

armada /a:'ma:də/ *noun* a large group of armed ships sailing together: *The Spanish Armada was sent to attack England in 1588.* (figurative) a vast armada of football fans.

armadillo / ,a:mə'diləʊ / *noun* (pl. -os) an American animal with a hard shell made of pieces of bone, that eats insects and rolls into a ball if something attacks it.

armageddon / a:mə'gedn / *noun* [sing., U] 1. (in the Bible) a battle between good and evil at the end of the world 2. a terrible war that could destroy the world.

armagnac / 'a:mənʃæk / *noun* [U] a type of French brandy.

armaliteTM / 'a:məlait / *noun* a type of light automatic rifle.

armament /'a:mvmənt / *noun* 1. military weapons and equipment. *National armaments could be kept to a minimum.* 2. the process of equipping military forces for war. Instruments of disarmament rather than of armament. 3. a military force equipped for war. *Syn.* arms, weapons (of war), weaponry, firearms, guns, ordnance, cannon, artillery, munitions, instruments of war, war machines, military supplies, materiel. *Ant.* disarmament.

armband / 'avmbænd / *noun* 1. a cloth band worn around the arm as a sign of sth, for example that sb has an official position: *The stewards all wore armbands. Many people at the funeral service were wearing black armbands.* 2. either of two plastic rings that can be filled with air and worn around the arms by someone who is learning to swim.

arm candy *noun* [U] (informal) a beautiful woman that a man takes with him when he goes to a public event in order to impress other people.

armchair *noun* / 'a:mtʃeə(r)/ a comfortable chair with sides on which you can rest your arms: to sit in an armchair *adj.* / 'avmɪtʃeə(r)/ [only before *noun*] knowing about a subject through books and television, rather than by doing it for yourself: *an armchair critic / traveller.*

armed / a:md / *adj.* 1. involving the use of weapons: an armed robbery, an international armed conflict (a war) *Opp* unarmed 2. armed (with a gun, etc.) carrying a weapon, especially a gun: *The man is armed and dangerous.* armed guards: Police were

heavily armed. *He was armed with a rifle.* *Ant.* unarmed.

armful /'a:mfʊl/ *noun* a quantity that you can carry in one or both arms.

armhole /'a:mhəʊl / *noun* the place in a coat, shirt, dress, etc. that your arm goes through.

armistice /'a:mɪstɪs / *noun* [sing.] a formal agreement during a war to stop fighting and discuss making peace *Syn.* ceasefire.

armlet / 'a:mlət / *noun* a band, usually made of metal, worn around the top of the arm .

armlock / a:mlɒk / *noun* (in wrestling) a way of holding an opponent's arm so that they cannot move: *He had him in an armlock.*

armoire / a:m'wa:(r) / *noun* (from French) a cupboard with drawers or shelves underneath, especially one that has a lot of decoration *armoire* late 16th cent.: from French, from Old French armarie, from Latin armarium closet, chest, from arma utensils..

armorial / a:'mɔ:riəl / *adj.* connected with heraldry, relating to heraldry or heraldic devices. armorial bearings.

armour (BrE) (NAmE armor) / 'a:mə(r) / *noun* [U] 1. special metal clothing that soldiers wore in the past to protect their bodies while fighting: a suit of armour, (figurative) Monkeys do not have any kind of protective armour and use their brains to solve problems. 2. metal covers that protect ships and military vehicles such as tanks 3. (technical) military vehicles used in war: an attack by infantry and armour.

armoured (BrE) (NAmE armored) / 'a:məd / *adjective* 1. (especially of a military vehicle) protected by metal covers: *The cruiser was heavily armoured.* an armoured car 2. using armoured vehicles: an armoured division armoured person'nel carrier (NAmE armored person'nel carrier) *noun* a military vehicle used to transport soldiers .

armourer (BrE) (NAmE armorer) / 'a:mərə(r) / *noun* a person who makes or repairs weapons and armour **armour-plated** (BrE) (NAmE armor-) *adj.* (of vehicles) covered with sheets of metal to provide protection against bullets, etc.

