

MACMILLAN Essential DICTIONARY

FOR LEARNERS OF
AMERICAN ENGLISH

麦克米伦初阶美语词典
(英语版)

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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江苏工业学院图书馆
藏书章
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出版前言

英国麦克米伦出版公司 (Macmillan Publishers Limited) 1834 年成立于英国伦敦, 是一家具有一百余年历史的大型综合性出版社。百余年来, 麦克米伦出版公司以其高质量的图书和期刊服务于社会并因此赢得了来自世界各国、各界读者的拥戴。目前, 其业务已遍及世界各大洲, 分设在各国的子公司和销售部达四十余个, 是世界三大英语语言教学 (ELT) 出版机构之一。《麦克米伦初阶英语词典》(Macmillan Essential Dictionary for Learners of American English) 是其于 2003 年首次出版发行的一部专为初、中级英语学习者设计的美国英语词典, 是《麦克米伦初阶英语词典》(Macmillan Essential Dictionary for Learners of English) 的姊妹书。本词典特为美国英语学习设计, 选词和释义反映美国文化和英国文化在共性中的差异。其编纂主要得益于世界英语语料库 (World English Corpus), 这使编者能在大量的真实语言材料中挑选适合初、中级英语学习者使用的语言信息。而强大的软件支持使他们的工作更加得心应手。除此之外, 了解使用者到底需要何种信息也是十分关键的。为此, 他们进行了大量深入细致的调查, 上至经验丰富的教师、课本编写者, 下至不同程度的学生。最后将合理的反馈意见融入词典编纂的过程之中, 从而诞生了这本词典。

本词典主要特色如下:

1. 收词 25 000 余条, 为同类词典收词之冠。
2. 提供 36 000 余条有代表性的日常美国英语例句, 不仅贴近生活, 而且提供该词汇的使用环境。
3. 对于日常生活最常用的 3 500 词汇以红色标出, 并按使用频率分为一星、二星和三星三个级别。三星级词最为常用, 如 also, close 等, 提示使用者应熟练掌握。
4. 特设 130 余个用法专栏, 详解用法搭配, 同义词之间的区别以及同一意义的不同表达方式。如 clean 一词就提供了 brush, wash 等多达 7 种的表达方式, 活学活用, 有助于扩大词汇量。
5. 收入大量只在美国生活中使用的词语。例如: corn dog (一种外面粘上玉米粉的热狗) 是美语新词。
6. 利用注音符号对美国英语与英国英语在发音上的差异予以区别。
7. 词典的正文中插有 24 页语言学习插页, 提供搭配、构词法及表达日常事物的常用词汇。如 Applying for a Job (求职) 的常用词汇有 vacancy, opening, fill out 等。帮助读者掌握有用词汇, 使用地道的美国英语。
8. 由于英美文化的不同, 本词典中的 16 页全彩插图和 700 余幅双色插图与《麦克米伦初阶英语词典》中的插图也有许多区别。
9. 正文后附地名和国家名列表及美国英语发音指南等实用信息。

对于想学好美国英语的学习者来说, 本词典细致、实用, 能够提供读写过程中所需的基本信息, 是一部质量很高的美国英语工具书。希望它能成为广大美国英语学习者的良师益友。

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Introduction

MICHAEL RUNDELL
Editor-in-Chief

The *Macmillan Essential Dictionary* has been specially designed to meet the needs of intermediate students of English. The word “essential” has two meanings, and both meanings are relevant to this dictionary. First, it provides the information that is *completely necessary* for your success as a learner of English. And second, it focuses on the most *basic and important* features of the English language—the things that you need to know most thoroughly in order to make effective progress.

Dictionaries exist in order to answer questions. To help us to give the right answers to the right questions, we—as dictionary makers—need to know who will be using the dictionary and what kinds of information they really need. All of this means making a careful *selection* from the enormous amount of data available to us. So how do we decide what is really “essential,” and how can we be sure that we have made the *right* selection?

