

# **The Oxford Study Thesaurus**



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## Preface

This thesaurus is designed to be sufficiently advanced in vocabulary and treatment to match the needs of older students in schools and colleges, while at the same time being friendly and easy to use. It is less daunting than some larger thesauruses, whose complex indexing and cross-referencing can be confusing, but more comprehensive than smaller synonym dictionaries. It will, I hope, make an ideal volume not only for school and college students, but also for adults who want a quick-reference thesaurus.

In selecting the vocabulary for this book, my principle has been to include all words *which we are likely to use in everyday writing*: at school, at college, at home, and at work. I have deliberately not included rare or archaic terms, which may delight students of language and quiz-game fanatics, but which would look eccentric in everyday English. Nor do I give the specialized jargon of academic subjects, trades, professions, and so on, *except* when the terms have passed into the general vocabulary and have become acceptable in ordinary situations. I have included a lot of words which are used informally; but, with a few exceptions, I have left out slang expressions, which are often ephemeral or specific to a restricted geographical area or social group. I have not included words which might give offence.

Although I want this to be an accessible book, I am aware that a thesaurus is a dangerous tool if used thoughtlessly. Ill-considered plundering of a thesaurus for synonyms can lead to pretentiousness, or to the writing of sheer nonsense. I hope that people who use this book may want to browse and ponder on the extraordinary diversity of English synonyms—and may become aware of how surprisingly seldom they are in fact interchangeable. I hope, too, that the occasional notes on word-building, etymology, and other linguistic matters may encourage a curiosity about how language works. I should be pleased if this thesaurus might help not only to extend the vocabularies of those who use it, but also to increase their awareness of the complexity and subtlety of our language, and to enhance their concern to use language *creatively*.

I want to record my sincere thanks to all who have helped in the preparation of the book: members of the Oxford University Press, especially Rob Scriven and Mary Worrall for their support and patience; Rosemary Burt for her invaluable help with the preparation of the manuscript; and Genevieve Hawkins for her sharp-eyed and constructive work on proofs.

Nottingham Polytechnic  
August 1990

AJS

## **Before you use this thesaurus . . .**

### **What is a thesaurus for?**

A thesaurus helps you find the words you need to make your language more effective in communicating what you want to say.

### **How does this thesaurus help?**

This thesaurus works basically in four ways:

- It lists words with a similar meaning to the word you look up [synonyms], so that you can choose the best word for your purpose.
- It refers you to places where you can find words of opposite meanings [antonyms].
- It provides useful 'families' of words which are related in other ways: names of colours, medical terms, kinds of vehicle, and so on.
- It gives information to help you understand the meanings and uses of words.

A thesaurus does *not* give definitions. If you want a definition of a word, you need to look the word up in a dictionary.

## How is this thesaurus arranged?

### Headwords

The first word of each entry (the **headword**) is printed in **bold type**. Each headword is followed by a part of speech label (noun, verb etc.) to indicate its grammatical function. All the headwords are arranged in alphabetical order.

### Notes

From time to time we include notes about interesting facts or problems. If a note refers to a group of words, it is displayed between horizontal lines. If it refers to just one word, it appears in square brackets within the entry concerned.

### Antonyms

If you want opposites, we give you a simple cross reference so that you know where to find them.

### Numbers

When a headword can be used in more than one sense, numbers identify the main meanings or uses of the word.

### Illustrative examples

Phrases or sentences printed in *italics* illustrate how the headword can be used.

### Sub entries

When a headword is commonly part of a phrase, the phrase may appear in small bold type at the end of the main entry. This is a sub entry.

**peculiarity** noun *We all have our peculiarities.* *abnormality, characteristic, eccentricity, foible, idiosyncrasy, mannerism, oddity, peculiarity, quirk, singularity, speciality, trait, uniqueness.*

**pecuniary** adjective *SEE financial.*

**pedagogue** noun *SEE teacher.*

A number of English words such as *pedal, pedant, pedestrian* are related to Latin *pes, pedis* = foot.

**pedal** verb *SEE travel* verb.  
**pedantic** adjective 1 a *pedantic* use of long words. *ac. pedantic* bookish, formal, humourless, learned, old-fashioned, pompous, scholarly, schoolmasterly, stilted.

**pedantic** *SEE informal*.  
2 *pedantic* observance of the rules. *indexible (informal)* nit picking, precise, strict, unimaginative.

**pedantic** *SEE flexible*.

**peddle** verb *SEE sell*.

**pedestal** noun *SEE base* noun.

**pedestrian** adjective 1 a *pedestrian* precinct. *pedestrian* traffic-free.

2 a *pedestrian* performance *SEE ordinary*.

**pedestrian** noun foot-traveller, walker.

**pedigree** adjective a *pedigree* animal, pure-bred, thoroughbred.

**pedigree** noun a dog's *pedigree*, ancestry, descent *SEE family*, family history, line.

**pedlar** noun a *pedlar* of cheap goods. *(old-fashioned)* chapman, door-to-door salesman, hawker, seller, street trader, ven-  
dor.

**peel** noun *orange peel*, rind, skin.

**peel** verb *to peel an orange*, *to peel off a covering*, *denude*, *pare*, *skin*, *strip*.

**peep** noun, verb *SEE look* noun, verb.

**peep** of day *SEE dawn*.

**pee** verb *SEE look* verb.

**peer**, **peeress** nouns aristocrat, noble, nobleman, noblewoman, titled person, *opposite* commoner.

TITLES OF BRITISH PEERS: baron, baroness, duchess, duke, earl, lady, lord, marquess, marquise, or marquess, viscount, viscountess.

OTHER TITLES *SEE title* noun.

### Synonyms

Most entries include one or more lists of synonyms. But remember: one word seldom means exactly the same as another, so think carefully about the words you have to choose from. Which gives *most exactly* your meaning? Which is *most suitable* for your purpose? Do you want a friendly or informal word, or a more formal one? Do you want an obvious everyday word, or a surprising, unusual word? And so on.

### Cross references

If we don't have space for a full entry under a particular headword, or if there is useful additional information elsewhere in the thesaurus, we suggest that you refer to another entry. This is called *cross referencing*.

### Usage warnings

If you need to be careful about the use of a word (for example, if it is normally *informal*, *uncommon*, *mentary*, *old-fashioned*, etc.) we put a warning in *italics*.

### Related words

In addition to synonyms and antonyms, this thesaurus often lists words which are related to the headword in other ways. To distinguish these, lists of synonyms, we display them between horizontal ruled lines.

## A

**aback** adverb taken aback SEE surprised.

**abandon** verb 1 to abandon ship. desert, evacuate, forsake, leave, quit, vacate, withdraw from.

2 to abandon a friend. desert, drop, forsake, jilt, leave behind, leave in the lurch, maroon, renounce, repudiate, strand, wash your hands of.

3 to abandon a plan. cancel, [slang] chuck in, discard, discontinue, [informal] ditch, drop, finish, forgo, give up, postpone, scrap.

