

5 Development

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boost /bu:st/ Verb

to **boost** something means to improve it or increase it.

this could help to boost profits | an attempt to boost tourism in the area | this win has boosted the team's confidence | the hot weather dramatically boosted demand for cold drinks

Noun: *boost*

give something a boost

this should provide a boost for the economy | a boost for her confidence | some tips on how to give your Facebook profile a much-needed boost

diversity /daɪvɜː(r)səti/ Noun uncount

a **diversity** of things is a lot of different sorts of them in the same place or area

a diversity of something

there's a great diversity of wildlife around the lake | its cultural diversity was what attracted me to Cardiff | the quality and diversity of the restaurants in the city is amazing

Adjective: *diverse* | Verb: *diversify* | Noun: *diversification*

the university offers courses covering a diverse range of subjects | London has a diverse population | the EU is attempting to diversify its energy supply (make sure it gets its energy from several different places) | it was important to diversify the business rather than rely on just one successful product | discovery of oil and gas led to further diversification and growth

enhance /ɪn'hɑːns/ Verb

to **enhance** something means to improve it or make it look more attractive

moving to the country enhanced our quality of life | this skill will greatly enhance your musical creativity | in what ways can technology enhance traditional methods? | hearing poetry enhances our understanding of it

Noun: *enhancement*

an enhancement to something

the company is planning further enhancements to the product

renewable /rɪ'njuːəb(ə)l/ Adjective

renewable energy and materials do not use up the earth's supply of things like coal, oil, or gas, but instead use the power of the sun or the power of wind or waves that will not run out

renewable energy

the boat is powered by renewable energy | the water used for renewable power generation | we should get this material from renewable sources | forests are renewable natural resources

Noun: *renewable*

renewables don't cause any pollution

reservoir /ˈrezə(r)vɔː(r)/ Noun

a **reservoir** is a deep hole covering a large area of land and holding water that is used to supply towns and cities

if we don't get some rain soon the reservoirs will dry out | the western reservoir has a capacity of 2,180 million litres | the two reservoirs are situated south of the A3050 Hurst Road

thrive /θraɪv/ Verb

someone or something that is **thriving** is very successful and developing or living in a very healthy way

thrive on something

she's at university now, and thriving | the arts thrive in a multicultural environment like this one | as an actor, he thrives on all this attention | very few insects thrive in the winter | other department stores thrive in the city centre

Adjective: *thriving*

Lancaster has a thriving art community | a thriving cotton industry

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ambitious /æm'bɪʃəs/ Adjective

someone who is **ambitious** wants to be very successful and works hard to make sure that they succeed. A project that is **ambitious** is one that is difficult, but that people work hard to achieve

their business plan was very ambitious | the project was too ambitious and eventually they ran out of money | he's very bright, but not very ambitious | I was very ambitious at the start of my career

Noun: *ambition* | Adverb: *ambitiously*

he finally realised his ambition when he became CEO of the company | my ambition is to be a top designer | he ambitiously attempted to translate War and Peace within three months | the budget set an ambitiously high target for growth

block /blɒk/ Noun

a **block** is a large building in a town or city, for example one containing a lot of offices (an office block) or a lot of apartments (an apartment block)

they knocked down the old cinema and built a new apartment block | I work in an office block in the city centre | a 12 storey tower block

drug dealing /drʌg 'diːlɪŋ/ Noun uncount

drug dealing is the illegal buying and selling of drugs

he was arrested on suspicion of drug dealing | the area is known for drug dealing | there are problems with drug dealing on the estate | he served a prison term for drug dealer

Noun: *drug dealer*

she was convinced her bother was not a drug dealer | a drug dealer was seen waiting outside the school

heritage /ˈherɪtɪdʒ/ Noun uncount

a country's **heritage** is its cultural traditions that have developed over a long time, its important and historical buildings, and its history

a rich heritage | a national/cultural heritage

people should appreciate their own heritage | buildings that are part of our heritage | the country's rich cultural heritage | I think Dubai has rejected its heritage

high-rise /haɪ raɪz/ Adjective

a **high-rise** building is one that is very tall and has lots of floors

she lives on the twelfth floor of a high-rise apartment block | high-rise development has been banned here | high-rise residential buildings

