

Dictionary of

# KEY WORDS

● Mary Edwards

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**Dictionary of**

# **KEY WORDS**

● **Mary Edwards**



**Macmillan**

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## Preface

At the Intermediate level, learners of English usually know a lot of words but they cannot use them all confidently or follow conversations in idiomatic English even when the words seem familiar. Also, learners may know the main structures of English but sometimes need to check a point of grammar. This book is intended to provide help with these problems.

It is a dictionary in the sense that it offers an alphabetical list of words with their meanings, but its main purpose is to concentrate on the key words which cause most difficulty for Intermediate learners and to provide examples of normal use and simple explanations of structures.

The words chosen are the ones which learners most often say they know but cannot use. The reasons for difficulty with any particular word might be that

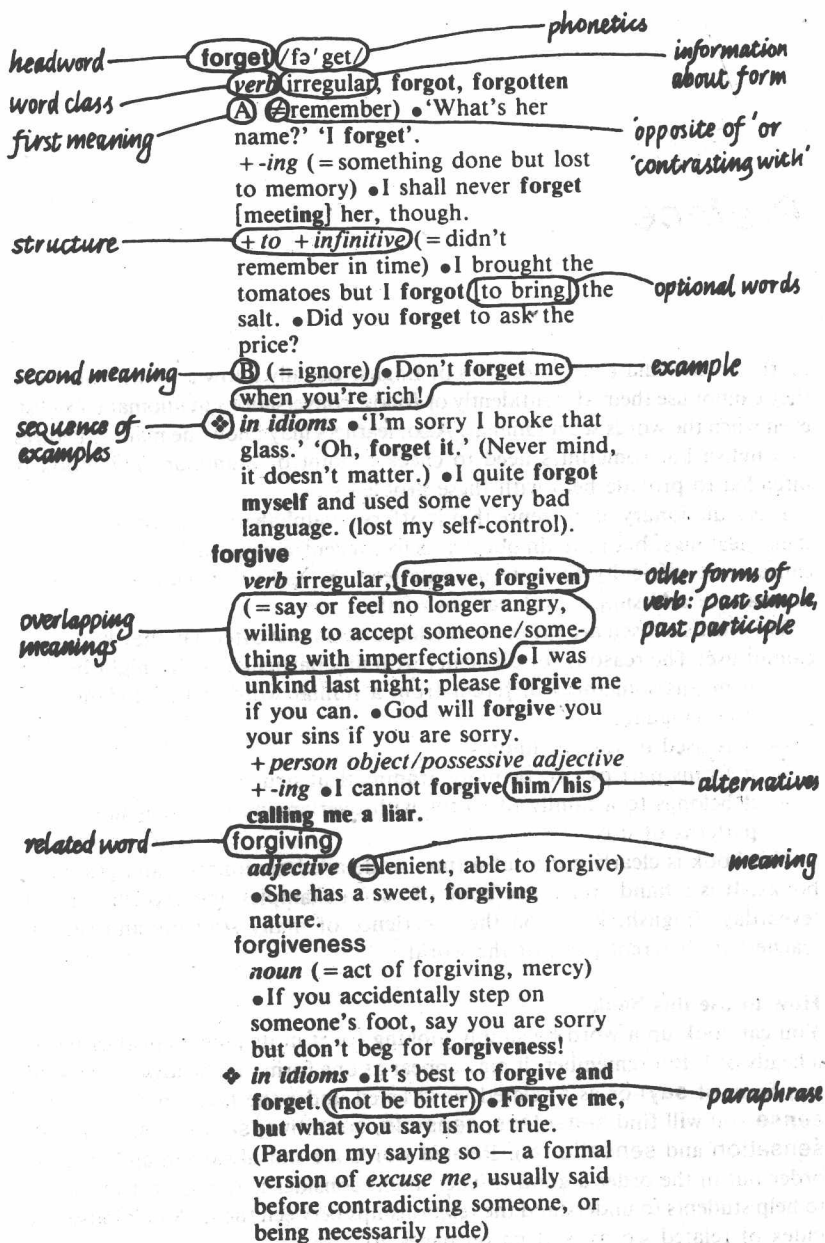
- it means something different from a similar word in the student's own language
- it is used in various idioms
- it forms part of two or more grammatical structures
- it belongs to a family of words with overlapping meanings and patterns of use.