4 to abandon a right. cede, drop, forfeit, forgo, give up, relinquish, renounce, resign, surrender, waive, yield.

**abase** verb to abase yourself SEE humiliate.

**abashed** adjective SEE ashamed.

**abate** verb The storm abated. SEE lessen.

**abattoir** noun slaughterhouse.

**abbey** noun cathedral. SEE church, convent, friary, monastery, nunnery, priory.

**abbreviate** verb SEE abridge.

**abdicate** verb to abdicate the throne. SEE resign.

**abdomen** noun belly, [slang] guts, [insulting] paunch, [insulting] pot, stomach, [informal] tummy.

OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY: SEE body.

**abduct** verb SEE kidnap.

**aberrant** adjective SEE abnormal.

**aberration** noun SEE abnormality.

**abet** verb SEE encourage.

**abettor** noun SEE accomplice.

**abeyance** noun in abeyance SEE suspended.

**abhor** verb SEE hate verb.

**abhorrent** adjective Torture is abhorrent to civilized people. abominable, detestable, disgusting, distasteful, execrable, hateful, horrible, horrid, horrifying, loathsome, nauseating, obnoxious, odious, offensive, repellent, repugnant, repulsive, revolting.

**abide** verb 1 [old-fashioned] Abide with me. SEE stay.

2 I can't abide cigarette smoke. accept, bear, endure, put up with, stand, [informal] stomach, suffer, tolerate.

to abide by Abide by the rules. accept, act in accordance with, adhere to, carry out, conform to, follow, keep to, obey, observe, stand by, submit to.

**abiding** adjective SEE permanent.

**ability** noun 1 The rich have the ability to buy what they want. capability, capacity, chance, means, opportunity, potential, potentiality, power, resources, scope, way, wherewithal.

2 She has the ability to be a good artist. aptitude, bent, brains, calibre, capability, cleverness, competence, expertise, facility, faculty, flair, genius, gift, intelligence, knack, [informal] know-how, knowledge, power, proficiency, prowess, qualification, skill, strength, talent, training.

**abject** adjective SEE miserable.

**ablaze** adjective afire, aflame, alight, blazing, burning, fiery, flaming, incandescent, lit up, on fire, raging.

**able** adjective 1 I'm able to stay. allowed, at liberty (to), authorized, available, eligible, equipped, fit, free, permitted, prepared, ready, willing.

OPPOSITES: SEE unable.

2 She's an able player. accomplished, adept, capable, clever, competent, effective, efficient, experienced, expert, gifted, [informal] handy, intelligent, masterly, practised, proficient, qualified, skilful, skilled, strong, talented, trained.

OPPOSITES: SEE incompetent.

**ablutions** noun SEE wash noun.

**abnegation** noun SEE denial.

**abnormal** adjective abnormal behaviour.

aberrant, anomalous, atypical, [informal] bent, bizarre, curious, deviant, eccentric, erratic, exceptional, extraordinary, freak, funny, heretical, irregular, [informal] kinky, odd, peculiar, perverse, perverted, queer, singular, strange, unaccountable, uncharacteristic, uncommon, unexpected, unnatural, unpredictable, unrepresentative, untypical, unusual, wayward, weird.

OPPOSITES: SEE normal.

**abnormality** noun aberration, anomaly, deformity, deviation, eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, irregularity, oddity, peculiarity, perversity, singularity, strangeness, waywardness.

**aboard** adverb to go aboard SEE embark.

**abode** noun SEE home.

**abolish** verb to abolish a law. abrogate, annul, cancel, destroy, do away with, eliminate, end, eradicate, finish, [informal] get rid of, invalidate, nullify, overturn, put an end to, quash, repeal, remove, rescind, revoke, suppress, terminate, withdraw.

OPPOSITES: SEE create.

**abominable** adjective *abominable tortures*, abhorrent, appalling, atrocious, awful, base, beastly, brutal, contemptible, cruel, despicable, detestable, disgusting, distasteful, dreadful, execrable, foul, hateful, heinous, horrible, horrid, horrifying, inhuman, loathsome, nasty, nauseating, obnoxious, odious, offensive, repellent, repugnant, repulsive, revolting, terrible, unpleasant, vile.

OPPOSITES: SEE **humane**.

**abominate** verb SEE **hate** verb.

**aboriginal** adjective *the aboriginal inhabitants of a country*, ancient, earliest, first, indigenous, native, original, primal, primeval.

**abort** verb 1 *The foetus aborted*, be born prematurely, die, miscarry.  
2 *to abort take-off*, call off, end, halt, nullify, stop, terminate.

**abortion** noun 1 *Her pregnancy ended in an abortion*, miscarriage, premature birth, termination of pregnancy.  
2 *The ogre was portrayed as an abortion*.

SEE **monster**.

**abortive** adjective *an abortive attempt*, fruitless, futile, ineffectual, ineffectual, pointless, stillborn, unavailing, unfruitful, unproductive, unsuccessful, useless, vain.

OPPOSITES: SEE **successful**.

**abound** verb SEE **plentiful (to be plentiful)**.

**abounding** adjective SEE **plentiful**.

**about-turn** noun *His sudden about-turn surprised me*, about-face, change of direction, reversal, U-turn, volte face.

**abrade** verb SEE **graze** verb.

**abrasion** noun SEE **graze** noun.

**abrasive** adjective *an abrasive manner*, biting, caustic, galling, grating, harsh, hurtful, irritating, rough, sharp, SEE **unkind**.

OPPOSITES: SEE **kind** adjective.

**abrasive** noun VARIOUS ABRASIVES: emery, glass paper, grinding compound, sandpaper, scouring powder.

**abridge** verb *The play was abridged for TV*, abbreviate, compress, condense, curtail, cut, digest, edit, precis, prune, reduce, shorten, summarize, truncate.

OPPOSITES: SEE **expand**.

**abridged** adjective *an abridged version*, condensed, cut, edited, [informal] pot, shortened.

**abridgement** noun *an abridgement of a book*, abbreviation, condensation, digest, precis, short version, summary, synopsis.

**abroad** adverb *to travel abroad*, overseas.

**abrogate** verb SEE **abolish**.

**abrupt** adjective 1 *an abrupt ending*, hasty, headlong, hurried, precipitate, quick, rapid, sudden, swift, unexpected, unforeseen, unpredicted.

2 *an abrupt drop*, precipitous, sharp, sheer, steep.

OPPOSITES: SEE **gradual**.

3 *an abrupt manner*, blunt, brusque, curt, discourteous, gruff, impolite, rude, unceremonious, uncivil, ungracious.

OPPOSITES: SEE **polite**.

4 *an abrupt way of talking*, brisk, broken, disconnected, jerky, snappy, terse.

**abscess** noun SEE **boil** noun.

**abscond** verb SEE **escape** verb.

**absent** adjective 1 *absent from work*, away, [slang] bunking off, missing, playing truant, [informal] skiving.

OPPOSITES: SEE **present** adjective.

