

LONGMAN

LEXICON OF CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH

朗曼当代英语分类词典

Tom McArthur

世界图书出版公司

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Longman Group UK Limited
Longman House, Burnt Mill, Harlow,
Essex CM20 2JE, England
and Associated Companies throughout the world.

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First published by Longman Group Limited 1981
Sixteenth impression 1991

ISBN 0-582-55527-2

This edition of Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English
is published by World Publishing Corporation, Beijing, 1996
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朗曼当代英语分类词典

英国朗曼出版公司出版
世界图书出版公司北京公司重印
(北京朝内大街 137 号 邮编 100010)
北京中西印刷厂印刷
世界图书出版公司北京公司发行
各地新华书店和外文书店经销

1989 年 8 月第 1 版 开本: 711 × 1245 1/24

1996 年 9 月第 3 次印刷 印张: 39

印数: 3001-8000 册

ISBN 7-5062-0325-1/H · 57

著作权合同登记 图字: 01 · 96-0907

定价: 68.00 元

世界图书出版公司北京公司向英国朗曼出版公司
购得重印权在中国大陆发行

前 言

《朗曼当代英语分类词典》由英国著名词典学家 Tom McArthur 任主编,经过编者八年的辛勤耕耘,数易其稿,词典以一种崭新的面目出现于 1981 年,至今仍为英语学习者和英语使用者在案头常备的工具书。该词典新在何处?一句话,它兼具一般的英英词典和英语同义词词典两种功能。

就一般的英英词典而言,我们在阅读过程中使用这类词典来查阅某个生词或确定某个词语在一定语境中的词义,其特点是眼前首先有某个词,然后求其词义。但当我们不会拼读这个词语,或试图区分这个词语和其它类似词语的异同时,这样的词典很难给我们提供帮助。有的词典有时虽提供一组同义词,也作了一些比较,仍失之简单。其次,当我们在写作时,心中想表达一个概念,一时苦于找不到合适的词语,这时,《朗曼当代英语分类词典》与一般的英英词典相比,是更好的助手。它将我们要表达的概念按语义分成十四个大范畴:有具体的(如日常生活用语、身体及其功能和福利,建筑、住房、家庭和衣着,食物、饮料和农业,物质、材料、物体和设备);有思想感情的(如感情、激情、态度和敏感,思想、交际、语言和语法等);有上层建筑的(如工艺美术、科学技术、工农业,娱乐、体育和竞赛);有动态的(如移动、方位、旅游、运输、数字等);有运算的(如数字、测算、金融和商业等);有时间和空间……每一个大类又分成若干个次范畴,使检索甚为方便。该词典原来的版本在封面上印有“新词汇资源工具书”的词语,恰当地概括了这本书的最主要特征。即把词汇看作一种语言资源,需要时可以开发调用。

就常见的同义词词典而言,虽然我们也可从某个具体概念去查阅某个词语,并通过这个词语举一反三,引出一大堆按名词、动词、形容词等词类组成的,语义有这样那样联系的词汇系列,使用起来仍有不便。这类词典没有告诉我们有关词语是不是绝对的同义词?相互之间有何异同?在使用上该如何掌握?这类词典往往是以使用者已经掌握了大量词汇为前提的。词典中所列词汇系列只起提示作用。语言学习者如果要弄清词组中每一个词的差别,需要另找英英词典或英汉词典,一一查清,费时太多,甚不方便。《朗曼当代英语分类词典》解决了这方面的弊病,它的索引部分除了提供该词语的正确读音外,帮助我们词义限制在一定范围内,然后通过页码查阅正文部分有关词义接近的词组。我们从这些词组得到的信息远远大于早先的同义词

词典, 因为本词典在这些词条中向我们提供了词义解释和例句, 以及派生词形式。

本词典的另一个优点是它保留了朗曼词典系列的传统优点, 那就是所有定义或解释所用的英语词语都限制在 2000 个最常用词语之内, 也就是说, 只要掌握近 2000 个英语词语的英语使用者或学习者都能使用本词典, 或通过使用本词典继续巩固这些最有使用价值的词语。有些英语学习者只图暂时的方便, 只用英汉词典, 并死背一大串单词, 背一个忘一个。这种狗熊掰棒子的学习方法, 远远不如使用《朗曼当代英语分类词典》更为自然, 更能见效。有志者不妨一试。

胡壮麟

北京大学英语系

1996 年 7 月 11 日

Preface

Lexicography has traditionally used the alphabet as its principal means of organizing information about words. Indeed, most of us think about wordbooks as 'dictionaries', and dictionaries as, necessarily, having an alphabetical order.

