

# 8 NATURE AND NURTURE

## STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 70–71

### barren /'bærən/ Adjective

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

*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*

#### • estèril

### brehtaking /'breθ,teɪkɪŋ/ Adjective

if something is breathtaking, it is extremely beautiful

Collocates: breathtaking scenery/view

*Lake Ritsa was simply breathtaking | the view from the hotel window was breathtaking | the sunset over the lake was quite breathtaking*

Adverb: breathtakingly

Collocates: breathtakingly beautiful

*the scenery was breathtakingly beautiful*

#### • imponent

### 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*

#### • civilització

### 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 explosion left a huge crater in the road*

#### • clot / forat

### 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*

#### • desig de morir

### 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*

Adverb: densely | Noun: density

*a densely populated city | population density in Westminster is 10,557 people per square kilometre*

#### • dens

### expertise /ˌɛkspə(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

*we benefited from his time and expertise | we need someone with legal expertise to advise us*

Noun: expert | Adverb: expertly | Adjective: expert

*many experts agreed that global warming was getting worse | if you want expert advice it will be expensive*

#### • experiència / coneixements

### 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 | 10,000 years ago, this land was covered in a massive glacier*

#### • glacera

### 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

*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*

#### • tallar amb una destrat

### 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 | he wasn't very good at reading but had a good head for figures (could do maths well)*

#### • tenir aptituds per fer alguna cosa

**jagged** /ˈdʒæɡɪd/ Adjective

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

*the glass broke, leaving a jagged edge | we crossed a broad ridge of sharp, jagged rocks*

- **dentat / serrat**
- 

**lush** /lʌʃ/ Adjective

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

*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*

- **exuberant**
- 

**murky** /ˈmɜː(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 | it was a winter afternoon of great murkiness*

- **tèrbol**
- 

**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*

- **tocat del bolet**
- 

**plain** /pleɪn/ Noun

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

*we drove across these huge flat plains | the region is a gently rolling plain, with a few hills to the north*

- **planúria**
- 

**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 | there are broad central plains with several ranges of low hills*

- **serralada**
- 

**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 | he pointed to a small ridge of land ahead of them*

- **cresta**
- 

**rolling** /ˈrɒlɪŋ/ Adjective

*rolling* countryside has a lot of gently sloping hills

*it was mostly flat, with just a few rolling hills in the distance | we had miles of rolling countryside to explore | beyond the village were green, rolling fields*

- **ondulat / suau (paisatge)**
- 

**rusty** /ˈrʌsti/ Adjective

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

*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 | can you explain why iron rusts?*

- **rovellat**
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**scramble** /ˈskræmb(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*

Noun: *scramble*

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

- **grimpar**
- 

**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*

- **escarpat**
- 

**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 | the sheep were always straying into the neighbour's field | he's never strayed far from home before*

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*

- **extraviar-se**
-

**STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 72–73****articulate** /ɑː(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*

Verb: *articulate* | Noun: *articulation*

*he found it hard to articulate exactly how he felt | she has provided the strongest articulation of this theory to date*

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• **articular**

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**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 | he didn't beat about the bush, and said straight away he was resigning*

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• **fugir d'estudi**

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**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

*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 | he apologised for his bluntness earlier*

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• **franc**

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**butt into** /ˌbʌt 'ɪntuː/ Phrasal verb

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

*I was upset that he'd butted into my conversation with her | don't butt in when I'm talking! | he kept butting in with silly comments*

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• **entremetre's / ficar-se**

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**defy** /di'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*

Noun: *defiance*

Collocates: in defiance of something

*there was an element of defiance in his voice*

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• **desafiar**

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**dismiss** /dis'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*

Adjective: *dismissive*

*I left the meeting early because of the chairman's dismissive attitude*

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• **descartar**

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**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*

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• **aconseguir dir alguna cosa**

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**hard-wired** /hɑː(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? | the human body is hard-wired for survival | many people believe that important characteristics are genetically hard-wired*

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• **innat**

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**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 | Matt leaned over and handed me an envelope | he leant out of the window and shouted after me*

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• **inclinat-se**

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**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*

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• **no mesurar les paraules / dir sense embuts**

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**neutral** /'nju:trəl/ Adjective

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

*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*

• **neutral**

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**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? | we all need help at times in the care and nurture of our children*

Verb: *nurture*

*the urge to nurture and protect is very strong in mammals*

• **criança**

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**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 | we need to do more to popularise football among girls*

Adjective: *popular* | Noun: *popularity* || Opposite –

Adjective: *unpopular* | Noun: *unpopularity*

*her music is popular all over the world | the Harry Potter books enjoy huge popularity*

• **popularizar**

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**reinforce** /ˌri:ɪn'fɔ:(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 | we had to reinforce the ceiling before it fell down*

Noun: *reinforcement*

*the reinforcement of their social skills*

• **reforçar**

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**shoulder** /'ʃəʊldə(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*

*just ring me any time you need a shoulder to cry on | he spent the afternoon crying on my shoulder*

• **espatlla**

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**vital** /'vaɪt(ə)/ 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 | these are vital work skills*

Adverb: *vitaly*

*good schools are vitally important in any community*

• **vital**

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**STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 74–75**

