisked up with white of egg and the juice of a fresh lemon.*

**WHISTLE**

whistled, whistled, whistling

**whistle by/past**

whistle by/past sth/sb    whistle by/past

NOT PASSIVE

to move very quickly past something or

W

someone and often very close to them: *You should have seen Ben's expression when the ball whistled past his ear. | Several trains whistled by, one after the other.*

### whistle for

he/she can whistle for sth

*BrE spoken* if you say that someone can whistle for something that they have asked for, you mean that you are not going to give it to them: *If he's coming here to ask me for money, then he can go home and whistle for it.*

### whistle up

whistle up sth/sb

*informal* to arrange for something or someone to appear quickly: *If you need a water taxi you can whistle one up at the gloriously posh Oriental Hotel. | The government seems to be able to whistle up a crowd of demonstrators at a moment's notice.*

## WHITTLE

whittled, whittled, whittling

### whittle away (at)

whittle away sth      whittle sth away

whittle away at

to gradually reduce the amount, value, or effectiveness of something: *The power of the monarchy was gradually whittled away by successive parliaments. | Inflation has gradually whittled away at the value of state pensions. | Much of the country's national parkland has been whittled away, as the army has taken over more and more land for training.*

### whittle down

whittle down sth      whittle sth down

USUALLY PASSIVE

to gradually reduce the size of a number, amount, or group by taking parts away: *The original list of 25 competitors has been whittled down to six finalists. | The cost had been estimated at \$300,000 but by making cuts in various places we whittled it down to \$230,000.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **narrow down**

## WHOOPE

### whoop up

whoop it up

*informal* to enjoy yourself by having a lot of noisy fun with other people: *We spent the whole summer whooping it up at the night-clubs on Corfu.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **live it up**

## WIG

wigged, wigged, wiggling

### wig out

wig out      wig sb out

*AmE informal* to be very anxious, upset, or frightened, or to make someone feel like this: *The thought of seeing Mick again really wigs me out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **freak out** *informal*

## WILE

### wile away

SEE **while/wile away**

## WIMP

wimped, wimped, wimping

### wimp out

wimp out

*informal* to decide not to do something that you had intended to do, because you are too frightened to do it: *He said he'd give a speech at the wedding, but then he wimped out at the last minute.*

+ of *Make sure he comes to the party – don't let him wimp out of it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **chicken out** *informal*

## WIN

won, won, winning

### win around

SEE **win round/around**

### win back

win back sth/sb      win sth/sb back

to succeed in getting back something or someone that you had in the past, especially after it was taken from you by someone else: *The Democrats were hoping to win back control of Congress at the election. | Graf managed to win back her Wimbledon title. | Eventually the girl's mother went to the European Court of Human Rights in an attempt to win back her child.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **regain**

### win out

1 win out

to succeed or defeat others after a long struggle or contest: *In the end, the environmentalists won out and the nuclear plant was not built.*

+ over *British Airways finally won out over its competitors and was awarded the contract.*



**2 win out**

if one feeling or quality wins out, in the end it is stronger than other feelings or qualities: *In the end, my curiosity won out and I had to read the letter.*

**win over**

**win over sb**    **win sb over**

to persuade someone to support you, or to get them to like you, especially when they did not before: *We'll be working even harder over the next ten days to win over the undecided voters.* | *Eventually Thomas won my father over, with his cheerful confidence and good sense of humour.* | *The jury were obviously completely won over by her performance in the witness box.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **win round/around**

**win round/around**

**win sb round/around**

**win round/around sb**

BrE to persuade someone to agree with you or do what you want, especially when they did not want to before: *After a long debate, Darwin finally succeeded in winning Hooker round to his own way of thinking.* | *Tess knew that it would probably only take a smile and a joke to win her parents around.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **win over**

**win through****1 win through**

especially BrE to finally succeed in achieving something or dealing with a difficult situation: *We are confident that we will win through in the end and get what we want.*

**2 win through**

especially BrE to succeed in winning a place in another stage of a competition, after defeating others in a game or sport

+ to *He is confident that England will win through to the final.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **go through**

**WIND**

wound, wound, winding

**wind back**

**wind sth back**    **wind back sth**

if you wind back a tape on which sound or pictures etc are recorded, you make it move backwards towards its starting point, by pressing a button: *Could you wind back the video to the beginning?* | *The message on my answering machine wasn't very clear, so I wound the tape back and listened again.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rewind**

● OPPOSITE: **wind on, wind forward**

**wind down****1 wind down**    **wind down sth**

**wind sth down**

if a company or organization winds down or you wind it down, it gradually does less work, especially before it is closed completely: *America has been winding down its NATO bases here, following the end of the cold war.* | *The original mill is winding down after over a hundred years in textile production.*

**2 wind down**    **wind down sth**

**wind sth down**

if something that people are doing winds down, or if someone winds it down, they gradually do less of it, before stopping completely: *The strikes, which had gone on for weeks, were gradually wound down before Christmas.* | *Keller said he would be winding down his involvement in sport in the summer.* | *The football season is winding down now, with only three weeks to go.*

**3 wind down**

to gradually relax after you have been working or after you have been anxious or worried: *Have a drink – you look like you need to wind down.* | *After a tough day it's great to wind down in front of the TV and not to have anything to worry about.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **unwind**

**4 wind down**

if a clock or watch winds down, it gradually goes more and more slowly until it stops: *The clock in the hall had wound down and stopped.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **run down**

**5 wind down sth**    **wind sth down**

BrE to open a car window by making the glass move down using a handle or a button: *She wound down her window and called to me across the street.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **roll down** especially AmE

● OPPOSITE: **wind up** BrE

**wind forward**

**wind sth forward**    **wind forward sth**

especially BrE if you wind forward a tape on which sound or pictures etc are recorded, you make it move forward towards the end, by pressing a button: *I wound the tape forward until I found the song I wanted to hear.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wind on**

● OPPOSITE: **wind back**

**wind on****1 wind sth on**    **wind on sth**

BrE if you wind on a tape on which sound or

W

pictures are recorded, or a film in a camera, you make it move forward towards the end, by pressing a button: *I wound the tape on to the next song.* | *That photograph I took of you didn't come out – I must have forgotten to wind the film on.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wind forward**

● OPPOSITE: **wind back**

## 2 wind on

if a period of time winds on, it gradually passes: *It got colder and colder as the day wound on.* | *The months wound on and still we'd had no news of our son.*

