

MACMILLAN  
**Essential**  
DICTIONARY

FOR LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

麦克米伦初阶英语词典

(英语版)

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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(英语版)**

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## GRAMMAR CODES

### Nouns

- **[C]** countable nouns that are used with *a* or *an* or a number and have a plural: *car, soldier*
- **[U]** uncountable nouns that cannot be used with *a* or *an* or a number and have no plural: *happiness, pasta*
- **[singular]** nouns that are used with *a, an,* or *the* but are never used in the plural: *babble, halt*
- **[plural]** nouns that are used only in the plural and always take a plural verb: *cattle, surroundings*

### Verbs

- **[I]** intransitive verbs that have no direct object: *He **paused** for a moment.* ♦ *Could you **speak up** please?*
- **[T]** transitive verbs that have a direct object: *I **ate** my lunch.* ♦ *She **handed** the note over to me.*
- **[linking verb]** verbs that are followed

by a noun or adjective complement describing the subject: *They **looked** happy.* ♦ *I **feel** better now.*

- **[auxiliary verb]** verbs 'be', 'have', and 'do' when they are used with other verbs to show their tense, to form questions etc: *When **are** you leaving?* ♦ *They **didn't** understand.*

### Other short forms or codes

- **sb** someone
- **sth** something
- **+ that** followed by a clause beginning with 'that': *The notice **stated that** there would be no performance that evening.*
- **+(that)** can be followed by a clause beginning with 'that' but you can miss out the 'that': *I **decided that** it wouldn't be a good idea to go.* OR *I **decided** it wouldn't be a good idea to go.*
- **...to do sth** followed by a verb in the infinitive: *I **love to go** shopping.*
- **...doing sth** followed by a verb + ing: *I **love swimming**.*

## WORD CLASSES

**abbrev** (=abbreviation)

**adj** (=adjective)

**adv** (=adverb)

**conjunction**

**determiner**

**grammar word**

**interjection**

**modal verb**

**noun**

**number**

**prefix**

**preposition**

**pronoun**

**quantifier**

**short form** (for example *can't*)

**suffix**

**trademark** (trademarks are not given a word class)

**verb**

## SYMBOLS

- points to another entry or page that you should look at for more information or for pictures
- ♦ comes between examples
- = comes before synonyms
- ≠ comes before opposites

## RED WORDS

The words printed in red form the essential vocabulary for an intermediate learner of English. There are 3,500 red words, which have been carefully chosen on the basis of their importance and frequency. These are the words that you really need to learn, and the dictionary provides a lot of extra information to help you to *understand* these words well and to *use* them correctly.

All red words have a 'star rating':

- ★★★ the most common and basic words, such as **easy, go, have, house**
- ★★ very common words, such as **behave, friendly, intelligence, occasionally**
- ★ fairly common words, such as **campaign, enthusiastic, import, local**

## 出版前言

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

本词典的主要特色如下:

1. 收词 25 000 余条, 为同类词典收词之冠。
2. 提供 36 000 余条有代表性的日常英语例句, 不仅贴近生活, 而且提供该词汇的使用环境。
3. 对于日常生活中最常用的 3 500 词汇以红色标出, 并按使用频率分为一星、二星和三星三个级别。三星级词最为常用, 如 also, close 等, 提示使用者应熟练掌握。
4. 特设 130 余个用法专栏, 详解用法搭配、同义词之间的区别以及同一意义的不同表达方式。如 clean 一词就提供了 brush, wash 等多达 7 种的表达方式, 活学活用, 有助于扩大词汇量。
5. 词典的正文中插有 24 页语言学习插页, 提供搭配、构词法及表达日常事物的常用词汇。如 Applying for a job (求职) 的常用词汇有 vacancy, post, fill in 等。帮助读者掌握有用词汇, 使用地道英文。
6. 本书还配有 16 页全彩插图和 700 余幅双色插图, 正文后附地名和国家名列表及发音指南等实用信息。

对于母语不是英语的学习者来说, 本词典细致、实用, 能够提供读写过程中所需的基本英语信息, 对提高英语水平很有助益, 是一部质量很高的英语工具书。希望它能成为广大英语学习者的良师益友。

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## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

This dictionary uses the following symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet:

