

8 NATURE AND NURTURE

PAGES 70–71

barren /'bærən/ Adjective

a *barren* place is rather empty because plants cannot grow in it

it's all pretty barren, just brown grassland | it's too dry and barren to grow anything here | his efforts to grow vegetables failed because the soil was too barren | a barren landscape of rocky hills

brehtaking /'breθ,teɪkɪŋ/ Adjective

if something is *brehtaking*, it is extremely beautiful

Collocates: *brehtaking scenery/view*

Lake Ritsa was simply breathtaking | the view from the hotel window was breathtaking | the scenery was breathtaking wherever we went on the island | the sunset over the lake was quite breathtaking

Adverb: *brehtakingly*

Collocates: *brehtakingly beautiful*

the scenery was breathtakingly beautiful

civilisation /ˌsɪvəlaɪ'zeɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

civilisation is human society that is organised and developed. People sometimes refer to cities where there is a lot of social activity as *civilisation*

I just wanted to get away from civilisation for a few weeks | sitting by the side of the lake felt like a long way from civilisation

crater /'kreɪtə(r)/ Noun

a *crater* is a large hole in the ground caused by a powerful impact such as a bomb

the largest crater was about 50 metres across | the bomb crater was 50 feet deep | during the winter, the crater fills with rainwater | the explosion left a huge crater in the road

death wish /'deθ wɪʃ/ Noun

a *death wish* is a desire to die. If you say that someone has a *death wish*, you mean that they enjoy doing very dangerous things

unless you have a death wish, don't go swimming here – there are sharks | most of the drivers on this motorway seem to have a death wish

dense /dens/ Adjective

something that is *dense* is made up of a lot of things that are very close together

the woods are so dense you can easily get lost | the surrounding area is a dense jungle | a dense layer of green leaves | the path was hidden by dense undergrowth (low plants that cover the ground)

Adverb: *densely* | Noun: *density*

the area is densely covered with apple trees | a densely populated city | population density in Westminster is 10,557 people per square kilometre

expertise /ˌeksɜː(r)'tiːz/ Noun uncount

expertise is deep knowledge about something or great skill at doing something

Collocates: *expertise in something | technical/legal/scientific, etc. expertise*

you need to show expertise in at least two of the four subjects | we benefited from his time and expertise | her scientific expertise was very useful to us | we need someone with legal expertise to advise us

Noun: *expert* | Adverb: *expertly* | Adjective: *expert*

many experts agreed that global warming was getting worse | we asked independent medical experts to write a report | everything was expertly prepared and the service was excellent | the play was expertly directed by Peter Brook | if you want expert advice it will be expensive | you should ask for an expert legal opinion

glacier /'glæsiə(r)/ Noun

a *glacier* is a very large sheet of ice that moves very slowly and covers a wide area of land

a lake was formed after the glacier melted | mountain glaciers are retreating dramatically (becoming smaller because they are melting) | 10,000 years ago, this land was covered in a massive glacier | as glaciers moved, they dug huge holes in the earth

hack /hæk/ Verb

if you *hack* something, you hit it very hard with something sharp such as a knife or an axe. If you *hack* your way somewhere, or *hack* through somewhere, you use a tool to cut down plants to clear a path for yourself

they've already hacked trails through the undergrowth there (through the dense low plants that cover the ground) | he survived after hacking his way out of the jungle | the four hacked their way through the fence | we hacked through the bushes to get to the river

head /hed/ Noun

if you have a *head* for something, you are able to do it well or experience it without any bad effects. If you have a *head for heights*, you are comfortable when you are a long way up. If you have a *head for business*, you are able to do what is needed to run a business

I don't have much of a head for heights | you need a good head for heights if you want to work as a roofer (a worker whose job is to put the roof on houses) | he discovered after just a few weeks that he didn't have a head for business | he wasn't very good at reading but had a good head for figures (could do maths well)

jagged /'dʒæɡɪd/ Adjective

something that is *jagged* has a lot of sharp points sticking out of it

the glass broke, leaving a jagged edge | the valley sits between two jagged mountain ranges | we crossed a broad ridge of sharp, jagged rocks

lush /lʌʃ/ Adjective

something that is *lush* has a lot of green plants, leaves, etc.