This book is clearly not a substitute for detailed dictionaries and grammar books. It is a handy reference book of useful examples and explanations of 'everyday' English, based on the experience of many students and several teachers in different parts of the world.

### How to use this book

You can look up a word by simply looking for it in its alphabetical order as a headword. But remember, it may appear as one form of a headword (eg **said** is a form of **say**) or as a related word listed under the headword (eg under **sense** you will find **senseless**, **sensible**, **sensitive**, **sensuous**, **sensual**, **sensation** and **sensational**). Related words are not always in alphabetical order but in the order a good teacher might consider is the most useful one, to help students to understand the relationships between them. An alphabetical index of related words is given on pages 207-216.

On the next page is an extract from the text, showing how word classes, forms, structures, alternatives, idioms etc are shown.



#### Abbreviations

AmE American English

BrE British English

CEG Current English Grammar

Only helpful information is given. For example, the past simple and past participle of regular verbs are not shown because they are formed by adding *-ed* to the infinitive. Where it seems helpful, extra information is given about

- differences between British and American usage  
eg **get** AmE **got**; **gotten**
- pronunciation (IPA phonetics based on Gimson's 14th edition of Daniel Jones' *English Pronouncing Dictionary*)
- formality level  
eg informal, literary
- most frequently used word order  
eg **never** mid-position
- likely sources of confusion  
eg **little** . . . *small* refers only to size; **little** often suggests an attitude to smallness. • Poor **little** boy! He's lost.

Where a word has clearly distinct meanings, they are labelled A, B etc eg **about**

A (= here and there)

B (= a little more or a little less than, approximately)

Closely related or overlapping meanings are separated by commas (as in B above).

Examples are given for every word printed in bold type, in normal use. They often illustrate the alternative meanings or structures better than an explanation. The difference between **lend** and **borrow** becomes clear from the example and the paraphrase which follows it in brackets:

- Please can I borrow your pen for a minute? (Will you lend it to me?)

Each example is preceded by the symbol • and each series of idiomatic uses, including compounds and collocations, is marked by a symbol ♦.

Where brief information and examples may not be enough, readers are given cross-references to other words, and particularly to articles about problems of grammar, such as **auxiliary verbs**, **reported speech** or **semi-colon**. These entries on grammar and punctuation are shown on tint. Together they form a short revision course on the main points of English grammar, but further information on difficult points can be found in detailed grammar books, such as *Current English Grammar* by Sylvia Chalker (Macmillan 1985), referred to in this book as CEG with the number of the first relevant section on a difficulty. Other recommended sources of grammatical information are, in order of complexity (simplest first):

*A Practical English Grammar* A J Thomson and A V Martinet (OUP)

*A Communicative Grammar of English* G Leech and J Svartvik (Longman)

*A University Grammar of English* R Quirk and S Greenbaum (Longman)

Recommended dictionaries (also in order of complexity/length):

*Macmillan Student's Dictionary*

*Webster's New Students' Dictionary*

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

*Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*

MARY EDWARDS

**Dictionary of**

# **KEY WORDS**

● **Mary Edwards**



**Macmillan**

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# A

## a, an

**article** indefinite (determiner) used only with singular, countable nouns. Use **an** before words beginning with vowel sounds (*a, e, i, o, u*) or mute (silent) *h*. ● **an** egg ● **an** hour ● **A** car arrived and the driver got out. ● I'd like **a** glass of milk. (not \***a** milk) ● **a** dozen ● **a** hundred ● **a** million ● What **an** attractive girl! ● It's quite **a** large organisation.

**preposition** ● four times **a** day ● \$**3** **a** metre

See also **few, rather a, such a, the, ARTICLES.**

## able

**adjective** predicative, used with verb *to be* to supply missing parts of *can*. Usually *be able + to + infinitive*. ● He will **be able to** finish it tomorrow. ● She has **been able to** read since she was four years old. ● I am **not able to** move. (I cannot move.)

## unable

**adjective** (= not able) ● He was **unable to** say. (He couldn't say.)

## enable

**verb** (= make able, make possible) + *object + to + infinitive*  
● The money **enabled** him to buy food.

## ability

**noun** (= power, skill) ● She has great musical **ability**.

## disability

**noun** (= handicap, disadvantage)  
● Deafness can be a severe **disability**.

## disabled

**adjective/noun** past participle  
● **Disabled** people/The **disabled** need friendly help.

For more details see CEG 6.3.

