

13 CULTURE

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costume /'kɒstju:m/ Noun

a *costume* is the set of clothes that an actor wears when he or she is acting on the stage or in a film
the actors all wore amazing costumes | she won a prize for the costumes she designed

- costume

depressing /dɪ'presɪŋ/ Adjective

something that is *depressing* makes you feel sad or unhappy
 Collocates: deeply depressing
I found the film quite depressing | news from the farm was deeply depressing

Adjective: *depressed* | Verb: *depress* | Noun: *depression*
I've been feeling quite depressed since Dad died

- déprimant

ending /'endɪŋ/ Noun

the *ending* of a film or story is the way it ends
 Collocates: a happy/sad ending
the film had a happy ending | the ending was very dramatic
 Verb: *end*

- fin

explosion /ɪk'spləʊz(ə)n/ Noun

an *explosion* is the loud noise that happens when a bomb goes off
the film began with a car chase and several explosions | people could hear the explosion ten miles away
 Verb: *explode* | Noun: *explosive*
 Collocates: high explosive

- explosion

historical /hɪ'stɔrɪk(ə)/ Adjective

historical plays, films, stories, etc. are about people or events in the past. *Historical* people or events existed in the past
there's a new historical drama on BBC tonight | the city still has several historical sites
 Noun: *history*
she's studying history at university

- historique

martial arts /,mɑ:(r)ʃ(ə)l 'ɑ:(r)ts/ Noun

martial arts are sports such as judo and karate in which competitors fight each other using their hands and feet.
Martial arts started in Asia, especially in Japan
a martial arts movie | she's trained in several martial arts

- arts martiaux

plot /plɒt/ Noun

the *plot* of a story, film, or play is all the events that happen during it and the way they are connected to each other
 Collocates: a complicated/simple plot | a plot develops
the film had a very complicated plot | can you describe the plot in two sentences?

- intrigue

predictable /prɪ'dɪktəb(ə)l/ Adjective

if something is *predictable*, it happens in exactly the way you think it will. If a film or story is *predictable*, it is not very interesting because you can easily guess how it will finish
the plot was very predictable and there were no surprises at all | his behaviour was quite predictable

Adverb: *predictably* | Verb: *predict* || Opposite – Adjective: *unpredictable*

his exam results were, predictably, not good

- prévisible

romantic /rəʊ'mæntɪk/ Adjective

something that is *romantic* involves feelings of love between two people
Hugh Grant is in a new romantic comedy | we had a romantic holiday in Italy
 Adverb: *romantically* | Noun: *romance*
Fiona became romantically attached to her friend Gerald

- romantique

set /set/ Verb

if a writer or director *sets* a film or book somewhere, that is the place where the events happen
the film is set in space | he set his first novel in Manchester, which is where he grew up

- se dérouler

special effects /ˌspeʃ(ə)l ɪˈfekts/ Noun

in a film or TV show, the *special effects* are pictures or sounds that are specially created to make it seem as if something very exciting or impossible is happening
the film had some amazing special effects | the director spent over \$4 million on special effects

- effets spéciaux

stuff /stʌf/ Noun uncount

in informal English, you can use *stuff* as a general word to refer to any kind of thing or collection of things without saying exactly what they are
the new shopping centre has a great selection of stuff | we did football and cricket and stuff like that

- choses

surprising /sə(r)ˈpraɪzɪŋ/ Adjective

if something is *surprising*, you did not expect it
the ending was really surprising | it was rather surprising to get a letter from her after 15 years

Adverb: *surprisingly* | Adjective: *surprised* | Verb: *surprise* | Noun: *surprise* || Opposites – Adjective: *unsurprising* | Adverb: *unsurprisingly*

Collocates: by surprise

it's surprisingly easy to make a cake

- surprenant

tiring /ˈtaɪərɪŋ/ Adjective

if something is *tiring*, it makes you feel tired
it was quite tiring watching a whole film in English | the journey was long and tiring

