

LONGMAN DICTIONARY OF CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH

朗文当代英语辞典 (英语版)

*The Complete Guide to Written and
Spoken English*

1995年
最新版



外语教学与研究出版社



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Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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前 言

《朗文当代英语辞典》(英语版)第3版(1995年)信息量非常大,全面反映了当代西方社会生活新面貌,是一部有助于培养英语口语与书面准确表达和恰当运用语言技能的实用并引人入胜的工具书。它具有以下的特点:

(一) 收词量大,覆盖面广,超过8万条单词和短语。

(二) 释义精确、细致、浅显易懂。释义所用词汇为朗文公司语料库精选的最常用的2千英语单词。

(三) 收集各方面的当代英语词汇:文学、商业、科技等等,以及日常生活交谈、会话中自然、随意的说法。例如,deconstruction(解构、拆析,文学评论用语),market economy(市场经济,商业用语),clone(克隆动物或植物,科技用语),say-so(允许、许可): *Without his (the doctor's) say-so, you can't leave the hospital.* (没有医生的许可,你不得出院。日常生活随意用语)。

(四) 新词丰富多彩。例如,snail mail(蜗牛邮件:humorous an expression meaning letters that are sent by post, used, especially by people who send computer messages,幽默用语,特别是那些通过电脑发送信息的人们所惯用的称谓),e-mail(电子信件 v. *Will you e-mail me about it?* 作动词用:你能否用电子邮件告诉我此事?)

(五) 提供英语口语和书面语中必不可少和最常用的同义单词和短语,以及它们的语法搭配和句型所出现的频率,并指出英、美用法之间的差异。例如,指出同义词 buy, get 和 purchase 分别在口语和书面语中出现的频率:在口语中 get 出现的频率百分比高于 buy,而 purchase 的百分比却微乎其微。在书面语中 buy 的百分比大大高过 purchase,而 get 则极少用。purchase 多用于正式场合或商业环境中,在一般书面语中也较少用。又例如,enter 和 go/come in 在口语和书面语中出现的情况:统计图表指出在口语中 go in 和 come in 使用的次数较 enter 更为经常,因为 enter 用作这个词义过于正式,因此仅常见于书面语中。有关语法搭配和句型的例子,形容词 afraid 的各种用法出现的频率:afraid(that)百分比最高,其次为 afraid of something,再其次为 afraid to do something; afraid of doing something 则较少用,而 afraid so 和 afraid not 的百分比更低。英、美不同用法的例子:英国英语 on second thoughts(用名词复数),而美国英语口语则为 on second thought(用名词

单数),二者皆译为“经考虑后改变主意”,“used to say that you have changed your mind about something: *I'll have a coffee please. Oh no, on second thought, make it a beer.*”(请给我一杯咖啡。噢,对不起,还是来一杯啤酒吧。)

(六)对同义词和反义词的细微歧义和用法用例句加以说明,简明扼要、恰到好处。例如,有关点、灭火的同义词和反义词:light, set fire to, catch fire, put out, go out, extinguish。说明为:If you want something to burn you usually *light* it: *She lit a cigarette./the stove/a match.*(她点燃了一支香烟/炉子/一根火柴。) You can also *set fire to* things, especially things that are not supposed to be burnt (点燃不应烧毁之物): *Crowds rioted through the street, breaking windows and setting fire to cars.*(人群在街头游行闹事,毁玻窗,烧汽车)。When something begins to burn, especially by accident, it *catches fire*(特指偶然引起的燃烧): *The blaze started when some oily rags caught fire.*(一些油浸的破布偶然燃烧起来,这就引起了一场大火。) To stop a fire you *put it out*, or else it may *go out* on its own (Not go off)(*put out*, *v. t.*“熄灭”;*go out*, *v. i.*“自动熄灭”)。On official notices and instructions you may see *extinguish*(正式布告和守则上可能使用 *extinguish* 一词): *Will passengers please extinguish all cigarettes.*(请乘客都把香烟灭掉。)

(七)附有 24 整页彩色插图,既赏心悦目,又使读者一目了然,大有助于释义。例如有关 house 各部分的彩色插图(第 410 页)。图上说明还加上英、美英语中某些部分名称的不同:电视天线:TV aerial(英),TV antenna(美);庭院:garden(英),yard(美);私人车道:drive(英),driveway(美);人行道:pavement(英),sidewalk(美);路缘:kerb(英),curb(美)——拼写不同,读音相同;尖桩篱栅:fence(英),picket fence(美);垃圾箱:dustbin(英),garbage can(美);联立房屋:terraced houses(英),row houses(美);二联式公寓:semi-detached(英),duplex(美);公寓大楼:block of flats(英),apartment building(美)。

这部新版《朗文当代英语词典》还有其它特色,兹不一一列举。我相信读者必将视它为良师益友和一位百问不厌的有趣的伴侣。

李赋宁

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● ● ● Guide to the Dictionary

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1 How to find the word you are looking for

Words are listed in this dictionary in alphabetical order.