2 *an absent expression*, absent-minded, abstracted, blank, day-dreaming, distracted, dreamy, far-away, inattentive, oblivious, preoccupied, unaware, unthinking, vacant, vague, wool-gathering.

OPPOSITES: SEE **alert** adjective.

**absenteeism** noun SEE **truancy**.

**absent-minded** adjective *careless*, forgetful, heedless, impractical, inattentive, scatterbrained, thoughtless, unheeding, unthinking, vague.

OPPOSITES: SEE **alert** adjective.

**absolute** adjective 1 *absolute silence*, *absolute happiness*, *an absolute certainty*, categorical, certain, complete, conclusive, decided, definite, downright, entire, full, genuine, implicit (*implicit faith*), inalienable (*an inalienable right*), indubitable, infallible, [informal] out-and-out, perfect, positive, pure, sheer, stark (*stark reality*), supreme, sure, thorough, total, unadulterated, unalloyed, unambiguous, unconditional, unequivocal, unmitigated, unmixed, unqualified, unquestionable, unserved, unrestricted, utter.

2 *an absolute ruler*, almighty, autocratic, despotic, dictatorial, omnipotent, sovereign, totalitarian, tyrannical, undemocratic, unrestricted.

3 *the absolute opposite*, [informal] dead, diametrical, exact, precise.

**absolution** noun SEE **forgiveness**.

**absolve** verb SEE **forgive**.

**absorb** verb 1 *Our bodies absorb nutrients from our food*, assimilate, consume, devour, digest, drink in, fill up with, hold, imbibe, incorporate, [formal] ingest,



receive, retain, soak up, suck up, take in, utilise.

OPPOSITES: SEE **emit**.

2 *Buffers absorb the shock of impact.* cushion, deaden, lessen, reduce, soften.

3 *The game totally absorbed us.* captivate, engage, engross, enthrall, fascinate, interest, involve, occupy, preoccupy, rivet.

**absorbed** adjective *absorbed in a book.* engrossed, SEE **interested**, [informal] lost, occupied, preoccupied, rapt.

to be absorbed SEE **concentrate** verb.

**absorbing** adjective *an absorbing hobby.* SEE **interesting**.

**absorbent** adjective *Absorbent substances soak up liquids.* absorptive, permeable, pervious, porous, spongy.

OPPOSITES: SEE **impervious**.

**abstain** verb *to abstain from to abstain from alcohol.* avoid, cease, decline, deny yourself, desist from, eschew, forgo, give up, go without, refrain from, refuse, reject, renounce, resist, shun, stop.

OPPOSITES: SEE **indulge** (indulge yourself).

**abstemious** adjective *an abstemious way of life.* ascetic, austere, frugal, moderate, restrained, self-denying, self-disciplined, sober, sparing, teetotal [= abstaining from alcohol], temperate.

OPPOSITES: SEE **self-indulgent**.

**abstract** adjective 1 *abstract ideas.* abstruse, academic, general, hypothetical, indefinite, intangible, intellectual, metaphysical, philosophical, theoretical, unpractical, unreal, unrealistic.

OPPOSITES: SEE **concrete**.

2 *abstract art.* non-pictorial, non-representational.

OPPOSITES: SEE **representational**.

**abstract** noun SEE **summary** noun.

**abstract** verb SEE **remove** verb.

**abstruse** adjective *abstruse ideas.* complex, cryptic, deep, devious, difficult, enigmatic, esoteric, hard, incomprehensible, mysterious, mystical, obscure, perplexing, problematical, profound, puzzling, recherché, recondite, unfathomable.

OPPOSITES: SEE **obvious**.

**absurd** adjective 1 *an absurd explanation.* anomalous, illogical, incongruous, irrational, SEE **mad**, meaningless, nonsensical, paradoxical, preposterous, senseless, silly, stupid, unreasonable, untenable.

OPPOSITES: SEE **sensible**.

2 *absurd antics.* amusing, comic, crazy, [informal] daft, farcical, foolish, funny

grotesque, humorous, laughable, ludicrous, ridiculous, zany.

OPPOSITES: SEE **serious**.

**abundant** adjective *an abundant supply of food.* an abundant growth of weeds. ample, bounteous, bountiful, copious, excessive, flourishing, full, generous, lavish, liberal, luxuriant, overflowing, plentiful, prodigal, profuse, rampant, rank, rich, well-supplied.

OPPOSITES: SEE **scarce**.

**abuse** noun 1 *Politicians should beware of the abuse of power.* misuse.

2 *We deplore the physical abuse of any human being.* assault, cruel treatment, ill-treatment, maltreatment.

3 *They yelled abuse at us.* curses, insults, invective, obscenities, slander.

**abuse** verb 1 *to abuse a thing, a machine, or a person [physically].* batter, damage, harm, hurt, ill-treat, injure, maltreat, manhandle, misuse, molest, spoil, treat roughly.

2 *to abuse a person [verbally].* affront, be rude to, [informal] call someone names, castigate, criticize, curse, defame, denigrate, disparage, insult, inveigh against, libel, malign, revile, slander, [informal] slate, [informal] smear, sneer at, swear at, traduce, upbraid, vilify, vituperate, wrong.

**abusive** adjective *abusive language.* acrimonious, angry, censorious, contemptuous, critical, cruel, defamatory, denigrating, derisive, derogatory, disparaging, harsh, hurtful, impolite, insulting, libellous, obscene, offensive, opprobrious, pejorative, rude, scathing, scurrilous, slanderous, vituperative.

OPPOSITES: SEE **friendly**, **polite**.

**abut** verb SEE **border** verb.

**abysmal** adjective 1 *abysmal despair.* bottomless, boundless, complete, deep, extreme, immeasurable, incalculable, infinite, profound, unfathomable, vast.

2 [informal] *The film was so abysmal that I fell asleep.* appalling, awful, SEE **bad**, dreadful, terrible, worthless.

**abyss** noun *a bottomless abyss.* chasm, crater, fissure, gap, gulf, hole, opening, pit, rift, void.

**academic** adjective 1 *A university is an academic institution.* educational, pedagogical, scholastic.

2 *an academic student.* bookish, brainy, clever, erudite, highbrow, intelligent, learned, scholarly, studious, well-read.

OPPOSITES: SEE **stupid**.

3 *academic studies.* abstract, intellectual, pure (pure science), theoretical.

OPPOSITES: SEE **applied**.

**4** Ideas about time-travelling are purely *academic*. conjectural, hypothetical, impractical, notional, speculative, unpractical.

OPPOSITES: SEE **practical**.

**academic** noun *The professor is a real academic.* [informal] egghead, highbrow, intellectual, scholar, thinker.

**academy** noun SEE **college**.

**accede** verb SEE **agree**.

**accelerate** verb 1 *The bus accelerated.* [informal] get a move on, go faster, hasten, pick up speed, quicken, speed up.

2 *The factory must accelerate production.* [formal] expedite, promote, spur on, step up, stimulate.