Noun: *high-rise*

there are plans to build four more high-rises along the river

intersection /ˈɪntə(r),sekʃ(ə)n/ Noun

an **intersection** is a place where two large roads come together and cross each other

most motorcycle accidents occur at intersections | a large motorway intersection | at the next intersection, leave the motorway and get onto the A38 | a busy intersection

Verb: *intersect*

three major roads intersect at this point

knock down /nɒk daʊn/ Phrasal verb

to **knock down** a building means to destroy it completely, for example because it is old and no longer safe or because you are going to put a new building there. **Knock down** is used in informal and spoken English; a more formal word is *demolish*

the slums were knocked down to make way for a golf course | they thought the Eiffel Tower was so ugly it should be knocked down | my old school is going to be knocked down | they're knocking down some of the old high-rise blocks | I think it's time they knocked it down

leisure /ˈleɪzə(r)/ Noun uncount

leisure is the activities that you do for pleasure when you are not working. A leisure centre is a place with rooms and equipment where you can exercise, play basketball, go swimming, etc

there are two swimming pools in the leisure centre | what do you like to do in your leisure time? | leisure activities | I'll have plenty of leisure after I retire

mall /mɔːl/ Noun

a **mall**, or a **shopping mall**, is a very large building in a city with a lot of shops inside it

the main shopping mall gets over 5 million visitors a year | the downtown mall was nearly empty | a retail mall | there was a police car parked outside the mall

modernise /ˈmɒdə(r)naɪz/ Verb

if something **modernises**, or if you **modernise** it, it changes because methods, equipment, ideas, etc are replaced by new ones

they've got plans to modernise the old factory | the existing buildings were modernised and extended | the money was aimed at modernising learning spaces | this profession is changing rapidly as the insurance industry modernises

Noun: *modernisation*

a modernisation plan was started in early 1940 | an intensive modernisation programme will attempt to lower production costs | the railways are in urgent need of modernisation | the station complex is undergoing modernisation

pearl diver /pɜːl ˈdaɪvə/ Noun

a **pearl diver** is someone whose job is to dive into the sea to find oysters (a kind of sea creature with a hard shell) that have pearls (small round white balls that are used to make necklaces) inside them

the village relied on its fishermen and pearl divers | pearl divers can swim as deep as 30 metres below the surface | his older sister married a pearl diver in Bandar Abbas

pedestrian /pəˈdestriən/ Noun

a **pedestrian** is someone who is walking in a street, rather than driving or cycling or being a passenger on a bus. A **pedestrian** zone is a street or set of streets where motor vehicles are not allowed

most of the Old Town is a pedestrian zone during the day | the car ran off the road and hit a pedestrian | watch out for pedestrians round this corner | a pedestrian crossing (a place where people can cross safely to the other side of the road)

Adjective: *pedestrianised*

Sheep Street is now completely pedestrianised

redevelop /ˌriːdɪˈveləp/ Verb

to **redevelop** an area of land means to knock down the buildings that were there and replace them with new buildings, streets, etc

there are plans to redevelop the site of the old car factory | the site was redeveloped as a luxury hotel | the city has redeveloped the area along the canal | the centre was redeveloped after the war

Noun: *redevelopment*

the latest redevelopment saw a new shopping mall open on the site | the campus is undergoing a programme of redevelopment

residential /ˌreziˈdenʃ(ə)l/ Adjective

a **residential** area is one where most of the buildings are houses and flats where people live, rather than shops or offices

a residential area/neighbourhood/suburb

a popular residential area to the south of the city | the campus is largely surrounded by residential neighbourhoods | the suburb is primarily residential | a mix of commercial, residential and industrial areas

Noun: *resident* | Noun: *residence*

local residents were told to stay inside | the city centre has few residents left | the fire destroyed several residences nearby | his residence stood in the centre of the little town

scale /skeɪl/ Noun

the **scale** of something is its size or extent
the (sheer) scale of something | on a big/small etc scale
it's difficult for us to understand the sheer scale of the devastation | they had never seen flooding on such a scale before | the scale of the problem was frightening | a large scale research project | there was evidence of fraud on a massive scale

suspicion /sə'spɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

if you have a **suspicion** about someone or something, you think there is probably something wrong or dishonest about them

raise/arouse suspicion | dispel suspicion

I have the suspicion that he knows something | our suspicions turned out to be unfounded (not true) | any of these signs should arouse suspicion | his attempts failed to dispel the suspicion (make people stop having the suspicion)