### Consonants

p	press	ʒ	measure
b	bag	h	hot
t	time	x	loch
d	day	tʃ	chair
k	can	dʒ	jam
g	dog	m	more
f	staff	n	snow
v	vote	ŋ	sing
θ	thin	w	water
ð	that	r	ring
s	sit	l	small
z	zebra	j	you
ʃ	shine		

### Vowels and diphthongs

ɪ	bit	ɔ:	caught
e	bed	u:	boot
æ	bad	ɜ:	bird
ɒ	hot	eɪ	bay
ʌ	cut	aɪ	buy
ʊ	book	ɔɪ	boy
ə	about	əʊ	go
i	pretty	aʊ	now
u	annual	ʊə	cure
i:	bee	eə	hair
ɑ:	far	ɪə	hear

## Stress

The main stressed syllable in an entry is shown by the symbol /'/. and the second-most important stressed syllable is shown by the symbol /,/. for example **correspond** /kɒrɪ'spɒnd/. Compound entries that are made up of two or more separate words have stress marks on them if the pronunciation for each individual word is already given in the dictionary, for example **ice cream**.

## Alternative pronunciations

The dictionary shows alternative pronunciations for entries only if the second pronunciation is so different from the main one that it might not be understood easily, for example at **cervical** /'sɜ:vɪk(ə)l, sə'væɪk(ə)l/. American pronunciations are shown only when they are so different from the British pronunciation that they might not be understood easily, for example at **laboratory** /lə'bɒrət(ə)ri, American 'læbrətɔ:ri/.

## Weak forms and strong forms

Some grammar words (common words like prepositions and pronouns) have more than one pronunciation. The weak form is used when the syllable is unstressed, and the strong form is used when the syllable is stressed. These two forms are shown like this in the dictionary: **but** /weak bət, strong bʌt/.

## Normal rapid speech

Pronunciations of words often change in normal rapid speech. The schwa /ə/ often disappears between certain consonants and the sounds /d/ and /t/ can often not be heard when they are found between two other consonants. If these sounds are given in brackets, it means that they are often not pronounced by fluent speakers of English, for example **station** /'steɪʃ(ə)n/, **friendly** /'fren(d)li/, and **postman** /'pəʊs(t)mən/.

## Nasalized vowels

Some French words that have entered the English language contain a nasalized vowel sound that is common in French but rare in English. These vowels are shown with the symbol /~/ above them, for example **seance** /'seɪ̃s/.

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# Introduction

MICHAEL RUNDELL  
Editor-in-Chief

**T**he *Macmillan Essential Dictionary* has been especially designed to meet the needs of intermediate students of English. The word 'essential' has two meanings, and both meanings are relevant to this dictionary. First, because it provides the information that is *completely necessary* for your success as a learner of English. And secondly, because it focuses on the most *basic and important* features of the English language – the things that you need to know most thoroughly in order to make effective progress.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# USING YOUR DICTIONARY

## Finding a word

### Words with more than one entry

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

**jet**<sup>1</sup> /dʒet/ noun ★

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

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

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

**jet**<sup>2</sup> /dʒet/ verb [I] to fly somewhere in a plane: *They will be jetting off to Spain this weekend.*

**jet-black** adj very dark black in colour

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

**jet lag** noun [U] the feeling of being very tired because you have travelled on a plane across parts of the world where the time is different — **jet-lagged** /dʒet.lægd/ adj

### Compound words

These are shown as separate entries in the alphabetical list.

### Derived words

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

### Word classes (noun, verb etc)

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

### Idioms and other fixed expressions

Some words are often used in idioms or other fixed expressions. These are shown at the end of the main entry, following the small box that says **PHRASE**. Look for fixed expressions at the entry for the first main word in the expression.

**dash**<sup>1</sup> /dæʃ/ verb **1** [I] to go somewhere in a hurry: *I dashed out into the street, still in my pyjamas.* **2** [I/T] to hit something violently, or to throw something violently against a surface: *Huge waves dashed against the side of the boat.*

**PHRASE** **dash sb's hopes** to make it impossible for someone to do what they had hoped to do: *Saturday's defeat has dashed their hopes of success in the FA Cup this year.*

**PHRASAL VERB** **dash off** to leave in a hurry

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

## Finding the meaning of a word

### Words with more than one meaning

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

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

**bilingual** /bai'liŋgwəl/ adj **1** able to speak two languages **2** written in two languages: *a bilingual dictionary*

