

8 Hopes and ambitions

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ambition /æm'biʃ(ə)n/ Noun

your **ambition** is your strong wish to become successful at what you do, or to achieve a particular thing

an ambition to do something | realise/fulfil an ambition | have high ambitions

her ambition was to become a doctor | he had high ambitions when he started at university | she was determined to fulfil her ambition of playing professional soccer | her ambitions to enter politics | he realised a lifelong ambition by meeting the queen

Adjective: *ambitious* | Adverb: *ambitiously*

highly ambitious

a highly ambitious junior doctor | he has never been in the least ambitious | he ambitiously attempted to walk across the continent

chalk /tʃɔ:k/ Noun

chalk is a soft sort of rock that is made into short sticks that you can write with

a stick of chalk | teachers used to write on boards with chalk | coloured chalks

expectation /,ekspek'teɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

an **expectation** is a situation that you think will or should happen

exceed/surpass expectations | fulfil/meet expectations

the film exceeded all our expectations | the meal surpassed my expectations (was much better than I thought it would be) | unfortunately, the hotel did not meet our expectations | if you keep your expectations reasonable, you won't be disappointed

Verb: *expect*

I didn't expect to get such a high mark | she was expecting a new bike for Christmas

goal /gəʊl/ Noun

your **goals** are the things you want to achieve in your life

achieve/accomplish a goal

he has worked hard to achieve his goals | my goal is to be a senior lecturer by the time I'm 35 | write out a plan of how you can reach your goals | make sure your goals are realistic and achievable

live up to /lɪv ʌp tu:/ Phrasal verb

if you **live up to** what people expect you to be or do, you succeed in being as good as they hoped you would be

live up to expectations

the hotel was called "Sea View" and it certainly lived up to its name | the film didn't live up to expectations | she certainly lived up to her reputation

overall /,əʊvər'ɔ:l/ Adjective

overall means including and considering every aspect of something, not just individual parts of it

25% of the overall mark is from coursework | the overall area of the flat is 60 square metres | his overall score was 74% | the overall winner is the rider that finishes first in the final round

Adverb: *overall*

she finished second overall | overall, it was a disappointing match

tap /tæp/ Noun

a **tap** is an object that controls the flow of water, for example into a sink or bath. If you drink **tap** water, you drink water that has come from a tap and not from a bottle

turn a tap on/off | a hot/cold tap

could we have a jug of tap water please? | the bathroom had gold-coloured taps | the cold tap was stuck (the tap that sends out cold water) | turn the hot tap off if the water gets too hot

target /'tɑ:(r)ɡɪt/ Noun

a **target** is something you are trying to achieve in your life or an objective you have as part of your job

reach a target | miss a target | set a target

over 70% of students fail to reach their earnings target | our target is to reduce inflation to less than 5% | a meeting to set our targets for next year | our initial target was to raise £3m | he missed his sales target for March

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bound for /baʊnd fɔ:/ Phrase

if you are **bound for** somewhere, you are on a journey going to that place

a spacecraft bound for the moon | the bus set off, bound for the south of France | we got on a ship bound for Cairo | most of us in my class were bound for university

deserve /dɪ'zɜ:(r)v/ Verb

if you say that someone **deserves** something, you think it is right for them to get it, either as a reward for something good that they have done, or as a punishment for something bad that they have done

he doesn't deserve the extra money | I think you deserve a holiday after all that studying | we deserved to win that game | you deserve to be thrown out of university if you cheat in an exam

flexible /'fleksəb(ə)l/ Adjective

something that is **flexible** can be easily changed. A person who is **flexible** can make changes to the way they work or do things very easily

flexible working hours (where you work the same

number of hours each week but different numbers of hours each day) | the arrangements are quite flexible, so you could come on Friday if you prefer | a flexible management style that treated everyone as individuals

Adverb: flexibly

you need to be able to respond flexibly to new challenges

legal firm /'li:ɡəl fɜ:m/ Noun

a **legal firm** is a company made up of lawyers who sell their services giving advice about the law and representing people in court

she works for a top legal firm in New York | a highly successful legal firm | a London-based legal firm

numerous /'nju:mərəs/ Adjective

something that is **numerous** exists in large numbers

you can probably think of numerous similar examples | she has written blogs about this on numerous occasions | the crimes he's committed are too numerous to list in full | over the years, he made numerous attempts to give up smoking

policy /'pələsi/ Noun

a **policy** is a set of rules that a person or organisation decides to follow

my policy is always to tell the truth | it's company policy to employ equal numbers of men and women | he made it his policy never to talk about his experiences in the war | they've changed the policy on school uniform again

recognition /,rekəɡ'nɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

if you get **recognition** for something, people see and understand what you have done and show their approval

she hopes they will now get the recognition they deserve | the campaign has received international recognition | after years of effort, he finally got recognition for his achievements | it's a shame she didn't get that public recognition during her lifetime