In creating the *Macmillan Essential Dictionary*, we have benefited from two valuable resources:

- high-quality linguistic data: our large language corpora and advanced software give us the tools to identify the essential facts about English
- expert advice: at every stage, experienced teachers, coursebook writers, and language students have contributed their suggestions and comments, telling us what learners really need to know

The *Macmillan Essential Dictionary* builds on the success of its sister dictionary, the *Macmillan English Dictionary*, adapting its unique features to the different needs of intermediate learners. These include:

- the “red words”: the most frequent and useful words in English are shown in red, so that you can easily recognize the vocabulary that—as an intermediate learner—you need to know especially well. For this dictionary, we have identified 3,500 red words. More information about these words is given on the inside front cover.
- maximum coverage: our goal is to include as many vocabulary items as possible, and this dictionary has more entries than any other intermediate learners’ dictionary
- special attention to “collocation” (the way words regularly combine with each other): over 130 new collocation boxes provide a unique bank of data on natural-sounding word combinations
- dozens of special notes: information on common errors and boxes that will help you to increase your vocabulary
- Study Pages: a 24-page central section, packed with ideas that will help you to become a better learner, including information on collocation, word formation, vocabulary development, and much more

We hope you will enjoy using the *Macmillan Essential Dictionary*, and we are confident that you will soon find that it is an essential part of your language-learning experience.

USING YOUR DICTIONARY

Finding a Word

Words with More Than One Entry

Entry

Sometimes the same word belongs to more than one word class: for example, the word **jet** can be a noun and a verb. Each word class is shown as a separate entry. The small number at the end of the headword tells you that a word has more than one entry.

jet¹ /dʒet/ noun ★

1 [C] an airplane that can fly very fast: a *jet fighter*

2 [C] a stream of liquid that comes out of something very quickly and with a lot of force: *The firefighter sprayed a jet of water on the flames.*

3 [U] a hard black shiny stone that is used for making jewelry

jet² /dʒet/ verb [I] to fly somewhere in an airplane: *They will be jetting off to Spain this weekend.*

jet-black adj very dark black in color

jet engine noun [C] a type of engine that combines air and burning fuel to create power for an airplane

jet lag noun [U] the feeling of being very tired because you have traveled on an airplane across parts of the world where the time is different — **jet-lag-ged** /dʒetlægd/ adj

Compound Words

These are shown as separate entries in the alphabetical list.

Derived Words

Some words are shown at the end of the entry for the word that they are derived from. These words can be understood by reading the definition for the main entry.

Word Classes (Noun, Verb, etc.)

There is a list of word classes on the inside front cover.

bite¹ /baɪt/ (past tense **bit** /bɪt/; past participle

bit-ten /bɪt(ə)n/) verb ★★

1 [I/T] to use your teeth to cut or break something, usually in order to eat it: *Stop biting your nails.* ♦ *I've just been bitten by a snake.* ♦ *Tom bit into his sandwich.*

2 [I] to have an unpleasant effect: *The economic slowdown is beginning to bite.*

PHRASES **bite the bullet** *informal* to force yourself to do something difficult or unpleasant

bite sb's head off *informal* to react angrily or rudely to someone, when this reaction seems too strong

bite your tongue to stop yourself from saying something that might upset or annoy someone

PHRASAL VERB **bite sth off** to separate something from the main part by biting: *I bit off a chunk of chocolate.*

Idioms and Other Fixed Expressions

Expressions

Some words are often used in idioms or other fixed expressions. These are shown at the end of the main entry, following the small box that says

PHRASES. Look for fixed expressions at the entry for the first main word in the expression.

Phrasal verbs are shown after the entry for the main verb, following the small box that says

PHRASAL VERB.

Finding the Meaning of a Word

Words with More Than One Meaning

Meaning

Many words have more than one meaning, and each different meaning is shown by a number.

Some words have many different meanings, and so the entries can be long. Entries with five or more meanings have a "menu" at the top to make it easier to find the specific meaning you are looking for.

bi-ling-ual /baɪˈlɪŋɡwəl/ adj 1 able to speak two languages 2 written in two languages: *a bilingual dictionary*

bill¹ /bɪl/ noun [C] ★★★

1 amount that you owe 4 in a restaurant

2 paper money 5 bird's beak

3 proposal for law

1 a written statement that shows how much money you owe for goods or services that you have received: *a telephone bill* ♦ *I always pay my bills on time.* ♦ *I wonder what the bill for the repairs will be?*

Definitions

All the definitions are written using a carefully selected "defining vocabulary" of under 2,300 words so that it is easier to understand the definitions.

