Dictionary of Politics and Government

OVER 7,500 TERMS CLEARLY DEFINED

IDEAL FOR SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
Contents

Introduction
Preface
Pronunciation Guide

The Dictionary

Supplements
  Legislative Procedure in the United Kingdom
  Legislative Procedure in the European Union
  Legislative Procedure in the United States of America
  United Kingdom Court Structure
  United States of America Court Structure
  The United Kingdom: Members of the Cabinet
  Prime Ministers of Great Britain
  Structure of a British Government Department:
    The Department of Trade and Industry
  Kings and Queens of England
  The United States of America: Members of the Cabinet
    Presidents of the United States of America
Introduction

When we are constantly told that there is widespread disillusionment with the political system, it is gratifying to observe that it remains a subject of intense study. There is much to examine. Constitutional change is in the air. Politicians are seeking new ways to combat voter apathy. This third edition of the Dictionary comes at a highly relevant time.

The democratic structure of the United Kingdom has changed and is changing. Devolved legislatures and Assemblies are in place in Scotland and Wales. A devolved Assembly in Northern Ireland remains in abeyance until political dialogue is resumed. The devolution process is still evolving. The dividing line between what is devolved and what is reserved will inevitably be subject to ongoing debate. Questions will continue to be raised about the role of MPs at Westminster who represent parts of the United Kingdom which control their own domestic affairs.

Devolution does not necessarily stop at the borders of England. The English regions are expected to have the opportunity of deciding whether they too would prefer a new unit of devolved government. If agreed, this would have a knock-on effect on the existing structure of local government both in metropolitan and shire areas. What is already a non-uniform pattern of provision looks set to become more varied still.

The present Government has re-lit the blue touch paper of House of Lords reform, starting with the partial abolition of the hereditary peers in 1999. It has continued to burn slowly. In a democracy, there should arguably be no contest between the legitimacy of an elected and an appointed second chamber. However, in the United Kingdom the issue is clouded with unresolved questions over powers, systems of election and scope of prime ministerial patronage. Hybrid solutions abound, all with their champions. But when given an opportunity in early 2003, the House of Commons could not resolve the matter of Lords’ composition. The end of what was begun is not yet in sight.

The evolution of the European Union also has an impact on internal democratic structures. Whether it is through the pressure of European integration or the wider process of globalisation, there are complaints from people that more is happening which is outwith their control. National parliaments across Europe are stirring as they sense that they are losing ownership of legislation. The much talked about democratic deficit has yet to be addressed to the satisfaction of many parliamentarians and people.

It is perhaps the growing perception that ordinary people have less and less influence in important decisions affecting their lives, which has increased voter alienation and has affected participation in elections. This has prompted debate about ways to make elections more user friendly. E-voting and non-traditional polling stations are under active consideration, but the highest profile experiment to date has been the introduction of all postal ballot elections. Early evidence suggests that turn-out increases, but so allegedly does the risk of fraud. The jury
(in this case the Electoral Commission) is still out. If eventually information
technology is fully harnessed to the electoral process, a distant prospect is held out
of almost instant elections in which voters will have at their fingertips
comprehensive information about parties and candidates. The ramifications for all
concerned would be profound.

By a variety of means, contact between the elected and their electors may be
increasing, but the quality as well as quantity of those exchanges needs to be
addressed. For a democratic system to work properly there has to be dialogue.
But can dialogue adequately be achieved by electronic means or paper surveys?
Electors and elected need to debate together so that the comparative strengths of
various propositions can be tested. Through better two-way communication, it is
important to ensure that disappointment does not automatically lead to feelings of
rejection. The true test of a democracy is how it deals with minorities. Everyone
cannot be in the majority on every issue.

The media might be expected to provide the channels through which information
and ideas can flow. Yet too often there is an emphasis on entertainment or
controversy for its own sake in reporting parliamentary and political events.
Opinion has priority over fact. Parliament is more often sketched than reported.

Members of the public are often candid in admitting that there is much they do not
know. A great deal can be picked up from this Dictionary to improve people’s
confidence in negotiating their way through the system.

But politics and Parliament can only be brought alive through debate, the injection
of ideas, the clash of personality and a degree of passion. The political system is
not a private club; it is a broad public network which anyone can enter. The more
people do so, the healthier democracy will be whether at village, town, city,
national and, even international levels. If this Dictionary encourages participation
as well as study, it will be doubly welcome.

Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP
Chairman, Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker
House of Commons
Preface

This dictionary provides the user with the basic vocabulary used in the fields of government and politics, especially in the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States, and also contains some more informal terms used in the media. The subject matter covers national legislatures, elections, local government, parliamentary and council procedure, international affairs and political parties and theories.

Each entry is explained in clear straightforward English. Examples are given to show how the words and phrases are used in normal contexts. Many words also have comments of a more general nature, giving encyclopedic information about procedures and institutions. At the back of the book there are supplements giving information about the political and legislative systems in the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States.
Pronunciation Guide

The following symbols have been used to show the pronunciation of the main words in the dictionary.

Stress is indicated by a main stress mark (') and a secondary stress mark (,). Note that these are only guides, as the stress of the word changes according to its position in the sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowels</th>
<th>Consonants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>æ</td>
<td>back b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>øː</td>
<td>harm d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ø</td>
<td>stop ə</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>æ</td>
<td>type dʒ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao</td>
<td>how f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aʊ</td>
<td>hire ɡ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>au</td>
<td>hour h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eː</td>
<td>course j</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>æi</td>
<td>annoy k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>head l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eo</td>
<td>fair m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ei</td>
<td>make n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eʊ</td>
<td>go ʊ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>æː</td>
<td>word p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iː</td>
<td>keep r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>happy s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ə</td>
<td>about ʃ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>fit t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>əː</td>
<td>near ə</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>annual ʊ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uː</td>
<td>pool v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>book w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oʊ</td>
<td>tour x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>æ</td>
<td>shut ʒ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>æ</td>
<td>shut z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
absence /ˈæbsəns/ noun the fact of not being where you usually are or where you are expected to be. a leave of absence ⋆ in the absence of when someone is not present ⋆ In the absence of the chairman, his deputy took the chair. ⋆ apologies for absence the list of members of a committee or other group who have apologised for not being able to attend a meeting, read out at the beginning of the meeting.

absent /ˈæbsənt/ adjective not present

absentee /ˈæbsənti/ noun a person who does not attend a meeting or event when they are expected

absentee ballot /ˈæbsəntiːˈbælət/ noun same as postal vote

absolute government /ˈæbsələt ˈɡʌvərnənt/ noun government by a person or group of people who exercise total power and where the ordinary population has no vote and no say in the government of the state

absolute majority /ˈæbsələt ˈmeɪɔriət/ noun the situation of having more votes than all other candidates or parties combined ⋆ In the alternative vote system, if no candidate has an absolute majority at the first count, the second preferences are counted.

absolute privilege /ˈæbsələt ˈprɪvəltɪ/ noun a privilege which protects an MP speaking in the House of Commons from being sued for defamation or libel

absolutism /ˈæbsəluːtɪzəm/ noun the political theory that a government should have total power

absolutist /ˈæbsəluːtɪst/ adjective, noun a person who believes the government should have total power

AAFC abbreviation Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

abandon /ˈaʊbəndən/ verb to give up or not to continue something ⋆ to abandon a Bill, an action to give up trying to promote a Bill

abdicate /ˈæbdɪkət/ verb to give up the position of king or queen of a country

abdication /ˌæbdɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun the act of giving up the position of king or queen of a country

abdicate /ˈæbdɪkət/ verb

aabode /əˈboʊd/ noun the place where someone lives (formal) ⋆ right of abode

abolish /əˈboʊlɪʃ/ verb to put an end to an institution or practice ⋆ The Chancellor of the Exchequer refused to ask Parliament to abolish the tax on alcohol. ⋆ The Senate voted to abolish the death penalty.

abolition /əˈbɒlɪʃən/ noun an act of putting an end to an institution or practice ⋆ to campaign for the abolition of the death penalty ⋆ Anarchists advocate the abolition of the state.

abrogate /ˈæbrogət/ verb to overturn a treaty or law

abrogation /ˌæbrəˈɡeɪʃən/ noun the act of overturning a treaty or law

absence /ˈæbsəns/ noun the fact of not being where you usually are or where you are expected to be. a leave of absence ⋆ in the absence of when someone is not present ⋆ In the absence of the chairman, his deputy took the chair. ⋆ apologies for absence the list of members of a committee or other group who have apologised for not being able to attend a meeting, read out at the beginning of the meeting.
GovtPol.fm Page 2 Tuesday, July 13, 2004 7:51 PM

