

# Idioms database

- a drop in the ocean** a very small amount that will not have much effect: *The cost of a hotel for one night is a drop in the ocean for a big company like that.*
- a home from home** a place where you feel as relaxed as you do in your own home: *Everyone knows me at this hotel so it's a real home from home.*
- a leopard can't change its spots** used for saying that someone will never change their behaviour or character: *Jimmy says he's changed, but a leopard can't change its spots, you know.*
- a sight for sore eyes** someone or something that you are very pleased to see: *You're a sight for sore eyes! Thank goodness you're here!*
- a stitch in time (saves nine)** used for saying that it is better to solve a problem now, rather than leave it until later when it may be more difficult to deal with: *If there's a problem with your car, it's better to get it looked at now. You know what they say: 'a stitch in time ...'.*
- a stone's throw (away/from)** very close (to): *Where we live is only a stone's throw from the park.*
- Achilles' heel** a weak feature of someone or something that could cause failure or be attacked: *She's an extremely talented politician, but her Achilles' heel may be her inability to prioritise.*
- add fuel to the fire** make a bad situation worse: *Your refusing to discuss this with Colin is just adding fuel to the fire, in my opinion.*
- all in good time** used for telling someone to wait for something and not try to make you hurry: *You'll get the report when it's finished. All in good time!*
- all mod cons** all modern conveniences, the machines and pieces of equipment in your house that make life easy and comfortable: *I'd quite like to move to a place that has all mod cons.*
- an act of God** an event such as a flood, lightning or an earthquake that is produced by natural forces, and that people have no control over: *The insurance doesn't cover acts of God.*
- as the crow flies** in a straight line (used for measuring distance): *It's about 200 miles as the crow flies.*
- at a loose end** with nothing in particular to do: *If you're at a loose end this weekend, why don't we get together?*
- at the drop of a hat** immediately or in a way that shows that you have no doubts about doing something: *Let me know if you need help and I'll be there at the drop of a hat!*
- be born with a silver spoon in your mouth** have advantages because you come from a rich family: *I've always had to work hard because I wasn't born with a silver spoon in my mouth.*
- be on the same wavelength** understand the way another person thinks because you often have the same ideas and opinions they do: *It was a difficult meeting because David and I didn't seem to be on the same wavelength.*
- before your time** used for saying that something happened or existed before you were born or before you lived or worked somewhere: *When I was a girl, we didn't have mobile phones. That was before your time, of course.*
- below/under par** below the usual or expected standard: *Your essays have been a bit below par recently. Is anything wrong?*
- big mouth** used as a criticism of someone when they say things they should not: *Don't tell Jamie anything you want to remain secret – he's got a big mouth!*
- blot on the landscape** something that makes a place look less attractive, for example an ugly building: *Many people in the town think that the old factory is a blot on the landscape.*
- break even** if a person or business breaks even, they neither make a profit nor lose money: *We didn't make a profit last year, but we did break even.*
- break the mould** change a situation by doing something that is very different from what most people usually do or have done in the past: *I thought her last movie really broke the mould.*
- bury your head in the sand** ignore a problem or an unpleasant situation and hope that it will disappear: *We shouldn't just bury our heads in the sand and hope that this problem goes away.*
- change your tune** change your opinion or attitude: *Tom often criticised Nadia until he met her, but now he's changed his tune.*
- clean as a whistle** completely honest or legal: *I'm not worried about the tax inspection. This company's accounts are clean as a whistle.*
- clean as a whistle** extremely clean: *My mum's coming to visit tomorrow so I want the house to be as clean as a whistle when she gets here.*
- come clean (about sth)** tell the truth about something that you have kept secret: *You'd better come clean and tell Mum it was you who broke the flowerpot.*
- come rain or shine** used for saying that something always happens or someone always does something despite bad weather or difficult conditions: *I'm determined to finish building the house by the end of the month, come rain or shine.*
- commuter belt** area surrounding a large city where many people who work in that city live: *Towns in the commuter belt often seem to lack character.*
- concrete jungle** unpleasant part of a city where there are a lot of ugly buildings close together: *Where we used to live was a bit of a concrete jungle.*
- couch potato** someone who spends a lot of time sitting at home watching television: *I've become a bit of a couch potato since I stopped playing football.*
- cry over spilt milk** waste time feeling upset about something bad that has happened and cannot be changed: *I know your CD player's broken, but there's no point crying over spilt milk, is there?*
- do sth on a whim** do because of a sudden feeling that you must have or do something: *Wendy decided on a whim to redecorate the whole house.*
- down on your luck** having a long period of difficulty finding work and earning money: *The man was obviously down on his luck, so I gave him a little money.*