1.1 Compound words

Compound words are groups of two or more words with a fixed form and a special meaning, such as **front man** and **front line**. Most of these are shown as full headwords (but see section 1.6 Phrases and idioms). They are treated like ordinary words in the alphabetical order; the space or hyphen between the two parts is ignored.

front-al
frontal sys-tem
front-and-center
front bench
front-bench-er
front door
front-tier

1.2 Phrasal verbs

Multi-word verbs, like **give up** or **put off**, are listed in alphabetical order directly after the entry for their main verb. For example:

face² *v* [T]
face *sb* ··· **down**
face up to
face *sb* **with**
face card

1.3 Derived words without definition

Some words do not need a definition, because they are derived from a headword by adding a suffix. For example **gracefully** and **gracefulness** are derived from **graceful**, and their meaning is simply that of the main word plus the meaning of the suffix. These words are shown at the end of the entry for the word that they are derived from.

grace-ful ¹ *g'reɪsfəl* *adj* **1** moving in a smooth and attractive way, or having an attractive shape: *a slim graceful figure* **2** behaving in a polite and pleasant way: *a graceful apology* — **gracefully** *adv*: *When I am no longer needed, I shall retire gracefully.* — **gracefulness** *n* [U]

In this case, **gracefully** just means 'in a graceful way,' and **gracefulness** just means 'the quality of being graceful.'

1.4 Homographs

Homographs are words that have the same spelling but are different from each other in some other way, and are listed as separate entries in a dictionary. In this dictionary, words of different word classes are treated as homographs.

face¹ /feɪs/ *n* [C]

1 ► **FRONT OF YOUR HEAD** ◀ the front part of the head from the chin to the forehead: *She has such a pretty face. | Bob's face was covered in cuts and bruises.* a **sea of faces** (= a lot of faces seen together) *The Principal looked down from the platform at the sea of faces below* —see picture at **HEAD**¹.

face² *v* [T]

1 ► **DIFFICULT SITUATION** ◀ if you face a difficult situation or if it faces you, you must deal with it: *The President faces the difficult task of putting the economy back on its feet. | McManus is facing the biggest challenge of his career. | be faced with/by I was faced with the awful job of breaking the news to the girl's family.*

The order of the homographs depends on how common they are. **Face** is used more often as a noun than as a verb, so the noun entry is shown first.

Words of the same word class and spelling that are pronounced differently, are separate headwords.

For example, the nouns **row** (= a line) and **row** (= an argument) are separate headwords, because they are pronounced differently.

If two words are spelled the same, but one starts with a capital letter and has a completely different meaning, for example the adjectives **catholic** and **Catholic**, they are separate headwords.

If a word is a plural form of a noun, but has a separate meaning, it is usually shown as one of the meanings of that noun:

blue² *n* 1 [C.U] the colour that is blue: *the rich greens and blues of the tapestry* | *She nearly always dresses in blue.* 2 **blues** [plural] a slow sad style of music that came from the southern US: *a blues singer* —see also **RHYTHM AND BLUES** 3 **the blues** [plural] informal feelings of sadness: *Don't be surprised if you get the blues for a while after your baby is born.*

But if the plural form of the word is more important than the singular, and has several meanings, it is a separate headword. So **goods** has its own entry, separate from the noun **good**.

1.5 Other types of headwords

Abbreviations are headwords, and so are prefixes like **dis-** or suffixes like **-able**.

Different spellings are shown at the headword, and also have their own entry as headwords, directing you to the main entry.

in-quire, enquire /ɪn'kwaɪə||-ər/ *v* [I.T] 1 to ask someone for information: *"Are you getting married?" the television interviewer inquired.*

en-quire /ɪn'kwaɪə||-'kwair/ *v* [I.T] especially **BrE** another spelling of **INQUIRE**.

Irregular inflections of words are shown at the main form, and also as separate headwords, directing you to the main entry.

have¹ /v. əv. həv; strong həv/ *auxiliary verb past tense had* /d. əd. həd; strong həd/ *third person singular present tense has* /z. əz. həz; strong həz/ *negative short forms haven't* /'hævənt/, *hadn't* /'hædnt/, *hasn't* /'hæzənt/ *had* /d. əd. həd; strong həd/ 1 the past tense and past participle of **HAVE**

1.6 Phrases and idioms

Some words are often used in particular phrases, and an important feature of this dictionary is that we treat them as separate meanings. For example:

face¹ /feɪs/ *n* [C]

17 **sb's face doesn't fit** used to say that someone is not the right kind of person for a particular group, organization etc

18 **put a brave face (on)** to make an effort to behave in a happy cheerful way when you are upset or disappointed: *He was shattered, though he put on a brave face.*

19 **set your face against** especially **BrE** to be very determined that something should not happen

Some compound words are treated in this way, because they are idiomatic phrases. For example, **big deal** is given as a sense of **big**.

Phrases and idioms are usually listed under the first main word in a phrase (that is, not at words like *the, to, something, or be*), so the definition of **have egg on your face** is at **egg**, not at **face**. If you look for this phrase at **face**, you will find a cross-reference note at the end of the entry, telling you where to find it.

face¹ /feɪs/ *n* [C]

—see also **have egg on your face** (EGG¹ (4)), **fly in the face of** (FLY¹ (28)),

2 Understanding meaning

2.1 Words with more than one meaning.

Where a word has more than one meaning, each meaning is given a separate number, and the most frequent meaning, according to analysis of our spoken and written corpora, is shown first.

a-chieve-ment /ə'ʃi:vmənt/ *n* 1 [C] something important that you succeed in doing by your own efforts: *Winning three gold medals is a remarkable achievement.* |

no mean achievement/quite an achievement (=a very impressive achievement) **2** [U] the act of achieving something: *the achievement of economic stability* | **sense of achievement** (=a feeling of pride when you succeed in doing something difficult) *You get a wonderful sense of achievement when you reach the top.*

This dictionary is based on analysis of large corpora of spoken and written English, which shows how often a word or phrase is used, and how often it is used in each meaning.