Adjective: *suspicious* | Adverb: *suspiciously* | Verb: *suspect* | Noun: *suspect*

suspicious behaviour | suspicious activity | deeply/highly suspicious | act suspiciously | suspect someone of something

if you see anything suspicious, call the police | his behaviour was highly suspicious | the police suspect him of fraud | she saw a man acting suspiciously outside the shop | the main suspect in a murder case

wonder /'wʌndə(r)/ Noun uncount

wonder is the feeling of surprise and admiration you get when you see or hear of something that is very impressive

she watched with a mixture of wonder and amazement | she held her breath with wonder and delight | a place of magic, mystery, and wonder | my children give me a sense of wonder

Adjective: *wonderful*

we listened to some wonderful music

zone /zəʊn/ Noun

a **zone** is an area where particular activities happen or are allowed

they're going to turn the High Street into a pedestrian zone | an industrial zone (where there are a lot of factories) | many civilians were trying to escape the war zone

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balance /'bæləns/ Noun

if there is a **balance** between two things, there is not too much of either of them and they exist together very well

strike a balance

do you have a good balance between work and

relaxation? | it can be hard to find the right balance between work and leisure | I'm trying to strike a balance between explaining what I feel and listening to others

Verb: *balance* | Adjective: *balanced*

it's difficult balancing the demands of work and family | a balanced diet (the right amounts of different kinds of food)

competitive /kəm'petətɪv/ Adjective

if an activity is **competitive**, everyone doing it is trying hard to do better and be more successful than everyone else

an enjoyable and competitive match between Arsenal and Spurs | advertising is a highly competitive industry | a very competitive market | the mobile phone business is very competitive

Verb: *compete* | Noun: *competition*

small companies find it hard to compete in the market | there's a lot of competition for jobs | the company faces competition from abroad

cultivate /'kʌltɪveɪt/ Verb

if someone **cultivates** plants, they prepare the land and grow plants on it in a methodical way, especially for food

rice and other crops are cultivated in the valleys | for centuries these farmers have cultivated this land with amazing skill | coffee is cultivated commercially on five continents

Noun: *cultivation*

be under cultivation

cultivation of crops has been going on here for three thousand years | we have 60 hectares under cultivation (being used for crops)

decent /'diːs(ə)nt/ Adjective

something that is **decent** is of a reasonable or acceptable quality

she had to move to the city to find a decent job | are there any decent schools near here? | you can get a pretty decent meal there | I think the carpenter did a decent job of those bookshelves

demonstrator /'demən'streɪtə(r)/ Noun

demonstrators are people who go onto the streets in large numbers to protest about something

demonstrators marched from Trafalgar Square to Parliament | police arrested over 100 demonstrators | twelve demonstrators were injured during the protest | demonstrators set fire to the American flag

Verb: *demonstrate*

demonstrate against something

hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to demonstrate against the Iraq war

exotic /ɪg'zɒtɪk/ Adjective

somewhere that is **exotic** is far away and very different from the place where you live, and seems to be very interesting and exciting

she loves going on holiday to exotic places | it was so exotic, sailing through the South Pacific islands | they

shot the film in several exotic locations | I don't think you can call Huddersfield exotic

fertile /fɜː(r)tʌl/ Adjective

land that is **fertile** is very good for growing things in because the soil is very good quality

the land here is incredibly fertile | the fertile regions of Ukraine | these herbs don't need very fertile soil | fertile farm land

Noun: *fertility*

this measures the soil fertility level

green /ɡriːn/ Adjective

you use **green** to refer to things or places that are natural and good for the environment, and not spoiled by things humans have done or made, such as cars, buildings, etc.

there aren't enough green spaces in the city | it's a really green city, with lots of parks and gardens | the company is trying to be more green (trying to help the environment) | a discussion about green issues | I'm a member of the Green Party

hectic /ˈhektɪk/ Adjective

if things are **hectic**, you are very busy and have to deal with lots of different things very quickly

a hectic lifestyle | at a hectic pace | a hectic day/week/month

she leads a really hectic life | life continues at a hectic pace on the farm | high-stress jobs and hectic lifestyles | another hectic day at the office | work has been hectic for months | this week has been pretty hectic