Verb: recognise

the award recognised her achievements over the last ten years

successful /sək'sesf(ə)/ Adjective

if something or someone is **successful**, they manage to do what they were meant to do or wanted to do
a successful businesswoman | a successful space mission | his attempt to swim across the English Channel was finally successful | the operation was successful and he was able to walk again

Adverb: successfully | Noun: success | Verb: succeed
|| Opposite – Adjective: unsuccessful | Adverb: unsuccessfully

succeed in doing something

a bridge was successfully built in 2007 | this type of advertising can work successfully | there are several reasons for the team's success | the party was a great success | I succeeded in getting a job in advertising | if at first you don't succeed, try again | the search

was unsuccessful | he tried unsuccessfully to give up smoking

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accountant /ə'kaʊntənt/ Noun

an **accountant** is someone whose job is to organise the financial records for a company or for a person
he's an accountant for a big law firm | I need to talk to my accountant | my accountant sorts out all my finances | a qualified accountant

Noun: accountancy

he wants to study accountancy | both my brothers went into accountancy

airmiles /eəmaɪlz/ Noun plural

airmiles are points that passengers can get when they pay for flights on some airlines. These points can then be used instead of money to pay for another flight

he had enough air miles to fly to Zagreb | she's been saving airmiles for a trip to Bermuda | you get more air miles if you buy a business class ticket

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alarmed /ə'lɑ:(r)md/ Adjective

if you are **alarmed** by something, you suddenly become very worried because of it

alarmed by something

an alarmed neighbour called the police when she heard shouting | she sounded quite alarmed when she phoned | I was angry and alarmed | they were alarmed by what they saw | don't worry, there's nothing to be alarmed about

Verb: alarm | Adjective: alarming

his response alarmed me | they succeeded in alarming everyone with their talk of war | the rate of global warming is truly alarming

axe /æks/ Noun

an **axe** is a tool with a wooden handle and a heavy, sharp metal blade at the end, used for chopping up wood or cutting down trees

using a hand axe, they cut down the tree | can I borrow your axe for a while? | he carried the axe on his shoulder

back-breaking /bæk-'breɪkɪŋ/ Adjective

back-breaking work is very hard, physical work

it took weeks of back-breaking work to get the garden finished | he spent a back-breaking afternoon moving tons of earth | it was a boring and back-breaking job

bleak /bli:k/ Adjective

if the future looks **bleak**, you think there is not much hope that things will improve or be good

her prospects of finding a job in publishing were bleak | the future is looking very bleak for the company | the economic outlook is bleak | chances of a recovery remain bleak | the 1930s were a bleak time for my family

Noun: *bleakness*

when the next day came, the bleakness of our situation became even more apparent

delight /dɪ'laɪt/ Noun uncount

delight is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness about something

I could see the delight in his face when he heard the news | she gave a shout of delight | a feeling of delight and relief came over him

Verb: *delight* | Adjective: *delighted* | Adjective: *delightful*

I'm sure this will surprise and delight you | everyone was delighted when they heard the news | I'd be delighted to accept your invitation | the house is surrounded by a delightful garden | the view from the window was delightful

desperate /dɛsp(ə)rət/ Adjective

if someone or something is **desperate**, they are in a very difficult situation and want or need something very badly

be desperate for something | be desperate to do something

they're desperate for more staff | the hungrier people are, the more desperate they are | we were getting desperate | he's desperate to get a job | they're in desperate need of help | a desperate effort to reach an agreement | she grew more and more desperate as her money ran out

Adverb: *desperately* | Noun: *desperation*

they desperately need food | people are heading for the cities in desperation

greed /gri:d/ Noun uncount

greed is the quality of always wanting more of something than you need, especially food or money *in an ideal world, there would be no greed or violence | financial crime is motivated by pure greed | there will always be human greed | personal greed is just another aspect of human nature*