There has, however, been an alternative tradition, in which compilers have used groups of topics instead of the alphabet as their basis for organization. The alphabet, with all its virtues, places animals and zoos, uncles and aunts far apart in its scheme of things, whereas in the human mind such words go close together. The alphabetical dictionary has a logic, but it is not the logic of everyday life. In principle, one feels, words should be defined in the company they usually keep. Two famous moves in this direction have been the *Janua Linguarum Reserata* in 1631, the work of the Bohemian educator Comenius, and Roget's *Thesaurus*, first published by Longman in 1852. The *Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English* belongs in this tradition.

Comenius had a hundred chapters and a religious bias, while Roget used a scheme of universal concepts as a framework for his prodigious lists. The *Lexicon*, however, has only fourteen 'semantic fields' of a pragmatic, everyday nature, a simple system of letters and numbers for easy reference, and an index that helps make reference easier still. Its special feature as a reference tool for students of English is its detailed definitions. Synonyms, antonyms, hyponyms, and other related words are presented in linguistically appropriate ways without, however, demanding that the user be familiar with linguistic terminology. The definitions are, additionally, supplemented with style labels and examples of usage, tabular and pictorial material being added where needed.

We believe that no previous wordbook has ever provided such a compact description of the central vocabulary of the English language.

The *Lexicon* is not intended to be exhaustive. It describes some 15,000 items in, we believe, a clear and useful way. Within the limits necessary for a work of this size, it provides the core language for a range of topics as varied as grammar and war, travel and tools, mathematics, sport, laughter, life, and love.

Tom McArthur
August 1980

List of Sets

Set titles are shown in **bold type**, with major cross-references listed underneath

A Life and Living Things

A1 Life and Living Things

- C1 People
- C20 Courting, Sex, and Marriage
- C50 Death and Burial
- I74 The Life Sciences
- L200 Old, New, and Young
- N1 Being, Becoming, and Happening

A30 Living Creatures Generally

- B1 The Body Generally
- E Food, Drink, and Farming

A50 Animals/Mammals

- C1 People
- E31 Meat

A70 Birds

- M19 Moving
- E31 Meat

A90 Reptiles and Amphibians

A100 Fish and Other Water Creatures

- L86 Areas of Water
- E31 Meat
- M19 Moving

A110 Insects and Similar Creatures

A120 Parts of Animals

- E34 Cuts of Meat

A130 Kinds and Parts of Plants

- E30 Food

A150 Plants Generally

B The Body: its Functions and Welfare

B1 The Body Generally

- C324 Souls, Spirits, and Ghosts
- E30 Food
- H1 Substances and Materials Generally
- G1 Mind, Thought, and Reason

B10 The Body: Overall

- A120 Parts of Animals
- A130 Kinds and Parts of Plants

B20 The Head and the Face

- F240 Actions of the Face Related to Feelings
- G1 Thinking, Judging, and Remembering

B30 The Trunk, Arms, and Legs

- E30 Food

B50 The Skin, the Complexion, and the Hair

- A120 Parts of Animals
- D170 Cleaning and Personal Care
- L20 Light and Colour

B60 Fluids and Waste Products of the Body

- D40 The Bathroom
- D42 Plumbing and Pipes
- H13 Rubbish and Waste

B80 Bodily States and Associated Activities

- F1 Feeling and Behaviour Generally
- F260 Senses and Sensations

B110 Bodily Conditions Relating to Health, Sickness, and Disability

- F260 Senses and Sensations

B140 Diseases and Allments

- E80 Cigarettes and Drugs

B160 Medicine and General Medical Care

- I170 Science and Technology

C People and the Family

C1 People

- A1 Life and Living Things
- A50 Animals/Mammals
- C212 Inheriting and Bequeathing
- D60 Residence
- D130 Clothes and Personal Belongings