**accent** noun 1 *an Irish accent.* brogue, cadence, dialect, enunciation, inflection, intonation, pronunciation, sound, tone.

2 *Play the first note with a strong accent.* accentuation, beat, emphasis, force, pulse, rhythm, stress.

**accept** verb 1 *I accepted her gift.* acquire, get, [informal] jump at, receive, take, welcome.

2 *She accepts responsibility.* acknowledge, admit, assume, bear, suffer, undertake.

3 *He accepted my arguments.* abide by, accede to, acquiesce in, adopt, agree to, approve, believe in, be reconciled to, consent to, defer to, grant, recognize, resign yourself to, [informal] stomach, submit to, [informal] swallow, take in, tolerate, [informal] wear, yield to.

OPPOSITES: SEE **reject**.

**acceptable** adjective 1 *an acceptable gift.* agreeable, appreciated, gratifying, pleasant, pleasing, welcome, worthwhile.

2 *an acceptable standard of work.* adequate, admissible, appropriate, moderate, passable, satisfactory, suitable, tolerable, unexceptionable.

OPPOSITES: SEE **unacceptable**.

**acceptance** noun 1 *I wrote a letter of acceptance when he offered me the job.* acquiescence, agreement, approval, consent, willingness.

OPPOSITES: SEE **refusal**.

**accepted** adjective *an accepted fact.* acknowledged, agreed, canonical, indisputable, recognised, standard, undeniable, undisputed, unquestioned.

OPPOSITES: SEE **controversial**.

**access** noun SEE **entrance** noun.

**accessible** adjective *Make sure the first aid box is accessible.* at hand, available,

convenient, [informal] get-at-able, [informal] handy, reachable, within reach.

OPPOSITES: SEE **inaccessible**.

**accessory** noun 1 *accessories for an electric drill.* addition, appendage, attachment, extension, extra, fitting.

2 *an accessory to a crime.* SEE **accomplice**.

**accident** noun 1 *a tragic accident.* calamity, catastrophe, collision, [usually joking] contretemps, crash, derailment, disaster, misadventure, mischance, misfortune, mishap, [informal] pile-up, [slang] shunt, wreck.

2 *an unforeseen accident.* It happened by accident. chance, coincidence, contingency, fate, fluke, fortune, hazard, luck, [informal] pot luck, serendipity.

**accidental** adjective *an accidental mistake.* adventitious, arbitrary, casual, chance, coincidental, [informal] fluky, fortuitous, fortunate, haphazard, inadvertent, lucky, random, unconscious, unexpected, unforeseen, unfortunate, unintended, unintentional, unlooked for, unplanned, unpremeditated.

OPPOSITES: SEE **intentional**.

**acclaim** verb SEE **praise** verb.

**acclimatize** verb SEE **accustom**.

**accolade** noun SEE **praise** noun.

**accommodate** verb 1 *If you need anything, we'll try to accommodate you.* aid, assist, furnish, help, oblige, provide, serve, supply.

2 *The hostel can accommodate thirty guests.* billet, board, cater for, entertain, harbour, hold, house, lodge, provide for, [informal] put up, quarter, shelter, take in.

3 *We quickly accommodated ourselves to our new surroundings.* SEE **accustom**.

**accommodating** adjective SEE **helpful**.

**accommodation** noun *holiday accommodation.* temporary accommodation. board, housing, lodgings, pied-à-terre, shelter.

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KINDS OF ACCOMMODATION: apartment, barracks, bed and breakfast, [informal] bedsit, bedsitter, billet, boarding house, [informal] digs, flat, guest house, hall of residence, SEE **home**, hostel, hotel, married quarters, motel, rooms, self-catering, timeshare, youth hostel.

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**accompany** verb 1 *A friend accompanied me.* attend, chaperon, conduct, convoy, escort, follow, go with, guard, guide, look after, partner, [informal] tag along with, travel with, usher.

**2** A cough often accompanies a cold. belong with, be present with, coexist with, coincide with, complement, occur with, supplement.

**accompanying** adjective associated, attendant, concomitant, connected, related.

**accomplice** noun *The thief had an accomplice.* abettor, accessory, associate, collaborator, confederate, conspirator, SEE *helfer*, [informal] henchman, partner.

**accomplish** verb *We accomplished our task.* achieve, attain, bring off, carry out, complete, conclude, consummate, discharge, do successfully, effect, execute, finish, fulfil, perform, realize, succeed in.

**accomplished** adjective SEE *skilful*.

**accomplishment** noun SEE *skill*.

**accord** noun SEE *agreement*.

**accord** verb SEE *agree*, *award* verb.

**accost** verb SEE *waylay*.

**account** noun **1** *The waiter gave us our account.* bill, check, invoice, receipt, reckoning, [informal] score, statement, tally.

**2** *Money is of little account compared with your health.* advantage, benefit, concern, consequence, consideration, importance, interest, merit, profit, significance, standing, use, value, worth.

**3** *I wrote an account of my trip.* chronicle, commentary, description, diary, disquisition, explanation, history, log, memoir, narration, narrative, portrayal, record, report, story, tale, version, [informal] write-up.

**account** verb *Can you account for his odd behaviour?* clarify, elucidate, explain, give reasons for, justify, make excuses for, rationalize, vindicate.

**accountable** adjective SEE *responsible*.

**accountancy** noun book-keeping.

**accoutrements** noun SEE *equipment*.

**accredited** adjective SEE *official* adjective.

**accretion** noun SEE *growth*.

**accrue** verb SEE *accumulate*.

**accumulate** verb **1** *I accumulate a lot of rubbish.* agglomerate, aggregate, amass, assemble, bring together, collect, gather, heap up, hoard, mass, pile up, [informal] stash away, stockpile, store up.

OPPOSITES: SEE *disperse*.

**2** *The interest on your savings will accumulate.* accrue, build up, grow, increase, multiply.

OPPOSITES: SEE *decrease* verb.

**accumulation** noun *an accumulation of odds and ends.* [informal] build-up, collection, conglomeration, heap, hoard, mass, pile, stock, store, supply.

**accurate** adjective **1** *an accurate description.* authentic, close, factual, faithful, faultless, reliable, right, sound, strict, true, truthful, veracious.

**2** *accurate measurements.* careful, correct, exact, meticulous, minute, perfect, precise, scrupulous.

**3** *accurate aim.* certain, [informal] spot-on, sure, unerring.

OPPOSITES: SEE *inaccurate*.

**accursed** adjective *an accursed place where witches dance.* bewitched, damned, diabolical, evil.

OPPOSITES: SEE *holy*.

**accusation** noun *She denied the accusation completely.* allegation, alleged offence, charge, complaint, indictment, summons.

**accuse** verb *to accuse someone of a crime.* blame, bring charges against, censure, charge, condemn, denounce, impeach, impugn, incriminate, indict, inform against, make allegations against, prosecute, summons, tax.

OPPOSITES: SEE *defend*.