a handsome tree with lush foliage (leaves) | we found ourselves in a lush, green valley | the cattle had a constant supply of lush summer grass | we cycled through the lush countryside as far as Moon Hill

murky /'mɜ:(r)ki/ Adjective

if water or air is *murky*, it is not clear, and it is difficult to see through

the water in the pond is very murky | the sea was a dull murky green | we could just see the mountain in the murky darkness | the moon floated across the murky sky

Noun: *murkiness*

it was a winter afternoon of great murkiness

nuts /nʌts/ Adjective

if you say that someone is *nuts*, you mean they are crazy and do very silly things

they must be nuts to go climbing without ropes | my neighbour thought I was nuts when he saw me watering my pot plants in the rain | yes, he's odd, but he's not nuts

plain /pleɪn/ Noun

a *plain* is a large area of flat or very gently sloping land with not many trees growing on it

there are broad central plains with several ranges of low hills | we drove across these huge flat plains | the plains are generally warm, but it gets colder as you go up into the hills | the region is a gently rolling plain, with a few hills to the north

range /reɪndʒ/ Noun

a *range* or a *mountain range* is a group of hills or mountains that are joined together

there are five mountain ranges that run through the country | the principal range of hills runs from north-east to south-west | there are broad central plains with several ranges of low hills

ridge /rɪdʒ/ Noun

a *ridge* is a long thin area of land, usually high up on a mountain

there's a narrow ridge leading up to the main peak | a ridge extends northwards with narrow valleys on either side | he pointed to a small ridge of land ahead of them | the city was surrounded by various mountains and ridges

rolling /'rɒʊlɪŋ/ Adjective

rolling countryside has a lot of gently sloping hills

the region is a gently rolling plain, with a few hills to the north | it was mostly flat, with just a few rolling hills in the distance | we had miles of rolling countryside to explore | Caithness is a land of open, rolling farmland | beyond the village were green, rolling fields

rusty /'rʌsti/ Adjective

if something made of metal is *rusty*, the metal has been damaged and weakened by water and has turned a brown colour

a rusty old cable lay on the ground | in the lock was a rusty key | I trod on a rusty nail | most of my garden tools

went rusty over the winter

Noun: *rust* | Verb: *rust* | Adjective: *rusting*

oil the knife regularly to prevent rust | there were signs of rust around the car door | can you explain why iron rusts? | the water container had almost rusted through (the rust had nearly made a hole in it) | there were rusting bits of metal all over the floor

scramble /'skræmb(ə)l/ Verb

if you *scramble* somewhere, you climb there, using your hands to help you

there's a steep path where you can scramble down to the beach | we scrambled over the rocks | little boys used to have to scramble up chimneys in Victorian times | she scrambled down the tree when she saw the farmer coming

Noun: *scramble*

it's a bit of a scramble down to the beach

sheer /ʃɪə(r)/ Adjective

a *sheer* drop goes straight down very steeply

the road was narrow, with a sheer drop on one side | the birds build nests on sheer cliffs

stray /streɪ/ Verb

if someone *strays*, they move away from the place or route where they are meant to be

be careful not to stray from the path | we didn't have a map and strayed off course within half an hour of setting off | the sheep were always straying into the neighbour's field | he's never strayed far from home before | keep an eye on the children and make sure they don't stray

Adjective: *stray* | Noun: *stray*

Collocates: a *stray* dog/cat

a stray dog (a dog that has gone from its home) | our first dog was a stray which we found by the river

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articulate /ɑ:(r)'tɪkjʊlət/ Adjective

someone who is *articulate* is able to speak clearly and fluently in a way that makes their ideas easy to understand