Adverb: *hectically*

leading a hectically busy life | I've been working hectically trying to meet the deadline

knowledgeable /ˈnɒlɪdʒəb(ə)/ Adjective

someone who is **knowledgeable** knows quite a lot about something, or quite a lot about a number of different things

knowledgeable about something

our guide spoke good English and was very knowledgeable | she became quite knowledgeable about Egyptian history | he was a knowledgeable and thoughtful politician | a highly knowledgeable expert

Noun: *knowledge* | Verb: *know*

she has a detailed knowledge of modern Russian literature | I used my local knowledge to work out how to get back to the hotel | a general knowledge quiz (a competition with questions on a range of different subjects) | do you know much about cricket? | he knows all there is to know about Ferrari cars (he is very knowledgeable about them)

literate /ˈlɪt(ə)rət/ Adjective

someone who is **literate** can read and write

highly literate

most of the population is highly literate | over 90% of the population is literate | in 1600, very few ordinary people were literate | an influential and literate middle class

Noun: *literacy* || Opposite – Adjective: *illiterate*

we need to improve adult literacy rates (increase the number of adults who can read and write) | they had basic literacy and numeracy (they could read and write and do basic arithmetic) | most of the population was illiterate in the 12th century

peaceful /ˈpiːsf(ə)/ Adjective

somewhere that is **peaceful** is pleasantly quiet and does not have any lively activity going on

I found a peaceful spot to sit and eat my sandwiches | a peaceful village on the Norfolk coast | it feels very peaceful here after a week spent in London

Adverb: *peacefully* | Noun: *peacefulness* | Noun: *peace* peace and quiet

the two sisters sat peacefully in the garden | the beauty and peacefulness of the lake | it's hard to find peace and quiet in the city

quality of life /ˈkwɒləti ˈɒv ˈlaɪf/ Noun uncount

your **quality of life** is how much you are able to enjoy it and stay healthy

we have a good quality of life here in Skye | she earned a lot of money, but her quality of life was not good | we moved out of London to get a better quality of life

reform /rɪˈfɔː(r)m/ Noun

a **reform** is a change to an existing law, system, or institution

the reforms introduced last year have brought about a recovery in the economy | the reforms came too late | educational reform was an important topic during the election | the last major tax reform was in 1986 | the process of carrying out the reforms took several years

Verb: *reform* | Noun: *reformer*

an attempt to reform the House of Lords | the government are about to reform the tax system | the announcement was welcomed by educational reformers

remarkable /rɪˈmɑː(r)kəb(ə)/ Adjective

something or someone that is **remarkable** is unusual in a way which makes people surprised or impressed truly/quite remarkable

Kerala is a remarkable place | we met some truly remarkable people | a remarkable journey | she made a remarkable recovery | it's a remarkable achievement | the show was a remarkable success

Adverb: *remarkably*

Mr Galvin was remarkably successful in the local elections | you've done remarkably well this year

strike /straɪk/ Noun

if there is a **strike**, people refuse to work because they want their employer to make changes, such as increase their pay or improve their conditions

go/be on strike | come out on strike

we're thinking of going on strike if they don't agree to our demands | a strike over pay and working conditions | a strike for better pay | 200 workers have come out on strike | more people have now joined

the strike | there are often strikes on the buses | we were on strike for three weeks

Verb: *strike* | Noun: *striker*

teachers are threatening to strike over pay | strikers met with employers to discuss the issues

tolerant /'tɒlərənt/ Adjective

if you are **tolerant**, you accept other people's right to have opinions and beliefs that are different from your own

the people here are very tolerant of the different groups in society | a tolerant and open-minded father | we're an open and tolerant society

Noun: *tolerance* | Noun: *toleration* | Verb: *tolerate* | Adjective: *tolerable* | Adverb: *tolerably* || Opposites – Noun: *intolerance* | Adjective: *intolerant* | Adjective: *intolerable* | Adverb: *intolerably*

he has no tolerance for political extremism | to encourage mutual respect and tolerance | he campaigned for religious toleration and the reform of parliament | her father would not tolerate lying | the noise was annoying and barely tolerable | the flat was tolerably large | religious prejudice and intolerance | he became intolerant of opposition | the situation was intolerable | the room was intolerably hot

tranquil /'træŋkwɪl/ Adjective

somewhere that is **tranquil** is very quiet and peaceful
the tranquil atmosphere of the church | a colourful, tranquil flower garden | his tranquil life was about to change for ever | a tranquil residential area not far from the sea