abstain

2

abstain /əbsten/ verb not to do
abstain

|

something deliberately, especially not
to vote 쑗 Sixty MPs abstained in the
vote on capital punishment.
abstention /əbstenʃən/ noun the
act of deliberately not doing something, especially voting 쑗 The motion
was carried by 200 votes to 150, with
60 abstentions.
abstract /bstrkt/ verb to make a
summary of a document or speech
abuse noun /əbjus/ 1. the wrong
use of something 쑗 The Chancellor of
the Exchequer has introduced a Bill to
correct some of the abuses in the
present tax system. 왍 abuse of Parliament something that is breaks accepted parliamentary rules of conduct 왍
abuse of power the use of legal powers in an illegal or harmful way 왍
abuse of rules the use of rules to
achieve a purpose which is open to
criticism, e.g. the use of the right to introduce a motion into the House of
Commons to prevent a debate from
continuing 2. rude or insulting words
3. bad treatment of a person, often of
a sexual nature (NOTE: no plural for (2)
or (3)) 쐽 verb /əbjuz/ 1. to use something wrongly 쑗 It was claimed that
the government whips had abused the
rules of the House of Commons by
preventing full discussion of the Private Members Bill. 왍 to abuse your
authority to use your authority in an
illegal or harmful way 2. to say rude
words to someone 쑗 He abused the police before being taken to the cells. 3.
to treat someone badly, often in a sexual way
ACAS /eks/ abbreviation Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service
ACC / e si si/ abbreviation Association of County Councils
accede /əksid/ verb 1. to sign an
international treaty or agreement 쑗 In
1972 Britain acceded to the European
Economic Community. 2. to take up an
official position, especially as king or
queen 쑗 accede to the throne 3. to accept or agree with something 왍 to acabstention

|

abstract

abuse

|

|

ACAS

ACC

accede

|

cede to a request or demand to do
what someone wants
access /kses/ noun 1. the opportunity to use or do something 쑗 access
to education and healthcare 2. the opportunity to meet someone important
쑗 They have access to the Prime Minister and are said to influence the decisions he takes. 쐽 permission to obtain or see private or secret information 쑗 to have access to personal
records 쐽 noun 1. a way of getting to
a place 쑗 level access to the seating areas 쑗 wheelchair access 2. the right of
the owner of a piece of land to use a
public road which is next to the land 쑗
She complained that she was being
denied access to the main road.
(NOTE: no plural) 쐽 verb 1. to get information, e.g. to be able to obtain
data from a computer 쑗 The staff in the
Housing Department can access
records on all properties and tenants.
2. to get to a place
accession /ək seʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the
act of signing an international treaty
or agreement 2. the occasion of taking
up an official position 왍 accession to
the throne the occasion of becoming
King or Queen
accession country /ək seʃ(ə)n
kntri/ noun a country that will become or has recently become a Member State of the European Union
Accession Treaties /ək seʃ(ə)n
tritiz/ plural noun the international
agreements establishing the conditions under which countries become
Member States of the European Union
accommodation centre /ə kɒmə
deʃ(ə)n sentə/ noun a place where
people live while their request to enter
and remain in a country is considered
account /əkaυnt/ noun 1. a description of, or explanation for, some
event or situation 쑗 The minister gave
a full account to Parliament of the accident. 2. a financial statement (NOTE:
Often used in the plural.) 쐽 verb to
give an explanation of some event or
situation, especially a bad one 쑗 They
will have to account to their constituents for this failure. 앳 to consider
access

accession

|

accession country

|

Accession Treaties

|

accommodation centre

|

account

|

|


something carefully as part of doing something else ○ The Committee will take account of the report of the Royal Commission or will take the Royal Commission’s report into account when drafting the Bill.

accountability /ˈkaʊntəbɪlɪtɪ/ noun the situation of being required to explain what has happened and take responsibility for it ○ the accountability of elected representatives to their electors ○ There have been demands for increased accountability for ministers.

accountable /ˈkaʊntəbl/ adjective being required to explain what has happened and take responsibility for it ○ Ministers are accountable to Parliament.

accredit /əˈkredɪt/ verb to appoint somebody as an envoy or ambassador to represent their country abroad

accredited /əˈkredɪtid/ adjective 1. chosen and officially appointed to represent an organisation ○ an accredited agent 2. chosen and appointed by one country to represent it in an official capacity in another country ○ She is accredited as her country’s ambassador to the United Nations.

acculturation /əˈkʌltʃəreɪʃən/ noun the assimilation of parts of a different culture

acknowledge /əˈkɒnɔlɪdʒ/ verb 1. to accept that something is true or necessary ○ We acknowledge there were mistakes made in the past and we must learn from them. 2. to confirm that something has been received, such as a letter ○ The office of the Ombudsman has acknowledged receipt of the letter. 3. to thank someone publicly or officially for something they have done ○ I’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the hard work that has gone into making this campaign such a success. 4. to recognise rights or authority officially ○ They refused to acknowledge the new regime.