Collocates: highly *articulate*

he's not very articulate and finds it a struggle to express himself | a persuasive and articulate speaker | her conference speech was articulate and convincing | a highly articulate and intelligent young man

Verb: *articulate* | Noun: *articulation*

she clearly articulated her reasons for refusing the job | he found it hard to articulate exactly how he felt | she has provided the strongest articulation of this theory to date

beat about the bush /bi:t əbaʊt ðə 'bʊʃ/ Phrase

if you *beat about the bush*, you talk a lot but in an indirect way and without saying exactly what you mean

I wish he'd stop beating about the bush and get to the point | I won't beat about the bush: you've failed the exam | he didn't beat about the bush, and said straight away he was resigning

blunt /blʌnt/ Adjective

someone who is *blunt* says exactly what they think in a direct way and doesn't care if they offend the people they are speaking to

she doesn't mince her words and can be very blunt sometimes | he gave me honest, blunt advice | to be blunt, you should look for a different job | my grandfather was a plain, blunt man who spoke his mind

Adverb: *bluntly* | Noun: *bluntness*

to put it bluntly, you'll never be a good actor | "it doesn't suit you," he said bluntly | they bluntly refused to lend me any money | the bluntness of her question took me by surprise | he apologised for his bluntness earlier

butt into /bʌt 'ɪntu:/ Phrasal verb

if you *butt into* what someone is saying, or if you *butt in*, you rudely interrupt what someone is saying

he's always butting into other people's conversations | I was upset that he'd butted into my conversation with her | you can't butt in when your boss is talking | don't butt in when I'm talking! | he kept butting in with silly comments

defy /dɪ'faɪ/ Verb

if you *defy* someone, you deliberately do something that they do not want you to do. If you *defy* rules or traditions, you do something that is not allowed or not usual

her appearance defied traditional gender stereotypes | the graphics on these games defy description | she was not afraid to defy her parents' expectations of her | in the 60s everyone defied tradition and grew their hair long

Noun: *defiance*

Collocates: in defiance of something

there was an element of defiance in his voice | she left home at 16 in defiance of her father's wishes

dismiss /dɪs'mɪs/ Verb

if you *dismiss* an idea or suggestion, you make it clear that you think it is not worth considering

Collocates: dismiss something as something

I don't think you can just totally dismiss stereotypes | my expertise was dismissed in favour of Google! | the idea was dismissed as useless | don't dismiss the facts just because they don't fit your argument | he dismissed suggestions that the company was in trouble

Adjective: *dismissive*

his dismissive comments were widely reported in the press | I left the meeting early because of the chairman's dismissive attitude

edgewise /'edʒweɪz/ Adverb

edgewise means sideways. If you say you can't get a word in *edgewise*, you mean that someone else is talking so much that you never get a chance to say anything yourself

he never stopped talking and we couldn't get a word in edgewise | he never let me get a word in edgewise | if he hadn't started coughing I would never have got a word in edgewise

hard-wired /hɑ:(r)d'waɪə(r)d/ Adjective

if a characteristic, ability, or way of behaving is *hard-wired* in someone, it is part of their personality and cannot be changed by persuasion or education

is this behaviour hard-wired in our brains? | we are hard-wired to dream about the future | the human body is hard-wired for survival | many people believe that important characteristics are genetically hard-wired

lean /li:n/ Verb

if you *lean*, you move your body forward or sideways slightly so that you are not standing or sitting straight

she smiled and leaned forward to hear better | Alexandra leaned back against the cushions | Matt leaned over and handed me an envelope | he leant out of the window and shouted after me

mince /mɪns/ Verb

if you *mince* your words, you say something rather indirectly, especially when it is something that is critical of the person you are talking to