**draw the line (at)** say that you will definitely not allow or accept something: *I don't mind you asking if you can borrow some money, but I draw the line at you taking it out of my purse without asking first.*

**draw the short straw** be chosen to do something unpleasant: *Somebody has to stay home to look after the dog, and I'm afraid you've drawn the short straw.*

**fall short** not reach a particular level or to fail to achieve something you were trying to do: *We tried to raise 1,000 euros for charity, but we fell short by about 50 euros.*

**fifty-fifty** equal, or into two equal parts: *We split the cost of the meal fifty-fifty.*

**fly off the handle** suddenly become extremely angry without a good reason: *Whatever she says, don't fly off the handle. Stay calm!*

**follow your nose** do what you feel is right in a particular situation, although you are not certain: *The detective had learned to follow his nose in situations like this.*

**follow your nose** go straight forward, without turning: *Once you go past the traffic lights, just follow your nose.*

**for good** permanently, without the possibility of change in the future: *Have Don and Jenny split up for good, do you think, or is it only temporary?*

**for the time being** for now: *I'm staying in rented accommodation for the time being, but hope to buy a place early next year.*

**from time to time** sometimes, but not often: *We see Brian from time to time, but not regularly.*

**gain/get/have/take the upper hand** gain/get/have/take control or advantage over a person or situation: *It looked like Ivor was going to win the game, but I soon got the upper hand.*

**get on like a house on fire** become good friends very quickly and have a lot to talk to each other about: *George and Isabelle seem to be getting on like a house on fire, don't they?*

**get sth off your chest** talk to someone about something that has been worrying you, so that you feel better about it: *It feels such a relief to have got this off my chest.*

**get the wrong end of the stick** understand something completely wrongly: *Don said he was going to France and I got the wrong end of the stick and thought he was moving there for ever.*

**get/catch sb's drift** understand the basic meaning: *Doreen and I have been having some problems recently, if you catch my drift.*

**get/have your way** be allowed to have or do what you want: *If I had my way, I would stay at home this summer.*

**give sb a taste/dose of their own medicine** treat someone in the same bad way they treat other people: *He got me into trouble, so I'm going to give him a taste of his own medicine!*

**give sb your word** promise to do something: *I give you my word I won't tell anyone.*

**give sth a miss** decide not to do something that you usually do: *I think I'll give the office party a miss this year.*

**go halves** share the cost of something with someone so that you each pay 50%: *Let's go halves on the meal, shall we?*

**go to your head** if success goes to your head, it makes you think that you are better or more important than you really are: *I hope getting that scholarship doesn't go to Carol's head.*

**grin and bear it** accept a difficult situation without complaining or showing how you feel: *An author just has to grin and bear it when a book gets a bad review.*

**have a change of heart** change your opinion about something or decide not to do something you were planning to do: *William's had a change of heart and decided not to go to university after all.*

**have green fingers** be good at growing plants: *My wife's always had green fingers, whereas I don't know anything about growing plants.*

**have time on your hands** have more time available than you need: *Julie has a lot more time on her hands now that her children have all left home.*

**have your wits about you** be able to think quickly and make sensible decisions: *You've got to have your wits about you when dealing with pushy salespeople.*

**(hear sth) on/through the grapevine** the way in which information spreads quickly from one person to another through conversation: *I heard through the grapevine you might be getting married soon.*

**home sweet home** used for saying that you are happy to be back in your own home: *It was a good trip, but there's nothing like home sweet home.*

**in/for donkey's years** an extremely long time: *I haven't been swimming in donkey's years.*

**in sb's bad/good books** used for saying that someone is annoyed/pleased with you: *I don't think I'm in Mrs Patterson's good books at the moment.*

**in the dark (about)** not knowing very much about something, because other people are keeping it secret from you: *The Prime Minister kept even his closest colleagues in the dark about when he would call a general election.*

**in the middle of nowhere** a long way from any town or city: *The car broke down and we realised we were in the middle of nowhere.*

**in the nick of time** just in time to prevent something bad happening: *The swimmers were rescued in the nick of time.*

**in the sticks** in an area far from the town or city: *I don't think I could live so far out in the sticks.*

**it's as broad as it's long** used for saying that you cannot choose between two things or actions because they are equal: *It's as broad as it's long whether we get there on Saturday night or on Sunday morning.*