C20 Courting, Sex, and Marriage

- A1 Life and Living Things

C40 Friendship and Enmity

- C270 Fighting, War, and Peace
- F140 Admiration, Pride, Contempt, and Abuse
- F170 Kindness and Unkindness
- F190 Honesty, Loyalty, Trickery, and Deceit

C50 Death and Burial

- A1 Life and Living Things

- C70 Social Organization in Groups and Places**
 L80 Geography
- C90 Government**
 N165 Controlling Things
- C110 Politics and Elections**
- C130 Political Tension and Trouble**
 F100 Anger, Violence, Stress, Calm, and Quietness
- C150 Social Classifications and Situations**
 N194 Sorting and Classifying
- C180 Law and Order Generally**
 N224 Fairness and Justice
- C200 Courts of Law and Legal Work**
 N210 Rightness, Fairness, Purpose, Use, and Strength
- C220 The Police, Security**

Services, Crime, and Criminals

- F190 Honesty, Loyalty, Trickery, and Deceit

- C250 Prison and Punishment**
 M35 Escaping
 N359 Seeking and Searching
- C270 Warfare, Defence, and the Army**
Fighting, War, and Peace
 A1 Life and Death
 C40 Friendship and Enmity
 N337 Hurting and Harming
- C290 The Armed Forces**
 D9 Castles and Parts of Castles
 H230 Weapons
 M90 Vehicles and Transport on Land
 M150 Shipping
 M180 Aircraft
- C320 Religion and Beliefs**
 G1 Thinking, Judging, and Remembering
 G14 Believing and Accepting

D Buildings, Houses, the Home, Clothes, Belongings, and Personal Care

D1 Architecture and Kinds of Houses and Buildings

- E120 Places and People Associated with Food and Drink
 E140 Farm Buildings
 I1 Making Things
 I40 Arts and Crafts
 I70 Science and Technology
 J60 Measurement
 J180 Shops and Stores
 M79 Hotels
 M120 Places

D20 Parts of Houses

- H134 Parts of Doors

D50 Areas Around and Near Houses

- E132 Fields and Orchards
 L80 Geography

D60 Residence

- C1 People

D80 Belonging and Owning, Getting and Giving

- J80 Money
 J100 Banking, Wealth, and Investment
 J130 Commerce
 J180 Shopping and General Expenses
 N120 Doing Things

D110 Furniture and Household Fittings

- H135 Refrigerators and Freezers
 H140 Tools
 I1 Making Things

D130 Clothes and Personal Belongings

- B1 The Body Generally
 C1 People
 H85 Cloth and Textiles
 I1 Making Things

D170 Cleaning and Personal Care

- B1 The Body Generally
 B50 The Skin, the Complexion, and the Hair
 B60 Fluids and Waste Products of the Body
 H64 Dirt and Grime

E Food, Drink, and Farming

E1 Food Generally

E30 Food

- A50 Animals/Mammals
 A70 Birds
 A100 Fish and Other (Water) Creatures
 A120 Parts of Animals

- A130 Kinds and Parts of Plants
 A150 Plants in General
 J192 Shopkeepers and Shops Selling Food

E60 Drinks

E80 Cigarettes and Drugs

- B160 Medicine and General Medical Care
- F260 Senses and Sensations

E100 The Preparation and Quality of Food

- I1 Making Things

E120 Places and People Associated with Food and Drink

- D1 Architecture and Kinds of

- J192 Houses and Buildings
Shopkeepers and Shops
Selling Food
- M79 Hotels

E130 Farming

- A50 Animals/Mammals
- A150 Plants in General
- H154 Tools for Digging, Cutting, etc
- I100 Industry and Work
- J130 Commerce
- J210 Business, Work, and Employment