**accustomed** adjective *We had our accustomed bedtime drink.* common, conventional, customary, established, expected, familiar, habitual, normal, ordinary, prevailing, regular, routine, set, traditional, usual, wonted.

**to get accustomed** *You'll soon get accustomed to new surroundings.* acclimatize, adapt, adjust, become conditioned, become hardened, become inured, become seasoned, become trained, familiarize yourself (with), get broken in, get used (to), orientate yourself.

**ace** noun *an ace at athletics.* SEE *expert* noun.

**acerbity** noun SEE *asperity*.

**ache** noun *Exercise made the ache worse.* anguish, discomfort, hurt, pang, SEE *pain* noun, smart, soreness, suffering, throbbing, twinge.

**ache** verb *The swollen ankle ached when I walked.* be painful, be sore, hurt, smart, sting, suffer, throb.

**achieve** verb **1** *to achieve an ambition.* accomplish, attain, bring off, carry out, complete, conclude, consummate, discharge, do successfully, effect, execute, finish, fulfil, manage, perform, succeed in.

**2** *They achieved fame overnight.* acquire, earn, gain, get, obtain, procure, reach,

score (*They scored a great success*), strike, win.

**achievement** noun SEE **feat**, **success**.

**aching** adjective SEE **painful**.

**acid** adjective 1 *Lemons taste acid*. sharp, sour, stinging, tangy, tart, vinegary.

2 *She has an acid tongue*. SEE **sharp**.

**acknowledge** verb 1 *I acknowledge that you are right*. accede, accept, admit, affirm, agree, allow, concede, confess, confirm, declare, endorse, grant, own, profess, yield.

OPPOSITES: SEE **deny**.

2 *Please acknowledge my letter*. answer, notice, react to, reply to, respond to, return (a signal or greeting).

3 *He acknowledged me with a smile*. greet, hail, recognize, salute, [informal] say hello to.

**acknowledged** adjective SEE **accepted**.

**acme** noun *the acme of perfection*. SEE **apex**, crown, height, highest point, maximum, peak, pinnacle, summit, top.

**scolyte** noun SEE **assistant**.

**acoustic** adjective *the acoustic properties of a room*. auditory.

**acquaint** verb *to acquaint with* *She acquainted us with her discovery*. advise of, announce, apprise of, brief about, disclose, divulge, enlighten about, inform of, make familiar with, notify, reveal, tell about.

**acquaintance** noun SEE **friend**.

**acquiesce** verb SEE **agree**.

**acquiescent** adjective SEE **submissive**.

**acquire** verb SEE **get**.

**acquisition** noun *a new acquisition for the library*. accession, addition, [informal] buy, gain, possession, prize, property, purchase.

**acquisitive** adjective SEE **greedy**.

**acquit** verb *The judge acquitted the prisoner*. absolve, clear, declare innocent, discharge, dismiss, [formal] exculpate, excuse, exonerate, free, [informal] let off, liberate, release, relieve, set free, vindicate.

*to acquit yourself* *We acquitted ourselves well in the competition*. act, behave, conduct yourself, operate, perform, work.

**acid** adjective *an acid smell of burning*. bitter, caustic, harsh, pungent, sharp, unpleasant.

**acrimonious** adjective *acrimonious insults*. abusive, caustic, angry, bad-tempered, biting, bitter, caustic, censorious, choleric, cutting, hostile, hot-tempered, ill-natured, ill-tempered, insolent, mordant, peevish, petulant,

pungent, SEE **quarrelsome**, rancorous, sarcastic, sharp, spiteful, tart, testy, venomous, virulent, waspish.

OPPOSITES: SEE **peaceable**.

**acrimony** noun SEE **bitterness**.

**acrobat** noun contortionist, gymnast, tumbler.

**act** noun 1 *a brave act*. action, deed, effort, enterprise, exploit, feat, operation, proceeding, step, undertaking.

2 *an act of parliament*. bill [= draft of an act before it is passed], decree, edict, law, order, regulation, statute.

3 *an act in a concert*. item, performance, routine, sketch, turn.

*to put on an act* SEE **pretend**.

**act** verb 1 *He acted like a baby*. behave, conduct yourself, seem to be.

2 *The medicine didn't act*. function, have an effect, operate, serve, take effect, work.

3 *to act a role*. *to act in a play*. appear (as), assume the character of, characterize, enact, imitate, impersonate, mime, mimic, perform, personify, play, portray, pose as, represent, simulate.

4 *Stop acting!* SEE **pretend**.

**acting** adjective *acting captain*. deputy, interim, provisional, stand-by, stopgap, substitute, surrogate (*surrogate mother*), temporary, vice (*vice-captain*).

**action** noun 1 *a brave action*. *a prompt action*. act, deed, effort, endeavour, enterprise, exploit, feat, measure, performance, proceeding, process, step, undertaking, work.

2 *a holiday packed with action*. activity, drama, energy, excitement, exercise, exertion, liveliness, movement, vigour, vitality.

3 *the action of a play*. events, happenings, incidents, story.

4 *the action of a watch*. functioning, mechanism, operation, working, works.

5 *a military action*. SEE **battle** noun.

**actionable** adjective SEE **illegal**.

**activate** verb *to activate a fire-alarm*. *to activate someone's enthusiasm*. actuate, animate, arouse, energize, excite, fire, galvanize, [informal] get going, initiate, mobilize, motivate, prompt, rouse, set in motion, set off, start, stimulate, stir, trigger off.

**active** adjective 1 *an active person*. *an active scene*. agile, animated, bustling, busy, energetic, enterprising, enthusiastic, functioning, live, lively, militant, nimble, [informal] on the go, spirited, sprightly, vigorous, vital, vivacious.

**2** *an active supporter*. assiduous, busy, committed, dedicated, devoted, diligent, employed, engaged, enthusiastic, hard-working, industrious, involved, occupied, sedulous, staunch, working, zealous.

OPPOSITES: SEE *inact* *ve*.

**3** *an active volcano*. erupting, smoking, smouldering.

OPPOSITE: extinct.

**activist** *noun* *a political activist*. militant.

**activity** *noun* **1** *The market-place was full of activity*. action, animation, bustle, commotion, excitement, hurly-burly, hustle, industry, life, liveliness, motion, movement, stir.

**2** *spare-time activities*. hobby, interest, job, labour, occupation, pastime, project, pursuit, scheme, task, undertaking, venture, work.

**actor, actress** *nouns* artist, artiste. SEE *entertainer* lead, leading lady, performer, player, star, supporting actor, trouper, walk-on part.

GROUP WORD: cast, company, troupe.

**actual** *adjective* *I saw the actual place where it happened*. authentic, bona fide, certain, confirmed, definite, existing, factual, genuine, indisputable, legitimate, real, realistic, tangible, true, truthful, unquestionable, verifiable.

OPPOSITES: SEE *imaginary*.