## wind up

### 1 wind sth up wind up sth wind up

if you wind up a meeting or activity or it winds up, you end it or it ends: *I walked in as Palmer was winding up the debate with an extremely clever and amusing speech.* | *The Foreign Minister wound up a two-day visit by announcing an agreement with Havana.* | *With a bit of luck, the meeting should wind up by about four o'clock.*

### 2 wind sth up wind up sth USUALLY PASSIVE

BrE to reduce the activity of a business, organization etc until it closes completely: *The department is being wound up and its responsibilities will be distributed elsewhere.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wind down**

### 3 wind up

informal to get into a particular situation or place at the end of a long series of events and without wanting to: *That's enough for one night or you'll wind up drunk.* | *Stricter discipline is needed in order to stop children like these winding up in reform school or prison.* | *If the situation continues, some doctors could wind up losing their jobs.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **end up**

### 4 wind sb up wind up sb

informal, especially BrE to deliberately say or do something that you know will annoy or worry someone, because you think it is funny: *Don't pay any attention to him! He's just winding you up!* | *A lot of teenagers seem to enjoy winding up their parents.*

**wind-up** N [C USUALLY SINGULAR]

something that someone says or does deliberately to annoy another person: *Are you serious, or is this just a wind-up?*

### 5 wind sb up wind up sb

informal if something winds you up, it annoys you: *It really winds me up when people criticize things they know nothing about.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **annoy, piss sb off** informal

## 6 be wound up

BrE informal if someone is wound up, they feel tense and anxious and unable to relax

+ about *Sarah's very wound up about her interview next week.*

**get wound up** *Try not to get too wound up about the exams.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be anxious, be nervous**

## 7 wind sth up wind up sth

to wrap something long such as string or hair around itself, so that it forms the shape of a ball: *She wound her hair up and pinned it on top of her head.*

+ into *The sales assistant cut off a length of wire and wound it up into a ball.*

## 8 wind sth up wind up sth

to make a clock, watch, or machine work, by turning a handle or key: *It's a lovely old watch, but you have to remember to wind it up every day.*

**wind-up** ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

operated by a key or handle that you turn in order to make it work: *Valeria had an old wind-up gramophone and a collection of records.*

## 9 wind sth up wind up sth

BrE to close a car window by making the glass move upwards using a handle or a button: *Tell me if you're cold in the back and I'll wind up the window.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **roll up** especially AmE

● OPPOSITE: **wind down** BrE

## WINK

winked, winked, winking

### wink at

wink at sth

if someone in authority winks at something bad or illegal, they pretend not to notice it and do not try to stop it: *For a long time the authorities winked at the illegal trade, and even helped themselves to some of the profits.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn a blind eye to sth**

## WINKLE

winkled, winkled, winking

### winkle out

### 1 winkle sb out winkle out sb

BrE to make someone leave a position or place, even though it is difficult because they do not want to leave

+ of *Critics such as Douglas Wass were winkled out of their positions of influence.* | *Smoke bombs and stun grenades were used to winkle the terrorists out of the building.*

## 2 **winkle out** sth **winkle** sth **out**

BrE to succeed in getting something, especially information that someone does not want to tell you, by asking them a lot of questions

† of Mrs Fulton finally managed to winkle the truth out of him.

\* SIMILAR TO: **worm out**

## WIPE

wiped, wiped, wiping

### wipe down

#### wipe down sth **wipe** sth **down**

to clean the surface of a table, wall, shelf etc using a wet cloth: *Polly finished drying the dishes, and wiped down the cooker and the work surfaces.*

### wipe off

#### wipe sth **off** **wipe** off sth

#### wipe sth **off** sth

BrE to reduce the price or value of something by a particular amount – use this especially about profits, shares etc: *The recession wiped 62% off the company's pre-tax profits.* | *Following the rise in interest rates, the stock market plunged, wiping billions off the value of shares.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **knock off**

### wipe out

#### 1 **wipe out** sth **wipe** sth **out**

to destroy or get rid of something completely: *Thousands of people died, whole villages were wiped out and towns abandoned.* | *By recycling water, farmers risk diseases which could wipe out their crops.* | *We're going to use the money to wipe out all our debts and start again.*

#### 2 **wipe out** sb **wipe** sb **out**

to defeat someone easily in a competition, election etc: *Labour was completely wiped out at the last general election.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **thrash** informal, **hammer** informal

#### 3 **wipe sth out** **wipe** out sth

to clean the inside of something, using a wet cloth: *I emptied all the drawers and wiped them out with a cloth.* | *Can you wipe out the sink for me?*

#### 4 **be wiped out**

spoken to be extremely tired, especially because you have been very busy: *I was working from six in the morning till ten at night, and by the end of the week I was completely wiped out.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be exhausted**, **be shattered**

## 5 **wipe** sb **out**

informal to make someone very tired: *That run wiped me out for the rest of the day.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **exhaust**

## 6 **wipe** out

informal especially AmE to fall down when you are skiing, surfing, riding a bike etc, or crash in a race: *Brandon totally wiped out going around the last corner.*

## wipe up

#### 1 **wipe up** sth **wipe** sth **up**

to remove liquid or dirt from a surface using a cloth: *Anne got a cloth and quickly started wiping up the wine.* | *Someone's got to wipe up this mess!*

**wipe up after sb** (=wipe up the mess someone has made) *He's a very messy eater – I'm always having to wipe up after him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **mop up**

#### 2 **wipe up** **wipe** up sth **wipe** sth **up**

BrE to dry plates, glasses etc that have been washed, using a cloth: *After Sunday lunch, my father washed the dishes while my sisters and I wiped up.* | *It'll take me hours to wipe up all these glasses!*

\* SIMILAR TO: **dry up**

## WIRE

wired, wired, wiring

### be wired in/into

#### be wired in sth **be** wired into sth

AmE informal to be very involved in a particular subject, job etc, so that you know a lot about it or have a lot of contact with it: *Albers was wired into the art world both at home and in the United States.* | *Few organizations are better wired in to City Hall than the labour unions.*

### wire up

#### wire sth/sb **up** **wire** up sth/sb

to connect something or someone to a piece of electrical equipment by using wires

† to *The house is wired up to a very expensive alarm system.* | *I spent the whole day in hospital, wired up to various machines for tests.*

## WISE

wised, wised, wising

### wise up

#### wise up

AmE to understand something better or realize the unpleasant truth about something, or to

W

make someone do this: *You'd better wise up, Mattie, and listen to what they're saying.* | *Voters are beginning to wise up and realize that it's the economy that's important, not details about politicians private lives.*