armoury (BrE) (NAmE armory) / 'a:məri / *noun* (pl. -ies) 1. a place where weapons and armour are kept *Syn* arsenal 2. (in the US or Canada) a building which is the headquarters for training people who are not professional

cautious, heedful, alert, aware, attentive, watchful, vigilant, wary, on guard, chary, circumspect, prudent, mindful, guarded. *He was careful to keep out of sight.* **Ant.** careless. **carefully** / 'keəfəli; / **adverb:** Please listen carefully. She put the glass down carefully. Drive carefully. **Ant.** carelessly.

caregiver / 'keəgɪvə(r)/ **noun** carer in the community **noun** [U] community care. a label attached to the inside of a piece of clothing, giving instructions about how it should be washed and ironed.

careless / 'keələs / **adj.** 1. not giving sufficient attention or thought to avoiding harm or errors. *She had been careless and had left the window unlocked.* **Syn.** inattentive, incautious, negligent, remiss. **Ant.** careful.

careline / 'keəlайн / **noun** a telephone service that you can call to get advice or information on a company's products: *Call our customer careline for advice.*

carer / 'keərə(r); / **noun** a person who takes care of a sick or old person at home.

caress / kə'res / **verb** to touch someone gently, especially in a sexual way or in a way that shows affection: *His fingers caressed the back of her neck.*

caret / 'kærət; / **noun** a mark (*) placed below a line of printed or written text to show that words or letters should be added at that place in the text.

care taker / 'keəteɪkə(r)/ **noun** 1. a person whose job is to take care of a building such as a school or a block of flats or an apartment building 2. a person who takes care of a house or land while the owner is away.

careworn / 'keəwɔ:n / **adj.** looking tired because you have a lot of worries.

cargo / 'ka:gəʊ/ **noun** the goods carried in a ship or plane: *The tanker began to spill its cargo of oil;* a cargo ship 'cargo pants.

carib / 'kærɪb / **noun** [U] the language of a people living mainly near the coast in the north-east of S America.

caribbean / ,kærɪ'bɪən / **noun** the Caribbean the region consisting of the Caribbean Sea and its islands, including the West Indies, and the coasts which surround it.

caricature / 'kærɪkətʃuə(r); / **noun** 1. [C] a funny drawing or picture of someone that exaggerates some of their features 2. a description of a person or thing that makes

them seem ridiculous by exaggerating some of their characteristics: *He had unfairly presented a caricature of my views.*

caries / 'keəri:z; / **noun** [U] (medical) decay in teeth or bones: dental caries.

carillon / ka'rɪljən / **noun** 1. a set of bells on which tunes can be played, sometimes using a keyboard 2. a tune played on bells.

caring / 'keərɪŋ / **adj.** [usually before noun] kind, helpful and showing that you care about other people: *He's a very caring person.* Children need a caring environment.

carious / 'keəriəs / **adj.** (medical) (of bones or teeth) decayed.

carjacking / 'ka:dʒækɪŋ / **noun** [U, C] the crime of forcing the driver of a car to take you somewhere or give you their car, using threats and violence.

carload / 'kə:laʊd; / **noun** the number of people or things that a car is carrying or is able to carry.

carmine / 'kə:maɪn / **adj.** (formal) dark red in colour carmine.

carnage / 'kə:nɪdʒ; / **noun** [U] the violent killing of a large number of people **Syn.** slaughter: a scene of carnage.

carnal / 'kə:nl; / **adj.** [usually before noun] (formal or law) connected with the body or with sex: carnal desires / appetites.

carnally / 'kə:nəli / **adv.** carnal 'knowledge **noun** [U] (old-fashioned or law) sexual intercourse.

carnation / ka:'neɪʃn; / **noun** a white, pink or red flower, often worn as a decoration on formal occasions: *He was wearing a carnation in his buttonhole.*

carnelian / ka:'ni:liən; / **noun** [C, U] a red, brown or white stone, used in jewellery.

carnival / 'ka:nɪvl; / **noun** 1. [C, U] a public festival, usually one that happens at a regular time each year, that involves music and dancing in the streets, for which people wear brightly coloured clothes: *There is a local carnival every year.*

carnivore / 'ka:nɪvɔ:(r); / **noun** any animal that eats meat. compare herbivore, insectivore, omnivore **carnivorous** / ka'nɪvərəs / **adj.** a carnivorous diet.