**keep a straight face** remain serious and not laugh: *I couldn't keep a straight face when I saw Mike's new haircut.*

**keep sb posted** regularly give someone information about something they are interested in, for example how a situation is changing or developing: *Do please keep me posted about any developments.*

**keep sth under your hat** keep something secret: *Keep it under your hat, but we're thinking of buying a new house.*

- keep up with the Joneses** try to be as rich, successful, etc as your neighbours: *I don't need a new car, and I'm really not interested in keeping up with the Joneses.*
- keep your hair on** used for telling someone not to get angry or upset: *Keep your hair on! There's no need to get annoyed!*
- kick yourself** be very annoyed because you have made a mistake, missed an opportunity, etc: *I could have kicked myself when I realised I'd left my wallet in the restaurant.*
- knee-high to a grasshopper** very small, because you were very young: *When I was kneehigh to a grasshopper, I used to believe that a monster lived under my bed.*
- know sth inside out** be very familiar with: *Maria's been in the business for years and she knows advertising inside out.*
- know what's what** know the important facts about a situation: *Ask Tony about the proposed changes. He knows what's what.*
- last word in** the newest and best type of something: *The ZD-2000 is the last word in mobile phones.*
- lay/put your cards on the table** tell people exactly what you are thinking or what you are intending to do: *I'm going to lay my cards on the table and offer you an extra £1,000. But that's my final offer!*
- let nature take its course** allow something to develop without trying to influence it: *I'm sure sales will improve if we just let nature take its course.*
- let off steam** shout or do something that allows you to get rid of anger: *I was so annoyed I had to go for a long walk to let off steam.*
- let sleeping dogs lie** leave a person or situation alone if they might cause you trouble: *I know you think your parents are being unfair, but it's probably best to let sleeping dogs lie and not make it worse by arguing.*
- let your hair down** relax and enjoy yourself because you are in a comfortable environment: *It's good to let your hair down after a hard week at work.*
- life and soul of the party** someone who is very lively at social events: *Harry's so much fun and everyone says he's the life and soul of the party.*
- like two peas in a pod** used for saying that two people look, behave or think exactly the same: *Irene and her sister are like two peas in a pod.*
- line your pocket(s)** obtain money, especially by acting dishonestly: *He'd been lining his pockets for years before he was finally caught.*
- live and let live** used for saying that you should accept other people's beliefs and way of life, even if they are very different from your own: *I don't agree with what he's doing, but live and let live, I say.*
- lock, stock and barrel** including every part of a particular thing, situation, place, etc: *They've sold all their possessions, lock, stock and barrel.*
- lose your bearings** become confused about where you are and where other things are: *I lost my bearings for a moment, but then realised where I was.*
- make a beeline for** go towards someone or something in the quickest and most direct way: *As soon as we arrived at the hotel, Molly made a beeline for the manager to complain.*
- make yourself at home** feel relaxed and behave in the same way as you do in your own home: *Charles will be down in a moment, so please make yourselves at home.*
- never/don't look a gift horse in the mouth** if you are given something good, you should not complain about it or try to find things that are wrong with it: *The flat wasn't in very good condition, but we were staying there rent-free, and you should never look a gift horse in the mouth, should you?*
- no rhyme or reason** used for emphasising that there is no reason or explanation for something: *There seems to be no rhyme or reason for the decision.*
- not have a leg to stand on** not have any way of proving that you are right about something: *George tried to argue that the world was flat, but of course he didn't have a leg to stand on.*
- not see the wood for the trees** used for saying that someone cannot understand what is important in a situation because they are thinking too much about small details: *Many people can't see the wood for the trees when talking about joining the eurozone; they just think about what's on the notes and coins and don't think about the economic benefits.*
- off the beaten track** away from populated areas or areas popular with tourists: *We like to get off the beaten track when we go on holiday.*
- on good terms (with)** have a good relationship with someone: *When I left the job, I was still on good terms with everyone in the office.*
- on the spur of the moment** if you do something on the spur of the moment, you do it suddenly and do not take time to plan it or think carefully about it: *We booked the holiday on the spur of the moment. We hadn't been planning to take a break at all this summer.*
- on the street** with no place to live: *Life is hard on the street.*
- on the town** spending the evening enjoying yourself in bars, clubs, theatres, etc: *Did you go out on the town on your birthday?*
- once in a blue moon** very rarely: *To be honest, I only go to museums once in a blue moon. I just don't have time usually.*
- out of the blue** happening in a way that is sudden and unexpected, and does not seem connected with anything that happened before: *Then, suddenly, out of the blue, she said she wanted a divorce.*
- out of this world** extremely good or impressive: *The food at that restaurant is out of this world!*
- over the top** more than what is considered normal or suitable: *Don't you think spending 500 euros on a pair of shoes was a bit over the top?*
- pride of place** in the place that is most central or important: *This stamp's extremely rare, and takes pride of place in my stamp collection.*
- pull (a few) strings** use your influence in order to get something you want or to help someone, especially when this is unfair: *I don't think it's fair to pull strings in order to get a job.*
- put sth in perspective** provide a sensible way of judging how good, bad, important, etc something is in comparison with other things: *My illness has certainly put everything else in perspective.*