Noun: *greediness* | Adjective: *greedy* | Adverb: *greedily*

a novel about greediness and money in the 21st century | she's quite greedy when it comes to chocolate | he was in the kitchen, greedily finishing the last of the stew

habitat /'hæbɪtæt/ Noun

the **habitat** of living things such as animals or plants is the sort of place where they exist in nature, rather than a place that has been made or changed a lot by people

natural habitat

we need to do more to protect their natural habitat | these natural habitats are being destroyed by pollution | it lives in forest habitats | this is not the preferred habitat for foxes

majestic /mə'dʒestɪk/ Adjective

something that is **majestic** is very large and impressive

the majestic sight of Mount Snowdon came into view

| a majestic castle high on the hill | a row of majestic trees led to the house | the majestic central building of the university | the mountains behind the village were majestic

Adverb: *majestically* | Noun: *majesty*

the castle stands majestically over the village | enjoy the majesty of the mountains from on board a helicopter

medicinal /mə'dɪs(ə)nəl/ Adjective

something that is **medicinal** can be used to cure or treat illnesses

the area is rich in medicinal plants | a herb with medicinal benefits | olive oil is used for medicinal purposes | he poured himself a glass of whisky saying it was medicinal

small-scale /smɔ:l skeɪl/ Adjective

something that is **small-scale** is very limited in size or extent

can small-scale producers like them make a profit? | the district has mostly small-scale industries | a small-scale agricultural operation

Noun: *small scale* || Opposite – Adjective: *large-scale* | Noun: *large scale*

he set up as a farmer on a very small scale | large-scale projects take a long time to set up | they started to produce cars on a large scale

timber /'tɪmbə(r)/ Noun uncount

timber is wood from trees that have been cut down to be used for things like building houses, making furniture, etc

a lot of the forest has been cut down for timber | we use only the best quality timber | a timber merchant (someone who sells timber as a job) | it's important to choose the right sort of timber

wide-eyed /waɪd-aɪd/ Adjective

someone who is **wide-eyed** is very surprised and impressed by something

the children sat there wide-eyed and delighted | the whole class was wide-eyed watching the demonstration | the visitors were wide-eyed with amazement

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flashing /flæʃɪŋ/ Adjective

flashing pictures, screens, etc, shine very brightly for a short time, then go dark, then shine brightly again and so on

flashing red lights mean you are meant to stop | there are flashing yellow lights at the street crossing outside the school | a police car with blue flashing lights

go one better /gəʊ wʌn 'betə/ Phrase

if you **go one better** than someone, you succeed in doing something more successfully than they did *advertisers try to go one better than their competitors | Jack went one better than his brother and passed his driving test first time | the girls' team went one better than the boys' and won their competition*

laundry /'lɔːndri/ Noun

a **laundry** is a place that washes clothes, towels, bed sheets, etc. **Laundry** is also clothes, towels etc. that need washing or have just been washed

can you pick up the clothes from the laundry on your way home | we send everything to the laundry at the end of the week | I have my laundry done once a week | the van collects the laundry every Monday and brings it back on Wednesdays

Verb: *launder*

freshly laundered shirts | launder your work clothes separately from your bedding

nosy /'nəʊzi/ Adjective

someone who is **nosy** is always trying to find out about things that are none of their business

nosy neighbours | don't be so nosy. It's private | everyone in their family is really nosy

overheated /,əʊvə(r)'hi:tɪd/ Adjective

a place that is **overheated** is too warm because the heating system is turned up too high

overheated hotel rooms | make sure the bathroom isn't overheated | when we went out it was too cold, and when we came back the room was overheated

spicy /'spaisi/ Adjective

spicy food has a strong flavour because it is cooked with special seeds or powders called spices

it was served with a spicy sauce | it wasn't spicy enough for me | I find Indian food too spicy

Noun: *spice*

I love to cook with herbs and spices | the shop on the corner sells excellent spices

takeaway /'teɪkəweɪ/ Noun

a **takeaway** is a restaurant where you can buy a hot meal to take away and eat at home. You can also refer to the meal you have from there as a **takeaway**

we got an Indian meal from the local takeaway | shall we get something from the takeaway? | there's a new takeaway opening on the High Street | I don't want to cook tonight so I'll get us a takeaway

Adjective: *takeaway*

a takeaway meal

whisper /'wɪspə(r)/ Verb

if you **whisper**, you say something very quietly, not using your voice

whisper something to someone

he whispered in the child's ear | they whispered "I love you" to each other | he leaned towards me and whispered his name | speak up, James. Don't whisper

Noun: *whisper*

in a whisper | a hushed whisper

his voice sank to a whisper | she spoke in a whisper, hoping the teacher would not hear | all I heard was a hushed whisper