carnosaur / 'ka:nəsɔ:(r); / **noun** a large dinosaur with very short front legs

the cult of physical fitness. 2. a small group of people who have extreme religious beliefs and who are not part of any established religion: *Their son ran away from home and joined a cult.*

cultivable /'kʌltɪvəbl/; /adj. (of land) that can be used to grow crops.

cultivar /'kʌltɪvə:(r); / noun (technical) a type of plant that has been deliberately developed to have particular features.

cultivate /'kʌltɪveɪt; / verb [vn] 1. to prepare and use land for growing plants or crops *Syn.* grow: *The land around here has never been cultivated.* 2. to grow plants or crops: *The people cultivate mainly rice and beans.* 3. to encourage growth of friendship.

cultivation /,kʌltɪ'veɪʃn; / noun [U] the preparation and use of land for growing plants or crops: fertile land that is under cultivation.

cultivator /'kʌltɪveɪtə(r); / noun 1. a person who cultivates the land 2. a machine for breaking up soil and destroying weeds (plants growing where they are not wanted).

cultural /'kʌltʃərəl; / adj. connected with the culture of a particular society or group, its customs, beliefs, etc.: cultural differences between the two communities.

culture /'kʌltʃə(r); / noun the customs and beliefs, art, way of life and social organization of a particular country or group: European/ Islamic/ African/ American, etc. culture.

cultured /'kʌltʃəd; / adj. (of people) well educated and able to understand and enjoy art, literature, etc. *Syn.* cultivated.

culvert /'kalvət; / noun a tunnel that carries a river or a pipe for water under a road.

cum /kʌm; / pre. preposition (used for linking two nouns) and; as well as: a bedroom-cum-study.

cumbersome /'kʌmbəsəm/; /adj. large and heavy; difficult to carry *Syn.* bulky: cumbersome machinery.

cumin /'kʌmin; / noun [U] the dried seeds of the cumin plant, used in cooking as a spice: cumin seeds.

cummerbund /'kʌməbʌnd; / noun a wide band of silk, etc. worn around the waist, especially under a dinner jacket.

cumulative /'kju:mjələtɪv/; /adj. 1. having a result that increases in strength or importance each time more of something is added: *the*

cumulative effect of human activity on the world environment 2. including all the amounts that have been added previously: the monthly sales figures and the cumulative total for the past six months.

cumulonimbus /,kju:mələʊnɪm'bəs/; / noun a high mass of thick cloud with a flat base, often seen during thunderstorms.

cumulus /'kju:mjələs/; / noun a type of thick white cloud.

cunnilingus /,kʌnɪ'lɪŋgəs/; / noun the act of touching a woman's sex organs with the mouth and tongue in order to give sexual pleasure.

cunning /'kʌnɪŋ; / adj. (disapproving) able to get what you want in a clever way, especially by tricking or cheating someone *Syn.* crafty, wily: a cunning liar. *He was as cunning as a fox.* *Syn.* ingenious: *It was a cunning piece of detective work.*

cunningly adverb: The microphone was cunningly concealed in the bookcase. noun the ability to achieve something by tricking or cheating other people in a clever way *Syn.* craftiness: *It took energy and cunning just to survive.*

cunt /kʌnt; / noun (taboo, slang) 1. a woman's vagina and outer sexual organs. 2. a very offensive word used to insult someone and to show anger or dislike: You stupid cunt!

cup /kʌp; / noun 1. a small container shaped like a bowl, usually with a handle, used for drinking tea, coffee, etc.: a teacup. He cupped her face in his hands and kissed her.

cupful /'kʌpfʊl; / noun the amount that a cup will hold: 3 cupfuls of water.

cupidity /kju:'pɪdəti/; / noun a strong desire for more wealth, possessions, power, etc. than a person needs *Syn.* greed.

cupola /'kju:polə; / noun a round part on top of a building (like a small dome).

cuppa /'kʌpə; / noun a cup of tea: Do you fancy a cuppa?