## about

**preposition** (= concerning) ● Are you sure **about** the arrival time?  
● He was talking **about** his childhood.

**adverb**

**A** (= here and there) Don't rush

**about**; sit down. ● Leaves floated **about** on the water.

**B** of degree (= a little more or a little less than, approximately)

● Give me **about** a kilo. ● He left at **about** midday.

❖ **in idioms** ● What/How **about** a drink? (Would you like one?)

● What/How **about** going home now? (Do you agree?) ● I know all **about** you; your sister told me.

● You should not **play about**. (waste time) ● With a map, he can **find his way about**. (go to places without asking for help) ● Is the manager **about**? (somewhere near)

● He **orders me about**. (treats me like a servant) ● The change was **brought about** democratically.

(made to happen) ● We were **about to** leave when the message came.

(We were on the point of leaving.) used to express 'future in the past'

● I'm **not about to** waste money on you. (I refuse to . . .) informal  
See also **around**.

## above

**preposition** (= higher than, over, ≠ below) ● We flew in the sunlight **above** the clouds. ● Your marks in the exam are **above** average. ● **Above** all, hold on to your passport. (Most important)  
**adverb** (= higher on a page, earlier in a text) ● The figures [given] **above** show this.

## abroad

See **broad**.

## accident

**noun** (= unfortunate event, causing damage) ● His foot was injured in a road **accident**.

## accidental

**adjective** (= unplanned) ● All **accidental** damage must be paid for.

## accidentally

**adverb** (= by accident, unintentionally, ≠ purposely) ● He **accidentally** stepped on the cat.

❖ **idiom** ● We met **by accident** in the street. (chance, not planned)

## accommodate

**verb** (= have room for) ● The hotel can **accommodate** 60 guests.

## according to

### accommodating

*adjective* (= helpful, adaptable)

- The manager was very **accommodating** and changed the room arrangements.

### accommodation

*noun* non-countable (= place to live) •They were all looking for comfortable **accommodation**.

## according to

*prepositional phrase* •**According to** his teacher, he is a fool. (That's what his teacher says, but his teacher may be wrong.) not \*according to me. Say 'in my opinion'. •Everything went **according to** plan. (as planned) •**According to** the records, you have not paid this bill. (I rely on the records, not my own memory; this is not personal) •**According to** the evidence, that is true.

## account

*noun*

A (= story, explanation) •He gave a long **account** of the battle.

B (= record of money, fund)

- There's no money in my savings **account**.
- Please put it on my **account**. (debit it — send the bill later)

### account for

*verb* •Please **account for** the loss of \$150. (answer for, explain)

- Can you **account for** his strange remark?

### accountant

*noun* •The **accountant** keeps all financial records in order.

- ❖ *in idioms* •You must **take his age into account**. (consider his age)
- By all accounts**, he is very clever. (Everyone says so.)
- The meeting started late **on account of** the bus strike. (because of)
- On no account** touch the red button. (Don't touch it for any reason.)
- She is in business **on her own account**. (independently)

## accuse

*verb* + *person object* + *of* + *noun* (= charge someone with doing wrong) •Nobody **accused** him of murder.

## accused

*adjective/noun* •The **accused** (men) were questioned today.

## ache

*noun* (= continuous pain) •I have a nasty **headache**; I can't work.

- There's an **ache** in the back of my neck.

*verb* (= to have or suffer continuous pain) •Ice cream makes my teeth **ache**. •My feet **ached** from walking all day.

### ❖ *in compounds*

•**head-ache** •**stomach-ache** •**ear-ache** •**tooth-ache** •**heart-ache** (worry, misery)

- ❖ *in idioms* •I was **aching** to tell you the secret. (I wanted to tell you very much.)
- He told me about all his **aches and pains**. (minor ailments)

## across

See **cross**.

## act

*verb*

A (= behave, do things) •He **acts** like a little child. •Think before you **act**.

B (= play a part, do duty, represent) •She **acted** the Queen in a film. •Will you **act** as interpreter, please? •His lawyer **acted** for him; he did not appear in court himself.

*noun*

A (= deed) •It was a brave **act**, to rescue a drowning man.

B (= part of a play) •We left after the first **act**.

## action

*noun*

A (= what is done, the way something works) •The **action** of the heart is like a pump. •**Actions** speak louder than words.