Adjective: *tired* | Verb: *tire*

I was still tired even though I'd slept for a couple of hours

- fatigant

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aim /eɪm/ Verb

if something is *aimed* at a particular group of people, it is meant to be noticed or bought by those people. If an activity is *aimed* at achieving something, it is done in order to succeed in achieving it

Collocates: aim to do something

we aim to finish the project in December | a new magazine aimed at teenagers

Noun: *aim*

Collocates: with the aim of (doing) something

he joined the army with the aim of becoming a captain within three years

- viser

audience /ˈɔːdiəns/ Noun

the *audience* is the group of people who watch or listen to a performance, programme or speech

Collocates: attract an audience

the film is aimed at a middle-class cinema audience | I've performed in front of an audience of 5,000 people | the show attracted a huge audience

- public

aware /əˈweə(r)/ Adjective

if you are *aware* of something, you know that it exists

Collocates: be aware of something | aware that | make someone aware

I wasn't aware that she was back in London | he became aware that he was speaking too loudly

Noun: *awareness*

Collocates: awareness of something

she had a keen awareness of the danger (she understood the danger very well)

- conscient

budget /ˈbʌdʒɪt/ Noun

someone's *budget* is the amount of money that is available for them to spend on a particular activity

his next film had a budget of \$1 million | he made his first film on a very tight budget (with very little money)

- budget

direction /dɪˈrekʃ(ə)n/ Noun

the *direction* a person or group takes is the sort of activities that they become involved in

his life took a new direction after he moved to Berlin | after school, our lives moved in different directions

- direction

element /ˈelɪmənt/ Noun

the *elements* of something are all the different things that come together to make it

Collocates: elements of something

the final chapter added another element of surprise to the plot | the most important element of his success was luck

- élément

festival /ˈfestɪv(ə)l/ Noun

a *festival* is a period of time during which a lot of events take place somewhere, such as concerts, theatre performances, films, etc.

the movie was first shown at an international film festival | the festival is held every year in August

- festival

focus /'fəʊkəs/ Noun

focus is close attention that you pay to something

Collocates: focus on something | focus of something

the world's focus has moved on to climate change | the economy became the main focus of the president's attention

Verb: *focus*

Collocates: focus on something

- *point central*

heart disease /'hɑ:(r)t dɪzi:z/ Noun

heart disease is a serious problem with someone's heart that makes them ill, and that can kill them

Collocates: die of heart disease

he died of heart disease two years after returning to the USA | I stopped eating butter and cheese in the hope of preventing heart disease

- *maladie cardiaque*

illegally /ɪ'li:g(ə)li/ Adverb

if something is *illegal*, it is against the law. If something is done *illegally*, it breaks the law

after two weeks, most films have been illegally copied | the drugs were illegally brought into the country

Adjective: *illegal* || Opposites – Adverb: *legally* |

Adjective: *legal*

it's illegal to buy alcohol if you're under 18

- *illégalement*

invade /ɪn'veɪd/ Verb

when an army *invades* a country, it goes in there and tries to take control of the country by fighting

England was last invaded in 1066 | 20,000 soldiers were waiting for the order to invade

Noun: *invasion* | Noun: *invader*

Collocates: launch an invasion

the invasion was successful and a new government was set up

- *envahir*

leading /'li:dɪŋ/ Adjective

a *leading* person or thing is one of the best or most successful of their kind

he's a leading Nollywood director | a leading mobile phone manufacturer (company that makes mobile phones)

- *principal*

middle-class /,mɪd(ə)l 'kla:s/ Adjective

the *middle class* is one of the groups which people in a society are divided into according to their jobs, education, background, etc. People from that class are *middle-class* people

the film is aimed at a middle-class audience | a middle-class area of Leeds

Noun: *middle class*

my grandfather always wanted to be a member of the middle class

- *de classe moyenne*

prison /'prɪz(ə)n/ Noun

a *prison* is a building where someone is sent as a punishment for breaking the law. Prisoners live there for months or years until the end of their punishment