Noun: *tranquillity*

feelings of peace and tranquillity

wealthy /'welθi/ Adjective

someone who is **wealthy** has a lot of money or owns a lot of property. A place that is **wealthy** has a lot of wealthy people living in it

he had married a wealthy businesswoman | you'll need to work hard if you want to become wealthy | she was born in a wealthy suburb of Paris | his wife was from a wealthy family

Noun: *the wealthy* | Noun: *wealth* || Opposite – Adjective: *poor*

these changes won't affect the wealthy, only the poor | in terms of average wealth per person, India comes 130th in the world | his wealth is estimated at £2m | 80% of the wealth belongs to only 20% of the people | a poor suburb of Manchester | he came from a poor family

well-off /wəl ɒf/ Adjective

someone who is **well-off** has enough money to be able to live comfortably, even though they might not be very rich

most of the people round here are reasonably well-off | she's a doctor, and comes from a well-off family | we were well-off enough to have two cars and two foreign holidays a year | you could hardly describe him as well-off

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adaptable /ə'dæptəb(ə)l/ Adjective

someone or something that is **adaptable** can change when necessary in order to succeed at something
these plants are highly adaptable to most environments | the recipe is very adaptable; for example you could use carrot instead of celery | you need to hire someone who is more adaptable

Verb: *adapt* | Noun: *adaptation*

we need to adapt to living with climate change | the novel was adapted for television in 1998 | plants have evolved many adaptations to cope with fire

adolescence /ædə'les(ə)ns/ Noun uncount

adolescence is the period of time in your life when you start to change physically, and when you start to change from being a child to being an adult

many smokers began the habit in their adolescence | she had a very ordinary childhood and adolescence | adolescence can be a very confusing time of life | once he reached adolescence, his parents could no longer control him

Noun: *adolescent*

today's adolescents all grew up with social media

fall apart /fɔ:l ə'pɑ:t/ Phrasal verb

if something **falls apart**, it breaks into pieces because it is old or not well made

my shoes are falling apart | an old book that was falling apart | the suitcase just fell apart while I was packing it | the shed fell apart as soon as we tried to move it

fall behind /fɔ:l bɪ'hɑ:nd/ Phrasal verb

if you **fall behind**, you do not make as much progress as you should in a particular job or activity

fall behind with something

after a week off school, I fell behind with my maths | if you don't make more effort, you'll fall behind the others | don't fall behind with your project work | several students fell behind during the winter and never caught up

fall for /fɔ:l fɔ:/ Phrasal verb

if you **fall for** someone, you fall in love with them

she fell for him straight away | we had already fallen for each other before we left school | I couldn't fall for someone who watches football all the time

fall out /fɔ:l aʊt/ Phrasal verb

if you **fall out** with someone, you have an argument with them and you both stop being friends or talking to each other

fall out with someone | fall out over something

we fell out over a girl | look – I don't want to fall out with you about this | have those two fallen out or something?

Noun: *falling out*

have a falling out

we had a big falling-out a few years ago | the incident caused a major falling-out between the two men

fall through /fɔ:l θru:/ Phrasal verb

if an arrangement, plan, or agreement **falls through**, it doesn't happen because something goes wrong or because someone decides they do not want to be involved

I couldn't find my tent, so the camping trip fell through | the house sale fell through because our buyer couldn't raise the money | the plan fell through because of objections by local residents | the proposal fell through after a couple of weeks

infancy /'ɪnfənsi/ Noun uncount

your **infancy** was the period of time in your life when you were an infant – a baby or very young child
his brother died in infancy | during his infancy they lived in Wolverhampton | throughout infancy and childhood, a personality develops | she showed an interest in music, even in early infancy

Noun: *infant*

infants under 2 years of age travel free

novelty /'nɒv(ə)lti/ Noun uncount

novelty is the quality of being new and still being interesting

be (something of) a novelty | the novelty wears off
having a gas cooker was still something of a novelty | after two weeks, the novelty of my new job wore off (it became less interesting because I had become familiar with it) | I enjoyed the novelty of being married

Adjective: *novel*

entirely/totally novel | a novel approach/method/concept

they introduced an entirely novel method of treating patients with flu | selling on the Internet is hardly a novel concept any more

peer /piə(r)/ Noun

your **peers** are people who are the same as you in terms of education, age, and status

peer pressure

engineers in the UK are not as well paid as their peers in France | he started smoking because of peer pressure (because he wanted to be like the other people he was friends with and who smoked) | by the age of 13 she was noticeably taller than most of her peers

seek /si:k/ Verb

if you **seek** something, you try very hard to find it or get it

sensation-seeking teenagers | if you still feel ill after a week, then seek medical advice | police are still seeking a third suspect | you should seek another opinion before agreeing to have the operation