**actuate** *verb* SEE *activate*.

**acumen** *noun* SEE *intelligence*.

**acute** *adjective* **1** *an acute mind*. analytical, astute, canny. SEE *clever*, incisive, intelligent, keen, observant, penetrating, perceptive, perspicacious, quick, sharp, shrewd, [informal] smart, subtle. OPPOSITES: SEE *dull*, *stupid*.

**2** *acute pain*. exquisite, extreme, fierce, intense, keen, piercing, racking, severe, sharp, shooting, sudden, violent.

OPPOSITES: SEE *mild*.

**3** *an acute problem*. compelling, crucial, decisive, immediate, important, overwhelming, pressing, serious, urgent, vital.

OPPOSITES: SEE *continual*.

**4** *an acute illness*. critical, sudden.

OPPOSITES: SEE *chronic*.

**5** *an acute angle*. pointed, sharp.

OPPOSITE: obtuse.

**ad** *noun* SEE *advertisement*.

**adamant** *adjective* SEE *determined*.

**adapt** *verb* **1** *to adapt yourself to new ways*.

acclimatize, accommodate, accustom, adjust, attune, fit, habituate, harmonize, orientate, reconcile, suit, tailor, turn.

**2** *to adapt something for a new purpose*. alter, amend, change, convert, metamorphose, modify, process, rearrange, rebuild, reconstruct, refashion, remake, remodel, reorganize, reshape, transform, vary.

**3** *to adapt a play for TV*. SEE *edit*.

**adaptable** *adjective* **1** *an adaptable tool*. SEE *adjustable*.

**2** *an adaptable person*. SEE *amenable*.

**add** *verb* *to add one thing to another*. annex, append, attach, combine, integrate, join, put together, [informal] tack on, unite.

OPPOSITES: SEE *deduct*.

**to add to** *Our shouts only added to the confusion*. amplify, augment, enlarge, increase, supplement.

**to add up** **1** *Add up the scores*. calculate, compute, count, do a sum, reckon up, [informal] tot up, work out.

**2** [informal] *Her story doesn't add up*. be convincing, be reasonable, [informal] hold water, make sense, [informal] ring true.

**to add up to** *What does the cost add up to?* amount to, come to, make, total.

**added** *adjective* SEE *additional*.

**addendum** *noun* SEE *appendix*.

**addict** *noun* **1** alcoholic, [slang] dope-fiend, [slang] junkie, [informal] user.

**2** *a snooker addict*. SEE *enthusiast*.

**addiction** *noun* alcoholism [= *addiction to alcohol*], compulsion, craving, dependence, fixation, habit, obsession.

**addition** *noun* accession (to a library), accessory, accretion, addendum (to a document), additive, adjunct, admixture, afterthought, amplification, annexe (to a building), appendage, appendix (to a book), appurtenance, attachment, continuation, development, enlargement, expansion, extension, extra, increase, increment (to salary), postscript (to a letter), supplement.

**additional** *adjective* additional resources. added, extra, further, increased, more, new, other, spare, supplementary.

**addled** *adjective* *addled eggs*. SEE *rotten*.

**address** *noun* **1** *the address on an envelope*. directions.

**2** *The vicar delivered an address*. discourse, [formal] disquisition, harangue, [now often joking] homily, lecture, [formal] oration, sermon, speech, talk.

**address** *verb* *A stranger addressed me*. accost, apostrophize, approach, [informal] buttonhole, engage in conversation, greet, hail, salute, speak to, talk to.

to address yourself to *Address yourself to your work.* apply yourself to, attend to, concentrate on, devote yourself to, engage in, focus on, get involved in, settle down to, tackle, undertake.

**adduce** verb SEE cite.

**adept** adjective SEE skilful.

**adequate** adjective *an adequate standard of work.* acceptable, competent, fair, good enough, passable, presentable, respectable, satisfactory, sufficient, suitable, tolerable.

OPPOSITES: SEE inadequate.

**adhere** verb SEE stick verb.

**adherent** noun SEE supporter.

**adhesive** adjective SEE sticky.

**adhesive** noun SEE glue noun.

**adieu** SEE goodbye.

**adipose** adjective SEE fat adjective.

**adjacent** adjective SEE adjoining.

**adjoin** verb SEE border verb.

**adjoining** adjective *the garden adjoining ours.* abutting, adjacent to, alongside, beside, bordering, closest to, contiguous with, juxtaposed to, nearest, neighbouring, next to, touching.  
OPPOSITES: SEE distant, separate.

**adjourn** verb to *adjourn a meeting.* break off, defer, discontinue, dissolve, interrupt, postpone, prorogue (*parliament*), put off, stop temporarily, suspend.

**adjournment** noun *an adjournment of a meeting.* break, delay, interruption, pause, postponement, prorogation, recess, stay, stoppage, suspension.

**adjudicate** verb SEE judge verb.

**adjunct** noun SEE addition.

**adjure** verb SEE command verb, request verb.

**adjust** verb 1 *I adjusted the TV picture.* alter, amend, arrange, balance, change, modify, position, put right, rectify, regulate, set, temper, tune, vary.  
2 *I adjusted myself to my new work.* acclimatize, accommodate, accustom, adapt, convert, fit, habituate, harmonize, modify, reconcile, refashion, remake, remodel, reorganize, reshape, tailor.

**adjustable** adjective *an adjustable handle.* adaptable, alterable, changeable, flexible, modifiable, movable, variable.  
OPPOSITES: SEE fixed.

**ad-lib** adjective *ad-lib remarks.* extempore, impromptu, improvised, impulsive, made-up [*informal*] off the cuff [*informal*] off the top of your head,

spontaneous, unplanned, unprepared, unrehearsed.

**ad-lib** verb *I had to ad-lib when I lost my notes.* extemporize, improvise, make it up, [*informal*] play it by ear.

**administer** verb 1 *The Head administers the school.* administrate, command, conduct the affairs of, control, direct, govern, head, lead, look after, manage, organize, oversee, preside over, regulate, rule, run, superintend, supervise.  
2 *A nurse administered my medicine.* apply, deal out, dispense, distribute, dole out, give, hand out, measure out, mete out, provide, supply.

**administrative** verb SEE administer.

**administrator** noun bureaucrat, civil servant, executive, SEE manager, organizer.

**admirable** adjective *She has many admirable qualities.* commendable, creditable, deserving, enjoyable, estimable, excellent, exemplary, fine, SEE good, honourable, laudable, likeable, lovable, marvellous, meritorious, pleasing, praiseworthy, valued, wonderful, worthy.

OPPOSITES: SEE contemptible.

**admiration** noun *Her skill won our admiration.* appreciation, approval, commendation, esteem, hero-worship, high regard, honour, praise, respect.  
OPPOSITES: SEE contempt.

**admire** verb 1 *I admire her skill.* applaud, approve of, esteem, have a high opinion of, hero-worship, [*formal*] laud, look up to, marvel at, praise, respect, revere, think highly of, value, wonder at.  
2 *We admired the view.* appreciate, be delighted by, enjoy, like, love.

OPPOSITES: SEE despise.