Collocates: mince (your) words

she doesn't mince her words, and tells you exactly what she thinks | I won't mince words: get out of my house | he was not a man to mince his words, and consequently was not very popular among the staff

neutral /'nju:trəl/ Adjective

if something is *neutral*, it is evenly balanced between two or more opinions or sides

in neutral situations, where people speak on equal terms, women and men interrupt equally | we need a gender-neutral pronoun (a pronoun that can refer to someone without saying whether they are male or female) | he gave a neutral reply to my question and I still don't know what he really thinks

Noun: *neutrality*

the neutrality of the situation is important in this experiment | net neutrality (the idea that everyone should be treated equally on the internet, and that no company should be allowed faster connections for their products than anyone else)

nurture /'nɜ:(r)tʃə(r)/ Noun uncount

nurture is the care and education given to children as they grow up

what role does nurture have to play in shaping our personalities? | the debate about nature versus nurture (do we learn our basic behaviour as we grow up, or is it part of our personality that cannot be changed?) | he argued that the effects of nurture, environment and education are very strong | we all need help at times in the care and nurture of our children

Verb: *nurture*

both parents played an equal role in nurturing their children | the urge to nurture and protect is very strong in mammals

popularise /'pɒpjʊləraɪz/ Verb

to *popularise* something means to make it known and liked by a large number of people

the theory was popularised over 20 years ago by Dr John Gray | the book has done a lot to popularise science | we need to do more to popularise football among girls | a hairstyle that was popularised by Audrey Hepburn

Adjective: *popular* | Noun: *popularity* || Opposite –
Adjective: *unpopular* | Noun: *unpopularity*
her music is popular all over the world | *she's very popular with her classmates* | *the popularity of internet shopping* | *the Harry Potter books enjoy huge popularity* | *he was the most unpopular prime minister in the country's history* | *the growing unpopularity of the government led to his resignation*

reinforce /ˈriːɪnˈfɔː(r)s/ Verb

if you *reinforce* something, you make it stronger
these attitudes are reinforced by their use of language | *this exercise will reinforce your ability to use the present perfect tense* | *cultural and family values will reinforce this belief* | *the rain at the airport reinforced my pessimism about the holiday* | *we had to reinforce the ceiling before it fell down*

Noun: *reinforcement*

the outside wall was slipping and needed reinforcement | *the reinforcement of their social skills*

shoulder /ˈʃəʊldə(r)/ Phrase

if you say that you need a *shoulder to cry on*, you mean that you are upset and you want to talk about your problem with someone who will be sympathetic. When you do this, you are *crying on someone's shoulder*
she's a good listener, a good person to go to if you need a shoulder to cry on | *just ring me any time you need a shoulder to cry on* | *I can offer you a shoulder to cry on if you're upset* | *he spent the afternoon crying on my shoulder*

vital /ˈvaɪt(ə)l/ Adjective

something that is *vital* is very important and is needed in order for something to work properly and be successful

Collocates: *vital that* | *vital to something* | *vital to do something*

it's vital that we challenge these myths | *effective communication is vital to all businesses* | *it's vital to keep the equipment clean* | *these are vital work skills* | *the captain of a cricket team plays a vital role* | *this is another vital area of research*

Adverb: *vitality*

good schools are vitally important in any community | *planes brought vitally needed aid to the region*

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angle /ˈæŋɡ(ə)l/ Noun

an *angle* is one way of considering a situation, or one situation that can have an influence on something
they are threatened from a number of angles | *the film was criticised from a number of angles* | *we finally solved it by approaching the problem from a different angle*

bark /bɑː(r)k/ Noun uncount

bark is the outer covering of a tree
it gnaws away at the bark to make a hole | *I scratched my hand on the bark of the tree* | *if you strip the bark off you can see the actual colour of the wood underneath*

beak /biːk/ Noun

a bird's *beak* is the hard part at the front of its head, which forms its mouth

it uses its beak for tearing the flesh of the animals it catches | *blackbirds have yellow beaks* | *a powerful beak used for crushing nuts*

blend /blend/ Verb

if something *blends* into the background, or if it *blends in*, it is similar to the things around it so that you do not always notice it is different from them

it can easily blend into the background | *the new library blended into its surroundings* | *their dark green colouring lets them blend into their environment* | *I chose the plants for the garden deliberately so they would blend in*

breast /brest/ Noun

a bird's *breast* is the front part of its body

the bird had light, striped markings on its breast | *robins with their plump red breasts*