F Feelings, Emotions, Attitudes, and Sensations

F1 Feeling and Behaviour Generally

- B80 Bodily States and Associated Activities

F20 Liking and Not Liking

- C40 Friendship and Enmity

F50 Good and Evil

- C320 Religion and Beliefs

F70 Happiness and Sadness

F100 Anger, Violence, Stress, Calm, and Quietness

- C130 Political Tension and Trouble
- H230 Weapons

F120 Fear and Courage

- K110 Prizes

F140 Admiration, Pride, Contempt, and Abuse

- C40 Friendship and Enmity

F170 Kindness and Unkindness

- N337 Hurting and Harming

F190 Honesty, Loyalty, Trickery, and Deceit

- C220 The Police, Security Services, Crime, and Criminals

F220 Relaxation, Excitement, Interest, and Surprise

- K Entertainment, Sports, and Games

F240 Actions of the Face Related to Feelings

- B20 The Head and the Face

F260 Senses and Sensations

- B80 Bodily States and Associated Activities
- B110 Bodily Conditions Relating to Health, Sickness, and Disability
- E100 The Preparation and Quality of Food

G Thought and Communication, Language and Grammar

G1 Thinking, Judging and Remembering

- B20 The Head and the Face
- C320 Religion and Beliefs

G30 Knowing and Learning

- I130 Education

G60 Communicating, mainly by Speaking and Talking

G140 Communicating, mainly by Reading and Writing, Printing and Publishing,

Radio and Television

- K50 Recording Sound, Listening to the Radio, etc
- K70 Drama, the Theatre, and Show Business

G190 Communication and Information

G230 Language

G260 Grammar

G280 General Grammatical Words

- L250 Grammatical Words and Phrases Relating to Time
- M200 Location and Direction

H Substances, Materials, Objects, and Equipment

H1 Substances and Materials Generally

- I75 The Physical Sciences
- L1 The Universe
- L80 Geography

H30 Objects Generally

H60 Specific Substances and Materials

H110 Equipment, Machines, and Instruments

- B176 Medical Instruments
- D20 Parts of Houses
- D110 Furniture and Household Fittings
- I79 Equipment Used in Laboratories

H140 Tools

- I1 Making Things

H170 Containers

H200 Electricity and

Electrical Equipment

- G210 Radio
- K50 Recording Sound, Listening to the Radio, etc

H230 Weapons

- C270 Fighting, War, and Peace
- C290 The Armed Forces
- F100 Anger, Violence, Stress, Calm, and Quietness
- M90 Vehicles and Transport on Land
- M150 Shipping
- M180 Aircraft
- N337 Hurting and Harming

I Arts and Crafts, Science and Technology, Industry and Education

I1 Making Things

- D1 Architecture and Kinds of Houses and Buildings
- D110 Furniture and Household Fittings
- D130 Clothes and Personal Belongings
- E100 The Preparation and Quality of Food
- H110 Equipment, Machines, and Instruments
- H140 Tools
- N120 Doing Things

I40 Arts and Crafts

- K20 Music and Related Activities
- K70 Drama, the Theatre, and Show Business

I70 Science and Technology

- B160 Medicine and General Medical Care

I100 Industry and Work

- E130 Farming
- J210 Business, Work, and Employment

I130 Education

- G Thought and Communication, Language and Grammar
- J Numbers, Measurement, Money, and Commerce
- K Entertainment, Sports, and Games
- L Space and Time

J Numbers, Measurement, Money, and Commerce

J1 Numbers and Quantities

J30 Mathematics

J60 Measurement

- D1 Architecture and Kinds of Houses and Building
- L220 Periods of Time and Their Measurement
- N80 Size, Importance, and Availability

J80 Money

J100 Banking, Wealth, and Investment

- D80 Belonging and Owning, Getting and Giving

J130 Commerce

J180 Shopping and General Expenses

- E120 People and Places Associated with Food and Drink
- M79 Hotels

J210 Business, Work, and Employment

- E130 Farming
- I100 Industry and Work

K Entertainment, Sports, and Games

K1 Entertainment Generally

- F220 Relaxation, Excitement, Interest, and Surprise

K20 Music and Related Activities

- F272 Hearing and Listening

K50 Recording Sound, Listening to the Radio, etc

- G210 Radio

K70 Drama, the Theatre, and

Show Business

- G140 Communicating
- G230 Language
- N351 Showing and Demonstrating

K100 Sports and Games Generally

K130 Indoor Games

K170 Children's Games and Toys

K190 Outdoor Games

L Space and Time

L1 The Universe

- A1 Life and Living Things
- H1 Substances and Materials Generally

L20 Light and Colour

- B50 The Skin, the Complexion, and the Hair

L40 Weather and Temperature

L80 Geography

- C70 Social Organization in Groups and Places
- C90 Government
- H1 Substances and Materials Generally
- M70 Travel and Visiting
- M120 Places