B (= operation) •You must see that machine **in action**. •The lift is out of **action**. (broken, not working)

## activity

*noun* •Her **activities** include gardening and photography.

## inactivity

*noun* non-countable (= doing nothing) •**Inactivity** is bad for your health.

active

*adjective*

A (= working, energetic) • At 75, he was still **active**.

B (in grammar ≠ passive) • Active verbs are more direct than passive ones.

See also PASSIVE.

actual

*adjective* (= real, factual) • The actual words were quoted.

actually

*adverb* frequently a sentence adverb

A (= in spite of what you probably think) • **Actually**, he is an expert mechanic.

B (= really, precisely) • I didn't **actually** see it but I know it happened.

C (= as a matter of fact, starting a conversation) • **Actually**, I remember Sophie well.

adjectives

1 Adjectives tell us more about nouns or complete the meaning of certain verbs such as *be*, *seem*, *appear*, *look*, *sound*, *feel*, *taste*, *smell*. Most adjectives can be used in both ways and in two positions, attributive or predicative.

ATTRIBUTIVE POSITION before a noun • a large house • a serious question • the unhappy child

• strange people • old men

PREDICATIVE POSITION after a verb, as complement, when the adjective is really describing the subject of the sentence • The house is large.

• She looks serious. • Is the child unhappy? • They seem strange.

• When the room got dark, I went cold with fear and though I became hungry, I sat quiet and still.

2 Adjectives are sometimes used as nouns • He drove a convertible (car) and wore casuals (casual clothes). • Feed the poor. • Help the unemployed. • The dead are buried here. • The greatest is/are

Nouns are constantly used as adjectives • sugar-bowl • bus stop • murder weapon • newspaper man

• fruit-seller • street-seller

• bathroom light • light bulb

3 Several adjectives used together are usually in the following order:

1 size, shape, age; 2 colour;

3 origin; 4 materials; 5 purpose (eg • a huge old brown Spanish leather travelling bag)

The order of adjectives can only be learned properly by listening because there are so many variations.

4 Adjectives which cause problems (because they can be used only in certain ways or positions or have various meanings in different positions) are listed in this book with examples.

5 Several words can be used as both adjectives and adverbs • late • loud • high Also note these adjectives which look like adverbs • friendly • lovely • lively • lonely • cowardly • deadly

See also cheap, clean, close, dead, direct, easy, fast, fine, flat, free, hard, high, just, late, loud, low, pretty, quick, right, slow, straight, sure, tight, well, wide, wrong, COMPARISON, DEMONSTRATIVE, PHRASE (adjectival), POSSESSIVE, RELATIVE (adjectival clause).

For details see CEG 8

admire

*verb* transitive (= have a good opinion of, respect — no suggestion of surprise) • I admire his paintings but not his politics.

admirer

*noun* (= follower, supporter)

• She is a pretty girl with many admirers.

admiration

*noun* • I was filled with admiration for his courage.

admirable

*adjective* (= fine, excellent) • The aims of this charity are admirable; I hope they can be achieved.

admit

*verb*

A (= confess) + *that* • I admit I made a mistake.

## adverbs

B (= allow to enter) • This ticket admits one person only.

**admission**

**noun**

A (= confession) • It was an admission of guilt.

B (= cost of entry, permission to enter) • Admission: \$2 • No admission without a pass.

**admittance**

**noun** (= right to enter) • Private, no admittance.

## adverbs

1 Adverbs tell us more about verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, and whole sentences (sentence adverbs, disjuncts).

**ABOUT VERBS** • I am sure they will play well here tomorrow. (How? Where? When?) • He arrived there unexpectedly today. (Where? How? When?)

**ABOUT ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS**

• He was very tired and rather hungry so he ate quite early and slept extremely soundly.

**ABOUT WHOLE SENTENCES**

• Fortunately, no harm was done.

• However, I don't believe him.

• Sophie will marry him, nevertheless.

2 Adverbs can go in three positions:

(a) *end position* (final, at the end of the clause) • He left the room sadly.

(b) *mid-position* (before the verb or part of the verb) • He sadly left the room. • He was sadly leaving the room.

(c) *initial position* (at the beginning) • Sadly, he left the room. (This is ambiguous; it may mean he was sad or that his leaving was a pity)

3 Most adverbs can go in both end and mid-position but initial position is used mainly by sentence adverbs and adverbs of time and frequency. • Immediately, everything changed. • Once, I lived in Canada. • Surprisingly, he died.