acknowledgement /əˈkɒnɔlɪdʒmənt/ noun 1. acceptance that something is true or necessary ○ There is almost universal acknowledgement of the need to take global warming seriously. 2. a letter or card to say that something has been received ○ She wrote to her MP and received an acknowledgement immediately. 3. thanks for something that has been done ○ acknowledgement of her role in the achievement

acquis communautaire French words meaning ‘established community rights’: the contents of the various treaties agreed to by the Member States of the European Union, which have gradually built up a body of law under which the EU operates

act /ækt/ noun a law which has been approved by a law-making body. See Comment at bill (NOTE: In the United Kingdom, laws are approved by Parliament and in the USA by Congress.)

Comment: Before an Act becomes law, it is presented to Parliament in the form of a Bill. See notes at BILL.

active citizenship /ˈæktɪv ˈsɪtɪzənʃɪp/ noun the full involvement of people in a variety of forms of politics, including voting, joining a party or pressure group, campaigning or standing for election ○ It is important for the survival of democracy that active citizenship should be encouraged.

activism /ˈæktɪvɪz(ə)m/ noun energetic and sometimes aggressive support for a social or political cause

activist /ˈæktɪvɪst/ noun 1. a person who is very active in pursuing social or political change, sometimes by extreme means 2. a person who works regularly for a political party, sometimes a person who is in disagreement with the main policies of their party or whose views are more extreme than those held by the majority of their party ○ The meeting was disrupted by an argument between the chairman and left-wing activists ○ Party activists have urged the central committee to adopt a more radical approach to the problems of unemployment. Also called party activist

activist
Act of Parliament

Act of Parliament /ækt av 'parlament/ noun a decision which has been approved by Parliament and has received the Royal Assent and so becomes law

Act of Union /ækt av 'ju:njan/ noun the act of 1801, by which the parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland were joined to form the United Kingdom

Act of Union with Scotland /ækt av 'ju:njan wɪð 'skotland/ noun the parliamentary act of 1707 which joined England and Scotland together to form Great Britain

actual possession /æktʃuəl pə 'seʃn/ noun the occupation and control of land and buildings

actual value /æktʃuəl 'valju/ noun the real value of something if sold on the open market

actuarial tables /æktʃueriəl 'teib(ə)lz| plural noun lists showing how long people are likely to live, used to calculate life assurance premiums

additional member system /ə dɪʃənl 'membə sɪstəm/ noun an electoral system used in elections for the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Greater London Assembly, where a proportion of the representatives are elected by the first-past-the-post system, and the others by a party list system, giving additional members to ensure the result is more proportional (Note: Note: the system operates in some countries with the constituency representatives elected by a majoritarian system)

address /ə'dres/ noun 1. a formal speech o In his address to the meeting, the mayor spoke of the problems facing the town. o In his State of the Union address, the president spoke of the problems of terrorism. o humble address a address of thanks a formal speech thanking someone such as a well-known person for doing something such as officially opening a new building o the Queen’s Speech at the State Opening of Parliament. o debate on the address 2. the details of number, street and town where an office is or where a person lives o verb 1. to speak to o The Leader of the Opposition was asked to address the meeting. 2. to speak about or deal with a particular subject or problem o He then addressed the question of government aid to universities. o to address yourself to something to deal with a particular problem o the government will have to address itself to problems of international trade 3. to write on an envelope the details of the number, street and town where an office is or a person lives o an incorrectly addressed package

ad hoc /æd 'hɒk/ Latin phrase meaning 'for this particular purpose' o an ad hoc committee a temporary committee set up to study a particular problem. o standing committee ad hoc Select Committee /æd hɒk sɪ'lekt kə,mɪtɪ/ noun a committee of Congress set up to examine a special case or problem

adjourn /ə'dʒɔ:n/ verb to stop a meeting for a period or to postpone a legal hearing to a later date o They adjourned the meeting or the meeting was adjourned. o The chairman adjourned the tribunal until three o’clock. o The meeting adjourned at midday. o The appeal was adjourned while further evidence was being produced. o the House stands adjourned the sitting of the House of Commons is adjourned and will resume on the following day

an act of stopping a meeting for a period or postponing a legal hearing to a later date o The adjournment lasted two hours.

The appeal was adjourned while further evidence was being produced.

The speech of the mayor was adjourned until January 18 without taking a vote on the Government’s resolution.