Suffix: *-breasted*

a yellow-breasted finch

captive /ˈkæptɪv/ Adjective

captive people or animals have been captured and are being kept somewhere such as a prison or a zoo and are not allowed to leave

Collocates: *take someone or something captive* | *hold someone or something captive*

a captive breeding programme (a programme to get animals in a zoo to produce babies) | *the oldest recorded captive tiger lived for 26 years* | *about 300 soldiers were taken captive during the operation* | *they were held captive for three weeks before they escaped*

Noun: *captive*

they finally released their captives

claw /klɔː/ Noun

an animal's *claws* are the hard, curved nails on its feet

its claws are useful for digging through the earth | *the adult males have longer claws than females* | *the dog was scratching at the door with its claws*

communal /ˈkɒmjʊn(ə)l/ Adjective

communal activities or things are done or owned by people in a group rather than by individuals on their own. A *commune* is a group of people who live together and share everything

communal living has disadvantages as well as benefits | *each flat is self-contained, but there are communal gardens* | *bringing in the harvest was a communal activity in the past* | *the land finally returned to communal ownership*

Noun: *commune*

I lived in a commune for three years after I left university | *they established a commune in Bristol in the 1960s*

crack down /kræk 'daʊn/ Phrasal verb

if the authorities *crack down* on something illegal, they make a determined effort to find and punish cases where illegal activities are happening

Collocates: *crack down on something*

there's been an attempt to crack down on illegal mining here | the government has promised to crack down on corruption | local police are cracking down on anti-social behaviour

Noun: *crackdown*

Collocates: a crackdown on something

the president ordered a crackdown on the drug trade | a police crackdown on street protests

draw upon /'drɔː əpən/ Phrasal verb

if you *draw upon* something or *draw on* it, you start to use it because it is available and useful to you

the camel draws upon these fat reserves at a later time | his novels draw heavily on his experiences in the army | the planning cycle draws upon information from both inside and outside the business | their music drew on several influences

extensively /ɪk'stensɪvli/ Adverb

if something happens *extensively*, it happens over a large area

Collocates: travel extensively

he travelled extensively in Europe and Asia | wheat is extensively grown across the region | she has lectured extensively in Europe and the US

Adjective: *extensive* | Verb: *extend*

the storm caused extensive flooding | the hill offers extensive views across the surrounding countryside | at one time the Roman Empire extended as far as Carlisle in the north

-friendly /fren(d)li/ Suffix

-friendly is added to some nouns to describe things or places that are suitable for that particular sort of person or thing

a child-friendly restaurant | a customer-friendly online service

gnaw /nɔː/ Verb

to *gnaw* something means to bite into it over a period of time

it gnaws away at the bark to make a hole | these creatures destroy the trees by gnawing their roots | they can also gnaw holes in your clothes

grip /grɪp/ Verb

if you *grip* something, you hold it very firmly

a small projection on the underside of its claw allows it to grip and hold onto its prey | I gripped her hand as we crossed the road | she gripped the steering wheel tightly | don't grip the pen too hard

Noun: *grip*

she seized my arm in a strong grip | he loosened his grip and dropped the gun | I tightened my grip on the dog's lead

horn /hɔː(r)n/ Noun

horns are the hard pointed things that grow on the heads of some animals such as cows, goats, or deer. The material they are made of is also called *horn*

most cows have horns | the handle of the sword was made of horn

Adjective: *horned*

a herd of horned cattle

hump /hʌmp/ Noun

a *hump* is a small raised area of land. A camel's *hump* is the raised part on its back where it stores fat

actually, a camel's hump stores fat, not water | the dromedary camel has one hump, and the bactrian camel has two humps

let out /let 'aʊt/ Phrasal verb

if you *let out* a sound, you make that particular sound

it lets out a high-pitched squeal | Robin let out a deep sigh | she let out a roar of laughter | he saw the gun and let out a terrified scream

manoeuvre /mə'nuːvə(r)/ Verb

if you *manoeuvre* somewhere, you succeed in moving there with some difficulty because you have to be careful of other things around you

it is able to manoeuvre quickly through the trees | Patrick manoeuvred around the table and chairs to get to the sink | she managed to manoeuvre the car out of the garage