curable /'kjuərəbl/; /adj. (of an illness) that can be cured: *Most skin cancers are curable* if treated early. OPP incurable.

curacy /'kjuərəsi/; / noun (pl. -ies) the position of a curate; the time that someone is a curate.

curate /'kjuərət; / noun an assistant to a vicar (a priest, who is in charge of the church or churches in a particular area).

discreet / dɪ'skri:t / *adjective* careful in what you say or do, in order to keep something secret or to avoid causing embarrassment or difficulty for someone. *Syn.* tactful: *He was always very discreet about his love affairs.*

discrepancy / dɪs'keprənseɪ/ *noun* discrepancy (between A and B) a difference between two or more things that should be the same: *wide discrepancies in prices quoted for the work.*

discrete / dɪ'skri:t / *adjective* (formal or technical) independent of other things of the same type *Syn.* separate: *The organisms can be divided into discrete categories.*

discretion / dɪ'skresjən / *noun* the freedom or power to decide what should be done in a particular situation: *I'll leave it up to you to use your discretion. Bail is granted at the discretion of the court.*

discriminate / drɪ'skrɪmɪneɪt / *verb* discriminate (between A and B) | discriminate A from B to recognize that there is a difference between people or things; to show a difference between people or things. *Syn.* differentiate, distinguish: *The computer program was unable to discriminate between letters and numbers. discriminating* *Syn.* discerning: a discriminating audience / customer.

discrimination / noun the practice of treating someone or a particular group in society less fairly than others: age / racial / sex / sexual discrimination. **discriminatory** noun unfair; treating someone or one group of people worse than others: discriminatory practices, rules.

discursive / dis'kɜ:sɪv / *noun* (of a style of writing or speaking) moving from one point to another without any strict structure: the discursive style of the novel.

discus / 'diskns / *noun* 1. a heavy flat round object thrown in a sporting event. 2. the event or sport of throwing a discus as far as possible.

discuss / drɪ'skʌs / *verb* discuss something (with someone) to talk about something with someone, especially in order to decide something: *Have you discussed the problem with anyone?*

discussion / drɪ'skʌʃn / *noun* the process of discussing someone/something; a conversation about someone/something: a topic / subject for discussion. *Her article is a discussion of the methods used in research.*

disdain / dɪs'deɪn / *noun* disdain (for someone/something) the feeling that someone/something is not good enough to deserve your respect or attention. *Syn.* contempt: to treat someone with disdain. *She disdained his offer of help. He disdained to turn to his son for advice.*

disdainful / dɪsə:'deɪfl / *noun* disdainful showing disdain. *Syn.* contemptuous, dismissive: *She's always been disdainful of people who haven't been to college.*

disease / dɪ'zɪ:z / *noun* an illness affecting humans, animals or plants, often caused by infection: heart / liver / kidney, etc. disease health measures to prevent the spread of disease. *Greed is a disease of modern society.*

disembark / ,dɪsɪm'ba:k / *verb* [v] disembark (from something) (formal) to leave a vehicle, especially a ship or an aircraft, at the end of a journey. *Ant.* embark.

disembodied / ,dɪsɪm'bodɪd / *noun* (of sounds) coming from a person or place that cannot be seen or identified: a disembodied voice 2. separated from the body: disembodied spirits.

disembowel / ,dɪsɪm'bəʊəl / *verb* to take the stomach, bowels and other organs out of a person or animal.

disenchanted / ,dɪsɪnə:'tʃə:nɪd / *noun* disenchanted (with someone/something) no longer feeling enthusiasm for someone/something; not believing something is good or worth doing. *Syn.* disillusioned: *He was becoming disenchanted with his job as a lawyer.*

disenfranchise / dɪsɪn'frəntʃaɪz / *verb* to take away someone's rights, especially their right to vote. *Ant.* enfranchise.

disengage / ,dɪsɪn'geɪdʒ / *verb* to free someone/something from the person or thing that is holding them or it; to become free: *She gently disengaged herself from her sleeping son.*

disentangle / ,dɪsɪn'tæŋgl / *verb* disentangle something to separate different arguments, ideas, etc. that have become confused: *It's not easy to disentangle the truth from the official statistics.*

disequilibrium / ,dɪsɪk'wɪlɪbrɪnjm / *noun* (formal or technical) a loss or lack of balance in a situation.

