

11 Knowledge and learning

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acquire /ə'kwɪə(r)/ Verb

if you **acquire** knowledge or a skill, you get it by learning about it and practising it

children can acquire foreign languages more easily than adults | I'm keen to acquire new skills | his ability to sing was acquired through years of training

Noun: *acquisition*

child language acquisition (the process by which children learn to speak a language)

get /get/ Verb

when someone understands something difficult or complicated, you can say that they **get it**

do you get my meaning? | oh yes, now I get it | he just didn't get how difficult the project was going to be

hands-on /hændz ɒn/ Adjective

hands-on educational materials let you touch and use things to help you learn about them rather than just read about them

there's a lot of hands-on stuff in the museum | a hands-on laboratory experiment | classroom discussions and hands-on activities

interactive /ˌɪntər'æktɪv/ Adjective

an **interactive** system, display, computer program, etc changes what it does in reaction to the way you communicate with it

an interactive computer game | interactive teaching methods | the workshops are interactive and great fun | the website has an interactive demonstration of the software

pick up /pɪk ʌp/ Phrasal verb

if you **pick up** a new skill, you learn it over a period of time and without a lot of effort

she picked up some Spanish when she was living in Madrid | I never learned to play the guitar properly - I just picked it up by watching videos | we picked up a few phrases from our German neighbours

take in /teɪk ɪn/ Phrasal verb

if you **take in** information, you read it or see it or hear it and then remember it

better take notes, there's a lot to take in | the lecturer spoke so fast I couldn't take it all in | I've read it twice and I still haven't taken it in

unaware /ˌʌnə'weə(r)/ Adjective

if you are **unaware** of something, you do not know about it or do not know that it exists

unaware of something | unaware that

I was unaware of that fact | they were unaware of the problems that lay ahead | everyone else

was unaware that she was in such pain | we were unaware that the shop was going to close at 5 o'clock

Noun: *unawareness* || Opposites – Adjective: *aware* | Noun: *awareness*

unawareness of something | be aware of something | aware that | awareness of something

there were reasons for his unawareness of the importance of the document | I wasn't aware that she was back in London | I was made aware of the danger by my doctor | she had a keen awareness of the danger (she understood the danger very well) | we need to raise public awareness of the issue (tell people about it)

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by heart /baɪ ha:t/ Adverb

if you learn something **by heart** or know something **off by heart**, you can remember it and repeat it without having to read any of it

we had to learn two poems by heart for homework | I've heard it so often I know it off by heart | she knew the play by heart

cram /kræm/ Verb

if you **cram**, you do a lot of revision for an exam very quickly and at the last minute

cram for something

she spent the night cramming for her French literature exam | we've been cramming since lunchtime

democratic /ˌdemə'krætɪk/ Adjective

if an activity is **democratic**, it is organised in a way that has the agreement or approval of the majority of people who are involved

school life was far from democratic | English has always been a thoroughly democratic language | the office is democratic and we each organise our own work

Adverb: *democratically* | Noun: *democracy*

a democratically managed organisation | the factory operated as a democracy

drop out /drɒp aʊt/ Phrasal verb

if you **drop out** of a course of study, you stop doing it and leave the institution where you were studying. A person who does this is a **dropout**

drop out of something

he had to drop out of school and earn money for his family | he went back to college, but dropped out for a second time | my mother was furious when I dropped out of university | about one third of students drop out of the course by the end of the second year

Noun: *dropout*

it's not easy to find work if you're a dropout | there's a proven link between poverty and college dropout rates

ensure /ɪnʃʊə(r)/ Verb

to **ensure** that something happens means to make certain that it happens

ensure that

please ensure your child returns the signed letter to us | you must ensure that all the clips are done up securely | precautions to ensure the safety of all passengers

exam /ɪgˈzæm/ Noun

an **exam** is an important test that you do at school or university. When you do it, you are taking an **exam**. If you pass the **exam**, you are successful. If you fail the **exam**, you are not successful