Noun: *manoeuvre*

it was a difficult manoeuvre, getting the wardrobe through the side door

mating /'meɪtɪŋ/ Noun uncount

mating is sex between animals to produce young

a study of the mating habits of tigers | the mating season (the time of year when animals have sex) | the mating dance might last for six or seven minutes

Verb: *mate* | Noun: *mate*

they only socialise in order to mate | the females often mate with more than one male | males that have successfully mated quickly die | males use a special song to attract mates

pest /pest/ Noun

pests are small animals or insects which eat or damage food crops

it is often seen as a pest in cities, as it damages garden bird populations | if the air in the greenhouse is too dry it will attract pests | cats can be used to control pests in the house | caterpillars are serious pests in the vegetable garden

predator /'predətə(r)/ Noun

a *predator* is an animal that kills and eats other animals

polar bears are the world's largest predator on land | their main predators are tigers | they have no natural predators in the city | adult frogs are attacked by many predators | they can jump up to 3 metres, which helps them escape predators

Adjective: *predatory*

the mantis is a long and narrow predatory insect

process /'prəʊses/ Verb

to *process* something means to carry out all the actions that are needed to change it from one state into another state, usually into a state where it can be used or eaten more easily

*we don't know how these camels process salt water
| vitamin D is processed by the liver | the meat is
processed in a factory and comes out as sausages*

Noun: *process*

*we were heavily involved throughout the design process
| the manufacturing process uses a large amount of
energy*

projection /prə'dʒekʃ(ə)n/ Noun

*a projection is a part of something that is sticking out of it
a small projection on the underside of its claw allows
it to grip and hold onto its prey | there were several
smaller projections higher up the side of the mountain*
Verb: *project* | Adjective: *projecting*
*a long strip of land projected into the sea | we hid the
tent under a projecting rock*

puff up /pʌf 'ʌp/ Phrasal verb

*if part of a person's or animal's body puffs up or is puffed
up, it becomes bigger*
*it puffs up its chest to keep warm | birds puff up their
feathers for various reasons | my eyes were puffed up
from crying so much*

reserve /rɪ'zɜ:(r)v/ Noun

*a reserve of something is an amount of it that you have
and do not use immediately because you want it to be
available for a later time*
Collocates: *in reserve*
*camels store reserves of fat in their humps | the bank
has cash reserves of £20 billion | we kept some flour in
reserve so we could make bread if necessary*

-resistant /rɪ'zɪst(ə)nt/ Suffix

*-resistant is added to nouns like water or wind to
describe something that will not be damaged by water
or rain*
*my watch is water-resistant | a wind-resistant outer
jacket | storm-resistant jackets are very expensive*

sense /sens/ Verb

*to sense something means to become aware of it even
though you can't see it or hear it*
*it can sense the slightest movement | its feelers allow it
to sense nearby food | I could sense the tension as soon
as I entered the room | most animals can sense danger
long before they can see the threat*

shrub /ʃrʌb/ Noun

a shrub is a bush that has several woody stems
*it can eat the sharp thorns of desert shrubs | the garden
was well stocked with trees and shrubs | a thorny shrub
that grows very fast | ornamental shrubs (shrubs that are
kept because they look pretty)*
Noun: *shrubbery*
*they decided to plant a shrubbery at the end of the
garden (an area with a lot of shrubs close together)*

superstitious /ˌsu:pə(r)'stɪʃəs/ Adjective

*superstition is a belief that certain objects or events can
be lucky or unlucky, even though there is no scientific
explanation. If someone is superstitious, they believe in
superstition*