A phrase that contains the word and has its own distinct meaning is shown as a separate sense and listed in frequency order. For example:

look-out /'lok-aʊt/ n

1 be on the lookout for to watch a place or situation continuously in order to find something you want or to be ready for problems or opportunities: *Police were on the lookout for anyone behaving suspiciously.* | *We're always on the lookout for new business opportunities.*

2 keep a lookout to keep watching carefully for something or someone, especially for danger: **keep a sharp/special lookout** *When you're driving keep a sharp lookout for cyclists.*

3 ► PERSON ◄ [C] someone whose duty is to watch carefully for something, especially danger: *A lookout reported an enemy plane approaching.*

4 ► PLACE ◄ [C] a place for a lookout to watch from: *a coastguard lookout on the cliff-top*

5 it's your/their own lookout *BrE* spoken used to say that what someone has chosen to do is their own problem or risk, and no one else's: *If he wants to ruin his health with all these drugs, that's his own lookout.*

6 be a poor/bad lookout for sb *BrE* spoken used to say that something bad or unsatisfactory is likely to happen: *It'll be a poor lookout for James if she finds that letter.*

This shows that the most common use of **lookout** is in the phrase **be on the lookout for**.

2.2 Definitions

All the definitions in this dictionary are written in clear and simple language, using the Longman Defining Vocabulary of about 2000 common words. The list of the words in the definitions is shown at the end of the dictionary after section 7 which explains exactly how the words are used.

2.3 Examples

Most definitions in this dictionary are followed by examples that show how the word is used.

The examples may be in short phrases or whole sentences, and they are written in *italic letters*:

clear instructions | *You must never do that again. Is that clear?*

All the examples in this dictionary are based on what we find in the spoken and written corpus material in the Longman Corpus Network. Some examples are taken direct from the corpus; some have been changed slightly from the corpus to remove difficult words; and some have been written specially for the entry. In each case, the examples are carefully chosen to help show the ways in which a word or phrase is normally used.

Examples also exemplify the grammar of the word, and the way in which it is often used with other words (collocation).

be clear on *The rules are quite clear on the point.* | **clear to sb** *Is all this clear to you?*

2.4 Collocations

An important aim of this dictionary is to show very clearly the collocation of a word: the other words that are frequently and typically used with it. Collocations are shown in dark type, and are followed by a short definition in brackets, or an example, or both.

make yourself clear (=express something well) *To make yourself clear without using facial expressions can be very difficult.* | **get sth clear** *Let's get one thing clear: you have my whole-hearted support.*

These collocations are shown in frequency order, with the most important collocations coming first.

2.5 Finding the meaning you want – Signposts

In entries with many definitions, we have included "Signposts" to help you find the right definition quickly. These are shown in capital letters, before the definition, and are written using only the words in the Longman Defining Vocabulary.

bridge¹ /brɪdʒ/ n [C]

1 ► OVER A RIVER/ROAD ETC ◄ a structure built over a river, road etc, that allows people or vehicles to cross from one side to the other

2 ► CONNECTION ◄ something that provides a connection between two things; **LINK² (1)**: *The training programme is seen as a bridge between school and work.*

3 ► SHIP ◄ the raised part of a ship from which the officers control it

4 ► CARD GAME ◄ [U] a card game for four players who play in pairs

5 the bridge of your nose the bony upper part of your nose between your eyes

6 ► PAIR OF GLASSES ◄ the part of a pair of glasses that rests on the bridge of your nose —see picture at **GLASS¹**

7 ► MUSICAL INSTRUMENT ◄ a small piece of wood under the strings of a VIOLIN or GUITAR, used to keep them in position

8 ► FOR TEETH ◄ a small piece of metal for keeping false teeth in place —see also **build bridges** (**BUILD¹ (7)**).

burn your bridges (BURN¹ (22)), **cross that bridge when you come to it** (CROSS¹ (7)), **be (all) water under the bridge** (WATER¹ (7))

A signpost is a word or short phrase that guides you to the right meaning. It may be a synonym, a short definition, or the typical subject or object of a verb.

2.6 Long entries with menus

In some of the longer entries, meanings that are closely related to each other are grouped together in 'paragraphs', or sections in the entry. A menu at the beginning of the entry tells you the paragraph headings, so that you can easily find the section that contains the sense that you want. All these senses begin on new lines, and they have signposts where these are helpful. Look at the words **run** and **way** for examples of the use of paragraphs.

2.7 Showing words with similar and opposite meanings

Sometimes it is useful to show a synonym, a word that has the same meaning, or almost the same meaning, as the word that is being defined. These are shown after the definition, like this:

im-ma-te-ri-al /,ɪmə'tɪəriəl/ *adj* **1** not important in a particular situation; **IRRELEVANT**: *The causes of the problem are immaterial now – we need solutions.* **2** *formal* not having a real physical form

Words with similar meanings or similar forms are shown with a 'compare' note, and useful opposites are also shown.

i-ma-gi-na-ry /ɪ'mædʒɪnəri/ *adj* not real, but produced from pictures or ideas in your mind: *All the characters in this book are imaginary.* —compare **IMAGINATIVE**

im-mod-est /ɪ'mɒdɪst/ *adj* **1** having a very high opinion of yourself and your abilities, and not embarrassed about telling people how clever you are etc —opposite **MODEST** (1) **2** *old-fashioned* behaviour or clothes that are immodest may embarrass or offend people because they do not follow the usual social rules concerning sexual behaviour —**immodestly** *adv* —**immodesty** *n* [U]

3 Frequency

You have seen that this dictionary is organized on the basis of frequency. The most frequent meanings of a word are shown first, and homographs are shown in frequency order. At each sense of a word, the examples that show grammar, and those that show collocation, are each arranged in frequency

order. All our judgments about frequency are made by analysis of corpus material. This principle of organization gives important information about the English language, and is helpful to the student.