disestablish / ,dɪs'stæblɪʃ / *verb* to end the official status of a national Church: a

of the buildings in the town are modern, but the church is an exception. **exceptional** *adj.*

1. unusually good. *Syn.* outstanding: At the age of five he showed exceptional talent as a musician. 2. very unusual: *This deadline will be extended only in exceptional circumstances.* *Ant.* unexceptional. **exceptionally** *adv.* 1. to emphasize how strong or unusual the quality is: *The weather, even for January, was exceptionally cold.*

excerpt / eksɔ:pɪt/ *noun* excerpt (from something) a short piece of writing, music, film, etc. taken from a longer whole.

excess / ɪk'ses/ more than is necessary, reasonable or acceptable: *Are you suffering from an excess of stress in your life?* **excessive** *adj.* greater than what seems reasonable or appropriate: *They complained about the excessive noise coming from the upstairs flat.*

exchange / ɪks'tʃeɪndʒ/ *noun* an act of giving something to someone or doing something for someone and receiving something in return: *The exchange of prisoners took place this morning.* *Syn.* change: *You can exchange your currency for dollars in the hotel.* **exchangeable** *adj.* that can be exchanged: These tokens are exchangeable for DVDs only.

exchequer / ɪks'tʃeɪkə(r)/ *noun* the government department that controls public money. *Syn.* treasury.

excise / ɪksaɪz / *noun* a government tax on some goods made, sold or used within a country: new excise duties on low-alcohol drinks.

excise / ɪk'saɪz / *verb* to remove something completely: *Certain passages were excised from the book.* **excision** *noun* the act of removing something completely from something; the thing removed.

excitable / ɪk'saɪtabl/ *adj.* likely to become easily excited: a class of excitable ten-year-olds. **excite** / *verb* to make someone feel very pleased, interested or enthusiastic, especially about something that is going to happen: *The prospect of a year in India greatly excited her.*

Syn. arouse: The European Parliament is not an institution which excites interest in voters. **excited** *adj.* feeling or showing happiness and enthusiasm: *The children were excited about opening their presents.* **excitement** *noun* the state of feeling excited: *He was flushed with excitement at the thought.* **exciting** *adj.* causing great interest or excitement: one of

the most exciting developments in biology in recent years.

exclaim / ɪk'skleɪm/ *verb* to say something suddenly and loudly, especially because of strong emotion or pain: 'It isn't fair!', he exclaimed angrily. **exclamation** *noun* a short sound, word or phrase spoken suddenly to express an emotion. Oh!, Look out! and Ow! are exclamations: *He gave an exclamation of surprise.* **exclamatory** expressing surprise or strong feelings.

exclude / ɪk'sklu:d / *verb* [vn] not include something in what you are doing or considering: *The cost of borrowing has been excluded from the inflation figures.* *Ant.* include. **exclusion** *noun* the act of preventing someone/something from entering a place or taking part in something: *He was disappointed with his exclusion from the Indian Cricket team.* **exclusive** *adj.* only to be used by one particular person or group; only given to one particular person or group: *The hotel has exclusive access to the beach.*

excommunicate / ,eks'koumi:t/ *verb* excommunicate someone (for something) to punish someone by officially stating that they can no longer be a member of a Christian Church, especially the Roman Catholic Church.

excoriate / ,eks'kɔ:ri'eɪt / *verb* [vn] 1. (medical) to irritate a person's skin so that it starts to come off 2. (formal) to criticize someone/something severely.

excrement / ekskrɪ:ment / *noun* solid waste matter that is passed from the body through the bowels. *Syn.* faeces: the pollution of drinking water by untreated human excrement.

excrescence / ɪk'skresns / *noun* (formal) an ugly lump that has grown on a part of an animal's body or on a plant: (figurative) The new office block is an excrescence.

excreta / ɪk'skri:n/ *noun* solid and liquid waste matter passed from the body: human excreta.