*it's sometimes the victim of superstitious fears | he had
a superstitious belief that the number 13 was unlucky
| she had been very superstitious in the past, but no
longer believed any of that*

Adverb: *superstitiously* | Noun: *superstition*

*she walked across the grass, superstitiously avoiding
walking on Dan's shadow | old superstitions take a long
time to die away | it's a local superstition that you should
take your hat off when you pass the statue*

tail /teɪl/ Noun

*an animal's tail is the long thin part of its body that sticks
out behind it*
*rats have very long tails | the dog jumped up and started
wagging its tail (moving it from side to side)*

thorn /θɔ:(r)n/ Noun

a thorn is a short sharp point on the stem of a bush.
A thorn is also a plant that has thorns on it
*it can eat the sharp thorns of desert shrubs | my hands
were all scratched by the thorns | rose bushes have
thorns all over them | the stem was covered in large
sharp thorns | the warm rain had encouraged the thorns
to grow*
Adjective: *thorny*
*the camel loves to eat thorny bushes | a thorny rose
stem with a red flower on the top*

tunnel /'tʌn(ə)l/ Verb

*to tunnel somewhere means to dig into the ground to
make a passage*
*it tunnels down into the earth | it uses its claws to tunnel
its way into the side of the hill | ten prisoners tunneled
out of the jail*
Noun: *tunnel*
*the tunnel is 20 metres long | moles will dig tunnels
under your lawn*

underwater /ˌʌndə(r)'wɔ:tə(r)/ Adverb

*something that happens or is done underwater happens
or is done under the surface of the water in a river, lake,
sea, etc.*
*these creatures can swim underwater | they can stay
underwater for long periods of time | scuba equipment
lets you breathe underwater*
Adjective: *underwater*
*underwater photography | the treasure was found in an
underwater cave*

withstand /wɪð'stænd/ Verb

*to withstand something unpleasant or dangerous means
to survive it*
*it can withstand freezing temperatures | I need some
plants that will withstand frost | camels can withstand
the extremes of heat and cold | the buildings are
designed to withstand earthquakes*

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ancestral /æn'sestrəl/ Adjective

*ancestral things or people are connected with people in
your family who lived a very long time ago*

this may be the trace of an ancestral instinct for holding onto a mother's back | his ancestral origins include English, Welsh, and Danish | there was a common ancestral link between us

barrage /'bærɑ:ʒ/ Noun

a *barrage* of something such as criticism, questions, or impressions is a lot of them arriving very quickly and one after the other, in an aggressive or confusing way

Collocates: a *barrage* of something

it finds the world a confusing barrage of impressions and sensations | he backs up his argument with a barrage of statistics | the scheme has faced a barrage of public criticism | social media subjects us to a constant barrage of information and trivia

blank slate /,blæŋk 'sleɪt/ Noun

if you refer to someone's mind as a *blank slate*, you mean that their personality has not started to develop and so can be influenced and taught to develop in a certain way

he believed that the mind of a baby is a blank slate | it started out in the world with a completely blank slate

consistent /kən'sɪstənt/ Adjective

if ideas, results, facts, etc. are *consistent*, they do not contradict each other

Collocates: consistent with something

the results of the experiments were pretty consistent | the findings were consistent with the original theory | other recent research is consistent with ours

Opposite – Adjective: *inconsistent*

the two statements were clearly inconsistent | the final figures were inconsistent with the forecast

glance /glɑ:ns/ Noun

if you *glance* at someone or something, you look at them briefly and then look away again. A *glance* is a quick look at someone or something

they can judge the height with just a simple glance | I had a quick glance at the letter | his glance fell upon the broken cup | he went out without a backward glance (he did not look back as he left)