Noun: *seeker*

job seekers

spur of the moment /spɜ:r ɒv ðə 'mæʊmənt/ Noun singular

if you do something on the **spur of the moment**, you suddenly decide to do it without having planned it or thought about doing it before

on the spur of the moment

on the spur of the moment, I decided to book a holiday to Tunisia | it was a spur of the moment decision | I usually do my clothes shopping on the spur of the moment

stair rail /steə reɪl/ Noun

a **stair rail** is the top part of a banister (a thing like a wall at the side of steps that you can hold on to and that stops you falling over the side)

he tried skateboarding down the stair rail | a wooden stair rail | the stair rail was broken

stereotypical /,steriə'tɪpɪk(ə)l/ Adjective

something that is **stereotypical** is thought to be typical of a particular person, place, or thing, especially when this belief is unfair or untrue

she spoke with a stereotypical Liverpool accent | a stereotypical businessman with briefcase and umbrella | a stereotypical adolescent, staring forever at his phone

Noun: *stereotype* | Adverb: *stereotypically* | Verb: *stereotype*

the stereotype of a granny is an old lady with white hair and glasses | changing stereotypes about computer programmers isn't easy | women are stereotypically more emotional than men | the police are often stereotyped as slow and stupid in films

toddler /'tɒdlə(r)/ Noun

if small children **toddle** somewhere, they walk there in a rather unsteady way taking short steps. Young children who are just starting to walk are called **toddlers** because of the unsteady way in which they walk

when Jake was a toddler, I did the childcare most days | I sat down on the bus opposite a young man and his toddler son | I go to a mother and toddler group on Tuesday mornings | these toys have been designed by parents for toddlers and young kids

Verb: *toddle*

the child toddled across the field towards her grandmother | she's only 14 months old and she's already started toddling

vital /'vaɪt(ə)l/ Adjective

something that is **vital** is very important and is needed in order for something to work properly and be successful

vital that | vital to something | be vital to do something

it's vital that we help each other | effective communication is vital to all businesses | it's vital to keep the equipment clean | these are vital work skills | the captain of a cricket team plays a vital role | this is another vital area of research

Adverb: *vitality*

good schools are vitally important in any community | planes brought vitally needed aid to the region

willingness /'wɪlɪŋnəs/ Noun uncount

willingness is being ready and prepared to do something without complaining or objecting to it
willingness to do something

his willingness to help was appreciated | they showed a willingness to take risks | willingness to learn is very important | a good language learner demonstrates a willingness to practise and use the language in real communication.

Adjective: *willing* | Adverb: *willingly* || Opposites:
Noun: *unwillingness* | Adjective: *unwilling* | Adverb:
unwillingly

be willing to do something | perfectly/quite willing |
be unwilling to do something

are you willing to take the risk? | I am perfectly willing to wait | finding a willing helper is easier than you think | I would willingly pay extra for a seat in the front row | I could understand his unwillingness to spend so much money | he was unwilling to go to the police | rather unwillingly, she agreed to the proposal

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as a result /æz ə rɪ'zʌlt/ Phrase

you use **as a result** to say what happens or what a situation is after you have mentioned a cause or reason for it

as a result of something

he fell ill and, as a result, lost his job | she was very shy, and as a result very lonely | one person was injured as a result of flying glass

concentrated /'kɒns(ə)ŋtreɪtɪd/ Adjective

if something is **concentrated**, there is a lot of it in a very small area or in a very short time

the problems are more concentrated in the city | a concentrated burst of gunfire | the industry became concentrated in three major regions

Verb: *concentrate*

the attacks were concentrated on three government buildings

disturbance /dɪ'stɜ:(r)bəns/ Noun

a **disturbance** is something annoying and unpleasant that happens which spoils the peace and quiet of a place

cause a disturbance

we'll try not to cause too much disturbance during the building work | there were complaints about noise disturbance from the park | police arrived following reports of a disturbance in the town centre | we've had no more disturbances since the neighbours moved out