In general, *time adverbs* go in end or initial position, not in the middle. • Tomorrow it will be all right. / It will be all right tomorrow. *Place adverbs* (often phrases) are often at the end but stay close to verbs like *come, go, arrive etc.* • Yesterday he sat quietly at the back. • Go home quickly now.

The order of adverbs cannot be learnt by rules, however. It is partly a matter of style and convention. Adverbs which cause problems because they can be used in different ways or in different positions are listed in this book with examples.

4 There are words which can be used as both adverbs and adjectives. • He came early, on the early train. Several adverbs do not end in *-ly*, or have different meanings with or without the *-ly* ending. • He works hard. / He hardly works at all. • Come quick[ly]. • Go straight home. See also CAUSE, CONDITION, MANNER, PHRASE (adverbial), PLACE, PURPOSE, TIME.

For more details see CEO 9.

## advise

**verb** (= counsel, suggest what is to be done)

+ *person object* + *to* + *infinitive*

• I advise you to go by air.

+ *object* [-ing] • I advise flying, not driving.

+ *that* + *object* + *should* • I advise that you should not travel by road.

+ *on, what, where etc* • Please advise me on travelling. Can you advise me where to stay, what to take and how to arrange it?

**advise**

**noun** non-countable • I followed his good advice and found work quickly. • Here is a piece of advice: consult your bank manager first.

**adviser/advisor**

**noun** • His medical adviser told him to rest.

**advisable, inadvisable**

**adjective** • It is not **advisable** to leave your door unlocked, in fact it's quite **inadvisable**.

**affect**

**verb**

**A** (= cause a change) • The amount of water **affects** the plant's growth rate.

**B** (= produce feelings of love, sadness) • She was **affected** by his pathetic story.

**affection**

**noun** non-countable (= gentle love)

• I have always had an **affection** for her.

**affectionate**

**adjective** (= loving) • Her **affectionate** mother believed her.

**affectionately**

**adverb** used to sign personal letters

• Yours **affectionately**, Sophie.  
See also **effect**.

**afford**

**verb** (= have enough money, time etc for) usually with *can, could*, mainly in negatives and questions.

• Can we **afford** a taxi? (Have we got enough money to pay for it?)

• I can't **afford** to stop working.

• If he can **afford** cigars, he must be rich.

**afraid**

**adjective** predicative

**A** (= frightened) • The dog was **afraid**. (not \*an afraid dog but a frightened dog)

**afraid + of** • Are you **afraid of** ghosts? • I'm **afraid of** getting lost. (that I might get lost)

**afraid + to** • I was **afraid to** open the door. (because the dog would bite me)

**B** (= sorry) used for polite regret

• I'm **afraid** he's not here now.

• I can't help you, I'm **afraid**.

• 'Has he gone?' 'I'm **afraid** so.' (sorry, yes)

• 'Can you tell me?' 'I'm **afraid** not.' (sorry, no)

• I'm very much **afraid** that I'm too late.

**after**

**preposition** (= following, later than)

• Tuesday comes **after** Monday.

• He will arrive just **after** me.

• **After** taking my name and address, he asked me a lot of questions.

**conjunction** • **After** you'd left, the party was boring.

**adverb** not used in formal English.

• They had a drink and went home **after**.

**afterwards**

**adverb** in correct English not in mid-position \*he went afterwards home.

• They went home **afterwards**.

• **Afterwards**, we can go to a cinema.

♦ **in idioms** • He's right **after all**. (in spite of everything) • **After all**, he is only a child. (You must remember that) • Who will look **after** the children when she goes to prison? (take care of) • I think he's **after** her. (trying to attract her)

• The baby **takes after** his father; he's always smiling. (resembles)

**again**

**adverb** (= once more, another time)

• Please will you say that **again**?

• I never saw him **again**.

♦ **in idioms** • They asked me **again and again**. (many times) • She visits me **now and again** (sometimes)

• But **then, again**, it is not easy for him. (another point to consider)

**against**

**preposition** (= opposite to, next to, ≠ for) • Are you for or **against** the proposal?

• I'm **against** spending so much money.

• He's swimming **against** the current. (in the opposite direction)

• He was leaning **against** the door when it opened and he fell over. (on)

• The red curtain looks good **against** the white wall. (next to, in contrast with)

• I agreed **against** my will. (I didn't want to)

**ago**

**adverb** end position only (= past, gone by) • They came here a year **ago**.

• How long **ago** was that party?