**bill**<sup>1</sup> /bil/ noun [C] ★★

- |                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>1</b> amount that you owe | <b>4</b> paper money |
| <b>2</b> in a restaurant     | <b>5</b> bird's beak |
| <b>3</b> proposal for law    |                      |

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

## Definitions

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

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

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

**salami** /sə'lɑ:mi/ noun [C/U] a type of SAUSAGE containing strong SPICES, cut into thin pieces and served cold

## Finding out more about a word

### Red words

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

**discover** /dɪ'skʌvə/ verb [T] ★★★

**friendly** /'fren(d)li/ adj ★★

**local**<sup>1</sup> /'ləʊk(ə)l/ adj ★

### Pronunciation

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

**aroma** /ə'raʊmə/ noun [C] a smell that is strong but nice — **aromatic** /æ'rə'mætɪk/ adj

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

**laboratory** /lə'bɒrət(ə)rɪ, American 'ləbrətɔ:ri/ noun [C] ★ a building or large room where people do scientific research: *our new research laboratory* ♦ *laboratory tests/experiments/studies* → LANGUAGE LABORATORY

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

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

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

### Inflections

Irregular inflections are shown.

**do**<sup>1</sup> /du:/ (3rd person singular **does** /weɪk dəz, strong dəz/: past tense **did** /dɪd/: past participle **done** /dʌn/) verb ★★★

### Labels

Labels (in *italics*) show whether a word is used in only British or American English, or tell you whether it is used in informal contexts, specialized contexts etc. Lists of these labels are given on page 861.

**precinct** /'pri:sɪŋkt/ noun [C] <sup>1</sup> *British* a part of a town that has a particular use, especially an area where no cars are allowed: *a shopping precinct* <sup>2</sup> *American* a district in a town or city, usually organized for voting, police, or government purposes

**prognosis** /prɒ'gnəʊsɪs/ (plural **prognoses** /prɒ'gnəʊsɪz/) noun [C] <sup>1</sup> *medical* a doctor's opinion about how a disease is likely to develop <sup>2</sup> *formal* a statement about what is likely to happen in a particular situation → DIAGNOSIS

## Examples

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

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

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

## promote /prə'məʊt/ verb [T] ★★

**1** to support something, or to help something to develop: *a campaign to promote recycling* ♦ *Young plants are exposed to bright light to promote growth.*

**2** to attract people's attention to a product or event, for example by advertising: *They are going on tour to promote their new album.*

**3** to move someone to a job at a higher level: *promote sb to sth* *Steve Burrows was recently promoted to senior manager.*

### Words often used with promote

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

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

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

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

## Grammar boxes

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

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

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

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

## Expanding your vocabulary

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

Sometimes the opposite of a word is shown.

Some definitions give you synonyms.

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

**'left-hand** adj on the left side ≠ **RIGHT-HAND**: *The plates are on the left-hand side of the cupboard.*

**lastly** /'lɑ:s(t)li/ adv used when you want to say one more thing before you finish speaking = **FINALLY**: *And lastly, remember that your essays are due tomorrow.*

**hardback** /'hɑ:d.bæk/ noun [C] a book that has a hard cover → **PAPERBACK**

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

### Word family: compete

**Words in the same family as compete**

■ **competition** *n*      ■ **competitor** *n*  
■ **competitive** *adj*      ■ **uncompetitive** *adj*