Any word in a definition that is not part of the defining vocabulary, and that is not the entry immediately before or after the one you are looking at, is shown in CAPITAL letters. You can find its meaning by looking it up in the dictionary.

'salad dressing noun [C/U] a sauce that adds flavor to salads, usually made by mixing oil, VINEGAR, and HERBS or SPICES

sa-la-mi /sə'ləmi/ noun [C/U] a type of SAUSAGE containing strong SPICES, cut into thin pieces and served cold

Finding Out More About a Word

Red Words

Some words are printed in red with a "star rating" to show their frequency. This helps you to identify the words that you are most likely to need to use. For more information about red words, see the inside front cover.

dis-cov-er /diskʌvər/ verb [T] ★★★

friend-ly /'fren(d)li/ adj ★★

lo-cal¹ /'lʊk(ə)l/ adj ★

Pronunciation

The International Phonetic Alphabet shows you how a word is pronounced. A list of the symbols used is given on the inside back cover.

a-ro-ma /ə'roumə/ noun [C] a smell that is strong but nice — **aro-matic** /æ'rə'mætɪk/ adj

When British and American pronunciations are very different, both are given.

lab-o-ra-to-ry /'ləbrətori, British ləbərət(ə)ri/ noun [C] ★ a building or large room where people do scientific research: *our new research laboratory* ♦ *laboratory tests/experiments/studies* → LANGUAGE LABORATORY

You can find the pronunciations for compound entries at the main entry for each of the words in the compound.

Stress marks tell you which part of a compound to stress when you are saying it.

baseball cap noun [C] a hat that fits close to your head, with a flat curved part that sticks out above your eyes — *picture* → HAT

Inflections

Irregular inflections are shown.

do¹ /du/ (3rd person singular **does** /weək dəz, strong dəz/; past tense **did** /dɪd/; past participle **done** /dʌn/) verb ★★★

Labels

Labels (in *italics*) show whether a word is used in only British or American English, or tell you whether it is used in informal contexts, specialized contexts etc. Lists of these labels are given on page 829.

pave-ment /'peɪvmənt/ noun 1 [U] *American* the surface of a road 2 [C] *British* a SIDEWALK

prog-no-sis /prə'gnəʊsɪs/ (plural **prog-no-ses** /prə'gnəʊsɪz/) noun [C] 1 *medical* a doctor's opinion about how a disease is likely to develop 2 *formal* a statement about what is likely to happen in a particular situation → DIAGNOSIS

Examples

Example sentences in *italics* show you how a word is used in context.

Information about collocation and syntax—how words combine and which structures they can be used with—is shown in **bold type**.

When a word has many collocations, these are shown in a box at the end of the entry.

pro-mote /prə'moʊt/ verb [T] ★★

- 1 to support something, or to help something to develop: *a campaign to promote recycling* ♦ *Young plants are exposed to bright light to promote growth.*
- 2 to attract people's attention to a product or event, for example by advertising: *They are going on tour to promote their new album.*
- 3 to move someone to a job at a higher level: ♦ **promote sb to sth** *Steve Burrows was recently promoted to senior manager.*

Words often used with promote

Adverbs often used with **promote** (sense 1)

- **actively, heavily, strongly, vigorously** + PROMOTE: promote something in a determined way

Nouns often used with **promote** (sense 1)

- PROMOTE + **awareness, competition, development, efficiency, growth, interest, understanding, use**: increase the level of something

Grammar Boxes

Grammar boxes give extra information to help you to learn more about how a word is used.

Notes are also given to help you to avoid common errors.

The is not usually used before the names of streets, towns, countries, counties, states, or continents: *My parents live in Surrey.*

News looks like a plural, but it is never used with a plural verb and cannot be used with **a**: *I've got a wonderful piece of news* (NOT *a wonderful news*) for you. ♦ *Do you have any news about Laura's baby?* ♦ *Here's some news about the World Cup.*

Expanding Your Vocabulary

There are many ways that you can use this dictionary to expand your vocabulary.