• It was long **ago**; it was before I met you.

NB 1 Not used with perfect aspect

— not \*He has come a year **ago**.

2 In reported speech, **ago** is often

## agree

changed to *before*. • 'I saw her three days **ago**.' He said he had seen her three days *before*.

**3 Ago** is never used with *since*. Not \*It is three days ago since he saw her, but • It is three days since he saw her. Or, • He saw her three days **ago**.

See also *before*, *for*, *since*.

## agree

### verb

+ *with* + *object* • He **agrees** with me. He **agrees** with my idea. (He thinks the same as I do.)

+ *to* + *object* • He has **agreed** to my plan. (It is accepted) • Has he **agreed** to everything? Has everything been **agreed**?

+ *that*, + *on*, + *about* • He **agrees** that it is too expensive. We **agree** on/about the problem of expense. (We share that opinion.)

+ *to* + *-ing/to* + *infinitive* • He **agreed** to pay[ing] half. [He said he would pay half.]

In a discussion • I **agree**. (You're right)

I'm afraid I don't **agree**. (You're wrong)

## disagree

*verb* intransitive • I **disagree** (with you). (You're wrong)

## agreement

*noun* • We are in **agreement**. (We agree) • Can they ever reach **agreement** about the control of nuclear weapons? • We had an **agreement** (contract).

## disagreement

*noun* • They had a little **disagreement**. (quarrel)

## agreeable

### adjective

A (= pleasant) • We had a very **agreeable** dinner.

B (= ready to agree) • He was **agreeable** to that suggestion.

## disagreeable

*adjective* (= unpleasant) • Smoking is a **disagreeable** habit.

## ahead

*adverb* end position only (= in front, in the future) • I'll go **ahead** and buy the tickets. (both meanings

possible). • We must plan **ahead**.

• I see trouble **ahead**. • She is **ahead** of you in her school-work.

♦ *in idioms* • 'Can I borrow this pen?' 'Yes, go **ahead**.' (do it, help yourself) • He is certain to **get ahead** if he works hard. (succeed)

## alike

See *like*.

## alive

See *live*.

## all

*adjective* (determiner/pre-determiner) used with non-countable and plural countable nouns • **all** these milk bottles • **all** this milk

If used with singular countable nouns **all** means *the whole of* • **all** of the cake • **All** sorts of people waited **all** day. **All** of them/They **all** wanted to see him.

### adverb

A (= completely) • I was **all** covered in mud.

B (= much, so much) • If I work overtime, I earn **all** the more.

*pronoun* (= everybody, everything)

• **All** are welcome.

♦ *in idioms* • We found **all but** two. (all except two, only two were not found) • **That's all**. (There is no more, the end) • Is this milk **all right**? (good, OK) • 'Will you help me?' 'All right.' (Yes, OK) • She ate everything, bones **and all**.

(including the bones) • I met my grandmother, of **all people**, in the disco. (a surprising meeting) • The score was 3 **all**. (3-3) • **All the same** I don't like it. (Even so, nevertheless) • I knew he was the thief **all along**. (all the time)

• There were 150 **all told**. (in all, counting them all.) It's **all over**. (finished) • **All in all**, we enjoyed it. (on the whole) • He's **not all that clever**. (not so very clever) — informal • There's no money, **none at all**. (absolutely none) • I don't like this music **at all**, do you? (in any way) • The children aren't **at all** tired. • 'Are they tired?' 'Not **at all**.' (absolutely not) • 'I'm sorry to

be a nuisance.' 'Not at all.' (That's all right — a reply to apology)

●For all his money, he's an unhappy man. (In spite of his money) ●It happened **all at once**. (suddenly) ●They worked **all together**. (not separately, co-operatively) ●She was **all ears** when I told her the story. (listening very carefully). ●You must decide now **once and for all**. (finally) ●I'm **all** for enjoying life. (in favour of).

NB 'Not all the babies are boys.' = 'Some are girls'. But 'None of the babies are boys.' = 'All are girls.' 'All babies are beautiful' = 'Every baby is beautiful.'

See also **altogether**, **always**, **some**.  
For more details see CEG 3.3.

**allow** /ə'laʊ/

*verb*

A (= permit, let) ●Smoking is not **allowed**. (You must not smoke)

+ *person object* + *to* + *infinitive*

●Will you **allow** me to ask a question?