excrete / Ikskri:t/ *verb* to pass solid or liquid waste matter from the body **excretion** / *noun* **excretory** *adj.* (biology) connected with getting rid of waste matter from the body: the excretory organs.

excruciating / ɪkskru:sf'eɪtɪŋ/ *adj.* extremely painful or bad: The pain in my back was excruciating. *She groaned at the memory,*

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hazy /heɪzi/ *adj.* 1. not clear because of haze: a hazy afternoon, sky. 2. not clear because of a lack of memory, understanding or detail. *Syn.* vague: a hazy memory.

he / hi/ *pron.* (used as the subject of a *verb*) 1. a male person or animal that has already been mentioned or is easily identified: Everyone liked my father—he was the perfect gentleman.

head / hed/ *noun* the part of the body on top of the neck containing the eyes, nose, mouth and brain: *She nodded her head in agreement.* *Syn.* headmaster, headmistress, head teacher: I've been called in to see the Head. **headache** *noun* 1. a continuous pain in the head: to suffer from headaches. **headband** *noun* a strip of cloth worn around the head, especially to keep hair or sweat out of your eyes when playing sports.

headbanger /hedbæng(r)/ *noun* 1. a person who likes to shake their head violently up and down while listening to rock music. 2. a stupid or crazy person. **headboard** *noun* the vertical board at the end of a bed where you put your head. **head boy** *noun* (in some British schools) the boy who is chosen each year to represent his school.

headbutt / hedbat/ *verb* to deliberately hit someone hard with your head.

headcase /hedkeɪs/ *noun* a person who behaves in a strange way and who seems to be mentally ill.

headcheese /hedtʃi:z/ *noun* brawn.

headcount /hedkaʊnt/ *noun* an act of counting the number of people who are at an event, employed by an organization, etc.; the number of people that have been counted in this way: to do a headcount. **headress** *noun* a covering worn on the head on special occasions. **headed** *adj.* 1. (of writing paper) having the name and address of a person, an organization, etc. printed at the top: headed notepaper. 2. headed (in *adjs*) having the type of head or number of heads mentioned: a bald-headed man.

header /hea(r)/ *noun* 1. (in football (soccer)) an act of hitting the ball with your head. 2. a line or block of text that is automatically added to the top of every page that is printed from a computer. **headgear** *noun* anything worn on the head, for example a hat: protective headgear.

headhunt /hedhʌnt / *verb* to find someone who is suitable for a senior job and persuade them to leave their present job: I was headhunted by a marketing agency.

headhunter /hedhʌntə/ *noun* 1. a person whose job is to find people with the necessary skills to work for a particular company and to persuade them to join this company. 2. a member of a people that collects the heads of the people they kill.

heading /hedɪŋ/ *noun* 1. a title printed at the top of a page or at the beginning of a section of a book: chapter headings. 2. the subject of each section of a speech or piece of writing: The company's aims can be grouped under three main headings.

headline/hedlайн / *noun* the title of a newspaper article printed in large letters, especially at the top of the front page: *They ran the story under the headline.*

headlock /hedlɒk/ *noun* (in wrestling) a method of restraining someone by holding an arm firmly around their head, especially as a hold in wrestling. *He had him in a headlock and was dragging him along the street.* **headlong** *adv.* with the head first and the rest of the body following. *Syn.* head first: *She fell headlong into the icy pool.*

headman / hedmæn / *noun* the leader of a community. *Syn.* chief: the village headman.

headmaster *noun* a teacher who is in charge of a school, especially a private school. **head office** *noun* the main office of a company; the managers who work there: *Their head office is in New Delhi.* **headphones** *noun* a piece of equipment worn over or in the ears that makes it possible to listen to music, the radio, etc. without other people hearing it: a pair, set of headphones. **headquartered** *adj.* [not before *noun*] having headquarters in a particular place: *News Corporation is headquartered in Sydney.*

headquarters / hed'kwo:taz/ *noun* a place from which an organization or a military operation is controlled; the people who work there: *Several companies have their headquarters in the area.*

headrest / hedrest/ *noun* the part of a seat or chair that supports a person's head, especially on the front seat of a car.