Sometimes the opposite of a word is shown.

Some definitions give you synonyms.

Sometimes you are told to look at another word or page in the dictionary where you will find additional information, a related entry, or a picture.

left-hand adj on the left side ⇨ **RIGHT-HAND**:
The plates are on the left-hand side of the cabinet.

last-ly /'læstli/ adv used when you want to say one more thing before you finish speaking = **FINALLY**: *And lastly, remember that your reports are due tomorrow.*

hard-back /'hɑ:d,bæk/ noun [C] a book that has a hard cover → **PAPERBACK**

"Word family" boxes bring together groups of words that are formed from the same "root word."

Word family: compete

Words in the same family as **compete**

- **competition** n
- **competitor** n
- **competitive** adj
- **uncompetitive** adj

Vocabulary building boxes bring together words that are related to a particular subject, or suggest more specific alternatives for very common words.

Other ways of saying famous

- **eminent** famous and respected for doing important work
- **legendary** very famous and admired by many people
- **notorious/infamous** famous for something bad
- **well-known** fairly famous

NUMBERS THAT ARE ENTRIES

000 /trɪp(ə)loo/ in Australia, the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the fire department, or an AMBULANCE

0800 num-ber /oo eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbər/ noun [C] in the U.K., a telephone number beginning with 0800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services

1 /wʌn/ abbrev used in e-mails and TEXT MESSAGES to replace "one": *NE1* (=anyone)

1040 form /ten 'fɔrti fɔrm/ noun [C] a form used by people in the U.S. when they are calculating how much tax they have to pay on the money that they have earned

1099 /ten naɪnti 'naɪn/ noun [C] in the U.S., a document you send to the IRS (=the U.S. tax department) that gives details of money that you have earned in addition to your salary

12 /twelv/ in the U.K., a number given to a video that should only be watched by children who are at least 12 years old

12A /twelv 'ei/ in the U.K., a number given to a movie that should only be watched by children under the age of 12 if they are with an adult

1471 /wʌn fɔr sev(ə)n 'wʌn/ in the U.K., a telephone number that you can call to find out which was the last telephone number to call you

15 /fɪf'tin/ in the U.K., a number given to a movie or video that should only be watched by children who are at least 15 years old

18 /eɪtɪn/ in the U.K., a number given to a movie or video that should only be watched by people who are at least 18 years old

1800 num-ber /wʌn eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbər/ in Australia, a telephone number beginning with 1800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services

18-wheel-er /eɪtɪn 'wɪlər/ noun [C] American a large truck that has 18 wheels

2 /tu/ abbrev **1** to or too: used in e-mails and TEXT MESSAGES: *it's up 2 U* (=it's up to you) ♦ *me 2* (=me too) **2** used for replacing "to-" in other words: *2day* (=today)

20/20 vision /twenti,twenti 'vɪʒ(ə)n/ noun [U] the ability to see normally without wearing glasses

2.1 /tu'wʌn/ noun [C] in the U.K. and Australia, the second-highest grade for an UNDERGRADUATE degree from a university, lower than a **first** but higher than a **2.2**

2.2 /tu'tu/ noun [C] in the U.K. and Australia, the third-highest grade for an UNDERGRADUATE degree from a university, lower than a **2.1** but higher than a **third**

.22 /twenti'tu/ noun [C] a type of gun that shoots small bullets

24/7 /twenti fɔr 'sev(ə)n/ adv informal all the time: *He thinks about her 24/7.*

3-D /θri'di/ adj a 3-D movie, picture, etc. looks as if it has length, depth, and width

4 /fɔr/ abbrev **1** for: used in e-mails and TEXT MESSAGES: *4 U* (=for you) **2** used for replacing "fore" in other words: *B4* (=before)

401(k) /fɔr oo wʌn 'keɪ/ noun [C] in the U.S., a special account in which people can save some of the money they earn for their RETIREMENT without paying taxes on it

4x4 /fɔr baɪ fɔr/ noun [C] a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle

.45 /fɔrtɪfaɪv/ noun [C] a PISTOL (=small gun)

4-F /fɔr ef/ adj if someone is listed **4-F**, they are not allowed to serve in the U.S. military