**put two and two together** guess what is happening or what something means based on what you have seen or heard: *He didn't tell us he was retiring, but we could all put two and two together.*

**put your feet up** sit down and relax, especially with your feet raised off the ground: *Put your feet up and I'll make dinner.*

**quick/slow on the uptake** taking a very short/long time to understand or realise something: *I'm sure Chad understood what you were suggesting; he's very quick on the uptake.*

**recharge your batteries** rest after being very busy, so that you will be ready to start working again: *Why don't you take a week off work to recharge your batteries?*

**red tape** documents, rules or processes that cause delays: *Is there a lot of red tape involved in getting a passport?*

**reinvent the wheel** waste time and effort trying to do something that someone else has already done well: *Just use the same document you used last time, because there's no point reinventing the wheel.*

**ring a bell** something that rings a bell sounds familiar to you, although you cannot remember the exact details: *The name rings a bell but I'm not sure if I've ever met her.*

**round the bend** crazy: *That noise is driving me round the bend!*

**satellite town** town or city that is close to and depends on a larger city: *Brentwood is a satellite town just outside London.*

**sb is only human** used for saying someone has been weak in the ways most people are weak and should not be blamed for their behaviour: *I'm sorry I made a mistake, but I'm only human.*

**see eye to eye (with sb)** agree with someone or have the same opinion as them: *Imogen and I have never really seen eye to eye.*

**set your heart on** decide that you want something very much: *I had set my heart on getting married on the beach, but the bad weather meant we couldn't.*

**six of one (and) half a dozen of the other** used for saying that two things are equally good or bad: *We could get there on Saturday night or Sunday morning; it's six of one and half a dozen of the other, really.*

**speak volumes** provide a lot of information, especially in an indirect way: *What he said to Mandy speaks volumes about the way he treats his staff.*

**split hairs** argue or worry about very small details or differences that are not important: *Whether you call them 'terrorists' or 'freedom fighters' is just splitting hairs – the point is that they're killing people!*

**steal the show** receive a lot of attention because you give the best performance in a show or other event: *There was one comedian who really stole the show. She was fantastic!*

**stick to your guns** refuse to change what you are saying or doing despite the opposition or criticism of other people: *I admire Kelly for the way she always sticks to her guns.*

**stop dead in your tracks** suddenly stop, for example because you are surprised: *When I heard the gunshot, I stopped dead in my tracks.*

**take a short cut to** follow a path that is quicker and shorter than the usual way: *I walked to school and I used to take a short cut along the canal.*

**take stock (of)** spend some time thinking about the situation you are in before you decide what to do next: *Let's take a couple of days to take stock of the situation and then we'll make a decision.*

**take the law into your own hands** punish someone in your own way without involving the police or the courts, often by doing something illegal yourself: *I know you're angry, but that's no reason to take the law into your own hands.*

**take the scenic route** follow a longer path than the usual one because it is more attractive: *We're not lost – we're just taking the scenic route.*

**tell tales** tell someone in authority about bad things that someone else has done, because you want them to be punished: *Toby, stop telling tales about your classmates.*

**the edge over** an advantage that makes someone or something more successful than other people or things: *Our product's got the edge over the competition because it's so lightweight.*

**the luck of the draw** used for saying people have limited control over what life brings them: *I never wanted to become a butcher, but I guess that's the luck of the draw.*

**the other day** recently: *There was an interesting item on the news the other day.*

**the powers that be** the people who control a situation: *I don't know if the powers that be will agree to that.*

**the tools of the trade** the skills and equipment that you need in order to do your job: *A good bedside manner is one of the tools of the trade for a doctor.*