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

### Other ways of saying famous

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

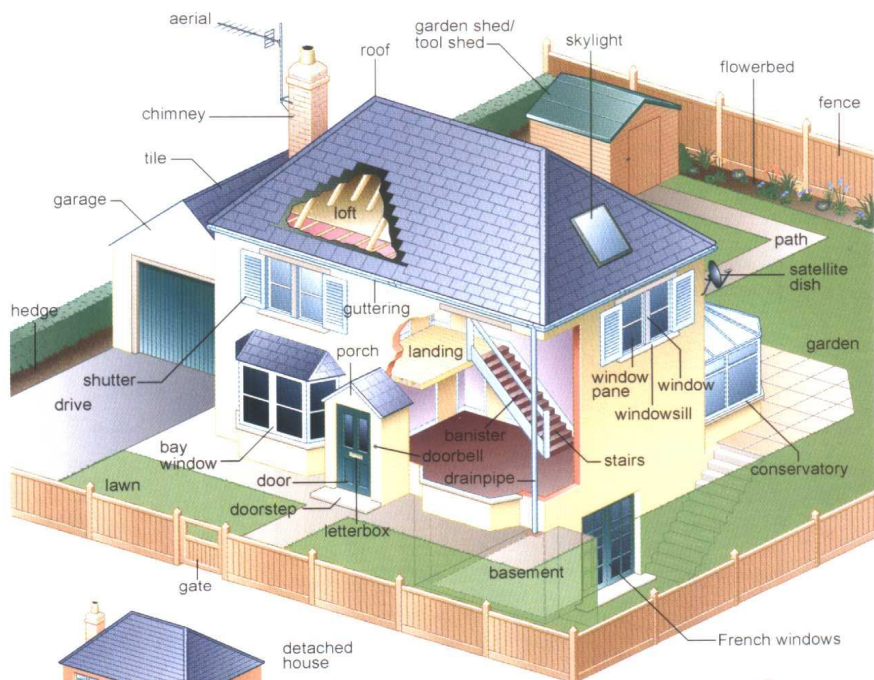
## NUMBERS THAT ARE ENTRIES

- 000** /trɪp(ə)lʊ/ in Australia, the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the FIRE BRIGADE, or an AMBULANCE
- 0800 number** /əʊ eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbə/ noun [C] in the UK, a telephone number beginning with 0800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services
- 1** /wʌn/ abbrev used in emails and TEXT MESSAGES to replace 'one': NE1 (=anyone)
- 1040 form** /ten fɔːti fɔːm/ noun [C] a form used by people in the US when they are calculating how much tax they have to pay on the money that they have earned
- 1099** /ten naɪnti 'naɪn/ noun [C] in the US, a document you send to the IRS (=the US tax department) that gives details of money that you have earned in addition to your salary
- 12** /twelv/ in the UK, a number given to a video that should only be watched by children who are at least 12 years old
- 12A** /twelv 'eɪ/ in the UK, a number given to a film that should only be watched by children under the age of 12 if they are with an adult
- 1471** /wʌn fɔː sev(ə)n 'wʌn/ in the UK, a telephone number that you can call to find out which was the last telephone number to call you
- 15** /fɪftiːn/ in the UK, a number given to a film or video that should only be watched by children who are at least 15 years old
- 18** /eɪtiːn/ in the UK, a number given to a film or video that should only be watched by people who are at least 18 years old
- 1800 number** /wʌn eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbə/ in Australia, a telephone number beginning with 1800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services
- 18-wheeler** /eɪtiːn 'wiːlə/ noun [C] American a large truck that has 18 wheels
- 1922 Committee, the** /naɪntiːn twenti 'tuː kəmɪti/ the Conservative members of the British parliament who are BACKBENCHERS (=not ministers)
- 2** /tuː/ abbrev 1 to or too: used in emails and TEXT MESSAGES: it's up 2 U (=it's up to you) ♦ me 2 (=me too) 2 used for replacing 'to-' in other words: 2day (=today)
- 20/20 vision** /twenti twenti 'vɪʒ(ə)n/ noun [U] the ability to see normally without wearing glasses
- 2.1** /tuː wʌn/ noun [C] in the UK and Australia, the second-highest mark for an UNDERGRADUATE degree from a university, lower than a first but higher than a 2.2
- 2.2** /tuː tuː/ noun [C] in the UK and Australia, the third-highest mark for an UNDERGRADUATE degree from a university, lower than a 2.1 but higher than a third
- .22** /pɒntuː tuː/ noun [C] a type of gun that shoots small bullets
- 24/7** /twenti fɔː sev(ə)n/ adv informal all the time: He thinks about her 24/7.
- 3-D** /θriːdiː/ adj a 3-D film, picture etc looks as if it has length, depth, and width
- 4** /fɔː/ abbrev 1 for: used in emails and TEXT MESSAGES: 4 U (=for you) 2 used for replacing 'fore' in other words: B4 (=before)
- 401(k)** /fɔː əʊ wʌn 'keɪ/ noun [C] in the US, a special account in which people can save some of the money that they earn for their RETIREMENT without paying taxes on it
- 4x4** /fɔː baɪ fɔː/ noun [C] a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle
- .45** /fɔːtɪfaɪv/ noun [C] a PISTOL (=small gun)
- 4-F** /fɔːr 'ef/ adj if someone is listed 4-F, they are not allowed to serve in the US armed forces
- 4WD** abbrev a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle
- \$64,000 question, the** /sɪksstɪfɔːbaʊz(ə)nd dʒɒlə kwɛstɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [singular] a question that is the most important and most difficult to answer concerning a particular problem or situation
- 8** /eɪt/ abbrev used in emails and TEXT MESSAGES to replace 'ate' or 'eat': C U L8R (=see you later) ♦ GR8 (=great)
- 800 number** /eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbə/ noun [C] in the US, a telephone number that is free to use and is usually for calling business services
- 911** /naɪn wʌn 'wʌn/ in the US, the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the FIRE BRIGADE, or an AMBULANCE
- 9/11** /naɪn 'iːv(ə)n/ 11 September, the date in 2001 when TERRORISTS attacked the US, flying planes into the World Trade Centre and killing thousands of people
- 999** /naɪn naɪn 'naɪn/ in the UK, the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the FIRE BRIGADE, or an AMBULANCE