**admirer** noun SEE fan noun, lover.

**admiring** adjective *admiring glances.* appreciative, approving, complimentary, flattering, respectful.  
OPPOSITES: SEE contemptuous.

**admissible** adjective SEE permissible.

**admission** noun 1 *Admission is by ticket.* access, admittance, entrance, entry.  
2 *an admission of guilt.* acceptance, acknowledgement, affirmation, avowal, confession, declaration, profession, revelation.

OPPOSITES: SEE denial.

**admit** verb 1 *to admit someone to hospital.* accept, allow in, grant access, let in, provide a place (in), receive, take in.  
OPPOSITES: SEE exclude.

2 *to admit your guilt.* accept, acknowledge, agree, allow, concede, confess,

declare, disclose, divulge, grant, own up, profess, recognize, reveal, say reluctantly.

OPPOSITES: SEE **deny**.

**admixture** noun addition, amalgamation, blend, combination, fusion, mingling.

**admonish** verb SEE **reprimand** verb.

**admonition** noun SEE **reprimand** noun.

**ado** noun SEE **commotion**.

**adolescence** noun boyhood, girlhood, growing up, puberty. [informal] your teens, youth.

**adolescent** adjective *adolescent behaviour*. [These words are often used by adults to suggest that they are superior to young people.] boyish, girlish, immature, juvenile, puerile, teenage, youthful.

**adolescent** noun boy, girl, [formal] juvenile, minor, [informal] teenager, youngster, youth.

**adopt** verb 1 *We adopted their suggestion.* accept, appropriate, approve, back, champion, choose, embrace, endorse, espouse, follow, [informal] go for, support, take up.

2 *We adopted a stray cat.* befriend, foster, patronize, stand by, take in, [informal] take under your wing.

**adorable** adjective SEE **lovable**.

**adoration** noun SEE **love** noun, **worship** noun.

**adore** verb 1 *She adores her grandad.* dote on, glorify, idolize, love, revere, venerate, worship.

2 [informal] *I adore toffee!* SEE **like** verb.

OPPOSITES: SEE **hate** verb.

**adorn** verb SEE **decorate**.

**adornment** noun SEE **decoration**.

**adrift** adjective 1 *adrift on the ocean.* afloat, anchorless, drifting, floating, rudderless.

2 *adrift in a strange city.* aimless, astray, directionless, lost, purposeless, rootless.

**adroit** adjective SEE **skilful**.

**adulation** noun SEE **flattery**.

**adult** adjective developed, full-size, fully grown, grown-up, marriageable, mature, of age.

OPPOSITES: SEE **immature**.

**adulterate** verb *He adulterated the expensive wine with a cheaper brand.* contaminate, corrupt, debase, defile, dilute, [informal] doctor, poison, taint, thin, water down, weaken.

**adultery** noun extramarital relations, having an affair, infidelity, unfaithfulness.

**advance** noun *You can't stop the advance of science.* development, evolution, forward movement, growth, headway, progress.

**advance** verb 1 *As the army advanced, the enemy fled.* approach, bear down, come near, forge ahead, gain ground, go forward, make headway, make progress; [informal] make strides, move forward, press ahead, press on, proceed, progress, [informal] push on.

OPPOSITES: SEE **retreat** verb.

2 *Computer technology has advanced enormously.* develop, evolve, grow, improve, increase, prosper, thrive.

OPPOSITES: SEE **regress**.

3 *Passing your exams will advance your career.* accelerate, assist, benefit, boost, expedite, facilitate, further, help the progress of, promote.

OPPOSITES: SEE **hinder**.

4 *He advanced an interesting theory.* adduce, cite, furnish, give, present, propose, submit, suggest.

5 [informal] *She advanced me a couple of pounds.* lend, loan, offer, pay, proffer, provide, supply.

**advanced** adjective 1 *advanced technology.* latest, modern, sophisticated, ultra-modern, up-to-date.

OPPOSITES: SEE **obsolete**.

2 *advanced ideas.* avant-garde, contemporary, experimental, forward-looking, futuristic, imaginative, innovative, inventive, new, novel, original, pioneering, precocious, progressive, revolutionary, trend-setting, unconventional, unheard of, [informal] way-out.

OPPOSITES: SEE **old-fashioned**.

3 *advanced mathematics.* complex, complicated, difficult, hard, higher.

OPPOSITES: SEE **elementary**.

4 *advanced for her age.* grown-up, mature, sophisticated, well-developed.

**advantage** noun *We had the advantage of a following wind.* aid, asset, assistance, benefit, boon, convenience, favour, gain, help, profit, service, use, usefulness.

to take advantage of SEE **exploit** verb.

**advantageous** adjective SEE **helpful**.

**advent** noun SEE **arrival**.

**adventitious** adjective SEE **accidental**.

**adventure** noun 1 *a dangerous adventure.* enterprise, escapade, exploit, gamble, incident, occurrence, operation, risk, undertaking, venture.

2 *a sense of adventure.* danger, excitement, hazard.

**adventurous** adjective 1 *adventurous explorers*, bold, daring, enterprising, heroic, intrepid, valiant, venturesome. 2 *an adventurous life*, challenging, dangerous, eventful, exciting, perilous, risky.

OPPOSITES: SEE **unadventurous**.

**adversary** noun SEE **enemy**.

**adverse** adjective 1 *an adverse report*, antagonistic, attacking, censorious, critical, derogatory, disapproving, hostile, hurtful, inimical, negative, uncompilimentary, unfavourable, unfriendly, unkind, unsympathetic.

2 *adverse conditions*, *adverse effects*, contrary, deleterious, detrimental, disadvantageous, harmful, inappropriate, inauspicious, opposing, prejudicial, uncongenial, unfortunate, unpropitious.

OPPOSITES: SEE **favourable**.

**adversity** noun SEE **misfortune**.

**advert** noun SEE **advertisement**.

**advertise** verb announce, broadcast, display, flaunt, make known, market, merchandise, notify, [*informal*] plug, proclaim, promote, promulgate, publicize, [*informal*] push, show off, [*informal*] spotlight, tout.

**advertisement** noun [*informal*] ad, [*informal*] advert, announcement, bill, [*informal*] blurb, [*informal*] break (on TV), classified advertisement (in newspaper), commercial (on TV), display, hand-out, leaflet, notice, placard, [*informal*] plug, poster, promotion, publicity, [*old-fashioned or joking*] puff, sign, [*informal*] small ad.

**advice** noun *He gave me some advice*, admonition, caution, counsel, guidance, help, opinion, recommendation, suggestion, tip, warning.

**advisable** adjective *The doctor said a rest was advisable*, prudent, recommended, wise.

OPPOSITES: SEE **inadvisable**.

**advise** verb 1 *The doctor advised her to rest*, admonish, advocate, caution, counsel, encourage, [*formal*] enjoin, [*formal*] exhort, instruct, prescribe, recommend, suggest, urge, warn.

2 *They advised us that the plane would be delayed* SEE **inform**.