headroom /hedru:m/ *noun* 1. the amount of space between the top of a vehicle and an object it drives under. 2. the amount of space

imperative /ɪm'pə:tɪv/ *adj.* very important and needing immediate attention or action. *Syn.* vital: *It is absolutely imperative that we finish by next week.*

imperceptible /ɪm'pə:septɪbl/ *adj.* very small and therefore unable to be seen or felt; *ant.* perceptible: imperceptible changes in temperature.

imperfect /ɪm'pə:fikt/ *adj.* containing faults or mistakes; not complete or perfect. *Syn.* flawed: an imperfect world. **imperfection** *noun* a fault or weakness in someone/something: They learned to live with each other's imperfections.

imperial /ɪm'pɪriəl/ *adj.* [only before noun] 1. connected with an empire: the imperial family, palace, army, imperial power. 2. connected with the system for measuring length, weight and volume using pounds, inches, etc. **imperialism** *noun* 1. a system in which one country controls other countries, often after defeating them in a war: Roman imperialism. 2. the fact of a powerful country increasing its influence over other countries through business, culture, etc. **imperialist** *noun* (usually disapproving) a person, such as a politician, who supports imperialism.

imperil /ɪm'perɪl/ *verb* (formal) to put something/someone in danger. *Syn.* endanger.

imperious /ɪm'pɪriəs/ *adj.* expecting people to obey you and treating them as if they are not as important as you: an imperious gesture/voice/ command. 'Get it now,' she demanded imperiously.

imperishable /ɪm'pərɪʃəbl/ *adj.* (formal or literary) that will last for a long time or forever. *Syn.* enduring.

impermanent /ɪm'pə:riənt/ *adj.* (formal) that will not last or stay the same forever. *Ant.* permanent.

impermeable /ɪm'pə:miəbl/ *adj.* impermeable (to something) (technical) not allowing a liquid or gas to pass through. *Ant.* permeable.

impersonal /ɪm'pə:snl/ *adj.* 1. lacking friendly human feelings or atmosphere; making you feel unimportant: a vast impersonal organization.

impersonate /ɪm'pə:sneɪt/ *verb* to pretend to be someone in order to trick people or to entertain them: *He was caught trying to impersonate a security guard.* *Syn.* impression: *He did an extremely convincing impersonation*

of the singer. **impersonator** *noun* a person who copies the way another person talks or behaves in order to entertain people: The show included a female impersonator.

impertinent /ɪm'pə:tɪnt/ *adj.* rude and not showing respect for someone who is older or more important. *Syn.* impolite: an impertinent question: Would it be impertinent to ask why you're leaving? **imperturbable** *adj.* not easily upset or worried by a difficult situation; calm.

impervious /ɪm'pə:vɪəs/ *adj.* impervious to something not affected or influenced by something: impervious to criticism.

impetigo /ɪm'pɪ:tɪgəʊ/ *noun* an infectious disease that causes sore areas on the skin.

impetuous /ɪm'pɛ:tʃuəs/ *adj.* acting or done quickly and without thinking carefully about the results. *Syn.* rash, impulsive: an impetuous young woman.

impetus /ɪm'pɪtəs/ *noun* something that encourages a process or activity to develop more quickly. *Syn.* stimulus: to give (a) new, fresh impetus to something.

impinge /ɪm'pɪndʒ/ *verb* to have a noticeable effect on something/someone, especially a bad one. *Syn.* encroach: *He never allowed his work to impinge on his private life.*

impious /ɪmpɪəs/ *adj.* (formal) showing a lack of respect for God and religion. *Ant.* pious. *noun*

impish /ɪmpɪʃ/ *adj.* showing a lack of respect for someone/something in a way that is amusing rather than serious. *Syn.* mischievous: an impish grin, look.

implacable /ɪm'plækəbl/ *adj.* 1. (of strong negative opinions or feelings) that cannot be changed: implacable hatred. 2. (of a person) unwilling to stop.