L130 Time Generally

L170 Beginning and Ending

L200 Old, New, and Young

- A1 Life and Living Things
- C9 People According to Age
- N1 Being, Becoming, and Happening

L220 Periods of Time and their Measurement

- J60 Measurement

L250 Grammatical Words and Phrases Relating to Time

- G260 Grammar
- G280 General Grammatical Words
- M200 Location and Direction

M Movement, Location, Travel, and Transport

M1 Moving, Coming, and Going

- N290 Actions and Positions

M50 Putting and Taking, Pulling and Pushing

- D80 Belonging and Owning, Getting and Giving

M70 Travel and Visiting

- L80 Geography

M90 Vehicles and Transport on Land

M120 Places

- C70 Social Organization in Groups and Places
- D1 Architecture and Kinds of

- Houses and Buildings
- E132 Fields and Orchards
- L80 Geography
- I131 Schools
- J180 Shops and Stores
- M79 Hotels
- N290 Actions and Positions

M150 Shipping

- L86 Areas of Water

M180 Aircraft

- M19 Moving

M200 Location and Direction

- G260 Grammar
- G280 General Grammatical Words
- L250 Grammatical Words and Phrases Relating to Time

N General and Abstract Terms

N1 Being, Becoming, and Happening

- A1 Life and Living Things
- L200 Old, New, and Young

N30 Possibility, Chance, and Necessity

- K122 Betting and Gambling

N50 General, Usual, Unusual, etc

N80 Size, Importance, and Availability

- J60 Measurement

N120 Doing Things

- I1 Making Things
- K Entertainment, Sports, and Games
- M Movement, Location, Travel, and Transport

N150 Causing

N180 Resemblance, Difference, and Change

N210 Rightness, Fairness, Purpose, Use, and Strength

- B92 Strength
- C200 Courts of Law and Legal Work

N250 Fullness, Heaviness, Thickness, Stiffness, Roughness, etc

- J60 Measurement

N290 Actions and Positions

- M1 Moving, Coming, and Going

N320 Cutting, Joining, Breaking, and Destroying

N350 Showing, Hiding, Finding, Saving, and Similar Words

How to use the Lexicon

The *Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English* is a completely new kind of vocabulary reference book. The *Lexicon* brings together words with related meanings and lists them in sets with definitions, examples, and illustrations so that you can see the similarities and differences between them. These sets may include words with the same meaning, or opposite meanings, or may list the names of the different parts of something.

FOR EXAMPLE:

In a dictionary you will find *funny* between *funnel* and *fur*.

In the *Lexicon* you will find *funny* with *entertaining*, *amusing*, *diverting*, *comic*, *humorous*, *jocular*, and *hilarious*.

In a dictionary you will find *root* between *rooster* and *rope*.

In the *Lexicon* you will find *root* with *stem*, *stalk*, *bulb*, *leaf*, *blade*, *needle*, *spine*, *trunk*, *bark*, *branch*, *limb*, *twig*, *twiglet*, and *stump*.

The definitions of these words are based on the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, and use its 2000-word defining vocabulary. This means that when you look up *funny* or *root* you can understand simply what it means and how it differs from the other words in the set. In this way the *Lexicon* can help you to increase your vocabulary quickly. It will help you to understand how, when, and where to use new words. It will also improve your understanding of words that you already know.

You can use the *Lexicon* in two ways. You can look for a single word in the alphabetical INDEX at the back of the book, or you can look for a subject in the LIST OF SETS.

Using the List of Sets

The LIST OF SETS shows the subjects included in the *Lexicon*. Each subject is given a reference letter from A to N. Within each subject you will find many sets of related words. So that:

A is **Life and living things**.