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**angle** /'æŋɡ(ə)/ Noun

an *angle* is one way of considering a situation, or one situation that can have an influence on something

*the film was criticised from a number of angles | we finally solved it by approaching the problem from a different angle*

• **angle**

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**bark** /bɑ:(r)k/ Noun uncount

*bark* is the outer covering of a tree

*it gnaws away at the bark to make a hole | if you strip the bark off you can see the actual colour of the wood underneath*

• **escorça**

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**beak** /bi:k/ Noun

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

*blackbirds have yellow beaks | a powerful beak used for crushing nuts*

• **bec**

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**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*

• **barrejar-se**

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**breast** /breɪst/ 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*

• **pit**

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**captive** /'kæptɪv/ 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

*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*

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- ***captiu***

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**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*

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- ***urpa***

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**communal** /'kɒmjʊn(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*

Noun: *commune*

*I lived in a commune for three years after I left university*

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- ***comunitari***

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**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

*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*

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- ***castigar / controlar rigorosament***

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**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 | their music drew on several influences*

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- ***recórrer***

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**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*

Adjective: *extensive* | Verb: *extend*

*the storm caused extensive flooding | at one time the Roman Empire extended as far as Carlisle in the north*

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- ***en una gran extensió***

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**-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*

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- ***sufix per indicar fàcil / adequat / d'ajut***

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**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*

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- ***rosegat***

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**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 | she gripped the steering wheel tightly | don't grip the pen too hard*

Noun: *grip*

*I tightened my grip on the dog's lead*

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- ***agafar fort***

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**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*

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- ***banya***

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**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*

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- ***turonet / gepa***

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**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*

• **deixar anar**

**manoeuvre** /mə'nu:və(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*

Noun: *manoeuvre*

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

• **maniobra**

**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)*

Verb: *mate* | Noun: *mate*

*they only socialise in order to mate | males use a special song to attract mates*

• **aparellament**

**pest** /pest/ Noun

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

*cats can be used to control pests in the house | caterpillars are serious pests in the vegetable garden*

• **plaga**

**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 | they have no natural predators in the city*

Adjective: *predatory*

*the mantis is a long and narrow predatory insect*

• **depredador**

**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*

Noun: *process*

*we were heavily involved throughout the design process*

• **processar**

**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*

• **projecció**

**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*

• **inflar-se**

**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 | we kept some flour in reserve so we could make bread if necessary*

• **reserva**

**-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 | storm-resistant jackets are very expensive*

• **sufix que indica resistent a alguna cosa**

**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*

• **sentir**

**shrub** /ʃrʌb/ Noun

a *shrub* is a bush that has several woody stems

*the garden was well stocked with trees and shrubs | a thorny shrub that grows very fast*

Noun: *shrubbery*

*they decided to plant a shrubbery at the end of the garden (an area with a lot of shrubs close together)*

• **arbust**

**superstitious** /ˌsuːpə(r)ˈstɪʃəs/ 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*

*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*

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• **supersticiós**

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**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)*

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• **cua**

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**thorn** /θɔː(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

*my hands were all scratched by the thorns | the stem was covered in large sharp thorns*

Adjective: *thorny*

*the camel loves to eat thorny bushes*

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• **espina / punxa**

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**tunnel** /ˈtʌn(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*

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• **fer un túnel**

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**underwater** /ˌʌndə(r)ˈwɔːtə(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*

Adjective: *underwater*

*underwater photography*

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• **sota l'aigua**

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**withstand** /wɪðˈstænd/ Verb

to *withstand* something unpleasant or dangerous means to survive it

*it can withstand freezing temperatures | I need some plants that will withstand frost | the buildings are designed to withstand earthquakes*

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• **resistir**

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**STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 76–77****ancestral** /ænˈsestrəl/ 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*

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• **ancestral**

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**barrage** /ˈbærɑːʒ/ 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

*he backs up his argument with a barrage of statistics | the scheme has faced a barrage of public criticism*

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• **gran nombre de**

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**blank slate** /ˌblæŋk ˈsleɪt/ 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*

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• **paper en blanc**

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**consistent** /kənˈsɪstənt/ 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*

Opposite – Adjective: *inconsistent*

*the two statements were clearly inconsistent*

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• **coherent**

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**glance** /glɑːns/ 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

*I had a quick glance at the letter | his glance fell upon the broken cup*

Verb: *glance*

*I glanced at my watch*

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• **fer una ullada**

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**intuitively** /ɪn'tjuːətɪvli/ Adverb

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

*I intuitively knew what I had to do | any parent intuitively knows when their children are in trouble*

Adjective: *intuitive* | Noun: *intuition* | Verb: *intuit*  
*the program is very intuitive (easy to use without having to look at instructions) | her intuition told her that he was lying*

- *de manera intuitiva*

**reflex** /'riːfleks/ 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*

- *reflex*

**startle** /'stɑː(r)t(ə)l/ Verb

to *startle* someone means to surprise them suddenly

*a loud bang startled the children | we wanted to startle the audience at the very beginning of the show | I was startled by the sound of a bomb going off*

Adjective: *startling* | Adverb: *startlingly* | Adjective: *startled*  
*this was a startling discovery | he had a startled look on his face*

- *sobresaltar*

**submerge** /səb'mɜː(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 | the submarine submerged eight minutes later*

- *submergir*