4WD abbrev a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle

\$64,000 question, the /sɪksti'fɔrθaʊz(ə)nd dɒlə 'kwɛstɪ(ə)n/ noun [singular] a question that is the most important and most difficult to answer concerning a particular problem or situation

8 /ert/ abbrev used in e-mails and TEXT MESSAGES to replace "ate" or "eat": *C U L8R* (=see you later) ♦ *GR8* (=great)

800 num-ber /eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbər/ noun [C] in the U.S., a telephone number that is free to use and is usually for calling business services

911 /naɪn wʌn 'wʌn/ in the U.S., the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the fire department, or an AMBULANCE

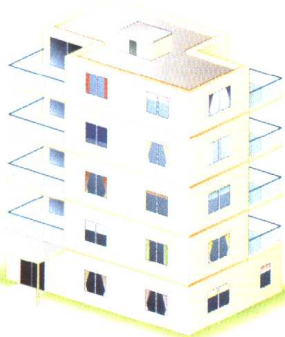
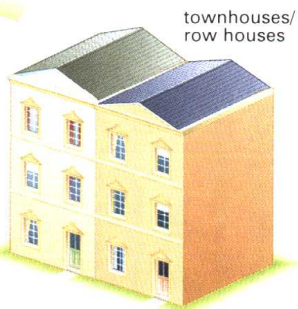
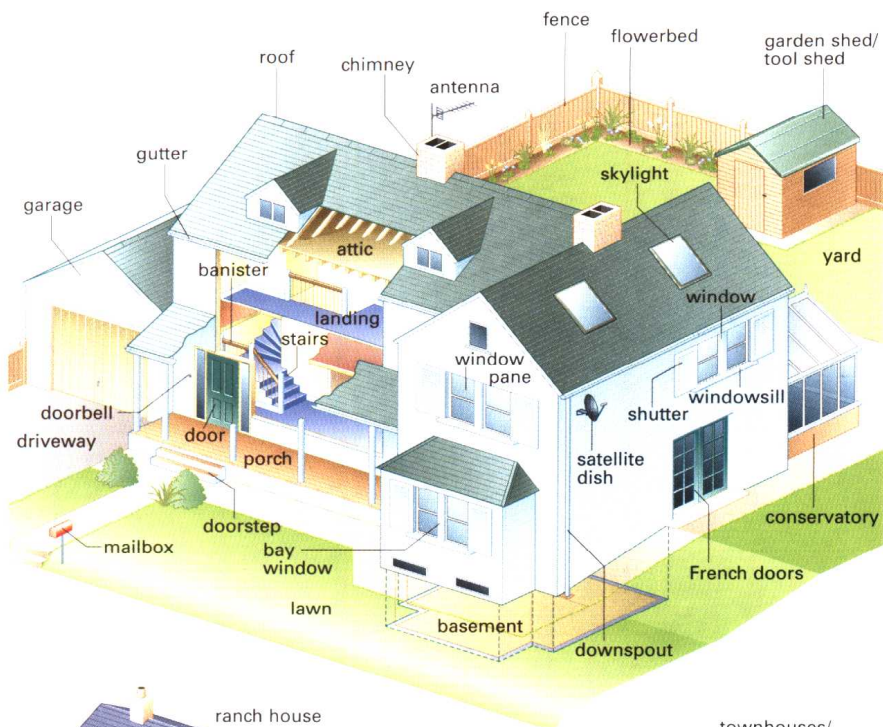
9/11 /naɪn /lev(ə)n/ September 11, the date in 2001 when TERRORISTS attacked the U.S., flying planes into the World Trade Center and killing thousands of people