[Toronto Globe & Mail]
journ a debate which has the effect of killing the motion being debated. A motion for the adjournment of the House is a motion to adjourn a sitting until the following day. An adjournment sine die is an adjournment without fixing a date for the next meeting, used in the US Congress to end a session. An adjournment to a day certain is a motion to adjourn a sitting of Congress to another day.

**adjournment debate** /əˌdʒɔːrnmənt ˈdebɛt/ noun a debate in the House of Commons on a motion to adjourn a sitting, used by backbench MPs to raise points of particular interest to themselves. Also called debate on the adjournment.

**administration** /ədˌmɪnɪstrəʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the organisation, control or management of a geographical area or of a specific aspect of government, especially by a bureaucracy or group of experts. 2. to control, manage or govern something. 3. to control the administration directly from the capital. 4. to be responsible for making sure something happens in the correct way. 5. to administer justice to carry out the law. 6. to administer an oath to make someone swear an oath.

**admissi**...
adopt /ədˈɒpt/ verb 1. to agree to something or accept something so that it becomes law  o The report of the sub-committee was received and the amendments adopted.  o The meeting adopted the resolution.  o The proposals were adopted unanimously.  o The council has adopted a policy of positive discrimination. 2. to be adopted, to be chosen by a party as a candidate in an election  o The Labour Party adopted more women as candidates for the General Election than ever before.  o to be adopted to be chosen by the party as a candidate for election to a parliamentary constituency
adoption /ədˈɒpn/ noun 1. the act of agreeing to something so that it becomes legal or accepted  o She moved the adoption of the resolution. 2. the act of choosing someone as a candidate in an election
adoption meeting /ədˈɒpmənt/ noun the meeting at which a local party adopts someone as its candidate for an election
ad valorem /ˌæd vəˈlɔrəm/ Latin phrase meaning 'according to value'  
COMMENT: Most taxes are 'ad valorem'; VAT is calculated as a percentage of the charge made, income tax is a percentage of income earned, etc.
ad valorem duty /ˌæd vəˈlɔrəm djuˈtɪ/  ad valorem tax /ˌæd vəˈlɔrəm tæks/ noun a tax calculated according to the value of the goods being taxed
adventurism /ədˈvɛntjʊərɪzəm/ noun intervention by one government in the affairs of another
adversarial politics /ˌædvəˈzarɪəl ˈpɒlɪtɪks/ noun a system of political activity where two sides oppose each other vigorously. This is said to create the right conditions for effective scrutiny of the government, and for genuine debate.
adversary /ədˈvɛrsəri/ noun a person or organisation who is the opposing side in a situation  o a powerful political adversary
advice /ədˈvaɪs/ noun information or suggestions given by one person to another on what has happened in the past or on what is the best course of action to follow in the future  o to take advice to ask an expert to give information and help about a problem  o We'll need to take legal advice before agreeing.
adviser /ˈædvəsər/ noun a person who suggests what should be done, by giving information on a specific area where he or she is an expert
advisory /ədˈvaɪzərɪ/ adjective acting as a person who tells someone what to do or informs them about events  o He is acting in an advisory capacity.  o noun US an official warning
advisory board /ədˈvaɪzərɪ bɔːd/ noun a group of people who help others to decide what to do or keep them informed about what is happening
advocacy /ədˈvəksi/ noun active support for a cause or point of view
advocate noun /ədˈvəkət/ someone who actively supports a cause or point of view  o an advocate of relaxing the laws on cannabis  o verb /ədˈvəkət/ to speak or work to support a cause or point of view  o Anarchists advocate the abolition of the state.
Advocate General /ədˈvəkət dʒɛn(ə)ral/ noun 1. one of the two Law Officers for Scotland 2. in the European Court of Justice, the officer who presents a summary of a case to the judges to help them in coming to a decision
affair /əˈfɛər/ noun 1. a situation or event  o Is she involved in the copyright
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>affair</td>
<td>1. something shocking that involves public figures; 2. the arms smuggling affair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affairs of state</td>
<td>plural noun government business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affiliate</td>
<td>verb to associate with a group or organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affirm</td>
<td>verb 1. (of a MP) to promise allegiance to the monarch, when the Oath of Allegiance is considered inappropriate on religious or other grounds 2. to support or approve of something publicly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affirmation</td>
<td>noun 1. a statement by an MP showing allegiance to the monarch, when the Oath of Allegiance is considered inappropriate on religious or other grounds 2. support or approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affirmative action</td>
<td>noun US a policy of preventing the unfair treatment of specific groups in society who have a disadvantage, or who have suffered unfair treatment in the past, such as people with disabilities, ethnic groups and women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affirmative instrument</td>
<td>noun a form of Statutory Instrument, or order made by a government minister on the authority of a previous act of parliament, which must be approved by both Houses of Parliament</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**African National Congress**

A South African political party that fought against apartheid and formed South Africa’s first multiracial, democratically elected government in 1994.