I spent all weekend studying for an exam | when do your exams start? | she passed all her exams | he did all right in maths but failed his English exam | I have to take my exams at the end of the year | I'm revising for my final exams (the last exams at the end of a course of study)

in time /ɪn taɪm/ Adverb

if you do something or get somewhere **in time**, you do it or get there before it is too late

there's not much traffic so we should get there in time | we arrived in plenty of time to have a drink before the film started | make sure you're in time for the opening speech | why do you never hand your homework in in time?

mark /mɑː(r)k/ Noun

a **mark** is the score or grade you get for a piece of schoolwork or an exam. When teachers **mark** work, they correct it and give it a score or grade

top marks | a pass mark

she expected to get a better mark after all that work | I was surprised to get such a high mark | he got top marks in the test (the highest marks possible) | get a low mark | the pass mark is 40 per cent (if you get less than 40%, you have failed the exam) | you lose marks for bad spelling

Verb: mark

the teacher hasn't finished marking all the exam papers yet

regular /ˈregjʊlə(r)/ Adjective

someone or something that is **regular** is normal and ordinary, rather than being special or important

having regular employees there makes the meetings more honest | I'm just a regular bus driver

revise /rɪˈvaɪz/ Verb

if you **revise** a subject, you read your notes and textbooks about it in preparation for an exam

revise for something

I'm revising for my history exams | you need to spend at least six hours a day revising | she spent the

weekend revising that week's material | the library was full of students revising for their final exams

Noun: revision

you should start your revision at least three weeks before the exams | last-minute revision

speak up /spiːk ʌp/ Phrasal verb

if you **speak up**, you say in public what your opinion is about something

then another boy spoke up and said the school dinners were disgusting | no one spoke up when they had the chance | she waited a few seconds before speaking up

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conscious /ˈkɒnʃəs/ Adjective

if you are **conscious** of something, you are aware of it and know it is happening or present

conscious of something | conscious that

I was conscious of what was happening, but I couldn't feel anything | she was very conscious that she hadn't done her best in the interview | he wasn't conscious of being tired even though he'd been up for 20 hours | Tom was suddenly conscious of the fact that he was lost

Adverb: consciously

we might not consciously experience this as fear

grateful /ˈɡreɪt(ə)l/ Adjective

if you are **grateful** for something, you thank someone and say that you are glad that it has happened or that you have it

be/feel grateful for something | be/feel grateful to someone

the families are very grateful for the job I've done | I'm grateful for all your help | I'd be very grateful if you could phone me | they were very grateful to us after we found their dog

Adverb: gratefully | Noun: gratitude || Opposite – Adjective: ungrateful | Noun: ingratitude

express gratitude

all suggestions will be gratefully received | I can't express my gratitude enough | my sincere gratitude to you and all the nurses | I don't mean to be ungrateful, but I don't need another tie | shocked by her ingratitude he walked out of the meeting

recall /rɪˈkɔːl/ Verb

if you can **recall** something, you are able to remember it. The word **recall** is rather formal, and the usual word to use is **remember**

I can't recall the name of the artist | everyone can recall moments like this | if I recall correctly, they cost £12 each | I don't recall exactly, but it must have been three or four years ago

Noun: recall

my powers of recall are not as good as when I was younger

selective /sɪˈlektɪv/ Adjective

if you are **selective** when you have a choice, you are very careful about what you choose, and do not choose something unless you are absolutely sure it is the best choice you can make. If you have a selective memory, you pretend that you do not remember certain things, usually because you know they might embarrass you or be unhelpful to you

his selective memory means he won't admit he failed his driving test twice before he finally passed it | we need to be more selective when it comes to hiring new staff | I am very selective about what hotels I stay in

Verb: select

ten people were selected from over 500 job applicants

urgent /ˈɜː(r)dʒ(ə)nt/ Adjective

if something is **urgent**, it is very important and you need to deal immediately

if it's urgent, I'll get her to ring you as soon as she comes back | I need to talk to Arthur – it's very urgent | he was in need of urgent medical attention | that afternoon, Adkin got an urgent call from the hospital

Adverb: urgently | Noun: urgency

we need your help urgently | unless we act urgently, climate change will get out of control | there is great urgency to complete the building work before winter arrives

wise /waɪz/ Adjective

someone who is **wise** knows and understands a lot of things and can make sensible decisions. If someone's actions or choices are **wise**, they have used their knowledge and understanding very well

it was a wise decision to go to university | my grandad was the wisest man I ever met | mixing orange juice with milk was not a wise choice | reading books will help you know more, but it won't make you wiser