### Roman numerals

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

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



detached house



semi-detached houses



bungalow



terraced houses

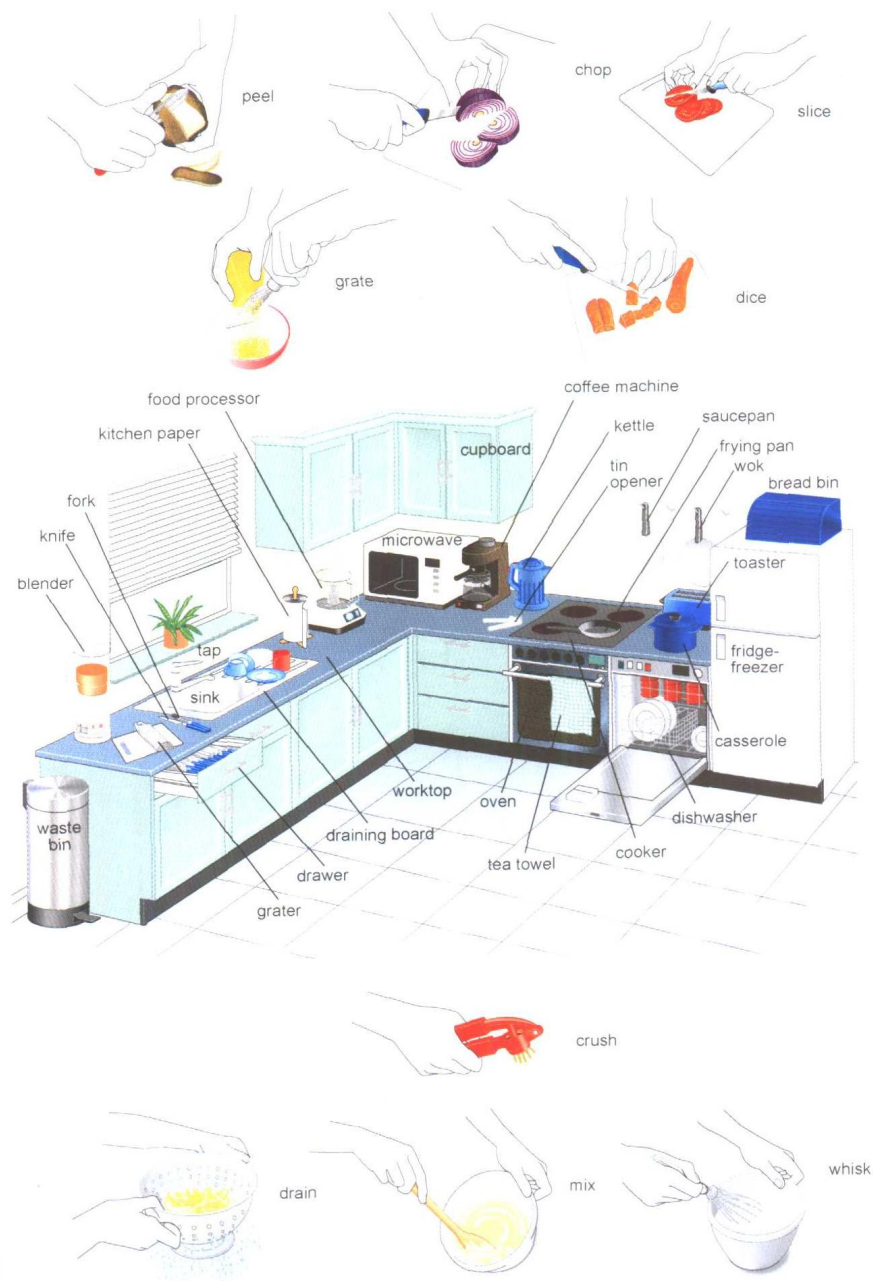


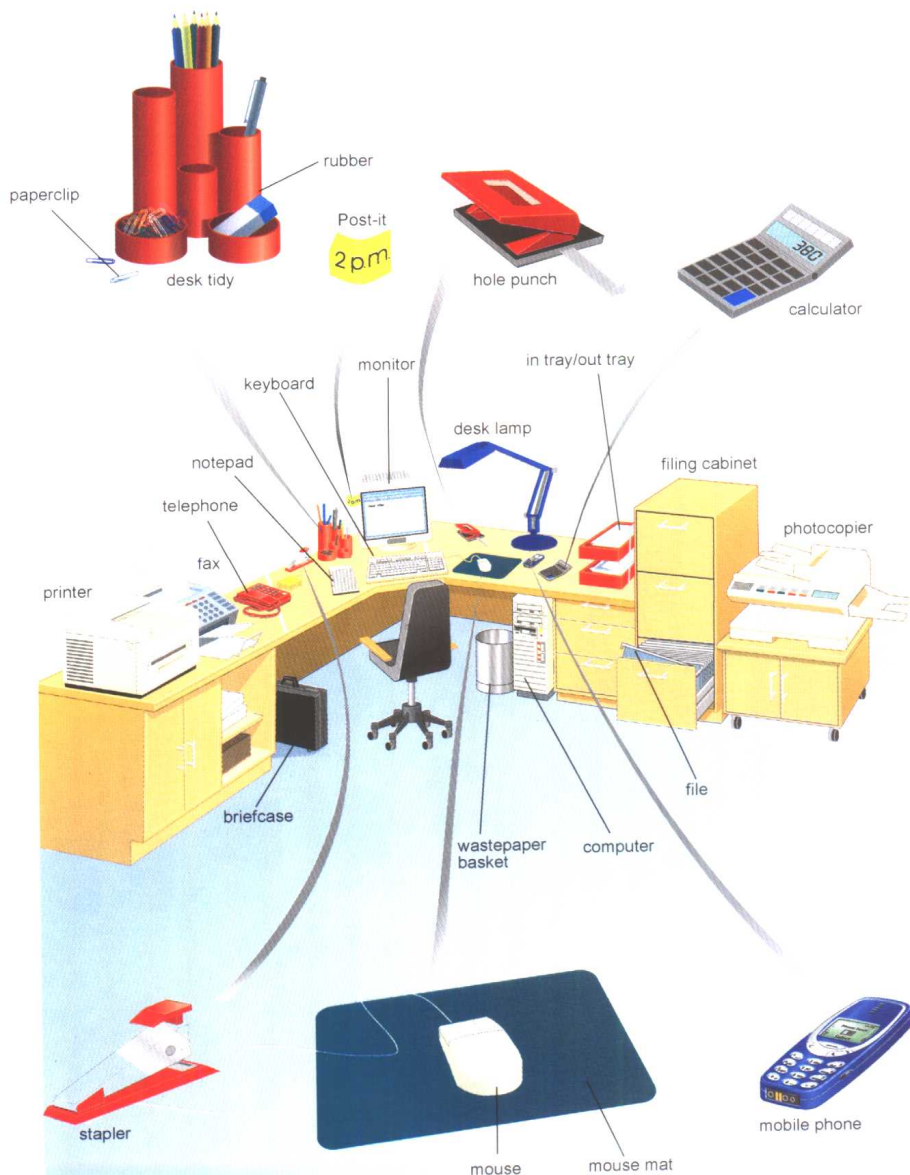
cottage



block of flats

## KITCHEN





## CLOTHES



jeans



dungarees



leggings



sweatpants



kilt



shorts



suit

trousers

jacket



dress



tie



bow tie



braces



scarf



gloves



mittens

waistcoat



trousers



parka



raincoat



fleece



jacket



overcoat