**throw the book at sb** punish someone very severely: *They'll really throw the book at him this time.*

**tidy sum/amount** large sum/amount: *I've managed to put away a tidy sum this year.*

**touch wood** used when you have said that you have had good luck in order to prevent bad luck from happening to you: *I'll find a new job before too long, touch wood.*

**turn over a new leaf** change your life by starting to be a better person or stopping a bad habit: *Ralph seems to have turned over a new leaf this term.*

**under sb's thumb** completely controlled by someone else: *I became self-employed because I was sick of being under someone's thumb.*

**up in arms about** angry and complaining about something: *Everyone in the office is up in arms about having to work next weekend.*

**variety is the spice of life** used for saying that different experiences and situations make life enjoyable or interesting: *I do a million different things at work, but I suppose variety is the spice of life.*

**your flesh and blood** your relative: *My family is very important to me because, after all, they're my flesh and blood.*

# Word formation database

- access** accessibility, (in)accessible
- act** enact, react, counteract, interact, transact, overact, overreact, (de/re)activate, acting, actor, actress, action, (in)activity, radioactivity, transaction, activist, activism, interaction, (over)reaction, overacting, reactionary, reactor, transactional, active, hyperactive, radioactive, overactive, (in)active(ly)
- adapt** adaptation, adaptor, adaptable
- add** addition, addendum, addenda, additive, additional(ly)
- adequate** (in)adequacy, inadequate, (in)adequately
- adjust** readjust, adjustment, adjustable
- admire** admiration, admirer, admirable, admirably, admiring(ly)
- aggression** aggressiveness, aggressor, aggressive(ly)
- alter** alteration, unalterable, unaltered, alternate, alternative
- analyse** analysis, analyst, analytic(al), analytically
- antique** antiquity, antiquated
- appear** disappear, reappear, (dis/re)appearance, apparition, apparent(ly)
- apply** reapply, misapply, applicant, application, (in)applicability, (in)applicable, (mis)applied
- appreciate** appreciation, appreciable, appreciably, (un)appreciative(ly)
- approve** disapprove, (dis)approval, (dis)approved, (dis)approving(ly)
- architect** architecture, architectural(ly)
- argue** argument, argumentative(ly), (un)arguable, arguably
- arrange** rearrange, (re)arrangement, arranged
- art** arts, artfulness, artificiality, artist, artiste, artistry, artlessness, artwork, artifact/artefact, artifice, arty, artistic(ally), artificial(ly), artful(ly), artless(ly)
- assess** reassess, (re)assessment, assessor, assessed
- associate** dissociate, association, associate, associated
- assume** assumption, assuming, unassuming, assumed
- attach** reattach, attachment, (un)attached
- available** (un)availability, unavailable
- avoid** avoidance, (un)avoidable, unavoidably
- awe** awfulness, awesomeness, awestruck, awful(ly), awesome(ly)
- believe** disbelieve, belief, disbelief, (un)believer, (un)believable, disbelieving, unbelievably
- benefit** beneficiary, beneficial(ly)
- brief** debrief, (de)briefing, brevity, briefs, briefly
- brilliant** brilliance, brilliantly
- broad** broaden, breadth, broadly
- capable** capability, incapable, capably
- cause** causation, causal, causative
- change** exchange, changeover, (un)changing, (un)changeable, interchangeable
- character** characterise, characterisation, (un)characteristic, characterless
- charity** charitableness, (un)charitable, (un)charitably
- choose** chose, chosen, choice, choosy
- class** outclass, (de)classify, classics, classifieds, classification, classlessness, classmate, classroom, classwork, classic, classy, classless, (de)classified, classical(ly)
- collect** collector, collection, collectable, collected, collective(ly)
- come** overcome, comeback, newcomer, outcome, income, coming, oncoming, incoming
- compete** competition, competitor, competitiveness, (un)competitive(ly)
- conceive** conceptualise, concept, conception, conceptual, (in)conceivable, (in)conceivably
- confuse** confusion, confused, confusing(ly)
- connect** disconnect, reconnect, interconnect, connector, (dis/re)connection, (inter)connecting, (un/dis/inter)connected
- conserve** conservation, conservationist, conservatism, conservative(ly)
- consider** consideration, considered, considering, (in)considerable, considerably
- content** (dis)contentment, discontent, (dis)contented
- continue** discontinue, continuity, continuation, continual(ly), continuous(ly)
- convert** conversion, convertible
- convince** conviction, (un)convinced, (un)convincing(ly)
- crime** (de)criminalise, criminal, criminality, criminally
- decide** decision, decider, decisiveness, deciding, (in)decisive(ly)
- declare** declaration, (un)declared
- deep** deepen, depth, deeply
- define** definition, defined, definitive(ly), (in)definite(ly)
- dense** density, densely
- depend** (in)dependence, dependant, dependency, depending, dependable, (in)dependent(ly)
- derive** derivation, derivative
- desire** (un)desirable, desirous, desired, (un)desirably
- destroy** destroyer, destruction, indestructible, destructive(ly)
- distant** (equi)distance, equidistant, (equi)distantly
- do** overdo, outdo, redo, undo, (over/out/re/un)did, (over/out/re/un)done, doing, doings
- dominate** domineer, domination, (pre)dominance, dominant, domineering, dominating, predominant(ly)
- doubt** doubter, doubtful(ly), undoubted(ly), doubtless
- draw** withdraw, withdrew, drew, drawn, withdrawal, drawing, overdraft, overdrawn, withdrawn
- duty** dutiful(ly)
- ecology** ecologist, ecological(ly)
- edit** edition, editor, editorship, (un)edited, editorial(ly)
- effect** (in)effectiveness, (in)effectual, (in)effective(ly)
- electric** electrify, electrician, electricity, electrified, electrifying, electrical(ly)
- elude** elusiveness, elusive(ly)
- employ** (un)employment, underemployment, employer, employee, (un)employed, underemployed, (un)employable
- end** ending, unending, endless(ly)