At some important words, graphs give further information on frequency. Some show that a word is used much more frequently in spoken English than in written, and some compare words with the same meaning, showing which is more frequent in written English, and which in spoken. Some graphs show how often a word is used in each of its most frequent collocations or grammar patterns, and others highlight differences between British and American English.

The dictionary also shows which are the most frequently used words, according to the computer-based analysis of all corpus material available to Longman. The symbols S1, S2, and S3 show that a word is one of the thousand most frequently used words in spoken English, one of the next thousand most frequent, or one of the third thousand, in the list of three thousand words most often used in speech. The symbols W1, W2, and W3 give the same information for written English. Whether a word is S1, S2, or W1, W2 and so on depends on its overall frequency in American and British English combined.

4 Grammar

The dictionary contains a great deal of information about the grammar of words. It tells you the word class that a headword belongs to – whether it is a noun, a verb, an adjective or some other type of word. It also gives information about the inflections of words – how their form changes when they are used in the past tense, the plural, the comparative, or in some other way. And it gives a full explanation of the word's syntax – the various patterns in which the word combines with other words to form sentences.

4.1 Word classes

The word class, or 'part of speech' is shown like this:

il-lo-gi-cal /ɪ'lɒdʒɪkəl/ *adj* **1** not sensible or reasonable: *erratic and illogical behaviour* —opposite **LOGICAL** (1) **2** not based on the principles of logic: *an illogical conclusion* —**illogically** /-kli/ *adv* —**illogicality** /ɪ'lɒdʒɪ'kælɪtɪ/ *n* [U]

This means that **illogical** is an adjective. Derived forms are also given a word class label: **illogically** is an adverb, and **illogicality** is a noun.

The word classes used in this dictionary are:

word class	example
<i>adj</i> (adjective)	a fast car , straight lines , amazing speed , frequent trains
<i>adv</i> (adverb)	smiling happily , put it away , frankly , I'm not bothered
<i>auxiliary verb</i>	be, have
<i>conjunction</i>	and, but
<i>determiner</i>	this, which
<i>interjection</i>	damn, wow
<i>modal verb</i>	must, can, should
<i>n</i> (noun)	car, rabbit, president, dignity, excuse
<i>number</i>	five, ninth
<i>phr v</i> (phrasal verb)	put off, shut up, take over
<i>predeterminer</i>	all, both
<i>prefix</i>	dis-, centi-
<i>prep</i> (preposition)	in, after, to
<i>pron</i> (pronoun)	he, their, us
<i>quantifier</i>	many, several
<i>suffix</i>	-ity, -ness
<i>v</i> (verb)	go, send, indicate

4.2 Inflections

Inflections are the changes that are made in the form of a word according to its function in a sentence. Most words form their inflections according to regular rules. For example, most nouns add -s or -es to form the plural, and most verbs add -ed to form the past tense. These 'regular inflections' are not shown in the dictionary, except where there is a possibility of confusion or if the regular inflection has a difficult pronunciation.

'Irregular inflections' are always shown. They come directly after the word class, and they are written in dark type, like this:

cri-sis /'kraɪsɪs/ *n* plural **crises** /-sɪz/ [C,U]
eat /i:t/ *v* past tense **ate** /et/, eɪt/|eɪt/ past participle **eaten** /'i:tɪn/
good /gʊd/ *adj* comparative **better** /'betə/|ər/ superlative **best** /best/

Irregular inflections are also shown at their own place as headwords, referring you to the main word:

ate /et, eɪt/|eɪt/ the past tense of **EAT**
 Inflections are also shown for:

verbs which have a double letter in the past and -ing forms:

hug¹ /hʌg/ *v* **hugged**, **hugging** [T]

verbs which end in -y:

car-ry¹ /'kæri/ *v* **carried**, **carrying**

adjectives which end in -y:

dirty¹ /'dɜ:ti/|'dɜ:r-*ɜ:* *adj* **dirtier**, **dirtiest**

There is a full list of verbs with irregular inflections at the back of the book, starting on page B7.

4.3 Syntax – verbs

Basic information about the way a verb behaves is given in square brackets.

The codes [I] (intransitive) and [T] (transitive) show whether a verb has or does not have an object.

hard-en /'hɑ:dn/|'hɑ:dn/ *v* **1** [I,T] to become firm or stiff, or to make something firm or stiff: *Make sure you give the paint enough time to dry and harden.* **2** [I] to become more strict and determined and less sympathetic: *Opposition to the military regime has hardened since the massacres.* [a *hardening of attitudes*] *His face hardened.* —compare **SOFTEN** (4) **3** [T] if an experience hardens someone, it makes them stronger and more able to deal with difficult or unpleasant situations

The code {linking verb} means that a verb shows that one thing is the same as another, or that something is true about a thing.

look¹ /lʊk/ *v*

3 ▶ **SEEM** ◀ {linking verb} to seem to be something, especially by having a particular appearance: *How do I look in this dress?* | **look like** *The intruder was holding what looked like a shotgun.* | **look as if** *You look as if you haven't slept all night.*

be² *v* **1** {linking verb} used to show that someone or something is the same as the subject: *It's me.* | *Lack of money is our biggest problem.* | *If I were you, I shouldn't do it.*

Square brackets may also contain restrictions on the way a verb can be used, including **[not in progressive]**

pre-fer /pri'fɜ:|-'fɜ:r/ *v* **preferred**, **preferring** [T not in progressive] **1** to like someone or something more than someone or something else.