Within **A**,

A50 – A61 is **Animals and mammals**

A70 – A78 is **Birds**

A130 – A141 is **Parts of plants**

If you turn to set **A131** you will find the vocabulary you need to be able to read and write about plants and their parts, with definitions, examples, and illustrations.

Using the Index

The INDEX is an alphabetical listing of all the words in the *Lexicon*. It gives the pronunciation of the word, together with irregular tenses, plurals, etc., and the reference letter and number of the set of words that it is included in.

To find the word you want:

- (i) look it up in the Index and note its reference(s)
- (ii) use the references printed at the top of each page to find the set's place in the book
- (iii) look through the set to find the word you want, then study it in relation to the other words in the set

FOR EXAMPLE:

If you want to know what an *atlas* is, you look up the word *atlas* in the Index:

atlas /ˈætləs/
n G165

This directs you to the set of words **G165: reference books**. Here you will find *atlas* with its definition and example:

atlas [C] a book of maps: *The teacher asked a pupil to give out the atlases.*

This set also contains **reference book**, **work of reference**, **dictionary**, **thesaurus**, **lexicon**, **encyclopedia**, **directory**, **catalogue**, **gazetteer**, and **album**, so that you have a list of the different types of reference book, and can see what kind of information each contains.

Words with several meanings

Some words have a wide range of meanings. The Index shows these.

FOR EXAMPLE:

If you hear the sentence,

John isn't coming today, he's feeling a bit funny.

and you are not sure of this use of *funny*, look up *funny* in the Index:

funny /ˈfʌni/
adj. amusing K3
peculiar N68
unwell B111

This means that the word *funny* has three meanings, each shown at its own place in the

Lexicon with other words that are related to it. You choose the most likely use for the sentence that you heard, in this case *unwell*, and turn to set **B111**. Here the definition tells you what this use of *funny* means (slightly unwell), notes that it is an informal usage (by means of the label *infml*) and so more appropriate to spoken language, and gives an example which shows the use of *feel funny*. The rest of the entries in the set help to define *funny* more clearly by giving you some other words meaning unwell, and by showing how they differ from *funny* in meaning, by use, or grammar. (For an explanation of the grammatical codes see p.912.)

B111 adjectives : showing poor bodily condition

III [F; (B)] not in good health; not well: *She's ill, so she can't come. Oh, I'm not ill enough to need a doctor. Oh God, I feel ill!*

unhealthy [Wa1;B] **1** not generally in good physical and mental condition; often ill; not strong: *They're unhealthy children, because they don't get good food and fresh air.* **2** not likely to give good health: *This place has a hot wet unhealthy climate.* **3** not good for the body or mind: *He has an unhealthy interest in murder and similar crimes.* **4** showing illness or poor health: *Her skin is an unhealthy greenish colour.*

unwell [F] ill, esp for a short time: *He was unwell yesterday, but he's fine again today.*

unfit [Wa2;B] in bad health: *He's pretty unfit; he needs medical treatment and a lot more exercise.*

sick [Wa1;B] **1** esp AmE, ScotE not well; ill: *She was sick for three months. He was off sick for a week and missed a lot of work.* **2** about to vomit: *I feel sick; it must be something I ate.* [⇒ B119 VOMIT]

sickly [Wa1;B] always or often ill: *What a sickly child she is; she's constantly catching colds.*

diseased [B] showing signs of, or damaged by,

disease or infection: *The plant is diseased and will soon die.*

upset [Wa5;B] slightly ill: *The child has an upset stomach.*

bad *infml* **1** [F] unwell: *Oh God, I feel bad! He's been bad for a week; it's his back, you know.*

2 [B] weak or unsound: *He's been ill with a bad back for months. She's got a bad heart and can't climb stairs.*

poorly [F] esp BrE *infml* not (very) well: *Oh, I am feeling poorly. He's been very poorly lately; he might die.*

ailing [Wa5;B] *infml* unwell, esp over a period of time and not seriously: *The doctor was called out to attend to an ailing child. He's an old man now and has been ailing for a long time.*

run down [B] not *fml* not in good health; not well: *She's pretty run down; she needs a rest.*

morbid [Wa5;B] *med* concerned with disease; showing disease: *The doctor detected a morbid lung condition.*

dizzy [Wa1;B] feeling as if everything is turning round: *Gosh, I feel dizzy! She felt dizzy and fainted.* **-iness** [U] **-ily** [adv]

funny [B] *infml* **1** slightly unwell: *She always feels a bit funny if she looks down from a height.* **2** slightly mad: *He went rather funny (in the head) after the death of his only son.*

See also the Guide to the Lexicon on the next page.

