

armada /ɑː'mɑːdə / *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 /,ɑːmə'dɪləʊ / *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 /,ɑːmə'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 / 'ɑːmənʒæk / *noun* [U] a type of French brandy.

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

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

armed / ɑːmd / *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 / 'ɑːmfʊl / *noun* a quantity that you can carry in one or both arms.

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

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

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

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

armoire / ɑːm'waː(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 / ɑː'mɔːriəl / *adj.* connected with heraldry, relating to heraldry or heraldic devices. *armorial* bearings.

armour (BrE) (NAmE armor) / 'ɑːmə(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) / 'ɑːməd / *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) / 'ɑːməə(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) / 'ɑːməri / *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 / 'keəlaɪn / *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 / 'keəwɔːn / *adj.* looking tired because you have a lot of worries.

cargo / 'kɑːgəʊ / *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'biːən / *noun* the Caribbean the region consisting of the Caribbean Sea and its islands, including the West Indies, and the coasts which surround it.

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

carillon / kə'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 / 'kɑːdʒækɪŋ / *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 / 'kɑːləʊd; / *noun* the number of people or things that a car is carrying or is able to carry.

carmine / 'kɑːmaɪn / *adj.* (formal) dark red in colour carmine.

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

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

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

carnation / kɑː'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 / kɑː'niːliən; / *noun* [C, U] a red, brown or white stone, used in jewellery.

carnival / 'kɑːnɪvl; / *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 / 'kɑːnɪvɔː(r); / *noun* any animal that eats meat. compare herbivore, insectivore, omnivore **carnivorous** / kɑː'nɪvərəs / *adj.* a carnivorous diet.

carnosaur / 'kɑːnəsɔː(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 / 'kʌlvət; / *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 / 'kʌmɪn; / *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:mələʊnɪmbəs/ *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'lɪŋɡəs / *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:'pɪdətɪ / *noun* a strong desire for more wealth, possessions, power, etc. than a person needs *Syn.* greed.

cupola / 'kju:pələ; / *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 / 'kjuərəsɪ / *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 / dɪsə:'krepnnsɪ/ *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'skreʃn/ *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 / dɪ'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 / dɪs'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 / 'dɪskʌs/ *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 / dɪ'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 / dɪ'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:'deɪnfl/ *noun* disdainful showing disdain. *Syn.* contemptuous, dismissive: *She's always been disdainful of people who haven't been to college.*

disease / dɪ'zi: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 / ,dɪsmə'bɑ: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 / ,dɪsmə'bɒdɪd/ *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 / ,dɪsmə'baʊəl/ *verb* to take the stomach, bowels and other organs out of a person or animal.

disenchanted / ,dɪsɪnə:'tʃɑ:ntɪd/ *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'fræntʃaɪz/ *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 / ,dɪs,i:kwɪ'brijəm/ *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 / eksɜ:pt/ *noun* excerpt (from something) a short piece of writing, music, film, etc. taken from a longer whole.

excess / ik'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'tʃekə(r)/ *noun* the government department that controls public money. **Syn.** treasury.

excise / eksaɪz/ *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'saɪtəbl/ *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 / ˌekskaʊmiːnɪkeɪt/ *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 / ˌeks'kɔ:riət/ *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 / ˌekskrɪmənt/ *noun* solid waste matter that is passed from the body through the bowels. **Syn.** faeces: the pollution of drinking water by untreated human excrement.

excrecence / 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 excrecence.

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

excrete / ɪkskri: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:ʃiɪtɪŋ/ *adj.* extremely painful or bad: The pain in my back was excruciating. She groaned at the memory,

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 /hedbæŋg(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 / hedbʌt/ *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 /hedtʃiːz/ *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. **headaddress** *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 /hedə(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 /hedlʌɪn/ *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'kwɔːtəz/ *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 /hedruːm/ *noun* 1. the amount of space between the top of a vehicle and an object it drives under. 2. the amount of space

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

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

imperfect / ɪm'pɜːfɪkt / *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.

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

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

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

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

impersonate / ɪm'pɜːsneɪt / *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.* impersonate: *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'pɜːtɪnənt / *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'pɜːviəs / *adj.* impervious to something not affected or influenced by something: impervious to criticism.

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

impetuous / ɪm'petʃuəs / *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 / ɪm'piəs / *adj.* (formal) showing a lack of respect for God and religion. *Ant.* pious. *noun*

impish / ɪm'pɪʃ / *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'plɑːnt / *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'plɔːzɪbl / *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 / 'si:kɹət / *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 / ,sekrə'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 / 'sekrətri / *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 / 'seksn / *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 / 'sektə(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,