Adverb: wisely | Noun: wisdom || Opposite – Adjective: unwise | Adverb: unwisely

he wisely decided not to try and swim across the river | that's a lot of money, make sure you spend it wisely | wisdom comes with experience – you cannot learn it | it was unwise of her to tell him he was stupid | rather unwisely, he started arguing with his boss

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beak /biːk/ Noun

a bird's **beak** is the hard, sometimes pointed part of the front of its face around its mouth

it has a black beak and yellow legs | a long slender beak | I drew the bird all right, but got the shape of its beak wrong

hesitation /ˌhezɪˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

a **hesitation** is a short pause before you say or do something, for example because you are nervous or worried about what you are going to say or do without hesitation

John asked if she liked him and without hesitation she said "No" | after a long hesitation he agreed to come and visit me | I said yes with not a moment's hesitation

Verb: hesitate | Adjective: hesitant | Adverb: hesitantly | Adverb: hesitatingly || Opposites – Adjective: unhesitating | Adverb: unhesitatingly
hesitant to do something | hesitant about (doing) something

he hesitated a moment before he answered | you can't afford to hesitate, I need an answer straight away | she was hesitant to tell him the bad news straight away | I was a bit hesitant about calling them again | he hesitantly agreed to her suggestion | she smiled hesitantly and shook hands | he stepped forward hesitatingly when his name was called | she answered hesitatingly at first, but gradually grew in confidence | his voice was clear and unhesitating | the answer was immediate and unhesitating | she unhesitatingly accepted the offer | to all these questions he replied unhesitatingly and truthfully

learn from your mistakes /lɜːn frɒm jɔː mɪsˈteɪks/ Phrase

if you **learn from your mistakes**, you think about something you did wrong or badly and make sure you do not do the same thing again

the film was a disaster, but he learned from his mistakes and the next one he made was a great success | each time he fails, he learns from his mistakes and improves his efforts | the trouble with Barbara was that she never learned from her mistakes

learn to walk before you can run /lɜːn tuː wɔːk bɪfɔː juː kæn rʌn/ Phrase

if you tell someone that they have to **learn to walk before they can run**, you mean that they are trying to do something too quickly and need to do it step by step to make sure that they are doing it right all the time

you can do that maybe next year, but you need to learn to walk before you can run

learn your lesson /lɜːn jɔː ˈlesn/ Phrase

if you have **learned your lesson**, a painful or embarrassing experience has taught you something you did not know and this knowledge will help you avoid making the same mistake

I'm glad you didn't get hurt, and I hope you've learned your lesson | I learned my lesson not to rely on what the weather forecast says | the judge added "You went to prison once before, but you obviously didn't learn your lesson" | he manages his money much better now, and says he's learned his lesson

live with it /lɪv wɪð ɪt/ Phrase

if you tell someone they have to **live with it**, you mean that they have to accept a difficult situation and not complain any more because there is nothing that can be done to change it

learn to live with it

it's too late now. I've taken the job in Manchester and you'll just have to live with it | I don't think dad will pay for you to go back to college, so you'll have to learn to live with it

mispronounce /ˌmɪsprəˈnaʊns/ Verb

if you **mispronounce** a word, you say it incorrectly

Daffydd gets annoyed when people mispronounce his name – it should sound like Davith and rhyme with “with” | it’s easy to mispronounce English words because the spelling often doesn’t give you any help | my French teacher isn’t French and mispronounces words all the time

ripe /raɪp/ Adjective

ripe fruit or crops have grown enough to be ready to eat

make sure you use only ripe tomatoes | ripe bananas will turn black within a few days | wait until the grapes are properly ripe before you pick them