Collocates: send someone to prison | be in prison | spend time in prison

the king was sent to prison | he spent ten years in prison for robbing a bank

Verb: *imprison* | Noun: *prisoner*

he was imprisoned for his political activity

- *prison*

productive /prə'dʌktɪv/ Adjective

a *productive* person or area of activity is one that produces a lot of things

India has the most productive film industry in the world | people who work from home are just as productive as their colleagues in the office

Adverb: *productively*

she worked more productively in the morning, before it got too hot

- *productif*

promote /prə'məʊt/ Verb

if you *promote* something, you support or encourage it, and want people to know good things about it

the film aims to promote Benin culture | she believes in promoting peace through education

Noun: *promotion*

Collocates: promotion of something

our department deals with the advertising and promotion of all our services

- *promouvoir*

reach /ri:tʃ/ Verb

to *reach* a place, level, or situation means to get there after a journey or after a period of development

the industry has reached a crossroads and it's not clear what its future will be | I finally reached home after an eight hour journey | have you reached a decision yet (have you decided something)?

- *atteindre*

source /sɔː(r)s/ Noun

the *source* of something is the reason for it or the place where it came from

Collocates: source of something

their low-budget approach has been the source of several problems | the sun is our source of light and heat

• source

sunglasses /'sʌŋɡlɑːsɪz/ Noun

sunglasses are glasses that have dark glass in them to protect your eyes from strong sunlight

why don't you get some sunglasses for the summer? | I always keep a pair of sunglasses in the car

• lunettes de soleil

talent /'tælənt/ Noun

talent is a great skill or ability to do something very well

anyone with talent can make films | she had an extraordinary talent for singing

Adjective: *talented*

• talent

unclear /ʌn'kliə(r)/ Adjective

if something is *unclear*, no one knows or understands it very well

it's unclear what will happen to the factory in the future | the exact meaning of the message was unclear

Opposite – Adjective: *clear*

it's perfectly clear that she was telling the truth

• pas clair

valuable /'væljʊəb(ə)/ Adjective

an object that is *valuable* is worth a lot of money. You can also say an experience is *valuable* if you learn something useful from it. Be careful if you see the word *invaluable*. It looks as if it should mean "not valuable", but it actually means "very valuable"

I learnt a valuable lesson that day | it's a beautiful necklace, even though it's not very valuable

Adjective: *invaluable*

she gained invaluable experience during her three months at the BBC

• de (grande) valeur

work /wɜː(r)k/ Noun

a *work* is a painting, book, piece of music, etc. made by an artist

Collocates: a work of art

the British stole many valuable works of art | Shakespeare's most famous work is Hamlet

• oeuvre

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abstract /'æbstrækt/ Adjective

abstract art does not try to show people or things in a realistic way but uses shapes and colours in order to create particular feelings or effects

he made strange, abstract sculptures | his work was completely abstract, but full of life and colour | the drawing was simple, almost abstract

Noun: *abstract*

he stopped painting abstracts and took up photography

• abstrait

album /'ælbəm/ Noun

an *album* is a CD with several different songs on it, usually by the same band

Collocates: release an album | an album comes out

they're going to release their next album (make it available for sale) in November | her latest album has just come out (has just gone on sale)

• album

author /'ɔːθə(r)/ Noun

an *author* is someone who writes books as a job, or someone who has written a particular book

Collocates: author of something | a best-selling author

my favourite author is Henning Mankell | Beevor is the author of a number of books on history

• auteur

band /bænd/ Noun

a *band* is a group of musicians who play music together

Collocates: a rock/punk/brass/jazz band | a dance band | a live band

he plays guitar in a rock band | they hired a live band for the party (the musicians were there, not a recording of them)

• groupe

composer /kəm'pəʊzə(r)/ Noun

a *composer* is someone who writes music, especially classical music

Shostakovich was the greatest Russian composer of the 20th century | my favourite composer is Beethoven

Verb: *compose* | Noun: *composition*

• compositeur

exhibition /,eksɪ'bɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun

an *exhibition* is an event where people can go and look at paintings and other works of art. Some *exhibitions* last just a day and others go on for months

Collocates: an art exhibition | an exhibition of something | put on/stage/hold an exhibition

I saw an exhibition of Henry Moore's work last year | there's an art exhibition in the school hall on Saturday