[I always + adv / prep]:

am-ble /'æmbəl/ *v* [I always + adv/prep] to walk in a slow relaxed way: [+ **along/across** etc] *The old man came out and ambled over for a chat.* —**amble** *n* [singular]

You cannot simply say 'he ambled' without adding something like 'along' or 'towards me'

[usually in passive]:

carpet² *v* [T] **1** [usually in passive] to cover a floor with carpet: *a carpeted corridor* **2** *informal especially BrE* to blame someone for something they have done;

REPRIMAND **3** *carpeted with grass/flowers etc* literary covered with a thick layer of grass etc

[not in passive]

concern² v [T] **1** if an activity, situation, rule etc concerns you, it affects you or involves you: *The tax changes will concern large corporations rather than small businesses.* **2** [not in passive] to make someone feel worried or upset: *The fact that she spends so much time on her own really concerns me.* **3** [not in passive] if a story, book, report etc concerns someone or something, it is about them: *This article concerns a man who was wrongly imprisoned.* **4** **concern yourself with/about sth** to become involved in something because you are interested in it or because it worries you: *More and more people are concerning themselves with environmental problems.* **5** **to whom it may concern** an expression written at the beginning of a formal letter when you do not know the name of the person you want to communicate with — see also CONCERNED

If this basic information is true whenever a word is used, you will find it after the headword. If it is true for a particular sense of the word, you will find it after the number that marks that sense.

4.4 Phrasal verbs

For a phrasal verb, it is important to show whether the preposition can come both before and after the object or whether it is restricted to one of these positions. This is shown in this dictionary by a double arrow.

hand² v [T]

hand sth ⇄ **out phr v [T]** **1** to give something to each member of a group of people; DISTRIBUTE: *Could you start handing these books out?* **2** **hand out advice** to give advice, even if people do not want to hear it — see also HANDOUT

This entry shows that you can say 'hand the books out', or 'hand out the books', but it would not be correct to say 'hammer an agreement out'.

Other information about how a verb behaves is shown in the examples. A typical construction is shown in dark type before the example that illustrates it.

4 **decide in favour of/decide against** **a)** to choose or not choose someone or something: *After long discussion they decided in favour of the younger candidate.* **b)** if a judge or JURY (1) decides in favour of someone or against someone, they say in court that someone is guilty or not guilty: *The jury decided in favour of the plaintiff.*

These examples are shown in frequency order, with the most frequently used construction first.

4.5 Syntax – nouns

Grammatical information enclosed in square brackets shows whether a noun, or a particular sense of a noun, is countable (a pen, three pens), or uncountable (honour, daylight).

hab-i-tation /ˌhæbɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* formal **1** unfit for human habitation a building that is unfit for human habitation is not safe or healthy for people to live in **2** [U] the act of living in a place: *There was no sign of habitation as far as the eye could see.* **3** [C] a house or place to live in

hes-i-tation /ˌhezɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* [C,U] the action of hesitating: *After some hesitation one of them began to speak.* | **have no hesitation in** I would have no hesitation in declining the post. | **after/without a moment's hesitation** Without a moment's hesitation she kissed him.

If a noun, or a particular sense of one, is always singular or always plural, this is also shown in a square bracket.

hard right /ˌhɑːd/ *n* [singular] the part of a political party that believes strongly in RIGHT WING political ideas

high heels /ˌhaɪ/ *n* [plural] women's shoes with high heels — **high-heeled** *adj* — see picture on page 840

If a noun is typically followed by a preposition or prepositions, this is shown in dark type before the example that illustrates it. A construction that typically follows a noun is also shown in dark type before an example.

hope² n [U]

5 ▶ **CHANCE** ◀ [C,U] a chance of succeeding or of something good happening: [+ of] *there was no hope of escape* | **hope that** *There is some hope that we'll find a solution to our problems.*

4.6 Syntax – adjectives and adverbs

Information about how an adjective or adverb behaves is shown in a square bracket, and includes:

[only before noun]

ac-tu-al /ˈæktʃuəl/ *adj* [only before noun] **1** real, especially as compared with what is believed, expected or intended: *a big difference between the opinion polls and the actual election results* | *I'm not joking. Those were his actual words.* | **in actual fact** (=really) *In actual fact, there is not much evidence to support these allegations.*

[only after noun]

ga-lo-re /gə'lɔːrɪ/ *adj* [only after noun] in large amounts or numbers: *There are bargains galore in the sales this year.*

[not before noun]

ad-vi-sab-le /ədˈvaɪzəbəl/ *adj* [not before noun] something that is advisable should be done in order to avoid problems or risks: *For heavy smokers, regular medical checks are advisable.* | **it is advisable to do sth** *It is advisable to disconnect the computer before you open it up.* — **advisability** /ədˈvaɪzəbɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