**wise sb up to sth** *If he doesn't know what's wrong with their marriage, someone had better wise him up to it.*

## WISH

wished, wished, wishing

### wish away

wish sth away wish away sth

USUALLY NEGATIVE

to hope that a problem will disappear easily without you having to do anything about it: *Racism is a serious problem in our society, and you can't just wish it away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hope that something will go away**

### wish for

#### 1 wish for sth

to want something and to hope that you will get it, or that it will happen, often by silently asking for it: *There was no escape now – the only thing they could do was wish for a miracle.* | *As a child, Jenna had everything she could possibly wish for.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **hope (for)**

#### 2 couldn't wish for more/better etc

BrE used to emphasize that something or someone is as good, nice etc as they could possibly be: *"Everyone has been so good to me," John said. "I couldn't wish for better friends." | It seemed to other people that she had everything she wanted; she couldn't wish for more.*

### wish on/upon

wouldn't wish sth on anyone/  
on my worst enemy etc

spoken used to emphasize that you think a situation is extremely bad or unpleasant, and you would not want it to happen even to someone you dislike: *You don't know what it's like to watch your brother die; I wouldn't wish it on anyone.* | *It was a terrible experience – I wouldn't have wished it on my worst enemy.*

## WITHER

withered, withered, withering

### wither away

#### 1 wither away

to gradually become weaker and finally stop existing: *These small communities are slowly withering away, as the young people move to*

*the towns.* | *In the end most protest movements lose support and wither away.*

#### 2 wither away

if plants wither away, they become dry and start to die: *I got back from holiday to find that all my plants had withered away.*

## WITTER

### witter

#### witter on

BrE informal to keep talking for a long time in a boring way, about unimportant things: *I tried to smile and nod politely as he wittered on.*

+ about *We had to sit and listen to him wittering on about his love life all evening.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **drone on, waffle on** BrE

## WOLF

wolfed, wolfed, wolfing

### wolf down

wolf down sth wolf sth down

informal to eat food very quickly, especially because you are very hungry: *Purvis was sitting in a burger bar wolfing down a cheese-burger and fries.* | *When dinner finally came, we wolfed it down in five minutes.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **gulp down**

## WONDER

wondered, wondered, wondering

### wonder at

wonder at sth

to feel very surprised by something because it is so unusual, special, or difficult to understand: *Eileen wondered at her sister's ability to know exactly what she was thinking.* | *I sometimes wonder at the stupidity of these people.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **marvel at**

## WORK

worked, worked, working

### work against

work against sb/sth

if something works against you, it makes it harder for you to achieve something: *In those days the company career structure tended to work against women and prevent them from getting to the top.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **count against**

**work around**ALSO **work round** BrE**work around/round** sth

to organize what you are doing so that you are able to do it in spite of things that could have stopped you or limited you: *I agree that this is a major problem, but we'll just have to work around it.* | *It soon became clear that it wasn't possible to work around the existing law.*

**work around/round to****work around/round to** sth

to very gradually prepare yourself or other people for something that you are going to say or do, for example because it is difficult or embarrassing: *It was a difficult subject to talk about with my boss, and I knew that I must work around to it gradually.* | *Martin was clearly working round to saying something, so I waited to hear what it was.*

**work at****work at** sth

to try hard to improve or achieve something: *Budd always had a terrible temper, and really had to work at self-control.*

**work at it** *If you work at it, your reading will improve over time.*

**work at doing sth** *This year we've worked hard at expanding the business, and it's done very well.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work on****work away****work away**

to keep working hard for a long time: *At the studio we were able to see engineers and technicians working away in the control room.*

**at** *I went round the back and found Jake working away at a table he was making.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **beaver away** BrE informal, **slog away** BrE informal**work in****1 work sth in work in sth**

to add one substance to another and mix them together thoroughly: *Add the butter to the flour and work it in with your fingers.*

**2 work sth in work in sth**

to rub a soft substance into a surface until it disappears completely: *Using a cloth, work the wax in well, and allow it to dry before polishing the wood.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rub in****3 work in sth work sth in**

to cleverly include something in a speech or a piece of writing: *During the interview he managed to work in a reference to his new book.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **slip in****work into****1 work sth into sth**

to add one substance to another and mix them together thoroughly: *Gradually work the remaining flour into the dough.*

**2 work sth into sth**

to rub a soft substance into a surface until it disappears completely: *Work the cream gently into your skin.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rub (into)****3 work sth into sth**

to cleverly include something in a speech or a piece of writing: *He managed to work a few jokes into his talk.*

**4 work yourself into a state/rage/frenzy etc**

to become very angry or upset about something, especially something that is not very important: *She's worked herself into a real state about her electricity bill.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work yourself up****work off****1 work off sth work sth off**

to get rid of an unpleasant feeling, for example anger or worry, by doing something that uses energy: *If I feel aggressive and frustrated at the end of the day, I sometimes go swimming to try and work it off.* | *It's often a good idea to work off some of your tension by walking to the interview.*

**2 work off sth work sth off**

to do something that uses energy after you have eaten a lot, in order to stop yourself getting fat or so that you feel less full: *Physical exercise is good for working off those extra calories.* | *I suggested going for a long walk, to try and work off the enormous lunch we'd had.*

**3 work off sth work sth off**

to pay back a debt by earning the money you owe, or by working without pay for the person who lent you the money: *The company managed to work off billions of dollars of debt incurred in the 1980s.* | *I'm not taking out another loan – it took me years to work off the last one.*

**4 work off sth**

if a piece of equipment works off a particular supply of power, it uses that supply to make it work: *The alarm works off the car's own battery.*

W

**work on****1 work on sth**

to work in order to produce or achieve something: *At the time of her death she was working on a new novel.* | *Are you working on any films at the moment?* | *The company is working on a new version of its world-famous 'Beetle' car.*

**2 work on sth**

to spend time trying to improve something in order for it to be successful: *Chris is a strong player, but he needs to work on his technique.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **work at**

**3 work on sth**

to spend time working to repair something: *He spends most of his weekends working on his motorbike.*

**4 work on sb**

to keep trying to persuade or influence someone, for example so that they will agree to do something, or to let you do something: *The authorities still don't want to put traffic lights on the bridge, but we're working on them.* | *I've been working on my mum to let me have a motorbike for ages now.*

**work out****1 work out sth work sth out**

to calculate the answer to a problem that involves numbers, amounts, prices etc: *"How much will all the building work cost?" "I haven't worked out the exact figures yet."* | *Francis sat down to work out how much of his salary he would have to save each year.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **calculate**

**2 work out sth work sth out**

to think carefully about something in order to decide what you should do or how you should do it: *Rod's spent over an hour working out the best route to take.* | *UN negotiators were busy working out a way to end the dispute.*

+ **what/where/how etc** *We know what we're aiming at, but we still have to work out how to put it into practice.*

**have it all worked out** (=have completely planned how you are going to do something) *I have no idea how to do this, but Sid says he has it all worked out.*

**3a work out sth work sth out**

especially BrE to succeed in understanding something by thinking carefully about it

+ **what/why/how etc** *She finally managed to work out how to switch the machine on.* | *There was obviously something wrong, but I couldn't work out what it was.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **figure out, suss out** spoken, especially BrE.