Verb: *disturb*

the sound of an ambulance disturbed the peace of our Sunday afternoon | don't let anyone disturb you when you're revising

emergence /ɪ'mɜ:(r)dʒ(ə)ns/ Noun uncount

the **emergence** of something is when it first comes into existence

the emergence of something

the 1960s saw the emergence of new political organisations | the emergence of digital learning has transformed higher education | the sudden

emergence of new technologies in the music industry | we have seen the emergence of what are called megacities

Verb: *emerge* | Adjective: *emerging*

more details about the bombing have emerged | new political parties emerged after the country gained independence | the gallery shows work by young and emerging artists (artists who are just beginning to be recognised) | the gap between rich nations and emerging economies (countries that are still developing)

exaggeration /ɪg,zædʒə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

an **exaggeration** is a statement that claims something is bigger, better or more extreme than it really is

a gross/slight exaggeration

OK, I admit, that was a slight exaggeration | to describe it as a failure is a gross exaggeration | it was a ridiculous exaggeration, and no one believed him | the report was full of exaggeration and lies

Verb: *exaggerate*

greatly/grossly/wildly exaggerate something

these newspaper reports are always grossly exaggerated | stop exaggerating - things weren't that bad! | the dangers of eating raw eggs have been wildly exaggerated

factor /'fæktə(r)/ Noun

a **factor** is one of several things that have to be considered when discussing a particular problem or situation

what factors are important for a good quality of life? | factors such as smoking and bad diet can lead to heart attacks | this is only one of many factors involved | even the environment and pollution can be factors

in addition /ɪn ə'dɪʃ(ə)n/ Phrase

you use **in addition** when adding extra information to what you have just said

in addition to something

in addition, around one million birds a year are killed by plastic pollution | this will bring your temperature down and in addition it will help you sleep better | in addition, they can provide jobs and a more interesting life | this payment will be made in addition to your normal salary

on the other hand /ɒn ði 'lðə hænd/ Phrase

you use **on the other hand** to introduce a fact that is different from what you have been saying but that is just as important

on the other hand, LED lights are more expensive | I'd like to visit Florence, but on the other hand I need to save money to buy a car | his TV was very old, but his computer, on the other hand, was very new

outweigh /'aʊt'weɪ/ Verb

if one consideration **outweighs** another, it is considered to be more important or useful than the other thing

far outweigh something | outweigh the benefits/

advantages/disadvantages

I think the negatives far outweigh the positives | it seems these fears are outweighed by real concern about rising food costs | but the possible gains outweigh any risks that might be made | the needs of the group outweigh the needs of the individual | the benefits of quitting smoking outweigh the disadvantage of weight gain

ramp /ræmp/ Noun

a **ramp** is a slope between two level pieces of land
they built a ramp outside the library so people in wheelchairs could get in | a skateboard ramp

spoil /spɔɪl/ Verb

to **spoil** something means to do something that stops it being good, pleasant, or enjoyable

I don't want to spoil their fun, but I think they should have to stop before midnight | Jen's parents were there the whole time which completely spoiled the party | my new shoes got spoiled in the rain

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barrier /'bæriə(r)/ Noun

a **barrier** is a physical object or area that makes it difficult to get from one side of a place to another
the English Channel served as an effective barrier during World War II | the police put a metal barrier at the entrance to the square | the river has always been a barrier separating the two halves of the city | the car crashed into a concrete barrier

consortium /kən'sɔ:(r)tiəm/ Noun

a **consortium** is a group of separate companies who come together to work on a single very large project
the consortium consists of 22 companies from 12 different countries | a consortium of three Sydney businesses | the plane was built by consortium partners from all over Europe | a British-based consortium bought the site for redevelopment

converge /kən'vɜ:(r)dʒ/ Verb

if two or more things **converge**, they come together and join at a particular point

the rivers converge just north of the city | three roads converge on the town | you can take either path as they converge after another half a mile

dangle /'dæŋg(ə)/ Verb

something that is **dangling** is hanging in the air quite loosely

a single electric bulb dangled from the ceiling | his tie was dangling in the soup | I could see the phone wire dangling outside the window | the bridge dangles from 160 cables

from scratch /frəm skrætʃ/ Phrase

if you do something **from scratch**, you do it without using anything that had been used or prepared before
they had to build the whole from scratch | you'll just have to start again from scratch | the station was rebuilt from scratch in 1968 | I've never made a cake from scratch before

frustrating /'frʌstreɪtɪŋ/ Adjective

something that is **frustrating** is very annoying because it stops you from doing what you want to do

having to wait so long is incredibly frustrating | this has been an extremely frustrating experience | we spent a frustrating three hours at the embassy waiting to see someone | it's incredibly frustrating having to stay indoors and revise when the weather is so good outside

