

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,tɛɪkɪŋ/ 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 /,sɪvəl'aɪzɪʃ(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 /,ekspə(r)'ti:z/ 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)/ 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 /ˌriːɪnˈfɔː(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: *vitally*
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 /bi:k/ 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 /klaʊ/ 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 əpɒn/ 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.