**3b work sb out**

BrE to understand someone's character or why they behave as they do: *Don looked at her, puzzled. He was still trying to work this girl out.*

**can't work sb out** *I can't work Geoff out, one day he's friendly and the next he ignores me completely.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **make sb out, figure sb out**

**4 work out**

if the cost of something works out at a particular amount, that is what it costs when you calculate the figures

+ **at** *At the end of the evening, the meal worked out at £15 each.*

+ **to be** *The total cost of advertising works out to be about \$900 million annually.*

**work out expensive/cheap etc** (=be expensive or cheap) *If we go by taxi, it's going to work out very expensive.*

**5 work out**

if something works out, it is successful: *The marriage didn't work out, and we split up after two years.* | *About three years ago, I made a decision to open a restaurant, and luckily for me it's all worked out perfectly.*

**6 work out**

if a situation works out in a particular way, it happens or develops in that way

**work out well/badly etc** *Financially, things have worked out very well for us.* | *At the time, the situation seemed hopeless, but in the end it all worked out fine.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **turn out**

**7 workout**

to do physical exercises, especially regularly, in order to make your body fit and strong: *I've started to workout in the gym two or three times a week.*

**workout** N [C]  
a period of physical exercise or training: *Then we went and had a shower and breakfast, just what we needed after a good workout.*

**8 work itself out**

if a problem or a difficult situation works itself out, it gradually becomes less and less difficult until it stops existing: *There are always problems when you start something new like this, but they usually work themselves out in time.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **resolve itself**

**9 be worked out**

if a mine is worked out, all the coal, gold etc has been removed from it. A mine is a place where coal, gold etc is dug out of the ground:



The mine, which is in the Forest of Dean, is almost worked out now, after 700 years of use.

\* SIMILAR TO: **be exhausted**

## 10 work out your notice/contract

to continue to do your job until the end of a fixed period of time that you had agree to work: *She's resigned, but she still has to work out her three months' notice.*

## work over

work sb over    work over sb

informal to hit someone hard many times: *The gang tied him to a chair and worked him over, until they got tired and left him, half dead.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **beat up, do over** BrE spoken  
informal

## work round

SEE **work around/round**

## work through

### 1 work through sth    work sth through

to deal with a problem or difficulty by discussing it in detail until you find a solution you are happy with: *Mann feels that he has a special relationship with Lofte that will enable them to work through any differences.* | *If neither of you wants a divorce, then you'll just have to work it through.* | *Conflicts of interest were bound to happen, and they had to be worked through by negotiation and bargaining.*

### 2 work through sth    work sth through

to deal with strong feelings of anger, sadness, guilt etc by talking or thinking about them until you feel more in control of them or understand them better: *When someone close to you dies, you need support so that you can work through your grief.* | *Tom's fear of relationships had to be explored and worked through.*

### 3 work through    work through sth

if the result of a decision or an action works through, it gradually has an effect: *It always takes time for a change in policy to work through.* | *The educational reforms will work through the system slowly, over several years.*

### 4 work through

to continue working for a long period without stopping for a break: *Liz starts work at 5.30 pm, and works through until midnight.*

## work towards

ALSO **work toward** AmE

work towards/toward sth

to try hard to achieve something that can only be achieved gradually, over a period of time: *The two sides have been working toward*

*an agreement for several months.* | *The government is working towards greater openness and less secrecy.*

## work up

### 1 work up sth    work sth up

if you work up a feeling such as courage, interest, or sympathy, you try to make yourself feel it, especially with difficulty: *We'd already lost one game, and we couldn't work up any enthusiasm for another.*

**work up the courage/energy to do sth** *The boys were obviously watching us, and working up the courage to speak to us.* | *I'm so tired I can't even work up the energy to go to bed.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **summon up**

### 2 work up an appetite/thirst

to make yourself feel hungry or thirsty, by taking some exercise or waiting a long time before you eat or drink: *We went for a brisk walk along the beach to work up an appetite for dinner.*

### 3 be worked up

to feel very angry, excited, or upset about something: *Mel seemed to be very worked up about something.*

**get worked up (about sth)** *Tim's always late, so there's no point in getting so worked up about it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be agitated**

### 4 work sb up

to make someone feel upset, worried, or excited

+ **into** *He was a brilliant speaker and knew exactly how to work his audience up into a state of excitement.*

**work yourself up** *Stop working yourself up over nothing and let's have a drink.*

### 5 work sth up    work up sth

to produce a final plan, design, or piece of writing from the ideas or information that you have: *U-Haul worked up the design for the posters and Dial Corp is printing them.*

+ **into** *I'd like you to take detailed notes, and work them up into a report later.*

### 6 work up

to gradually increase the amount of something that you do or take regularly: *In general with this drug, it's best to start with a low dose and then work up.*

+ **to** *Start with ten minutes of exercises each day and work up to half an hour.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **build up**

### 7 work up a sweat

to take enough exercise to make your body

get hot and start to sweat (=produce liquid from your skin): *You need to run two or three miles a day, just enough to work up a sweat.*

### work up to

#### 1 work up to sth work sb up to sth

to gradually get ready to do something that seems difficult, or tell someone something that seems embarrassing: *Topaz suddenly realized that Tim was working up to a proposal of marriage.*

**work up to doing sth** *I hope you're not working up to telling me that you can't pay me what you owe.*

**work yourself up to doing sth** *They've been working themselves up to asking for a pay rise, but I don't think they'll get it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **lead up to sth**

#### 2 work up to sth

to gradually do more of something, or do something that is more and more difficult, until you reach a particular level: *If I were you I'd do the easy questions and then work up to the more difficult ones.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **build up to sth**

## WORM

wormed, wormed, worming

### worm out

worm sth out of sb

informal to succeed in getting information from someone although they do not want to give it, especially by asking them a lot of questions: *Nobody knows who his new girlfriend is yet, but I'm going to try and worm it out of him.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **winkle out**