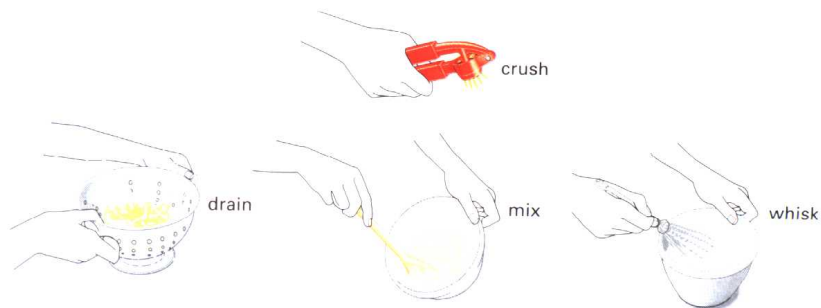
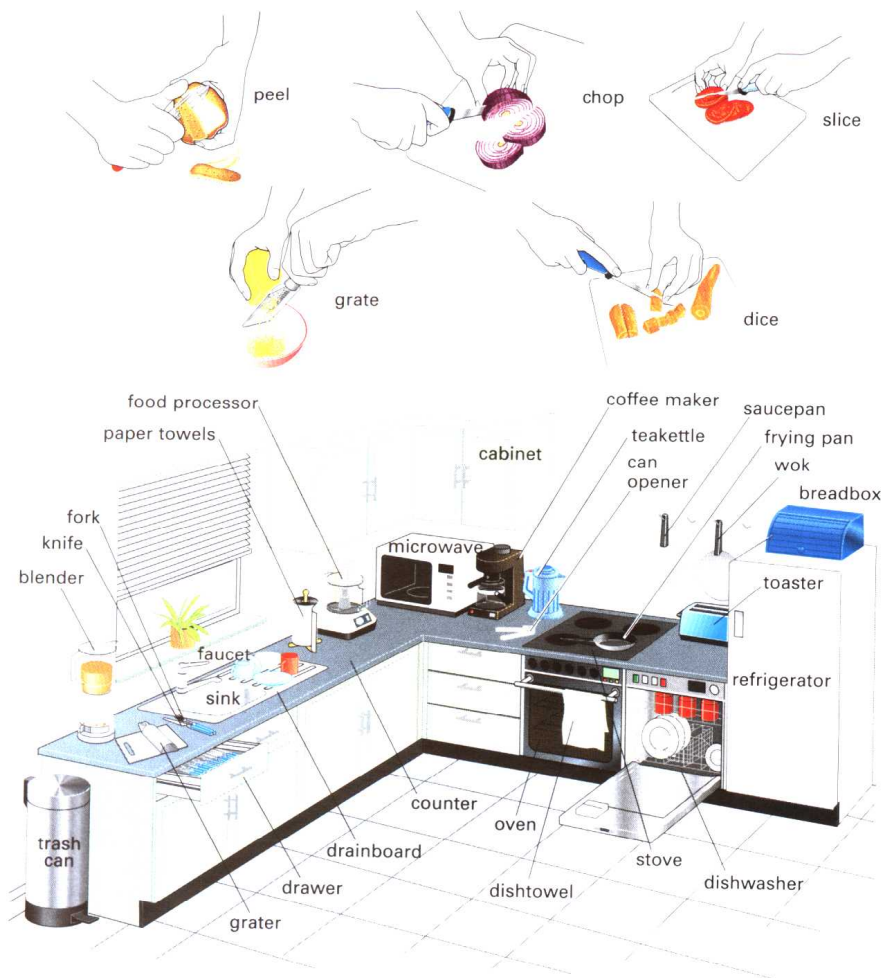
999 /naɪn naɪn 'naɪn/ in the U.K., the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the fire department, or an AMBULANCE