[no comparative]

ef-fec-tive /ɪ'fektɪv/ *adj* **1** producing the result that was wanted or intended: *The ads were simple, but remarkably effective.* **2** impressive or interesting enough to be noticed: *an effective use of colour* **3** [no comparative] if a law, agreement, or system becomes effective, it officially starts: *The cut in interest rates is effective from Monday.* **4** [no comparative] real rather than what is officially intended or generally believed: *The rebels are in effective control of the city.* — **effectiveness** *n* [U]

[+adj/adv]

in-creas-ing-ly /ɪn'kri:stɪŋli/ *adv* more and more all the time [+ adj/adv]: *The classes at the college have become increasingly full over the past five years.* [sentence adverb]: *Increasingly, it is the industrial power of Japan and South East Asia that dominates world markets.*

[sentence adverb]

hap-pi-ly /'hæpɪli/ *adv* **1** in a happy way: *a happily married couple* **2** [sentence adverb] fortunately: *Happily, his injuries were not serious.* **3** very willingly: *I'd happily go for you.*

The grammar information [sentence adverb] indicates that in this sense **happily** is used to modify a whole sentence.

The prepositions or construction that follow an adjective are shown in dark type before an example.

hope-ful /'həʊp.fəl/'həʊp-/ *adj* **1** believing that what you hope for is likely to happen: [+ **about**] *Everyone's feeling pretty hopeful about the future.* | **hopeful that** *We're hopeful that the team will be fit for next Saturday's game.* | **be hopeful of doing sth** *BrE: The police are hopeful of finding more clues to the murder.*

4.7 Very infrequent words

Very infrequent words, that a student is not likely to need to use, are given a shorter treatment, without examples, giving just the basic grammatical information.

5 Information on register and usage

5.1 Indicating register

Some words and senses have information on what type of situation they are likely to be used in. This is shown in *italic* after the headword, or after the sense number.

cllobber² *n* [U] *informal especially BrE* someone's possessions, especially their clothes: *Don't forget all your cllobber if you're staying the night.* | **fishing/swimming/football cllobber** *etc* (=clothes and equipment needed for a particular activity)

ab-ne-ga-tion /,æbnɪ'geɪʃən/ *n* [U] *formal* the act of not allowing yourself to have or do something that you want

a-blu-tions /ə'blu:ʃənz/ [plural] *n* *formal* or *humorous* the things that you do to make yourself clean, such as washing yourself, cleaning your teeth etc

Slang or *taboo*, but especially *taboo*, show that you should be careful about using a word, even in an informal situation.

Literary, poetic, technical, old use or *old-fashioned* indicate a word that people do not normally use in speech or writing.

5.2 Spoken words and phrases

The label *spoken* indicates a phrase that is typically used in speech, rather than in writing.

24 that's life *spoken* used when you are disappointed or upset that something has happened but realize that you must accept it: *Oh well, that's life!*

Because we have spoken as well as written material on the Longman Corpus network, we were able to give a lot of attention to providing information of this kind. Some important words have graphs to show how much more frequently they occur in spoken than in written English. Some of these words, such as **mean**, have special 'spoken phrases' boxes or paragraphs.

5.3 Usage notes

Notes on particular points of English usage are included in the dictionary. Each note follows the entry for the main word that it treats. Other words dealt with in that Note have cross-references from their own places of entry.

6 Pronunciation

Each word is followed by its pronunciation, given in the International Phonetic Alphabet. The symbols used are shown in the table at the beginning of this Introduction. Alternative pronunciations are shown after a comma. If only part of the pronunciation is different, this part is given, and its place in the word shown by a hyphen.

a-ber-rant /'æbərənt, ə'berənt/ *adj* *formal* not usual or normal: *aberrant behaviour*

ab-duct /əb'dʌkt, əb-/ *v* [T] to take someone away by force; *KIDNAP: Police suspect she was abducted late last night.* — **abductor** *n* [C] — **abduction** /əb'dʌkʃən/ *n* [C,U]

Where a word is pronounced differently in British English and in American English, these different

pronunciations are both shown, and separated by two vertical parallel lines. The British version is shown first, on the left of these lines, and the American is shown on the right.

an-swer ¹/ˈɑːnsə/|ˈænsər/ *n*

Most words that are derived from another word in a regular way, and are shown after it without a definition, are simply pronounced as the main word plus the suffix. In these cases, no pronunciation is shown. In all other cases the pronunciation of a derived word is shown.

6.1 Compound words

Compound words that consist of two words with a separating space or hyphen are not usually given a full pronunciation. This is because each of the words has its own entry, where the pronunciation is given. Instead a stress pattern of the compound word is shown, with a dot representing each syllable, and the marks above and below that show main and secondary stress. Where British and American stress patterns are different, both are shown, in the same way that full pronunciations are.

aircraft car-ri-er ¹ˌeɪəˈkrɑːft ˌkɑːrɪˈeɪə/ *n* [C] a type of ship that has a large flat surface that planes fly from

7 British and American English

Both British and American lexicographers have worked on this dictionary, so that it gives good coverage of both British and American English. The definition text is written in British English, with both British and American shown in the examples. Differences in pronunciation and spelling between the British and American forms of a word are shown. Words, senses of words, grammatical constructions, phrases, and collocations, that only occur in British English are marked *BrE*, and those that exist only in American English are marked *AmE*. Those that are much more frequent in one form of English than in the other are marked especially *BrE* or especially *AmE*.

7.1 Pronunciation and spelling differences

British and American pronunciations are separated by two vertical parallel lines, with the British on the left and the American on the right. An example of this is shown at the beginning of section 5.