*Abbr ANC*

**African Union**

An organisation of African states established for mutual cooperation, superseding the Organisation of African Unity in 2002.

*Agency* 1. a government office or department which is to some extent independent 2. an independent organisation that deals with social problems 3. a register of voluntary agencies in the field of mental health

**agenda** 1. a list of things to be discussed at a meeting 2. a list of priorities 3. Education was at the top of the government’s agenda.

**agent** 1. a person who represents a company or another person 2. a party official who works to support a candidate in an election 3. a person who works for a branch of government 4. secret agent

**Agent-General**

The official representative of a provincial government of a Commonwealth country in another Commonwealth country.
agent provocateur /ˌæɡən pɹəˈvəkərət/ French words meaning ‘an agent who provokes’: a person employed secretly by a government who provokes others to commit a crime, often by taking part in it personally, in order to find out who is not reliable or in order to have his or her associates arrested

age of consent /,eɪdʒ əkˈsɛns/ noun the age at which someone can legally agree to have sex

age of majority /,eɪdʒ əˈmɔːrəti/ noun the age of legal responsibility, at which civil duties and rights such as voting or being on a jury are first undertaken

aggression /ˌæɡrəˈzɛn/ noun hostile action against another country, especially without provocation • They accused the neighbouring states of aggression. • Numerous acts of aggression have been reported to the United Nations. (NOTE: no plural. For the plural, use acts of aggression)

aggressor /ˈæɡrəsər/ noun a person or country which attacks another, especially without provocation • The UN resolution condemns one of the superpowers as the aggressor.

agitate /ˌæɡjəˈteɪt/ verb to encourage people to take political action possibly involving protesting, demonstrating or engaging in direct action • The party is agitating for social reforms.

agitation /ˌæɡjəˈteɪʃən/ noun the action of encouraging people to protest and demonstrate • There has been widespread agitation in the capital and the northern provinces. (NOTE: no plural)

agitator /ˌæɡjəˈteɪtər/ noun a person who attempts to cause political unrest • Agitators from the right of the party have tried to disrupt the meetings of the council.

AGM /ˌɛt dʒiːm/ abbreviation Annual General Meeting

agrarian /ˌæɡrəˈriən/ adjective promoting the interests of farmers and encouraging a fair system of land ownership

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada /ˌægrəˈriːkfɔld əgri ˈfɔid/ a department of the Canadian federal government that conducts research and develops policies and programs to ensure the security of the country’s food system. Abbr AAFC

Ahern /əˈhɛrn/ Bertie (b. 1951) the leader of the Fianna Fáil party since 1994 and Taoiseach (prime minister) of the Republic of Ireland since 1997

aid /eɪd/ noun help, especially money, food or other gifts given to people living in difficult conditions • The government has set aside $20m for aid to under-developed countries. • The poorer countries depend on aid from richer nations. • The government will allocate 6% of the gross national product for overseas aid.

AID /,eɪd/ abbreviation Agency for International Development

aid agency /eɪd, ədʒəˈɛnsi/ noun an independent organisation that sends financial or other help to a country which is experiencing difficult conditions or a catastrophic event such as a natural disaster or famine

aide /eɪd/ noun an assistant to someone such as a politician, who may also offer advice • a presidential aide

aid worker /eɪd ˈweɪkə/ noun a person who works for an aid agency

airspace /ˈɛərɛsps/ noun the sky above an area of land or water over which a state claims control • British airspace

Albion /ˈælbɪən/ noun Great Britain

alderperson /ˈɔldərˌpɜːsən/ noun in the United States and Canada, a
member of the legislative body of some towns or cities

**aiderwoman** /'ældərˌwʊmən/ noun in the United States and Canada, a woman member of the legislative body of some towns or cities

**Al Fatah** /æl ˈfætə/ noun a political group, part of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, that wants to establish an independent Palestinian state

**alien** /ˈɛlɪən/ noun 1. **mainly US** a person living in a country of which he or she is not a citizen 2. **(in the UK)** a person who is not a citizen of the UK, not a citizen of a Commonwealth country and not a citizen of the Republic of Ireland **adjective 1. mainly US** from a different country or culture **alien workers** 2. different from what is usual or familiar **an alien concept**