- endure** endurance, (un)endurable, enduring
- envy** (un)enviable, (un)enviably, envious(ly)
- erode** erosion
- erupt** eruption
- event** eventuality, (un)eventful, eventual(ly)
- evolve** evolution, evolutionary, evolving
- example** exemplify, exemplification, exemplary
- exclaim** exclamation, exclamatory
- expect** expectation, expectancy, expectant(ly), (un)expected(ly)
- explain** explanation, explanatory, unexplained, (in)explicable, inexplicably
- express** expression, expressiveness, expressionism, expressionist, expressive(ly), expressionless(ly), expressly
- extend** extent, extension, (un)extended, extensive(ly)
- extinct** extinction
- familiar** familiarise, (un)familiarity, unfamiliar, familiarly
- favour** favouritism, favourite, (un)favourable, (un)favourably
- finite** infinity, infinitive, infinite(ly), infinitesimal(ly)
- flexible** (in)flexibility, inflexible
- fold** enfold, unfold, folder, (un)folding, foldaway
- fortune** misfortune, (un)fortunate(ly), fortuitous(ly)
- fruit** fruitfulness, fruitlessness, fruition, fruitful(ly), fruitless(ly)
- future** futurist, futuristic(ally)
- go** undergo, underwent, undergone, for(e)go, for(e)went, for(e)gone, ongoing, outgoing
- good** goods, goodness, goodwill, goody/goodie
- govern** misgovern, government, governor, governess, governing, governmental, ungovernable
- hand** handle, handler, handling, handout, handover, handful, handmade, underhand, handy
- hard** harden, hardship, hardness, hardy, hardly
- hear** overhear, hearing, hearsay
- high** heighten, highlight, height, Highness, heightened, highbrow, highly
- history** historian, historic, historical(ly)
- house** housing, household(er), houseful
- human** humanise, humanity, humanism, humanist, humanities, humanitarian, humane, humanly
- ideal** idealise, idealism, idealisation, idealist, idealistic, idealised, ideally
- illusion** disillusion, disillusionment, disillusioned, illusory
- imagine** imagination, imaginings, imaginary, (un)imaginative(ly)
- imitate** imitation, imitator, imitative, inimitable
- imply** implicate, implication, implicit(ly)
- impress** impression, (un)impressiveness, impressionism, impressionist, (un)impressed, impressionable, impressionistic, (un)impressive(ly)
- improve** improvement, improvable, improved
- incident** incidence, coincidence, incidental(ly), coincidental(ly)
- indicate** indication, indicator, indicative
- individual** individualise, individualisation, individuality, individualist, individually
- influence** influential
- inhabit** inhabitant, habitat, habitation, habitable, (un)inhabitable, (un)inhabited
- inherit** inheritance, heritage, heredity, hereditary
- insist** insistence, insistent
- instinct** instinctive(ly)
- institute** institutionalise, institution, institutional, institutionalised
- intend** intention, (un)intended, (un)intentional(ly)
- intimate** intimacy, intimately
- job** jobbing, jobless
- judge** judg(e)ment, judiciary, judiciousness, judicious, judicial, judg(e)mental, judiciously
- know** acknowledge, knowledge, acknowledgement, knowledgeable, acknowledged, (un)known, knowing
- land** landing, landed, landless
- large** enlarge, enlargement, largely
- last** outlast, lasting, everlasting, lastly
- leisure** leisured, leisurely
- logic** (il)logical(ly)
- long** prolong, lengthen, length, longevity, longhand, longing(ly), longwinded, lengthy, prolonged, lengthways, lengthwise
- lot** allot, allotment
- loyal** (dis)loyalty, disloyal, (dis)loyally
- magnify** magnificence, magnification, magnificent(ly), magnifying
- major** majority, majorette
- manage** mismanage, manager, manageress, (mis)management, (un)manageable, mismanaged, managerial, managing
- manufacture** manufacturer, manufacturing
- match** matchmaker, matchmaking, matchstick, matchwood, matchbook, matchbox, matching, unmatched, matchless
- material** materialise, materialism, materialistic, immaterial, materially
- mature** (im)maturity, maturation, immature
- mean** meaning, meaninglessness, meaningless, meaningful(ly)
- metal** metallic, metallurgy
- might** mighty, mightily
- minor** minority
- mobile** (im)mobilise, (im)mobility, mobilisation, immobile
- modern** modernise, modernisation, modernism, modernity, modernist
- moment** momentous, momentary, momentarily
- moral** moralise, demoralise, (im/a)morality, moralist, morale, (im/a)moral, (im/a)morally
- motion** motionless
- motive** (de)motivate, (de)motivator, (de)motivation, (de)motivating, motivational
- mount** surmount, mountain, mountaineer(ing), (in)surmountable, mountainous
- move** mover, movement, (im)movable, moving
- mystery** mystify, mystification, mysterious(ly)
- neglect** negligence, negligible, negligibly, negligent(ly), neglectful(ly)
- new** renew, renewal, newness, renewable, newly, anew
- object** objective, objection, objectivity, objector, (un)objectionable, objectively
- observe** observation, observance, observer, observatory, observable, observant, observably