If words are spelt differently in British and American English, both spellings are shown and marked.

cen-tre ¹*BrE*, **center** ¹*AmE* ¹/ˈsentə/|ˈɑːr/ *n*

1 ▶ **MIDDLE** ◀ [C] the middle of a space, area, or object, especially the exact middle: *Draw a line through the centre of the circle.* | *Tony only likes chocolates with soft centres.* | [+ of] *There was an enormous oak table in the center of the room.*

cen-ter ¹/ˈsentə/|ˈɑːr/ *n* *v* the American spelling of **CENTRE**

If the word sometimes has a different spelling from the main one, in either British or American English, that spelling is shown after “also”.

jail¹ also **gaol** ¹*BrE* /dʒeɪl/ *n* [C,U] a place where criminals are kept as part of their punishment, or where people who have been charged with a crime are kept before they are judged in a law court; **PRISON** (1)

Some verbs have a double letter in the past and -ing forms in British English, but not in American English. Both forms are shown and marked:

label¹ *v* **labelled**, **labelling** ¹*BrE*, **labeled**, **labeling** ¹*AmE* [T]

7.2 Words and meanings - British and American differences

Sometimes, British and American English use quite different words to mean exactly the same thing. In these cases, the entry for the British word shows the American synonym, directly after the definition, and vice versa.

el-e-va-tor ¹/ˈelɪveɪtə/|ˈɑːr/ *n* [C] **1** *AmE* a machine that takes people and goods from one level to another in a building; **LIFT** (1) ¹*BrE* **2** a machine with a moving belt and containers, used for lifting grain and liquids, or for taking things off ships

In other cases, a word that is British or American does not have an exact equivalent in the other form of English, or it has an equivalent that is rarely used. Words like this are simply labelled *BrE* or *AmE*:

airing cup-board ¹ˌeɪərɪŋ ˈkʌpboʊd/ *n* [C] ¹*BrE* a warm cupboard in a house where sheets and clean clothes are kept

air-head ¹/ˈeɪəhed/|ˈeɪ- / *n* [C] *slang especially AmE* someone who is stupid

If a particular meaning of a word only exists in British or in American English, it is marked in this way after its sense number:

home-ly ¹/ˈhəʊmli/|ˈhoo-m-/ *adj* **1** *BrE* simple and ordinary in a way that makes you feel comfortable: *The cottage had a warm, homely feel.* **2** *AmE* people or faces that are homely are unattractive or ugly: *I've never seen such a homely dog in my life!*

7.3 Differences in grammar

Some words are followed by a particular preposition or construction only in British or

American English, and these differences are marked.

One difference is that group nouns, like **government** or **class**, can take a plural verb in British but not in American English. For important words of this type, this difference is shown and marked:

gov-ern-ment /'gʌvəmənt, 'gʌvənmənt/'gʌvərn-/ *n*
 1 also **Government** [C] the group of people who govern a country or state: *The new military government does not have popular support.* [also + plural verb *BrE*] *The Government are planning further cuts in public spending.*

7.4 Differences in phrases and collocations

An important difference between British and American English is that each has its own rich store of idiomatic phrases. Some words also have typical collocations in one of these forms of English, but not in the other. Phrases and collocations that occur only in British or only in American English are marked.

jack² *v*

jack sb **around** *phr v* [T] *AmE slang* to waste someone's time by deliberately making things difficult for them: *Stop jacking me around and make up your mind!*

jack sth ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] *BrE informal* to stop doing something: *I'd love to jack in my job and go live in the Bahamas.*

A, a

A, a /eɪ/ plural **A's, a's** *n* [C] the first letter of the English alphabet

[S] **[W]** **a** /ə/ also an /eɪ/ strong indefinite article, determiner 1 used before a noun that names something or someone that has not been mentioned before, or that the person you are talking to does not know about: *Do you have a car?* | *There's a spider in the bath.* — compare **THE** 2

a) used before a noun that is one of a particular group or class of people or things: *I want to train to be a teacher.* **b)** used before someone's family name to show that they belong to that family: *Only a Peterson would drive a car like that!* 3 **a)** one: *a thousand pounds*; *a dozen eggs* **b)** a lot/a few/a little/a great deal etc used before certain words that express an amount of something: *There were a lot of people at the party.* | *A few weeks from now I'll be in Venice.* 4 **twice a week/£5 a day** etc two times each week, £5 each day etc; per: *I get paid once a month.* | *The eggs cost \$2 a dozen.* 5 used before a noun to mean all things of that type: *A square has four sides.* (=all squares have four sides) 6 used before two nouns that are mentioned together so often that they are thought of as one thing: *a cup and saucer* | *Does everyone have a knife and fork?* 7 **a)** used before singular nouns, especially words for actions, meaning one example of that action: *Take a look at this.* | *It needs a good clean.* **b)** used before the -ing form of verbs when they are used as nouns: *a crashing of gears* **c)** used before an UNCOUNTABLE noun when other information about the noun is added by an adjective or phrase: *Candidates must have a good knowledge of chemistry.* | *a beauty that became legendary* 8 used before an UNCOUNTABLE noun to mean a type of it: *a particularly fine Stilton cheese* 9 used before the name of a painter or artist etc meaning a particular painting, sculpture etc by that person: *an early Rembrandt* 10 used before a name to mean having the same qualities as that person or thing: *She was hailed as a new Marilyn Monroe.* 11 **a)** used before someone's name when you do not know who they are: *There is a Mr Tom Wilkins on the phone for you.* | *a certain A certain Lisa Blair wishes to speak to you.* **b)** used before names of days, events in the year etc to mean a particular one: *I can't remember a Christmas like it.* 12 used after such, what, rather and (formal) many to emphasize what you are saying: *What a day!* | *I was late for work and my car broke down.* | *She had spent many a night (=many nights) waiting for him to come home.*