**alienate** /ˈɛlɪənət/ verb to do something that makes someone stop being friendly towards you **The government has alienated its main supporters.** **The terrorist campaign has alienated the public.**

**align** /aɪˈlæn/ verb to give support publicly to a political group or party **to align yourself with another country** to follow a policy similar to that of another country **the three neighbouring states aligned themselves with the USA**

**allegiance** /ˈɛlɪdʒ(ə)ns/ noun obedience to the State or the Head of State. **oath of allegiance**

**alliance** /əˈlɑːns/ noun 1. a group of two or more countries, people or political parties, that are linked together by a formal agreement 2. a formal relationship between two or more parties or countries **The country has built up a series of alliances with its larger neighbours.** **ally**

**Alliance** /əˈlɑːns/ noun in New Zealand, a left-wing political party that has been in coalition government with the Labour Party since 1999

**allied** /əˈlæld/ adjective 1. relating to countries that have joined together to fight a common enemy **the allied forces** 2. associated or related **building and allied trades**

**allowance** /əˈlɑːns/ noun 1. an amount of something which you are legally or officially allowed to have 2. **a travel allowance** 3. **a baggage allowance** **personal allowances** 2. a payment made for a specific purpose 3. **an allowance for unsociable hours** 4. **an expenses allowance**

**all-party** /əˈlɑːt/ adjective including members of all political parties 1. **the report of the all-party committee on procedure** 2. **An all-party group visited the United Nations.**

**all-party group** /əˈlɑːt/ group/ noun a group of MPs from different parties who have an interest in a particular subject 1. **the all-party group on telecommunications**

**ally** /ˈɛləl/ noun a country, person, political party or group which is linked to another in a friendly way so that they can support one another 1. **As the invasion seemed likely, the President called on his allies for help.** 2. **The committee has been run by the mayor and his allies in the Workers’ Party.** **verb** to link one country, political party, group or person to another **to ally yourself with** to become linked to someone or another party or country, for protection **He has allied himself to the left wing of the party.**

**ALP** abbreviation Australian Labor Party

**al-Qaeda** /əl ˈkaːdə/ noun an international Islamic fundamentalist organisation, founded by Osama Bin Laden, which has been associated with several terrorist incidents, including the attack on the World Trade Center, New York (2001)

**alternative vote** /əlˈtərnətiv vɔut/ noun a system of voting used in elections in some countries such as Australia, in which voters show their preferences on the ballot paper by marking candidates with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. If a candidate does not get 50% of the first preference votes in the first round of counting, the votes
Althing

for the candidates with the lowest number of votes are given to the can-
didates shown as second preferences
on their ballot papers in a number of
further rounds until a single candidate
gets 50%. Abbr AV

Althing /'ælθɪŋ/ noun the law-mak-
ing assembly in Iceland

AM abbreviation Assembly Member

AMA abbreviation Association of
Metropolitan Authorities

ambassador /'æmbəsədər/ noun a
diplomat of the highest level, repre-
senting his country in another country
classified as a diplomat of the highest level, representing another country

Ambassador /æmbəsədər/ noun an official title of an
ambassadorial duties

ambassadorial /'æmbəsədəriəl/ adjective referring to an ambassador

ambassador plenipotentiary /æmbəsədər plenɪpətenˈʃəri/ noun an ambassador with full powers to nego-
and sign treaties on behalf of

amend /'æmənd/ verb 1. to make
to correct or improve it

to make an official change to a motion,
Bill, Act or constitution

amendment /'æməndmənt/ noun
1. a change made in a document,
plan or policy
to correct or improve it

to make amendments to the
minutes
2. a change proposed to a motion
or to a bill which is being dis-
cussed in Parliament or Congress,
or to an existing Act

The amendment
was proposed and seconded and put to
the vote.

The government whips per-
suaded her to withdraw her amend-
ment. (NOTE: Amendments are usu-
ally made in the Committee Stage and
Report Stage of a bill going through
the House of Commons. In the
House of Lords they can also be
made at Third Reading.)

3. US a new
clause added to a written constitution,
changing it in some way

...a constitutional amendment that
would acknowledge the common-
wealth's right to override the states on
matters of economic development
(The Age (Melbourne))

COMMENT: The first ten amendments
to the American Constitution are
known as the Bill of Rights. The most
important are the First Amendment
(which provides for freedom of speech
and thought), and the Fifth Amend-
ment (which protects anyone from giv-
ing evidence in court which might in-
criminate himself or herself).