+ *-ing* ●He doesn't **allow** talking in class.

B (= provide for) ●He **allows** his son \$500 a month. ●**Allowing** [time] for delays, we need three weeks.

**allowance**

*noun* (= money etc for special purpose) ●He has a big travel **allowance**.

*idiom* ●We must **make allowances** for his age. (be tolerant, take it into consideration)

**allowable**

*adjective* (= permissible) ●In this game, second attempts are not **allowable**.

See also **must**, **permit**.

**almost**

*adverb* of degree, usually mid-position (= nearly, very nearly, practically, ≠ exactly, quite)

●**Almost** all the food was eaten.  
●She **almost** always forgets my name.  
●I've **almost** reached the end.  
●She **almost** didn't catch the bus.  
●Sophie **almost** never visits me nowadays. (hardly ever) ●**Almost**

nothing has been built. (hardly anything, hardly any houses) ●He is **almost** a year old.

**alone**

*adverb/adjective* predicative

A (= without company) ●My mother is **alone**. Not \*an alone mother ●Are you all **alone**?

B (= without help) ●He built the house **alone**.

C (= only) ●God **alone** understands it.

◆ *in idioms* ●**Leave me alone/Let me alone!** (Don't touch me, don't interfere with me.) ●He can't speak properly, **let alone** sing a song. (even less, not to mention)  
See also **lonely**, **only**.

**along**

*adverb* added to verbs of movement (= on, in the same direction) ●We hurried **along**, but they walked **along** slowly.

*preposition* ●They walked **along** the river bank. ●I saw him **along** here. (in this area, street etc)

◆ *in idioms* ●How are you **getting along?** (Tell me about your progress.) ●**Bring** your sister **along**. (with you) ●I **go along with** that. (I agree) — informal ●**All along**, I knew he was lying. (all the time)

**already**

*adverb* mid or end position (= by now, sooner than expected, ≠ not yet) ●He has **already** paid.

NB 1 Not used with past time expressions. Not \*He has **already** paid yesterday.

2 Often used in questions which really express surprise. ●Is it **already** dry? (It's dry. That was quick!)

3 In British English not used with past simple. Say 'I've **already** spent £100.' American English allows. 'I **already** spent \$50.'

**all ready**

●They are **all ready**. ●(All of them are ready, or they are completely ready)

See also **just**, **still**, **yet**.

**also**

*adverb* usually refers to predicate,

## alternate

not subject (= as well, too, besides)

• Jane **also** speaks French (as well as German) • We play in the evenings and **also** on Sundays.

• She is not only an excellent pianist but **also** a wonderful singer.

• Vegetables are easy to grow.

**Also**, they are very good for you.

See also **as well**, **besides**, **too**.

## alternate

*adjective* /ɔ:l'tɜ:nət/

(= happening by turns) • He works on **alternate** days. (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

## alternative

*adjective* (= that may be used instead) • We went by the **alternative route**. (the other possible one)

## alternate

*verb* /'ɔ:l'tɜ:neɪt/ (= follow by turns) • Day **alternates** with night.

• Her mood **alternated** between sadness and happiness.

## alternative

*noun* (= other choice) • There's no **alternative**; we must pay. • The **alternative** to prison was death.

## alternately

*adverb* • The squares on a chess board are arranged **alternately**, black and white.

## alternatively

*adverb* • We can wait for the bus. **Alternatively**, we can get a taxi.

## although

*conjunction* subordinate, introduces concession clauses (= in spite of the fact that) • **Although** it is difficult, we shall do it. (We'll do it in spite of the difficulty. or It's difficult but we'll do it.) • He helped me **although** he didn't know me. (He didn't know me. Nevertheless, he helped . . .)

## though

*conjunction* slightly less formal and can be preceded by *even*, an intensifier: • **Even though** it's difficult, we'll do it. • **Though** he didn't know me, he helped me. *adverb* in final or mid-position • He didn't know me. He helped me, **though**. • The real difficulty,

**though**, is the date of delivery.

See also **as if** (for **as though**), **even**, **in spite of**, **CONCESSION**.

## altogether

*adverb*

A (= completely) • He is a fool but not **altogether** bad.

B (= on the whole) • There were some problems, but **altogether**, it worked very well.

## always

*adverb* frequency, mid-position (= at all times) • I **always** stay in bed late on Sundays. • He has **always** lived in that house.