• exposition

fan /fæn/ Noun

if you are a *fan* of someone or something, you like them very much

I'm a big fan of tennis | a group of her fans were waiting outside the theatre

- fan

fiction /'fɪkʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

fiction is stories about people and events that are not true, which you read for pleasure. Books about real people and events are called *non-fiction*

I really enjoy reading crime fiction | I write fiction in my spare time

Adjective: *fictional* || Opposite – Noun: *non-fiction*

- fiction

figure /'fɪgə(r)/ Noun

a *figure* is something that is in the shape of a human, especially in art

an abstract sculpture based on human figures | the two figures in the painting represent love and loyalty

- silhouette

imagination /ɪ,mædʒɪ'neɪʃ(ə)n/ Noun uncount

your *imagination* is your ability to think and make pictures in your mind about things, people, or events that you have never seen

Collocates: a vivid imagination | use your imagination | in your imagination

in my imagination, I thought he was taller | draw a plan of your house, or use your imagination and make one up

Verb: *imagine* | Adjective: *imaginative*

- imagination

instrument /'ɪnstrʊmənt/ Noun

a musical *instrument* is something such as a piano, violin, or trumpet that you use to make musical sounds

Collocates: a musical instrument

a shop selling musical instruments | what instrument do you play?

Adjective: *instrumental*

the last track on the album is an instrumental piece (just music, with no singing)

- instrument

landscape /'lænd(ɪ)skeɪp/ Noun

a *landscape* is a painting or photograph of the countryside

he paints mainly landscapes and seascapes (pictures of the sea) | I think a landscape would look good on this wall

- paysage

novel /'nɒv(ə)l/ Noun

a *novel* is a book that tells a story

I prefer reading novels to poetry | she spent three years writing her first novel

Noun: *novelist*

he was a novelist and poet

- roman

painting /'peɪntɪŋ/ Noun

a *painting* is a picture that someone has made using paint

Collocates: an oil painting | a watercolour painting

I'm going to hang this painting in the bedroom | his works include a number of oil paintings (using paint that is made from oil)

Verb: *paint* | Noun: *painter*

- peinture

poetry /'pəʊɪtri/ Noun uncount

poetry is writing that uses words very carefully, often in short lines and with endings to lines that sound like each other

do you read much poetry? | modern poetry can be quite difficult to understand

Noun: *poet* | Noun: *poem*

- poésie

portrait /'pɔː(r)trɪt/ Noun

a *portrait* is a painting, photograph, or drawing of someone which is meant to show what they look like

a full-length portrait of the queen (showing the whole body, not just the face) | a portrait of his grandfather hangs in the hall

- portrait

rehearse /rɪ'hɜː(r)s/ Verb

if you *rehearse*, you practise something such as a play or concert before you perform it in front of an audience

Collocates: rehearse for something

they're rehearsing for the end-of-year concert | we've only got three days to rehearse and then we have to film the first scene

Noun: *rehearsal*

Collocates: a dress rehearsal

a full dress rehearsal (when the performance is done from start to finish as if for real with the actors wearing the costumes)

- répéter

sculpture /ˈskʌlptʃə(r)/ Noun

a *sculpture* is an object that is a work of art made from wood, stone, plastic, etc. The art of making these works is also called *sculpture*

she studied sculpture at art school | in the hall was a sculpture of a lion

Noun: *sculptor*

he painted portraits to earn money, but he really wanted to be a sculptor

- sculpture

suspense /səˈspens/ Noun uncount

suspense is a feeling of excitement you have when you do not know what is going to happen but you think it will be surprising or exciting

Collocates: keep someone in suspense

I'd read the book, so there was no suspense when I saw the film | Forsyth keeps you in suspense right up until the very last chapter

- suspense

taste /teɪst/ Noun

your *taste* in something is how much you like it, or what sorts of things you like

Collocates: taste in something | for someone's taste | to someone's taste

we get on really well even though we've got very different tastes | she has very good taste in music (she likes only good music)

Adjective: *tasteful* | Adverb: *tastefully*

- goût