implant *verb* /ɪm'plænt/ *implant* (something) (in/into something) 1. [vn] to fix an idea, attitude, etc. firmly in someone's mind: *Prejudices can easily become implanted in the mind.* 2. to put something (usually something artificial) into a part of the body for medical purposes, usually by means of an operation: *an electrode implanted into the brain.*

implantation *noun* something that is put into a person's body in a medical operation: *silicone breast implants.*

implausible /ɪm'plə:zibl/ *adj.* not seeming reasonable or likely to be true: *an implausible*

the state of being secret: *The whole affair is still shrouded in secrecy.*

secret / 'sɪ:kret / *adj.* 1. known about by only a few people; kept hidden from others: *He tried to keep it secret from his family.* 2. used to describe actions and behaviour that you do not tell other people about: *He's a secret drinker.* **secret agent** *noun* a person who is used by a government to find out secret information about other countries or governments. *Syn.* spy.

secretarial / ,sɛkrə'teəriəl / *adj.* involving or connected with the work of a secretary. **secretariat** *noun* the department of a large international or political organization which is responsible for running it, especially the office of a Secretary General.

secretary / 'sɛkrətri / *noun* (abbr. Sec.) a person who works in an office, working for another person, dealing with letters and telephone calls, typing, keeping records, arranging meetings with people, etc.: *Please contact my secretary to make an appointment.* **secretary bird** *noun* a thin African bird with long legs that eats snakes. **Secretary General** *noun* the person who is in charge of the department that deals with the running of a large international or political organization. **Secretary of State** *noun* the head of an important government department: the Secretary of State for Education.

secrete / sɪ'kri:t / *verb* (of part of the body or a plant) to produce a liquid substance: *Insulin is secreted by the pancreas.* **secretion** *noun* the process by which liquid substances are produced by parts of the body or plants. **secretive** *adj.* tending or liking to hide your thoughts, feelings, ideas, etc. from other people: *He's very secretive about his work.* **secret police** *noun* a police force that works secretly to make sure that citizens behave as their government wants. **secret service** *noun* a government department that is responsible for protecting its government's military and political secrets and for finding out the secrets of other governments.

sect / sekt / *noun* a small group of people who belong to a particular religion but who have some beliefs or practices which separate them from the rest of the group.

sectarian / sek'teəriən / *adj.* connected with the differences that exist between groups of people who have different religious views. **sectarianism** *noun* strong support for one

particular religious or political group, especially when this leads to violence between different groups.

section / 'sekʃn / *noun* 1. any of the parts into which something is divided: *The library has a large biology section.* 2. a separate part of a document, book, etc.: *These issues will be discussed more fully in the next section.* *verb* to cut animal or plant tissue into thin slices in order to look at it under a microscope. **sectional** *adj.* connected with one particular group within a community or an organization: the sectional interests of managers and workers.

sector / 'sɛktə(r) / *noun* 1. a part of an area of activity, especially of a country's economy: the manufacturing sector. 2. a part of a circle lying between two straight lines drawn from the centre to the edge.

secular / 'sekjələ(r) / *adj.* 1. not connected with spiritual or religious matters: *Ours is a secular society.* 2. (of priests) living among ordinary people rather than in a religious community. **secularism** *noun* the belief that religion should not be involved in the organization of society, education, etc. **secularization** *noun* the process of removing the influence or power that religion has over something. **secularize** *verb* to make something secular; to remove something from the control or influence of religion.

secure / sɪ'kjʊə(r) / *adj.* 1. feeling happy and confident about yourself or a particular situation: *At last they were able to feel secure about the future.* **Ant.** insecure. 2. that cannot be affected or harmed by something: *Information must be stored so that it is secure from accidental deletion.* *verb* to obtain or achieve something, especially when this means using a lot of effort: *The team managed to secure a place in the finals.* **security** *noun* the activities involved in protecting a country, building or person against attack, danger, etc.: *They carried out security checks at the airport.* **security blanket** *noun* a blanket or other object that a child holds in order to feel safe. **Security Council** *noun* the part of the United Nations that tries to keep peace and order in the world, consisting of representatives of fifteen countries. **security guard** *noun* a person whose job is to guard money, valuables, a building, etc. **security risk** *noun* a person who cannot be given secret information because they are a danger to a particular country,