• **Always** fasten your seat belt. Used with a progressive verb it implies frequent unexpected or irritating acts: • They are **always** digging up this bit of the road.

• You're **always** forgetting to pay.

## among/amongst

*preposition* (= in the middle of a number or a mass) • I saw many Disney films, 'Fantasia' **amongst** others. • The thief was hidden **among** the crowd. • **Among** his admirers is the princess. • Fighting was common **among** the prisoners. See also **between**.

## amount

*noun* + *of*, used with non-countable nouns (= quantity)

• There's a large **amount** of coffee in Brazil.

*verb* + *to* • It **amounts** to very little. (It's not much when you add it up.)

See also **number** (for countable nouns) and **QUANTITY**.

## and

*conjunction* co-ordinating • milk

**and** sugar • milk, sugar **and** tea

• talking **and** laughing • talking,

laughing **and** singing • He plays

**and** sings. • He plays, she sings **and**

I sell the tickets.

Instead of a *to* infinitive: • Try **and** come soon. (Try to come soon.)

• We must wait **and** see. (wait until we see) • Hurry up **and** open it.

(Open it quickly.) • Go **and** post this letter (Go out to) or in AmE, 'Go post it . . .'

**angry***adjective* (= in a bad temper)+ *with* + *person* • Please don't be **angry** with me!+ *about* + *a thing, an action*• 'What's he **angry** about?' 'Losing his watch.'**anger***noun* • He spoke in **anger**. (angrily)*verb* transitive • It **angered** me to hear him say that. (It made me angry)**another***adjective* determiner, always one word (= one more, different).• Have **another** drink? • This is **another** kind.*pronoun* (= an extra, different one)• Have **another**. • I don't like it; bring me **another**.**one another***pronoun* (= each other) • They love**one another**. (mutual feelings)See also **else, other**.**answer** /'ɑ:nsə\*/*noun* (= reply, solution) • What**answer** did you get to your letter?• We can't find the **answer** to that question.*verb* (= reply to) • He **answered** meat once. • He **answered** my question

at once. Not \*to me and not \*to

my question. • Please **answer** the phone.❖ *in idiom* • I will **answer** for their safety. (guarantee they are safe)**ante-***prefix* (= before, ≠ post-) • ante-

date • anteroom

**anti-***prefix* (= against, being opposite

to, ≠ pro) antiseptic, antisocial

**anxious [for, about]***adjective*A (= worried) • Her mother was getting **anxious** about her because it was late and she hadn't come.B (= eager) • Everyone is **anxious** for a peaceful agreement.+ *to* + *infinitive* • I am **anxious** to discuss it with him.+ *for* + *object* + *to* + *infinitive*• He was **anxious** for us to understand his point of view.**anxiety***noun*A ([= cause of] fear, worry) • The long delay added to our **anxieties**.B (= eagerness) • His **anxiety** to help is almost embarrassing.**any***adjective* determiner1 with non-countable and plural nouns in negative or almost negative expressions and in questions. • There isn't **any** bread here. (There's no bread, there is none.) • I've got hardly **any** butter, but there's some cheese. (There isn't much butter).• Did you buy **any** biscuits? (The answer may be *yes* or *no*. With *some* the expected answer is *yes*.) • If there's **any** beer, pour it out. (I do not know if we have any or not)2 emphatic **any** (all sorts, it doesn't matter which) • **Any** cheese makes me ill. • He will drink **anything**.• You can come here at **any** time... well, **any** day but Friday.• You must pay for **any** glasses that are broken.*pronoun* • 'Where are the glasses?''I haven't got **any**.' • Have youwashed **any**?Before a determiner, use *of*• Are **any** of your friends here?• I haven't met **any** of the students yet.*adverb* (= to any degree) • Are youfeeling **any** better? (at all better)• We'll buy it if it's **any** good. (But if it's no good, we won't.) • It isn't**any** use crying. (It would be more useful to do something.)❖ *in compounds* • Is **anybody/anyone** at home? (Is the house occupied?)• There isn't **anything** here.(nothing here) • **Anything** will do for supper. (It doesn't matter what we eat)• **Anywhere** she goes, he goes too. (No matter where)• **Anyhow**, it makes no difference.(Whatever happens) • **Anyhow**,

what about your problem?

(changing the subject) • She hates

me but I love her **anyway**. (in any

case) informal