## WORRY

worried, worried, worrying

W

### worry at

#### 1 worry at sth

to think about a problem a lot in order to find a solution or understand it better, especially because you feel worried and cannot stop yourself thinking about it: *As I cycled home I kept worrying at the problem, going over it all in my mind. | It's no good worrying at it at this time of night, there's nothing we can do.*

#### 2 worry at sth

if an animal worries at something, it holds it in its mouth and keeps biting or shaking it: *The dog was barking excitedly and worrying at a piece of old cloth.*

## WRAP

wrapped, wrapped, wrapping

### wrap in

wrap sth/sb in sth

to fold paper, cloth etc around something or someone, for example in order to protect them or keep them warm: *Wrap the meat in foil and cook it for an hour in a hot oven. | The baby had been left outside the police station, wrapped in a blanket.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **wrap up**

### wrap up

#### 1 wrap sth up wrap up sth

to fold a piece of paper or cloth around something so that it is completely covered, especially in order to give or send it to someone, or to protect it: *She gave me a box of chocolates, beautifully wrapped up in silver paper. | My grandmother took out the wedding dress and showed it to me, then wrapped it up again and put it away.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **do up**

● COMPARE: **parcel up**

#### 2 wrap up sth wrap sth up

to complete a job, agreement or an activity in a successful way: *They hope to have the deal all wrapped up in a couple of days.*

**that about wraps it up** (=used when saying that something has been completed successfully) *"I think that about wraps the case up," said the officer, with a satisfied smile.*

**wrap-up** ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN] especially AmE a wrap-up line, question etc, is one that completes something that you have been writing or saying: *Kate was pleased with her wrap-up line, and shut her notebook.*

#### 3 wrap up/wrap yourself up

to put on warm clothes before going outside when it is cold: *It's icy out there tonight. You'd better wrap up.*

+ **in** *if you're going skiing it's best to wrap yourself up in the warmest clothes you can find.*

**wrap yourself up** *When the weather was cold, Felix used to wrap himself up in a big black woollen cloak.*

#### 4 be wrapped up in sth/sb

to give so much of your attention, thought etc to something or someone that you have no time for anything else: *James complained that his wife was completely wrapped up in the children, and had no time for him. | Nowadays many people are too wrapped up in work and money to really enjoy life.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be bound up in sth/sb**

5 **be wrapped up in sth**

if you are wrapped up in what you are doing, you are so involved in it that you do not notice what is happening around you: *He was so wrapped up in his book that I had to repeat my question three times before he even heard it.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be absorbed in**

**WRESTLE**

wrestled, wrestled, wrestling

**wrestle with**1 **wrestle with sth**

to try very hard to deal with a difficult problem or situation, or find an answer to it: *Mathematicians had been wrestling with this problem for centuries, and Fermat was the first one to find a solution.* | *I spent the morning wrestling with the complexities of setting up my new fax machine.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **struggle with**

2 **wrestle with your conscience**

to try very hard to decide whether it is all right or acceptable for you to do something: *I knew it would be a very expensive trip, but after wrestling with my conscience for a while, I decided to spend the money and go.*

3 **wrestle with sth**

to have difficulty controlling or holding something that is very large or heavy: *The airport was full of passengers, all wrestling with their luggage.* | *Anne wrestled with the map, which seemed to be bigger than she was.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **struggle with**

**WRIGGLE**

wriggled, wriggled, wriggling

**wriggle out of****wriggle out of sth**

informal to avoid doing something that you should do, by finding excuses or reasons for not doing it: *You promised you'd help me this evening, so don't try to wriggle out of it now!*

**wriggle out of doing sth** *She managed to wriggle out of paying for any of the food.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **get out of, duck out of** informal

**WRING**

wrung, wrung, wringing

**wring from/out of**1 **wring sth from/out of sb**

to get information, money, an agreement etc from someone, but only with great difficulty,

or by forcing them to give it: *Carla was determined to win the case and wring every dollar she could out of her ex-husband.* | *He finally wrung permission from the War Cabinet for three naval brigades to be sent to Antwerp.*

2 **wring sth from/out of sb**

to make someone feel a particular emotion, by deliberately behaving in a way that causes this emotion: *Nigel felt annoyed with Elinor for trying to wring sympathy out of him in this way.* | *Streep has a startling talent for wringing emotional responses from an audience.*

**wring out****wring out sth** **wring sth out**

to remove the liquid from a wet cloth or piece of clothing, by twisting it tightly with your hands: *Alice picked up her swimming costume and wrung it out over the sink.*

**WRITE**

wrote, written, writing

**write away****write away**

to write a letter to a company or an organization asking them to send you goods or information

+ **for** *I've just written away for their catalogue.* | *Rosie helped Maggie to write away for the application form and then to fill it in.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **send off, send away, write off**

**write back****write back**

to reply to a letter that someone sent you, by writing a letter to them: *I wrote back immediately, thanking them for their kind invitation.*

+ **to** *Ally sent him letters every week, but he never wrote back to her once.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reply**

**write down****write down sth** **write sth down**

to write something on a piece of paper: *This is the address – do you want to write it down?* | *These ancient stories were passed on orally, before being written down in the ninth century.*

**write in**1 **write in**

to write a letter to an organization in order to give an opinion, ask for information etc: *A lot of people have written in recently criticizing the programme.* | *If you would like to take part in the survey, please write in, sending a stamped addressed envelope.*

W

**2** write in sth write sth in

to write a piece of information in the space provided for it on a form or document: *Could you write your name in just here, please?* | *Excuse me, you haven't written in the date on your cheque.*

\* SIMILAR TO: fill in

**3** write sb in write in sb

AmE to add someone's name to the official list on the voting form, to show that you want to vote for them: *The campaign to write in Johnson for governor failed.*

**write in/into**

**1** write in sb/sth write sb/sth in

write sth/sb into sth

to add a new character or scene to a book, play, film etc: *His character was written into the play at the very last minute.* | *When the book was made into a film a lot was changed and new scenes were written in.*

● OPPOSITE: write out

**2** write in sth write sth in

write sth into sth

to include or add something in a contract, agreement etc: *It was written into his contract that he had to make 2 records a year.* | *They had written in a clause in the agreement which said they were entitled to 30% of the profits.*

**write off**

**1** write off

to write a letter to a company or an organization asking them to send you goods or information