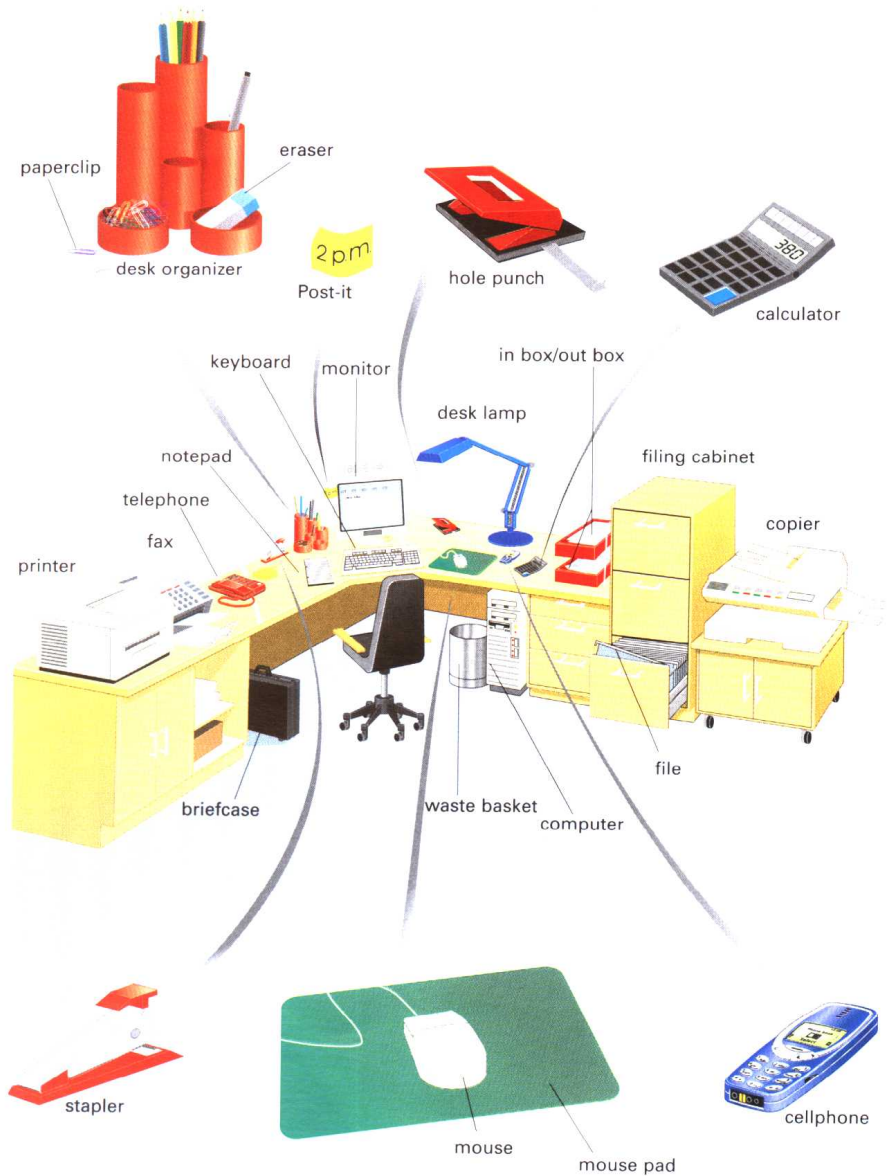
Roman Numerals

Roman numerals were used in ancient Rome to represent numbers. They are still sometimes used today, for example on clocks and watches and in official documents.

I	one	XVII	seventeen
II	two	XVIII	eighteen
III	three	XIX	nineteen
IV	four	XX	twenty
V	five	XXI	twenty-one
VI	six	XXX	thirty
VII	seven	XL	forty
VIII	eight	L	fifty
IX	nine	LX	sixty
X	ten	LXX	seventy
XI	eleven	LXXX	eighty
XII	twelve	XC	ninety
XIII	thirteen	C	one hundred
XIV	fourteen	CC	two hundred
XV	fifteen	D	five hundred
XVI	sixteen	M	one thousand