Verb: *glance*

I glanced at my watch | she glanced nervously at the door

intuitively /ɪn'tju:ətɪvli/ Adverb

if you do something *intuitively*, you do it automatically and without thinking about it

it will intuitively hold its breath | I intuitively knew what I had to do | any parent intuitively knows when their children are in trouble | he intuitively guessed the value of the necklace

Adjective: *intuitive* | Noun: *intuition* | Verb: *intuit*

my intuitive response was to keep looking | the program is very intuitive (easy to use without having to look at instructions) | use your intuition to decide which one to choose | her intuition told her that he was lying | we can intuit a great deal about why it happened

reflex /'rɪ:fleks/ Noun

your *reflexes* are your natural ability to react quickly and effectively to something that happens suddenly

Collocates: quick/fast reflexes

their reflexes help them survive in the wild | she had lightning fast reflexes | you need quick reflexes to succeed in this sport | his speed and reflexes have improved over the winter

startle /'stɑ:(r)t(ə)l/ Verb

to *startle* someone means to surprise them suddenly

a loud bang startled the children | his words startled us all | we wanted to startle the audience at the very beginning of the show | every sound startled and alarmed him | I was startled by the sound of a bomb going off

Adjective: *startling* | Adverb: *startlingly* |

Adjective: *startled*

this was a startling discovery | the effect was startling | he looked startlingly like my dead father | he had a startled look on his face | Andy let out a startled groan

submerge /səb'mɜ:(r)dʒ/ Verb

if something *submerges* or if you *submerge* it, it goes completely under the surface of some water

the village was completely submerged by the flood | there's a risk that the sea will submerge whole islands | they submerged their bodies in the water for 30 seconds | he submerged his victim's head in the water until he drowned | the submarine submerged eight minutes later

EXERCISES

PREPOSITIONS

A Complete the sentences with the correct preposition. Look up the word in bold if you need help.

- We need someone with **expertise** environmental health.
- The idea was **dismissed** useless.
- Effective communication is **vital** all businesses.
- Their dark green colouring lets them **blend** their environment.
- He backs up his argument with a **barrage** statistics.
- The results were **consistent** our expectations.
- She didn't go climbing because she didn't have a **head** heights.

WORD FAMILIES

B Complete the expressions on the right with the correct form of the word in bold.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 a brehtaking view | a
beautiful view |
| 2 great medical expertise | a medical
..... |
| 3 he knew intuitively | use your |
| 4 the discovery
startled her | a
discovery |
| 5 a superstitious belief | a local |
| 6 defy your parents'
wishes | act in of
their wishes |

C Tick the words in the unit that are both a verb and a noun.

- glance
- startle
- tunnel
- process
- reinforce
- defy
- stray
- scramble

COLLOCATIONS

D Match the adjectives (1–6) with the nouns (a–f). Look up the adjectives if you need help.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1 breathtaking | a) water |
| 2 lush | b) rocks |
| 3 jagged | c) scenery |
| 4 murky | d) grassland |
| 5 a rusty | e) drop |
| 6 a sheer | f) key |

E Circle the noun from the unit that DOESN'T collocate with the adjective. Look up the adjective if you need help.

- a rusty cable / key / nail / range
- rolling fields / hills / ridges / countryside
- a murky plain / pond / sky / sea
- jagged edge / strays / rocks / ranges
- communal activities / gardens / horn / living

F Complete the missing adjectives. Look up the adjectives if you need help.

- h _ _ _ _ d cattle
- d _ _ _ _ _ _ _ e comments
- p _ _ _ _ _ r music
- e _ _ _ _ _ _ e views
- p _ _ _ _ _ _ y insects
- t _ _ _ _ y bushes

PHRASAL VERBS

G Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrasal verbs in the box.

crack down	draw upon	let out
puff up	butt into	

- He's always other people's conversations.
- She a cry of joy when she saw her results.
- The government has promised to on corruption.
- The author is famous for Russian fairy tales for inspiration.
- This bird its chest when it feels threatened.