+ for *I've written off for more details of the offer.*

\* SIMILAR TO: send off, write away

**2** write off sb/sth write sb/sth off

to decide that someone or something is not likely to be successful, or that they are not very good or interesting: *At the time, the team was getting a lot of criticism, and everyone was writing them off.*

+ as *As a politician, he was quickly written off as dull and boring.* | *After six months of work, we eventually wrote the project off as a non-starter.*

\* SIMILAR TO: dismiss

write-off N [C]

a complete failure or something that is not worth doing, considering etc: *The whole idea was a write-off from the start.*

**3** write off sth write sth off

BrE to crash a vehicle and damage it so badly

that it is not worth repairing it: *Her car was written off in a terrible accident on the A34 in Oxfordshire.*

\* SIMILAR TO: total AmE

be a write-off BrE N [C]

if a vehicle is a write-off, it has been so badly damaged in a crash that it is not worth repairing it: *Doug's motorbike was a complete write-off and he felt lucky to be alive.*

**4** write off sth write sth off

to officially say that a debt no longer has to be paid or officially accept that you cannot get back the money you have spent or lost: *The United States agreed to write off debts worth billions of dollars.* | *The Inland Revenue wrote off £900 million in unpaid taxes last year.* | *The money that has already been spent on the project will have to be written off if the project is cancelled now.*

write-off N [C]

an official statement that a debt no longer has to be paid: *Representatives from the world's poorest countries called for an immediate and total write-off of all foreign debt.*

**5** write off sth write sth off

to make an official record of the amount of money that you have spent on things connected with your business, in order to reduce the amount of tax that you have to pay

write off sth against tax *The costs of setting up the business can be written off against tax.* | *Companies will be able to write off against taxes only the first \$1 million they pay a director or executive.*

\* SIMILAR TO: set off against, set against

**write out**

**1** write out sth write sth out

to write something on paper, especially in a very complete, detailed, or neat way: *The children were asked to choose their favourite poem and write it out in their best handwriting.* | *I have a seven-page proposal here, written out with all the relevant figures.*

**2** write out a cheque/bill/receipt etc

to write the necessary information on a cheque, bill etc: *I couldn't believe it when he wrote out a cheque for £500 and gave it to me!* | *We waited while the girl at the desk wrote out our bill.*

\* SIMILAR TO: make out

**3** write sb out write out sb

USUALLY PASSIVE

to remove a character from a play or a television or radio series, by making him or her leave or die in the story

→ of *It was revealed last week that Jody is being written out of the series.*

● OPPOSITE: **write in**

## write up

- 1 **write up sth**    **write sth up**

to write a report, article etc in its final form, especially using notes that you made earlier: *My task was to carry out an interview with a local celebrity, and write it up for the centre page.* | *I took notes during the meeting, but I haven't had a chance to write them up yet.*

- 2 **be written up**

if something is written up in a newspaper, magazine etc, someone describes what it is like and gives their opinion of it: *We decided to go to a new Spanish restaurant that had been written up in a magazine.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **be reviewed**

**write-up** N [C]

a description and opinion of a book, play, restaurant etc that is written in a news-

paper or magazine article: *The film's had some brilliant write-ups.*

- 3 **write sth up**    **write up sth**

to write something on a wall, board etc where people can see it: *The teacher repeated the word, and wrote it up on the board.* | *The name A.J. Warbley was written up in black letters over the shop door.*

- 4 **write sb up**    **write up sb**

AmE if the police write you up, they make an official report about something that is illegal but not very serious that you have done, and tell you how much money you will have to pay as a punishment: *I've never been written up for any traffic violation in 13 years of driving.*

- 5 **write sb up**    **write up sb**

AmE if someone in authority writes you up, they make an official report about your bad behaviour: *My supervisor wrote me up for being late three days in a row.*

# X

**X**

x'd, x'd, x'ing

**x out**

x out sth

x sth out

AmE to write an X on something to show that it is a mistake or should not be included in a piece of writing: *Someone had x'ed out my name from the list.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **cross out**



# Y

## YEARN

yearn, yearned, yearning

### yearn for

yearn for sth ✕

to have a strong desire for something, especially something that it is difficult for you to get or something for which you waited for a long time: *It was February, and I was already yearning for sunshine and warmth. | The people yearned for peace and a chance to rebuild their shattered lives.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **long for**

## YELL

yelled, yelled, yelling

### yell out

yell out sth yell sth out

to shout something very loudly, especially because you are very excited, angry, or frightened: *I heard someone yell out, "Hey, that's John Travolta." | If you know the answer to the question, don't just yell it out, wait until you're asked.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **shout out**

## YIELD

yielded, yielded, yielding

### yield to

1 yield to sth/sb

to agree to do something that someone is trying to make you do, even though you do not really want to

**yield to pressure (to do sth)** *The Prime*

*Minister criticized the striking workers, and promised that the government would not yield to pressure.*

**yield to demands** *From the official statements coming out of Beijing, there is little sign that the Chinese government will yield to US demands.*

**yield to sb** *"There is no question of our party yielding to the terrorists," said Mr Seamus Mallon, MP for Newry and Armagh.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give in to**

2 yield to sth

to finally do something that you have been trying not to do, because you cannot control your feelings any more: *"Are you married?" she asked, yielding to her curiosity.*

**yield to temptation** *Dexter yielded to temptation, and lit a cigarette.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give in to**

3 yield to sth

if one thing yields to another, the second thing replaces the first: *Open spaces around towns are yielding to huge hyperstores. | Goodrich had been in the navy all his life, watching sail yield to steam and wood to steel.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **give way to, be replaced (by)**

### yield up

1 yield up sth yield sth up

*formal* to show or produce something that was hidden or difficult to find, or that people did not know about: *One day the Titanic will finally yield up its secrets. | New research into the functioning of the human brain has yielded up some surprising discoveries.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **reveal, disclose** *formal*

2 yield up sth yield sth up

*BrE formal* to give something that belongs to you to someone else, because you are forced to give it to them: *Angus was outraged, declaring that he would never yield up the castle to the English.*

## Z

## ZERO

zeroed, zeroed, zeroing

## zero in on

## 1 zero in on sth

to quickly direct all your attention towards something: *He immediately zeroed in on the weakest part of her argument.* | *The press is always quick to zero in on any sign of a sex scandal involving politicians.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **home in on**, **focus on/upon**

## 2 zero in on sth/sb

to move quickly and directly towards something in order to attack it – used about planes and missiles: *missiles capable of zeroing in on a target with a high degree of accuracy*