- obsess** obsession, obsessed, obsessively  
**occur** recur, occurrence, recurrence, recurring, recurrent  
**office** officiate, official(dom), officer, officious, (un)official(ly)  
**opinion** opinionated  
**parent** parenting, parentage, parenthood, parental(ly)  
**pass** passage, (im)passable, passing  
**patient** patience, impatient, (im)patiently  
**pay** overpay, underpay, repay, overpayment, underpayment, repayment, payback, payee, payer, payload, payoff, payout, payroll, payslip, overpaid, underpaid, payable  
**perceive** perception, perceptiveness, (im)perceptible, (im)perceptibly, perceptive(ly)  
**perfect** (im)perfection, perfectionist, perfectionism, perfectible, perfectly, imperfect(ly)  
**period** periodical, periodic(ally)  
**permit** permission, permissiveness, permissible, permissive  
**persist** persistence, persistent(ly)  
**person** personalise, impersonate, personality, personnel, interpersonal, personalised, (im)personal(ly)  
**persuade** dissuade, persuasion, persuasiveness, persuasive(ly)  
**phrase** rephrase, paraphrase, phrasing, phraseology  
**place** replace, placement, placing, replacement, (ir)replaceable  
**play** replay, overplay, downplay, player, playful(ly)  
**portion** apportion  
**power** empower, overpower, empowerment, powerlessness, powerful(ly), powerless(ly)  
**prefer** preference, preferable, preferred, preferential, preferably  
**prejudice** (un)prejudiced, prejudicial  
**prevent** prevention, preventative, preventive, (un)preventable  
**print** reprint, printing, printer, printout, imprint, printed, (un)printable  
**probable** (im)probability, improbable, (im)probably  
**process** processor, processing, processed  
**produce** producer, product, productivity, production, counterproductive, (un)productive(ly)  
**progress** progression, progressive(ly)  
**provoke** provocation, provocative(ly)  
**public** publicise, publicity, publication, publicist, publicly  
**pursue** pursuit, pursuer  
**quality** qualitative(ly)  
**race** racism, racist, interracial, racial(ly)  
**rapid** rapidity, rapidly  
**rational** rationalise, rationalisation, rationalist, rationalism, (ir)rationality, (ir)rational(ly)  
**reason** reasoning, reasonableness, (un)reasonable, reasoned, (un)reasonably  
**regret** regrettable, regrettably, regretful(ly)  
**relate** relation, relationship, (un)related, relative(ly)  
**relax** relaxation, relaxing, relaxed  
**repair** repairman/men, repairer, reparation, repairable, irreparable, irreparably  
**reside** residence, residency, resident, residing, residential(ly)  
**resolve** (ir)resolution, resoluteness, (un)resolved, (ir)resolute(ly)  
**respond** response, respondent, (un)responsive(ly)  
**rest** restlessness, unrest, restive, restful(ly), restless(ly),  
**result** resultant, resulting  
**revolt** revolutionise, revolution, revolutionary, revolting  
**rhythm** rhythmic(al), rhythmically  
**rigid** rigidity, rigidly  
**risk** risky  
**round** surround, surroundings, roundness, roundabout, surrounding, roundly  
**sane** (in)sanity, insane(ly)  
**satisfy** dissatisfy, (un)satisfactory, (dis)satisfied, (un)satisfying(ly), satisfactorily  
**say** gainsay, saying, unsaid  
**seem** seeming(ly)  