Verb: ripen

leave them on the tree for another week to ripen

the tricks of the trade /ðə trɪks ɒv ðə treɪd/ Phrase

the tricks of the trade are good ways to do certain things that most people do not know about

learn the tricks of the trade

he showed me a few tricks of the trade | I spent a week in the factory learning the tricks of the trade | now he’s passing on the tricks of the trade to his son | I got a few tricks of the trade off their website

walnut /ˈwɔːlnʌt/ Noun

a **walnut** is a nut (the seed of a tree) that you can eat. It has a very hard, brown shell that you have to break to get to the nut inside

the bird has a brain the size of a walnut | we have two walnut trees in our garden | does the cake have walnuts in it? | cracking walnuts (breaking the shells)

PAGES 136–137**enquire** /ɪnˈkwɪə(r)/ Verb

if you **enquire** about something, you ask a question intended to get some information about it. The spelling **inquire** is also used

enquire about something

I’m just calling to enquire about some prices | I’m phoning to inquire whether you have any rooms available | when I originally enquired about the course you told me there were no places left | he politely inquired what I was doing

Noun: enquiry or inquiry

we try to answer written enquiries within 24 hours | a polite enquiry

hold back /həʊld bæk/ Phrasal verb

to **hold** someone or something **back** means to prevent their development or progress in some way
half of all teachers believe children are being held back by health and safety regulations | all this red tape is holding back the development of a new energy industry | the housing crisis is holding back the economy | he missed three weeks of school, which has held him back a bit this year

previous /ˈpriːviəs/ Adjective

previous means happening or existing at some time before the present

the previous owner now lives in Spain | in previous years, we kept the hotel open at Christmas | I had no previous knowledge of car mechanics | my previous laptop only had a 10GB hard disk

Adverb: previously

he works for a national newspaper, but previously he was at the BBC | it was previously reported that the election would be in June | as I mentioned previously, we are hoping to finish the job next week

PAGES 138–139**chant** /tʃɑːnt/ Noun

a **chant** is a word or group of words that people say or sing over and over again

the yoga lessons always begin with a chant | the football fans began a new chant | a traditional Buddhist chant | someone started a chant of “Freedom, Freedom”

Verb: chanting

the crowd started chanting his name after the second goal | protesters made their way to Parliament Square chanting anti-capitalist slogans

deforestation /diːˈfɒrɪˈsteɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

deforestation is the process of cutting down trees to clear the land for other uses

deforestation can have a seriously bad effect on wildlife | we need to slow down the rate of deforestation in South America | the Pacific region is experiencing rapid deforestation along with all the problems that come with it

heal /hiːl/ Verb

if a wound or a broken bone **heals**, or if something **heals** it, it recovers and becomes well again

the cut will heal quicker if you leave it open to the air | it took several weeks for the wound to heal | give it time and it will heal itself | she was healed by the latest medical treatment

isolated /ˈaɪsəˌleɪtɪd/ Adjective

an **isolated** place does not have other houses, towns, or cities nearby

the camp site was quite isolated | living in an isolated rural area | Hawker has explored some of the most remote and isolated places in the world | we rented an isolated farmhouse in Normandy

Noun: isolation

in isolation

their culture survived because they lived in relative isolation | railways and telegraphs broke down the geographical isolation

multiply /ˈmʌltɪplaɪ/ Verb

if something **multiplies**, it creates more and more of itself

these plants are healthy and multiplying | it's amazing how fast these weeds multiply | his debts had multiplied greatly

reserve /rɪ'zɜ:(r)v/ Noun

a **reserve** is a large area of land where wild animals are protected

a wildlife/nature reserve

I spent a year working in a wildlife reserve in West Africa | we saw a lot of elephants in the wildlife reserve | there's a nature reserve near Pulborough where people go to watch birds

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asylum /ə'saɪləm/ Noun uncount

asylum is the right to stay in a country. It is given by a government to someone who is unable to return to their own country for political reasons

grant someone asylum | seek asylum | political asylum | an asylum seeker

over 500 refugees were granted asylum | a growing number of these people are seeking political asylum | the regulation was put in place to protect asylum seekers

dialect /'daɪəlekt/ Noun

a **dialect** is a form of a language that is slightly different from the form that most people use, and is spoken by people in a particular region or from a particular social group

regional/local dialect

she spent a year learning the local dialect | dozens of dialects are spoken in Japan | "twitten" is a Sussex dialect word for a narrow path in a town or village | when we first moved to that part of the country, we couldn't really understand the dialect