

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

• stérile

brehtaking /'breθ,teɪkɪŋ/ Adjective

if something is *brehtaking*, 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: *brehtakingly*

Collocates: breathtakingly beautiful

the scenery was breathtakingly beautiful

• impressionnant

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

• 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 explosion left a huge crater in the road

• cratère

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

• désir de mort / suicidaire

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

• dense

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

• expertise

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

• glacier

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

• tailler

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)

• sens de

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

• pointu

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

• luxuriant

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

• sombre

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

• dingue

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

• plaine

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

• chaîne

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

• crête

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

• ondulant

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?

• rouillé

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

• grimper à quatre pattes

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

• à pic

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

• s'égarer

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

• **qui s'exprime bien**

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

• **tourner autour du pot**

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

• **fanc**

butt into /,bʌt '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

• **interrompre**

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

• **s'opposer à**

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

Adjective: *dismissive*

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

• **rejeter**

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

• **de côté**

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

• **ancré**

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

• **se pencher**

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

• **mâcher ses mots**

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

• **neutre**

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

• **élever**

popularise /'pɒpjələraɪz/ 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

• **populariser**

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

• **renforcer**

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

• **épaule**

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**

STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 74–75

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**

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

• **écorce**

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**

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

• **se confondre**

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

• **gorge**

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

- ***captif***

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

- ***griffe / serre***

communal /'kɒmjən(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

- ***en commun***

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

- ***sévir contre***

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

- ***faire appel à***

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

- ***beaucoup***

-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

- ***convivial***

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

- ***ronger***

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

- ***saisir***

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

- ***corne***

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

- ***tas / bosse***

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

• *laisser échapper*

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

• *manoeuvrer*

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

• *accouplement*

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

• *nuisible*

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

• *prédateur*

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

• *transformer*

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

• *saillie*

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

• *gonfler*

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

• *réserve*

-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

• *résistant à*

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

• *détecter*

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)

• *abrisseau*

superstitious /ˌsuːpə(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*

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

- **superstitieux**

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)

- **queue**

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

- **épine**

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*

- **creuser un passager**

underwater /ˌʌndə(r)'wɔːtə(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

- **sous l'eau**

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 | the buildings are designed to withstand earthquakes

- **résister**

STUDENT'S BOOK PAGES 76–77**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

- **ancestral**

barrage /'bærɑːʒ/ 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

- **déluge**

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

- **page blanche**

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

Opposite – Adjective: *inconsistent*

the two statements were clearly inconsistent

- **cohérent**

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

- **jeter un coup d'oeil**

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

• **intuitivement**

reflex /'rɪːfleks/ 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

• **réflexe**

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

• **surprendre**

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

• **submerger**