**select** deselect, selection, selective(ly)  
**self** (un)selfishness, selflessness, (un)selfish(ly), selfless(ly)  
**sense** (de)sensitise, sensation, (in)sensitivity, hypersensitivity, sensibility, senseless(ness), sensuality, sensuousness, sensor, hypersensitive, oversensitive, nonsense, sensory, sensible, nonsensical, sensibly, (in)sensitive(ly), (un)sensational(ly), sensual(ly), sensuous(ly)  
**separate** separation, (in)separable, separated, separately  
**shelf** shelve, shelves, shelving  
**signify** (in)significance, (in)significant(ly)  
**slip** slippage, slippery  
**soft** soften, softener, softly  
**solid** solidify, solidity  
**space** spacing, spaciousness, spacious(ly)  
**speak** spoke, speech, speaker, spokesman/men/woman/women/person/people, outspokenness, (un)spoken, speechless, unspeakable, unspeakably, outspoken(ly)  
**speed** sped, speeding, speedy, speedily  
**sport** sportsman/woman/person, sportsmanship, sports, sporting, sporty  
**stable** (de)stabilise, (in)stability, destabilisation, stabiliser, (de)stabilising, unstable  
**stand** withstand, withstood, standing, upstanding, outstanding, notwithstanding  
**state** restate, overstate, understate, statement, understatement, overstatement, understated, overstated  
**steady** unsteady, (un)steadily  
**stimulate** stimulation, stimulant, stimulus, stimuli, stimulating, stimulated  
**strong** strengthen, strength, stronghold, strongly  
**structure** infrastructure, structural(ly), (un)structured  
**substance** substantiate, substantiation, unsubstantiated, (in)substantial(ly)  
**suggest** suggestion, suggestibility, suggested, suggestive(ly), suggestible  
**sympathy** sympathise, sympathiser, (un)sympathetic, (un)sympathetically  
**talk** talker, talkie, talkback, talkative  
**tend** tendency  
**terror** terrorise, terrify, terrorist, terrorism, terrible, terrific, terrifying, terrified, terribly  
**think** thought, thinker, thinking, thoughtfulness, thoughtlessness, (un)thinkable, thoughtful(ly), thoughtless(ly)  
**threat** threaten, threatened, threatening(ly)

**time** mistime, timer, timing, overtime, timetable, timelessness, (un)timely, timeless(ly)

**transit** transition, transitory, transitional, transitionally

**type** typeset, typecast, typify, typist, typewriter, typeface, typesetting, typesetter, typescript, typewritten, typical(ly)

**up** upper, uppermost, upright, upward(s), upwardly

**use** abuse, misuse, reuse, overuse, (ab)user, usefulness, usage, uselessness, (un)used, (un)usable, reusable, abused, abusive(ly), useful(ly), useless(ly)

**value** revalue, overvalue, evaluate, (re)valuation, evaluation, overvaluation, valuer, valuables, (in)valuable, valueless

**weigh** weight, weightlifter, weightlifting, weighting, overweight, underweight, weighted, weightless, weighty

**wild** wilderness, wildlife, wildness, wildly

**wise** wisdom, (un)wise(ly)

**word** reword, (re)wording, wordplay, wordy, (re)worded, wordless(ly)

**work** rework, overwork, worker, works, reworking, workplace, overworked, working, (un)workable

**worth** worthlessness, worthy, worthless, worthwhile

**write** rewrite, (re)wrote, (re)written, writing(s), writer, unwritten

**young** youngster, youth, youthful

**zeal** zealot, zealous(ly)