PAGES 102–103**contradiction** /,kɒntrə'dɪkʃ(ə)n/ Noun

a **contradiction** is something that is the opposite of something else, leading you to think that they cannot both be true at the same time

there's a contradiction in what he says about money | an apparent contradiction | the article was full of contradictions

Verb: *contradict*

the writer contradicts himself twice in the first paragraph

desire /dɪ'zaɪə(r)/ Verb

if you **desire** something, you want it very much

desire to do something

if you desire it enough, you will succeed | a talk aimed at anyone desiring to know more about local history | he desperately desires to be liked and admired

Noun: *desire* | Adjective: *desirable*

I had a strong desire to become a teacher | a house in a highly desirable area (where lots of people would like to live)

faintest /'feɪntɪst/ Adjective

you use **faintest** to emphasize something negative. For example, if you say you haven't the faintest idea, or haven't the faintest, you are emphasizing that you really do not know something. If someone hasn't the faintest hope of succeeding at something, it's almost impossible that they will succeed

I haven't the faintest idea where he went | have you the faintest idea how much that cost me? | she hasn't the faintest hope of getting into university | she hadn't the faintest doubt about what he really wanted

guidance /'gaɪd(ə)ns/ Noun uncount

if someone gives you **guidance**, they give you advice about something

I want some careers guidance | don't be afraid to ask for guidance | he needed a lot of guidance during his first term at university

inspirational /,ɪnspə'reɪʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ Adjective

someone or something that is **inspirational** gives you an idea or makes you believe more strongly in yourself

an inspirational speech | she was an inspirational teacher | her story was inspirational | she became an inspirational leader

Noun: *inspiration* | Verb: *inspire* | Adjective: *inspiring*

an inspiration to someone

Beckham was an inspiration to me when I was a child | I got inspiration from a visit to Windsor Castle | my English teacher inspired me to become a writer | her example inspired lots of girls to start playing football | the president gave an inspiring speech | the film was really inspiring

master /ˈmɑːstə(r)/ Noun

a **master** of a particular activity is someone who can do it very well

a master of something

she's a master of her sport | a master tennis player | she trained under a master instructor | a master carpenter

Verb: master | Noun: mastery

don't expect to master these skills quickly – it takes time | after a year in Germany he felt he had mastered the language

miserable /ˈmɪz(ə)rəb(ə)/ Adjective

if someone is **miserable**, they are very sad

I felt a bit miserable when everyone had left | why are you always so miserable? | a miserable old man | he feels completely miserable going in to an office every day

Noun: misery

you could see the misery in his face

no object /nəʊ ˈɒbdʒɪkt/ Phrase

if you say that money or expense is **no object**, you mean that you are willing to pay as much as is needed for something, even if it is a large amount of money

choose whichever necklace you want – money is no object | if expense is no object, there are plenty of hotels to choose from

retch /retʃ/ Verb

if you **retch**, you cough uncomfortably as if you are about to be sick

the smell made me retch | he retched, then ran to open the window | I could hear him coughing and retching in the bathroom | she felt her stomach heave and retched again

vocational /vəʊˈkeɪʃ(ə)nəl/ Adjective

vocational means relating to the skills and knowledge needed for a particular job or profession

the college offers a range of vocational training courses | a national system of vocational qualifications | an emphasis on practical and vocational skills

vomit /ˈvɒmɪt/ Verb

if you **vomit**, food that you have eaten come backs from your stomach and out through your mouth

I thought I was about to vomit and ran to the bathroom | he began vomiting almost as soon as he got outside | she vomited several times during the night

REVIEW PAGE 104**socket** /ˈsɒkɪt/ Noun

a **socket** is a place with holes in a wall or machine where you can connect electrical equipment

there's a socket behind you on the wall | make sure you plug the keyboard into the correct socket

waterproof /ˈwɔːtə(r),pruːf/ Adjective

clothing that is **waterproof** is specially made to stop rain getting through, so that you will stay dry when you are wearing it

a pair of waterproof trousers | is your jacket waterproof? | don't forget to take waterproof clothes if you go to Scotland | I need some waterproof boots

Noun: waterproofs

good waterproofs are essential in the winter months | did you bring your waterproofs?

windproof /wɪnd pruːf/ Adjective

clothing that is **windproof** is specially made to stop the wind getting through so that you do not get too cold when you are wearing it on a windy day

you need windproof clothing if you're going up the mountain | my jacket isn't windproof | a windproof cycling jacket | a strong, windproof fabric