A¹ /eɪ/ **n** 1 also a [C,U] the sixth note in the musical SCALE¹ (8) of C major or the musical KEY¹ (4) based on this note 2 [C] the highest mark that a student can get in an examination or for a piece of work: *I got an A in French.* 3 **an A student** *AmE* someone who regularly gets the best marks possible for their work in school or college 4 **from A to B** from one place to another: *Hiring a car was the best way to get us from A to B.* 5 **from A to Z** describing, including, or knowing everything about a subject: *the history of 20th century art from A to Z* 6 **A3/ A4** standard sizes of paper in the European Union 7 [U] a common type of blood

A² the written abbreviation of **AMP**

a-¹ /ə/ prefix 1 in a particular condition or way: *alive (=living)* | *aloud* | *with nerves all at tingle* (=tingling) 2 *old* use in, to, at, or on something: *a bed (=in bed)* | *afar* (=far away)

a-² /eɪ, æ, ə/ prefix showing an opposite or the absence of something, not, without: *amoral* (=not moral) | *atypically* (=not typically)

A-1 /eɪ 'wʌn/ *adj* *old-fashioned* very good or completely healthy: *Everything about the resort was A-1.*

1 000. 2 000. 3 000 most frequent words in **[S]** spoken and **[W]** written English

AA /eɪ 'eɪ/ *n* [C] Associate of Arts; a two year college degree in the US

aard-vark /ɑ:dvɑ:k|'ɑ:dvɑ:rk/ *n* [C] a large animal from southern Africa that has a very long nose and eats small insects

AB /eɪ 'bi:/ *n* 1 [U] a common type of blood 2 [C] *AmE* Bachelor of Arts; a university degree in an arts (ART¹) (5) subject that you get after studying for three or four years

a-back /ə'bæk/ *adv* **be taken aback** to be very surprised or shocked by something: *For a moment, I was completely taken aback by her request.*

ab-a-cus /ə'bəkʊs/ *n* [C] a wooden frame with small balls used for counting (COUNT¹) (2)

ab-a-lo-ne /ə'bɑ:ləʊni|'ləʊ-/ *n* [C,U] a kind of SHELLFISH which is used as food and whose shell contains MOTHER-OF-PEARL

a-ban-don¹ /ə'bændən/ *v* [T] 1 to leave someone, especially someone you are responsible for: *children abandoned by their parents* 2 to go away from a place, vehicle etc, permanently, especially because the situation makes it impossible for you to stay: *We had to abandon the car and walk the rest of the way.* | *Fearing further attacks, most of the population had abandoned the city.* 3 to stop doing something because there are too many problems and it is impossible to continue: *The game had to be abandoned due to bad weather.* 4 to decide that you no longer believe in a particular idea or principle: *They were accused of abandoning their socialist principles.* | *abandon hope (of doing sth)* *Imogen had abandoned all hope of ever seeing her brother again.*

5 **abandon yourself to literary** to feel an emotion so strongly that you let it control you completely 6 **abandon ship** to leave a ship because it is sinking — **abandonment** *n* [U]

abandon² *n* [U] with **gay/wild abandon** in a careless or uncontrolled way without thinking or caring about what you are doing: *The kids hurled pieces of wood on the fire with gay abandon.*

a-ban-doned /ə'bændən/ *adj* 1 an abandoned building, car, boat etc has been left completely by the people who owned it and is no longer used 2 someone who is abandoned has been left completely alone by the person who was looking after them 3 **literary** behaving in a wild and uncontrolled way

a-base /ə'beɪs/ *v* **abase yourself** to behave in a way that shows you accept that someone has complete power over you — **abasement** *n* [U]

a-bashed /ə'bæʃ/ *adj* [not before noun] embarrassed or ashamed because you have done something wrong or stupid: *She looked rather abashed.*

a-bate /ə'beɪt/ *v* [I,T] *formal* to become less strong or decrease, or to make something do this: *We waited for the storm to abate.* — **abatement** *n* [U]

ab-at-toir /ə'bətwaɪ|'ɑ:tɪ/ *n* [C] *BrE* a place where animals are killed for their meat; **SLAUGHTERHOUSE**

ab-ess /ə'ɛs, 'æbəs/ *n* [C] a woman who is in charge of a CONVENT (=religious institution for women)

ab-bey /ə'beɪ/ *n* [C] a large church, especially one with buildings next to it where MONKS and NUNS live or used to live

ab-bot /ə'bɒt/ *n* [C] a man who is in charge of a MONASTERY (=place where a group of MONKS live)

abbr. also **abbrev.** the written abbreviation of **ABBREVIATION**

ab-bre-vi-ate /ə'bri:vɪeɪt/ *v* [T] to make a word or expression shorter by missing out letters or using only the first letter of each word: **be abbreviated to** *'Information technology' is usually abbreviated to 'IT'.* — **abbreviated** *adj*

ab-bre-vi-ated /ə'bri:vɪeɪtɪd/ *adj* made shorter by missing out letters or missing out parts of a story, statement etc: *Orders were passed to the commander at the front in an abbreviated form.*

ab-bre-vi-a-tion /ə'bri:vɪ'eɪʃən/ 1 [C] a short form