Guide to the Lexicon

starting with the INDEX

set reference letter and number

funny / fʌni/
adj unwell B111
peculiar N68
amusing K3

K3 adjectives : entertaining and amusing [B]

set title	
grammatical code here refers to every headword	
headword	entertaining amusing and interesting: <i>That was an entertaining story.</i> -ly [adv] amusing causing pleasant laughter or enjoyment: <i>That's an amusing story!</i> -ly [adv] diverting esp fml & pomp amusing -ly [adv] funny 1 not fml amusing; causing laughter: <i>I heard such a funny story this morning. He's a very funny man (= can make people laugh with amusing stories). I don't think that's at all funny (= is a suitable cause for laughter). It was the funniest thing out (= the most amusing I've ever heard). 2 infml (used esp by or to children) pleasantly amusing; nice (esp in the phr funny old): Look at that funny old dog! 3 infml deceiving; using tricks; too clever: 'Don't try anything funny while my back's turned, or you'll be in trouble,' he said to his prisoner. Don't get funny with me. -ily [adv] -iness [U]</i>
definition	
label shows use or context of headword	
examples of use	
different forms of headword	comic, comical amusing; funny, esp to watch, esp because silly, unusual, etc: <i>It was a rather comic business and we laughed, even though it wasn't supposed to be funny. That's very comical! -(al)ly [adv Wa4]</i> humorous funny; full of humour: <i>What a humorous girl she is!</i> -ly [adv]
ending that can be added to the headword to make a new word (humorously)	jocular esp fml enjoying amusing people, making jokes (⇒ K87), etc: <i>He spoke in a jocular way. jocularly [U] cheerfulness, esp in making jokes</i>
cross-reference to a set of related words	
numbers show different meanings of headword	hilarious 1 full of laughter: <i>The party got quite hilarious after they brought more wine.</i> 2 causing wild laughter: <i>We thought his mistake was the most hilarious thing we'd ever heard.</i> -ly [adv] hilarity [U] cheerfulness, expressed in laughter
related word	

N68 adjectives : strange and peculiar

strange [W1] 1 [B] hard to accept or understand; surprising: *It's strange you've never met him. What a strange idea!* 2 [B] not known or experienced before: ...

peculiar 1 [B] strange; unusual (esp in a troubling or displeasing way): *What a peculiar thing to say.* ...

odd 1 [W1;B] strange; unusual: ...

queer [W1;B] 1 not fml strange: ...

funny [W1;B] not fml strange unexpected; hard to explain: *What can that funny noise be? It's a funny thing, but I put the book here five minutes ago and now I can't find it. He's a funny sort of person; I don't understand him at all.* -ally [adv]: *Funnily enough, I knew what he meant although he didn't speak English.*

curious [B] strange and interesting: ...

B111 adjectives : showing poor bodily condition

ill [F; (B)] not in good health; not well: *She's ill, so she can't come. Oh, I'm not ill enough to need a doctor. Oh God, I feel ill!*

unhealthy [W1;B] 1 not generally in good physical and mental condition; ...

unwell [F] ill, esp for a short time: *He was unwell yesterday, but he's fine again today.*

unfit [W2;B] in bad health: ...

funny [B] infml 1 slightly unwell: *She always feels a bit funny if she looks down from a height.* 2 slightly mad: *He went rather funny (in the head) after the death of his only son.*

K87 nouns, etc : humour

[ALSO ⇒ K2-3, 75]

humour BrE; **humor** AmE [U] 1 the quality of causing amusement: *It is a play with no humour in it.* 2 the ability to be amused: *She has a good sense of humour.*

joke 1 [C] anything said or done that causes laughter or amusement: *She told some very*

part of speech

British and American forms shown

grammatical code here refers to this meaning only (see Grammar Table p.912)