CLOTHES



jeans



overalls



leggings



sweatpants



kilt



shorts



suit

jacket



dress



tie



bow tie



suspenders



scarf



gloves



mittens



vest

pants



parka



raincoat



fleece



jacket



overcoat

CLOTHES



T-shirt



blouse



shirt



undershirt



sweatshirt



cardigan



sweater



socks

pantyhose



trunks



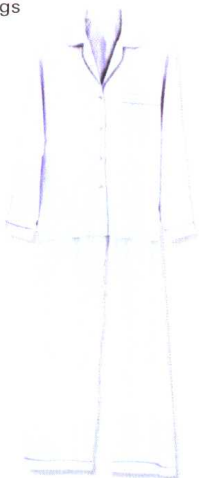
bikini



bathing suit



nightdress

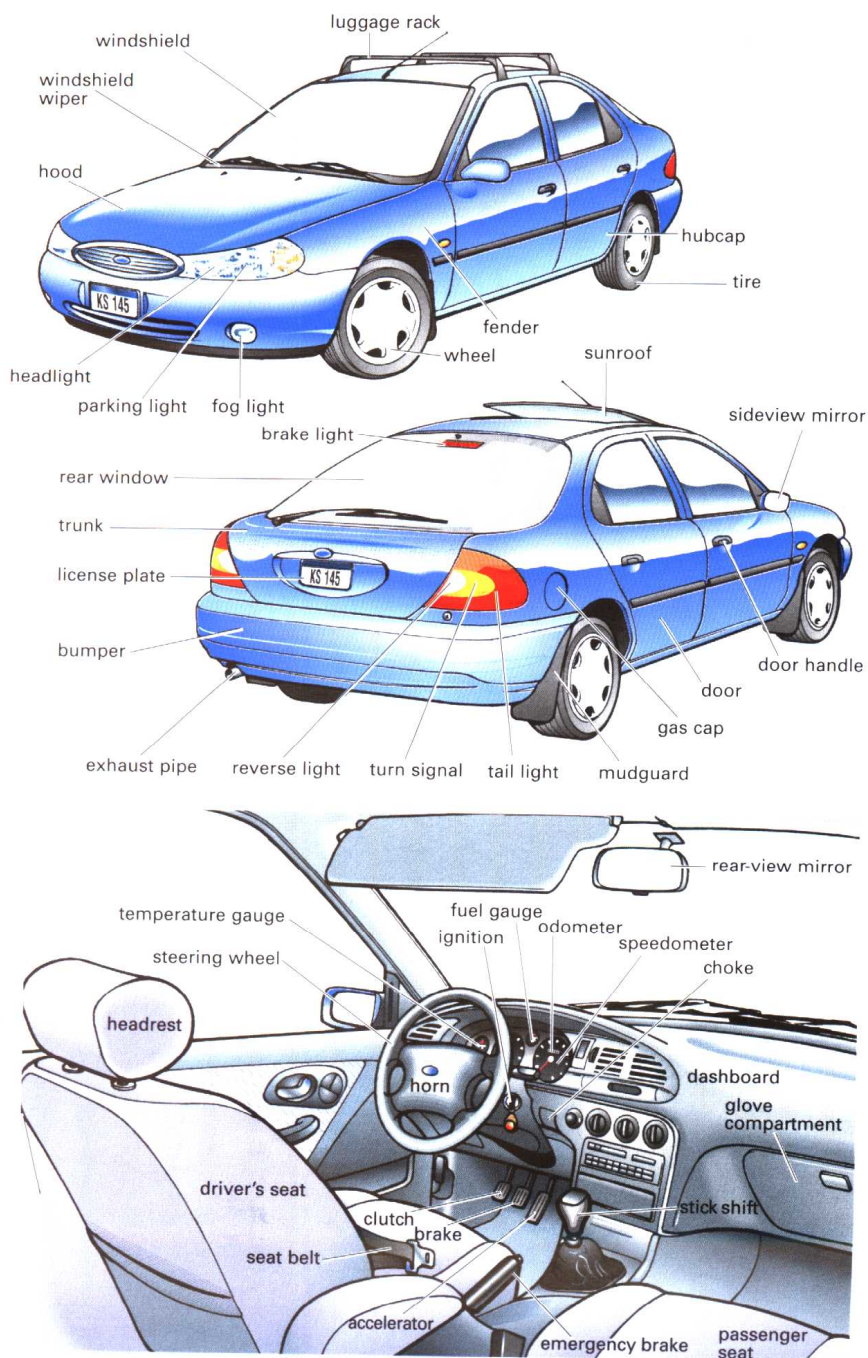


pajamas

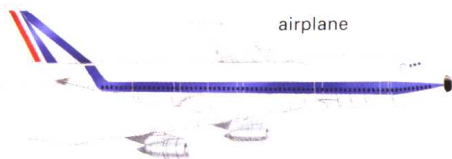


bathrobe

CAR



TRANSPORTATION



airplane



helicopter



bus



train



car



scooter



bicycle



bus



trolley

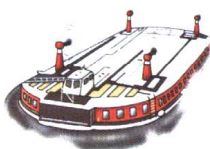
minibus



taxi



ferry



hovercraft



hydrofoil



subway