**advisee** noun consultant, counsellor, mentee.

**advocate** noun 1 *an advocate of reform*, spokesman, supporter.

2 *an advocate in a lawsuit* SEE **lawyer**.

**advocate** verb SEE **recommend**.

**advis** noun SEE **sponsorship**.

**aeon** noun SEE **time** noun.

**aerate** verb SEE **ventilate**.

**aerial** adjective *an aerial railway*, elevated, overhead, raised.

**aerodrome** noun airfield, airport, airstrip, landing-strip.

**aeronautics** noun aviation, flying.

**aeroplane** noun SEE **aircraft**.

**aesthete** noun artistic person.

**aesthetic** adjective SEE **artistic**.

**affable** adjective SEE **friendly**.

**affair** noun 1 *business affairs*, activity, business, concern, interest, matter, operation, project, question, subject, topic, transaction, undertaking.

2 *The crash was a mysterious affair*, circumstance, episode, event, happening, incident, occasion, occurrence, thing.

3 *a passionate affair*, attachment, intrigue, involvement, liaison, love affair, relationship, romance.

**affect** verb [Don't confuse *affect* with *effect*.] 1 *Acid rain affects trees*, *The storm affected the train service*, act on, alter, attack, change, have an effect on, have an impact on, [*informal*] hit, impinge on, influence, modify, pertain to, relate to, transform.

2 *The bad news affected us*, agitate, concern, disturb, grieve, impress, move, perturb, stir, touch, trouble, upset.

3 *She affects a posh accent*, assume, feign, SEE **pretend**, [*informal*] put on.

**affectation** noun [Don't confuse *affectation* with *affect*.] *Her posh accent is pure affectation*, insincerity, mannerism, SEE **pretence**, pretension.

**affected** adjective 1 *an affected way of talking*, insincere, SEE **pretentious**, [*informal*] put on.

2 *We sent aid to the affected areas*, damaged, distressed, hurt, infected, injured, poisoned, stricken, troubled.

**affection** noun *We can show affection by hugs and kisses*, amity, attachment, devotion, feeling, fondness, friendliness, friendship, liking, love, partiality, regard, [*informal*] soft spot, tenderness, warmth.

OPPOSITES: SEE **hatred**.

**affectionate** adjective SEE **loving**.

**affianced** adjective SEE **engaged**.

**affidavit** noun SEE **testimony**.

**affiliate** verb *our club is affiliated to a national organization*, ally, amalgamate, associate, band together, combine, connect, confederate, incorporate, join,



join forces, link up, merge, syndicate, unite.

**affinity** noun 1 *She has a natural affinity with animals.* SEE **sympathy**.

2 *The film doesn't have much affinity with the book.* SEE **similarity**.

**affirm** verb SEE **declare**.

**affirmation** noun SEE **declaration**.

**affirmative** adjective *an affirmative answer*, agreeing, assenting, concurring, confirming, consenting, positive, saying 'yes'.

OPPOSITES: SEE **negative**.

**affix** verb SEE **fasten**.

**afflict** verb *He is afflicted by illness. A plague of locusts afflicted the land.* annoy, bedevil, beset, burden, cause suffering, distress, harass, harm, hurt, oppress, pain, pester, plague, rack, torment, torture, trouble, try, vex, worry, wound.

**affliction** noun SEE **evil**, **illness**, **pain**.

**affluent** adjective 1 *an affluent life-style*, comfortable, expensive, gracious, lavish, luxurious, opulent, pampered, self-indulgent, sumptuous.

2 *an affluent businessman*, flourishing, [informal] flush, [slang] loaded, moneyed, [often joking] plutocratic, prosperous, rich, wealthy, [informal] well-heeled, well-off, well-to-do.

OPPOSITES: SEE **poor**.

**afford** verb 1 *Can you afford the cost?* find enough, manage to give, spare, [informal] stand.

2 *Our plan affords a solution to the problem.* SEE **provide**.

**afloat** adjective aboard, adrift, at sea, floating, on board ship, under sail.

**afraid** adjective 1 *I was afraid of the danger.* aghast, agitated, alarmed, anxious, apprehensive, cowardly, cowed, daunted, diffident, faint-hearted, fearful, frightened, hesitant, horrified, intimidated, jittery, nervous, pusillanimous, reluctant, scared, terrified, timid, timorous, uneasy, unheroic, [informal] yellow.

OPPOSITES: SEE **brave**, **confident**.

2 [informal] *I'm afraid I may be late.* regretful, sorry, unhappy.

**to be afraid** dread, fear, quake, tremble, worry.

**afterlife** noun SEE **eternity**, heaven, hell, the hereafter, the next world.

**aftermath** noun SEE **consequence**.

**afterthought** noun addendum, addition, appendix, extra, postscript.

**age** noun 1 *What is your age?* date of birth.

2 *She is catching up on me.* decrepitude, detage, old age, senility.

3 *the Victorian age*, days, epoch, era, generation, period, time.

4 [informal] *It's an age since we met.* aeon, lifetime, long time.

**age** verb 1 *He's aged since we last saw him.* decline, degenerate, look older.

2 *Wine needs to age.* develop, grow older, mature, mellow, ripen.

**aged** adjective SEE **old**.

Several English words, including **agenda** and **agent**, are related to Latin *agere* = to do.

**agenda** noun [In Latin, *agenda* is plural] = things to be done, but in English it is often used as if it were singular.] list, plan, programme, schedule, timetable.

**agent** noun *He employs an agent to act on his behalf.* broker, delegate, emissary, executor, [old-fashioned] functionary, go-between, intermediary, mediator, middleman, negotiator, representative, trustee.

**agglomerate** verb SEE **collect**.

**agglutinate** verb SEE **stick** verb.

**aggrandizement** noun SEE **glorification**.

**aggravate** verb [See note above *grave* (adj.).] Some people think that the informal use of *aggravate* = annoy is incorrect.]

1 *The medicine only aggravated the pain.* add to, augment, compound, exacerbate, exaggerate, heighten, increase, inflame, intensify, magnify, make more serious, make worse, worsen.

OPPOSITES: SEE **alleviate**.

2 [informal] *Their teasing aggravated us.* annoy, bother, exasperate, irritate, [informal] needle, nettle, [informal] peeve, provoke, trouble, vex.

**aggregate** noun SEE **total** noun.

**aggression** noun SEE **attack** noun, **hostility**.

**aggressive** adjective *aggressive behaviour*, antagonistic, assertive, attacking, bellicose, belligerent, bullying, [slang] butch, contentious, destructive, hostile, jingoistic, [slang] macho, militant, offensive, provocative, pugnacious, pushful, [informal] pushy, quarrelsome, violent, warlike, zealous.

OPPOSITES: SEE **friendly**.

**aggressor** noun SEE **attacker**.

**aggrieved** adjective SEE **resentful**.

**aghost** adjective SEE **horrified**.

**agile** adjective acrobatic, active, adroit, deft, fleet, graceful, limber, lissom,