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A

Life and living things

Life and death

[ALSO ⇒ C50-59 DEATH AND BURIAL]

A1 verbs : existing and causing to exist

[ALSO ⇒ N1]

exist [Wv6;I0] to be real; be there in fact: *The world exists and we are part of it. The planet Earth has existed for millions of years. Fairies don't exist in real life, only in stories.* [⇒ L2 PLANET]

be [Wv6;I0] *fml & tech* to exist: *Whatever is, is right. The universe is, but we don't know why.* [⇒ L1 UNIVERSE]

create [T1] to cause to exist: *Many people say that God created the world.*

animate [T1] **1** to give life to **2** to make lively or exciting: *Laughter animated his face for a moment.* **3** to cause to become active; interest: *His excitement animated us all.* **animated** [B] **1** full of life or action; excited **2** moving as if possessing life: *animated pictures*

A2 verbs : living and dying

[ALSO ⇒ C51]

live [Wv6;I0] **1** to continue to be alive: *It isn't easy to live on poor food like that. The girl in the accident will live, she wasn't badly hurt. If he goes on driving like that, he won't live long.* (fig) *A writer's work lives beyond his death.* **2** *fml* to be alive: *The rich live, while the poor die.*

live on [v adv I0] to go on living: *He lived on for another 20 years, till he was 91.* (fig) *A writer's works live on after his death. Her memory lives on; we won't forget her.*

exist [I0 (on)] **1** to continue to live, esp with difficulty: *We can hardly exist on the money he gives us; it isn't enough. They don't have much food; they only just manage to exist.* **2** to live, but without satisfaction or happiness: *He exists from day to day, just eating and sleeping. Nothing exciting happens here; we just exist!*

die [I0] to cease living: *He died last week after a long illness. The crops were dying because of lack of rain.*

decay **1** [T1; I0] to (cause to) go through chemical changes that destroy or damage: *Meat decays quickly in warm weather.* **2** [I0] (fig) to fall to a lower or worse state; lose health, power, strength, activity, etc: *History seems to teach us that all nations decay in time.*

decompose [I0] (esp of bodies once alive) to decay: *The decomposing flesh of the dead animal began to smell.*

rot [I0] (esp of plants, meat, etc) to decay; go bad: *The meat began to rot. The ground was covered with/in rotting plants.* **rotten** [B] having rotted: *Throw away this meat; it's rotten. Don't eat rotten meat.*

survive **1** [I0] to continue to live, esp after coming close to death: *We survived although others died in the accident. He is the only man who survived after the explosion.* **2** [T1] to continue living after: *He survived the explosion, but no one else did. She survived her own daughter by ten years.*

A3 adjectives : living and dead

living [Wa5;B] **1** continuing to live: *Some of the plants are dead, but most of them are still living/alive.* **2** actually existing: *Is he a living person or just a character in a book?* **3** (fig) continuing in use: *French is a living language, but for most people Latin isn't.*

alive [F] **1** [Wa5] continuing to live: *His mother is dead, but his father is still alive/living. Only three men were left alive after the explosion.* **2** full of life; active: *Although old, he is very much alive.* **3** still in existence or operation; still remembered: *The argument was kept alive by the politicians. She died ten years ago, but she remains very much alive in his memory.*

live [Wa5;B] having life: *There is a dead fish among all the live ones.*

animate [B] **1** [Wa5] *precise & tech* (of plants and animals) alive; living: *animate beings in-* [neg]: *inanimate objects* **2** loose moving or able to move: *The clock was the only animate thing in the house.*

dead [Wa5;(1); B] **1** no longer alive: *The field was full of dead animals, killed by the storm. Can dead people come back to life?* (fig) *His love for her is dead; he doesn't care about her any more.* **2** not able to live: *The hillside was covered with dead material; there were only stones—no plants at all.* **3** (fig) not in use: *Most people consider Latin (to be) a dead language, but for some purposes it is still a living language.*

dying [Wa5;B] **1** about to die: *The dying man spoke his last words.* **2** ill with a disease which will lead to death: *She's a dying woman; she has an illness which cannot be cured.* (fig) *a dying industry*