\* SIMILAR TO: **home in on**, **pinpoint**

## ZIP

zipped, zipped, zipping

## zip up

## 1 zip up sth zip sth up

to fasten a piece of clothing or a bag using a zip (=two lines of small pieces of metal that slide together to fasten a piece of clothing or a bag) *Can you zip up my dress for me?* | *This bag's useless – everytime I try to zip it up, the zip gets stuck.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **do up**

● OPPOSITE: **unzip**

## 2 zip up

if a piece of clothing or a bag zips up, it can be fastened together using a zip (=two lines of small pieces of metal that slide together to fasten a piece of clothing or a bag) *The jacket zips up at the front.* | *I'm getting too fat for these jeans – they won't zip up anymore.*

**zip-up** ADJ [ALWAYS BEFORE NOUN]

a zip-up piece of clothing or bag fastens together using a zip: *a zip-up leather jacket*

## ZONE

zoned, zoned, zoning

## zone out

## zone out

AmE informal to stop thinking about anything

and not pay attention to anything: *Larry's medication makes him zone out.*

+ on *When Tom gets home from work he just zones out in front of the TV.*

**zoned out** ADJ

AmE informal unable to think clearly about anything, especially because of the effects of drugs: *Her daughter's zoned out on pills all the time.*

## ZONK

zonked, zonked, zonking

## zonk out

## zonk out

informal, especially AmE to go to sleep quickly and completely because you are very tired: *I was so exhausted that I just wanted to zonk out on the sofa.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **conk out** informal, **crash out** informal

**zonked out** AmE informal

completely asleep: *The little boy lay zonked out on the back seat.*

## ZOOM

zoomed, zoomed, zooming

## zoom in

## zoom in

if a camera zooms in, it makes the person or thing that you are taking a picture of seem bigger and closer: *The camera zoomed in for a close-up of his face.*

+ on *You can stop the video and zoom in on anything on the screen.*

● OPPOSITE: **zoom out**

## zoom off

## zoom off

informal to leave somewhere quickly and suddenly: *Mark jumped in his car and zoomed off without even saying goodbye.* | *The band are in London for a few days before zooming off on a three month world tour.*

\* SIMILAR TO: **rush off**, **shoot off** informal, especially BrE

## zoom out

## zoom out

if a camera zooms out, it makes the person or thing you are taking a picture of seem smaller and further away: *The camera zoomed out to show the whole of the city.*

● OPPOSITE: **zoom in**

# IRREGULAR VERBS

## verb

abide  
arise  
awake  
be  
bear  
beat  
become  
befall  
beget  
begin  
behold  
bend  
bereave  
beseech  
beset  
bestride  
bet  
betake  
bethink  
bid  
bind  
bite  
bleed  
bless  
blow  
break  
breed  
bring  
broadcast  
browbeat  
build  
burn  
burst  
bust  
buy  
cast  
catch  
chide  
choose  
cleave  
cling  
come  
cost  
creep  
cut  
deal  
dig  
dive  
do  
draw  
dream  
drink  
drive  
dwell  
eat  
fall  
feed  
feel  
fight  
find  
flee  
fling  
fly  
forbear  
forbid  
forecast  
foresee

## past tense

abided, abode  
arose  
awoke, awakened  
was/were  
bore  
beat  
became  
befell  
begot (also begat, biblical)  
began  
beheld  
bent  
bereft, bereaved  
besought, beseeched  
beset  
bestrode  
bet, betted  
betook  
bethought  
bade, bid  
bound  
bit  
bled  
blessed, blest  
blew  
broke  
bred  
brought  
broadcast  
browbeat  
built  
burned, burnt  
burst  
(BrE) bust, (esp. AmE) busted  
bought  
cast  
caught  
chided, chid  
chose  
cleaved, cleft, clove  
clung  
came  
cost  
crept  
cut  
dealt  
dug  
dived, (AmE) dove  
did  
drew  
dreamed, dreamt  
drank  
drove  
dwelt, dwelled  
ate  
fell  
fed  
felt  
fought  
found  
fled  
flung  
flew  
forbore  
forbade, forbad  
forecast  
foresaw

## past participle

abided  
arisen  
awoken  
been  
borne  
beaten  
become  
befallen  
begotten  
begun  
beheld  
bent  
bereft, bereaved  
besought, beseeched  
beset  
bestriden  
bet, betted  
betaken  
bethought  
bid, bidden  
bound  
bitten  
bled  
blessed, blest  
blown  
broken  
bred  
brought  
broadcast  
browbeaten  
built  
burned, burnt  
burst  
(BrE) bust, (esp. AmE) busted  
bought  
cast  
caught  
chid, chidden  
chosen  
cleaved, cleft, cloven  
clung  
come  
cost  
crept  
cut  
dealt  
dug  
dived  
done  
drawn  
dreamed, dreamt  
drunk  
driven  
dwelt, dwelled  
eaten  
fallen  
fed  
felt  
fought  
found  
fled  
flung  
flown  
forborne  
forbidden  
forecast  
foreseen

verb	past tense	past participle
foretell	foretold	foretold
forget	forgot	forgotten
forgive	forgave	forgiven
forgo	forwent	forgone
forsake	forsook	forsaken
for swear	forsovere	for sworn
freeze	froze	frozen
gainsay	gainsaid	gainsaid
get	got	got ( <i>also gotten AmE</i> )
gird	girded, girt	girded, girt
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown
hamstring	hamstrung	hamstrung
hang	hung, hanged	hung, hanged
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
heave	heaved, hove	heaved, hove
hew	hewed	hewn, hewed
hide	hid	hidden, hid
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
input	inputted, input	inputted, input
inset	inset, insetted	inset, insetted
interbreed	interbred	interbred
interweave	interwove	interwoven
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt, ( <i>esp. AmE</i> ) kneeled	knelt, ( <i>esp. AmE</i> ) kneeled
knit	knitted, knit	knitted, knit
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
lean	leaned ( <i>also leant esp. BrE</i> )	leaned ( <i>also leant esp. BrE</i> )
leap	leapt, ( <i>esp. AmE</i> ) leaped	leapt, ( <i>esp. AmE</i> ) leaped
learn	learned, learnt	learned, learnt
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
light	lit, lighted	lit, lighted
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
miscast	miscast	miscast
mishear	misheard	misheard
mislay	mislaid	mislaid
mislead	misled	misled
misread	misread	misread
misspell	misspelt, misspelled	misspelt, misspelled
misspend	misspent	misspent
mistake	mistook	mistaken
misunderstand	misunderstood	misunderstood
mow	mowed	mown, mowed
outbid	outbid	outbid
outdo	outdid	outdone
outgrow	outgrew	outgrown
outride	outrode	outridden
outrun	outran	outrun
outsell	outsold	outsold
outshine	outshone	outshone
overbear	overbore	overborne
overcast	overcast	overcast
overcome	overcame	overcome
overdo	overdid	overdone
overdraw	overdrew	overdrawn
overeat	overate	overeaten
overhang	overhung	overhung
overhear	overheard	overheard