Noun: *frustration* | Verb: *frustrate*

I understand your frustration at this situation | his unpleasant remark made her explode with frustration | his constant questions frustrated me

metropolis /'mɜ:(r)dʒ(ə)ns/ Noun

a **metropolis** is a very large city with a lot of exciting and interesting activity going on in it
there are numerous museums throughout the metropolis | Tokyo is a lively metropolis | after ten years in the metropolis, village life felt very slow and dull

obstruct /əb'strʌkt/ Verb

if something **obstructs** you, or **obstructs** your view, it is in your way and making it difficult to move past it or see past it

the new building completely obstructs our view of the park | please do not obstruct this doorway | do not stop on the trail and obstruct the traffic | the trees were obstructing the traffic light

Noun: *obstruction*

trains were delayed because of an obstruction on the line

setback /set,bæk/ Noun

a **setback** is a sudden problem that temporarily stops you making progress in what you are trying to achieve

suffer a setback | overcome a setback

hopefully this is just a setback rather than an end to his career prospects | I wouldn't say it's a disaster – just a slight setback | her preparations for the World Cup suffered a serious setback when she broke her leg in training | within days she had overcome this setback and astonished doctors with the speed of her recovery

Phrasal verb: *set back*

the project was well on schedule, but then the floods set us back by two weeks | it won't stop progress altogether, but it will set them back slightly

shoreline /'ʃɔ:(r)laɪn/ Noun

the **shoreline** is the land next to the sea or a river, where the water and land come together

the airport is situated right by the shoreline | the resort has 12 miles of shoreline | the railway line ran parallel with the shoreline | which US state has the longest ocean shoreline?

soar /sɔ:(r)/ Verb

if something **soars**, it is impressively tall or high up in the air

the Burj Khalifa soars over Dubai | a city of soaring skyscrapers | eagles soared high above us

strait /streɪt/ Noun

a **strait** is a narrow strip of water between two larger areas of water

there's a strong current in the strait | car ferries cross the strait three times a day | several bridges cross the strait

unleash /ʌnˈliːʃ/ Verb

if you **unleash** something strong or powerful, you take away any control over it so that it can operate freely without interference

they threatened to unleash a new wave of terrorism | the speech unleashed a political storm | news of the murder unleashed protests across the capital

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drawback /ˈdrɔːbæk/ Noun

a **drawback** is a disadvantage in a plan or course of action

we want to keep a balance between benefits and drawbacks | one obvious drawback was that the battery had a very short life | the only drawback was that the screen was too small | the weight of the equipment was a serious drawback

fund /fʌnd/ Verb

if someone **funds** something, they provide the money that is needed to pay for it

the government should fund more research | the project was funded by a major oil company | the latest study was funded by Goethe University | we're looking for someone to fund an expedition to the South Pole

Noun: *funding*

the funding ran out before we'd finished the research | private universities do not receive government funding

impact /ˈɪmpækt/ Noun

the **impact** of something is the strong effect it has on a situation

a major/enormous/significant impact | a negative/serious/disastrous impact | have an impact | an impact on something

the campaign had little impact on the way people voted | it seemed important, but it had a relatively small impact | exercise can reduce the impact of the disease | cleaning the water supply will have a significant impact on public health | unemployment is known to have a negative impact on health

Verb: *impact*

impact on something

the strike severely impacted the company's profits | several countries were impacted by the crisis | the cuts will certainly impact on service delivery

plant /plɑːnt/ Noun

a **plant** is a large industrial site such as a factory or power station

the plant has helped Laos to become energy independent | the biggest car plant in Europe | they have eight manufacturing plants across the country | his first job was at an aircraft assembly plant

resettle /ˌrɪːˈset(ə)/ Verb

when people are **resettled**, they are provided with a new home after they have been forced to leave the place where they used to live because of war, natural disaster, etc

thousands of people had to be resettled after the war | 52,000 families had been resettled by the end of last year | we need to do more to help resettle these people | Sweden accepted 18,000 and Australia resettled a further 6,000