## verb

overlay  
 overload  
 overpay  
 override  
 overrun  
 oversee  
 oversell  
 overshoot  
 oversleep  
 overtake  
 overthrow  
 partake  
 pay  
 plead  
 pre-set  
 proofread  
 prove  
 put  
 read  
 rebind  
 rebuild  
 recast  
 redo  
 relay  
 remake  
 rend  
 repay  
 rerun  
 resell  
 reset  
 resit  
 retell  
 rethink  
 rewind  
 rewrite  
 rid  
 ride  
 ring  
 rise  
 run  
 saw  
 say  
 see  
 seek  
 sell  
 send  
 set  
 sew  
 shake  
 shave  
 shear  
 shed  
 shine  
 shit  
 shoe  
 shoot  
 show  
 shrink  
 shut  
 sing  
 sink  
 sit  
 slay  
 sleep  
 slide  
 sling  
 slink  
 slit  
 smell  
 smite

## past tense

overlaid  
 overloaded  
 overpaid  
 overrode  
 overran  
 oversaw  
 oversold  
 overshot  
 overslept  
 overtook  
 overthrew  
 partook  
 paid  
 pleaded, (*esp. AmE*) pled  
 pre-set  
 proofread  
 proved  
 put  
 read  
 rebound  
 rebuilt  
 recast  
 redid  
 relaid  
 remade  
 rent  
 repaid  
 reran  
 resold  
 reset  
 resat  
 retold  
 rethought  
 rewound  
 rewrote  
 rid, rided  
 rode  
 rang  
 rose  
 ran  
 sawed  
 said  
 saw  
 sought  
 sold  
 sent  
 set  
 sewed  
 shook  
 shaved  
 sheared  
 shed  
 shone, shined  
 shitted, shat  
 shod  
 shot  
 showed  
 shrank, shrunk  
 shut  
 sang  
 sank, sunk  
 sat  
 slew  
 slept  
 slid  
 slung  
 slunk  
 slit  
 (*esp. BrE*) smelt,  
 (*esp. AmE*) smelled  
 smote

## past participle

overlaid  
 overloaded  
 overpaid  
 overridden  
 overrun  
 overseen  
 oversold  
 overshot  
 overslept  
 overtaken  
 overthrown  
 partaken  
 paid  
 pleaded, (*esp. AmE*) pled  
 pre-set  
 proofread  
 proved (*also proven AmE*)  
 put  
 read  
 rebound  
 rebuilt  
 recast  
 redone  
 relaid  
 remade  
 rent  
 repaid  
 rerun  
 resold  
 reset  
 resat  
 retold  
 rethought  
 rewound  
 rewritten  
 rid, rided  
 ridden  
 rung  
 risen  
 run  
 sawn, sawed  
 said  
 seen  
 sought  
 sold  
 sent  
 set  
 sewn, sewed  
 shaken  
 shaved  
 shorn, sheared  
 shed  
 shone, shined  
 shitted, shat  
 shod  
 shot  
 shown, showed  
 shrunk  
 shut  
 sung  
 sunk  
 sat  
 slain  
 slept  
 slid  
 slung  
 slunk  
 slit  
 (*esp. BrE*) smelt,  
 (*esp. AmE*) smelled  
 smitten

**verb**

sneak  
sow  
speak  
speed  
spell  
  
spill  
  
spin  
spit  
split  
spoil  
spoon-feed  
spotlight  
spread  
spring  
stand  
steal  
stick  
sting  
stink  
strew  
stride  
strike  
string  
strive  
swear  
sweep  
swell  
swim  
swing  
take  
teach  
tear  
tell  
think  
thrive  
throw  
thrust  
tread  
unbend  
unbind  
undergo  
underlie  
undersell  
understand  
undertake  
underwrite  
undo  
unwind  
uphold  
upset  
wake  
waylay  
wear  
weave  
wed  
weep  
wet  
win  
wind  
withdraw  
withhold  
withstand  
wreak  
wring  
write

**past tense**

sneaked (*also snuck AmE*)  
sowed  
spoke  
sped, speeded  
(*esp. BrE*) spelt,  
(*esp. AmE*) spelled  
(*esp. BrE*) spilt,  
(*esp. AmE*) spilled  
spun, span  
spat (*also spit AmE*)  
split  
spoiled, spoilt  
spoon-fed  
spotlighted, spotlit  
spread  
sprang (*also sprung AmE*)  
stood  
stole  
stuck  
stung  
stank, stunk  
strewed  
strode  
struck  
strung  
strove, strived  
swore  
swept  
swelled  
swam  
swung  
took  
taught  
tore  
told  
thought  
thrived, throve  
threw  
thrust  
trod  
unbent  
unbound  
underwent  
underlay  
undersold  
understood  
undertook  
underwrote  
undid  
unwound  
upheld  
upset  
woke, waked  
waylaid  
wore  
wove  
wedded, wed  
wept  
wetted, wet  
won  
wound  
withdrew  
withheld  
withstood  
wreaked, wrought  
wring  
wrote

**past participle**

sneaked (*also snuck AmE*)  
sown, sowed  
spoken  
sped, speeded  
(*esp. BrE*) spelt,  
(*esp. AmE*) spelled  
(*esp. BrE*) spilt,  
(*esp. AmE*) spilled  
spun  
spat (*also spit AmE*)  
split  
spoiled, spoilt  
spoon-fed  
spotlighted, spotlit  
spread  
sprung  
stood  
stolen  
stuck  
stung  
stunk  
strewn, strewed  
stridden  
struck  
strung  
striven, strived  
sworn  
swept  
swollen, swelled  
swum  
swung  
taken  
taught  
torn  
told  
thought  
thrived  
thrown  
thrust  
trodden, trod  
unbent  
unbound  
undergone  
underlaid  
undersold  
understood  
undertaken  
underwritten  
undone  
unwound  
upheld  
upset  
woken, waked  
waylaid  
worn  
woven  
wedded, wed  
wept  
wetted, wet  
won  
wound  
withdrawn  
withheld  
withstood  
wreaked, wrought  
wring  
written