American Revolution /'ærɪkən,
,revəˈljuːʃən/ noun the War of Inde-
pendence (1775–83) by which the American colonies of Britain became
independent and became the United
States of America

Amicus /'æmɪkəs/ noun the UK's
largest technical trade union, with
more than 1.2 million members. It was
formed in 2001 by the merging of
AEEU (Amalgamated Engineering
and Electrical Union) and MSF (Man-
facturing, Science and Finance
Union).

amnesty /'æmnəstɪ/ noun a pardon,
often for political crimes, given by the
state to several people at the same time

verb to grant a pardon to several
people at the same time, often for political crimes

They were amnestied by the president.

Amnesty International

/ˌæmnəstɪ ,ɪntəˈneɪʃənəl/ noun an
international pressure group which
works for human rights, and against
the cruel treatment of prisoners

anarchic /'ænərkɪk/,
anarchical /'ænərki/ adjective with no law or or-
der the anarchic state of the country
districts after the coup
anarchism /ænəskɪzm/ noun the belief that there is no need for a system of government in a society. Comment: Anarchism flourished in the latter part of the 19th and early part of the 20th century. Anarchists believe that there should be no government, no army, no civil service, no courts, no laws, and that people should be free to live without anyone to rule them.

anarchist /ænəkɪst/ noun 1. a person who believes that there should be no system of government 2. a person who tries to destroy a government by violent means, without planning to replace it in any way. adjective referring to anarchists and their aims

anarchy /ænəkri/ noun the absence of law and order, because a government has lost control or because there is no government. When the president was assassinated, the country fell into anarchy.

ANC abbreviation African National Congress

ancillary /ənˈsɪləri/ adjective providing help or support. nursing and ancillary services

annex /əˈneks/ verb to incorporate territory into another country or state

annexation /əˈneksəʃən/ noun the act of one state taking possession of a territory claimed by another, and claiming it as its own

annexe, annex noun a document added or attached to another. to attach a document to another. (of a state) to take possession of a territory claimed by another and claim it as its own. The island was annexed by the neighbouring republic. (NOTE: [all senses] The US spelling is annex.)

announce /əˈnouns/ verb to tell something to the public or to a group of people. The returning officer announced the result of the election. The Foreign Secretary announced that he would be going to Nigeria shortly.

announcement /əˈnounsment/ noun 1. a public statement giving information. An announcement about the date of the election is expected very soon. to make an announce-

ment to give information about something publicly. The Home Secretary will make an announcement later today. 2. the act of telling something publicly. The chairman of the council made an announcement about the development plans.

Annual General Meeting /ˈænjʊəl ˈdʒenərəl ˈmiːtɪŋ/ noun a meeting of all the members of a society or shareholders of a company which takes place once a year to agree the accounts and decide general policy. Abbr AGM

Annual Meeting /ˈænjʊəl ˈmiːtɪŋ/ noun a meeting of a local council, which takes place once a year, to approve the accounts and elect a mayor among other things.

annulment of adjudication /əˌnʌlmənt əv əˌnuːmənt/ noun the cancelling of a legal order such as one making someone bankrupt

another place /əˈnʌðə plaɪs/ noun place

answer /ˈɑːnsər/ noun a reply, letter or conversation coming after someone else has written or spoken: written answer a formal reply to a question put in writing to a Minister. 1. to speak or write after someone has spoken or written to you. 2. to reply formally to an accusation

answerable /ˈɑːnsərəbəl/ adjective responsible for explaining why actions have been taken. He is answerable to Parliament for the conduct of the Armed Forces.

anti- /ˈænti/ prefix against. an anti-drug campaign. the anti-terrorist squad. Anti-government posters appeared in the streets.

anticipation /ˌæn.tɪˈpeʃən/ noun doing something before it is due to be done or before something expected happens. (NOTE: It is out of order on grounds of anticipation for a motion to be mentioned or discussed in the House of Commons before the day on which it is scheduled for discussion.)
anti-trust

**anti-trust** /æntɪˈtrʌst/ adjective attacking monopolies and encouraging competition o anti-trust laws or legislation

**AOB** abbreviation any other business

**apartheid** /əˈpæθiːti/ noun the racist policy, operating until 1993 in South Africa, by which different racial groups were kept apart in most circumstances, largely to benefit the white population

**apolitical** /əˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)/ adjective not interested in politics, or not concerned with politics

**apologist** /əˈpɒlɪdʒɪst/ noun someone who publicly defends a doctrine or ideology

**a posteriori** /ə, pəˈstəriə/ Latin phrase meaning 'from what comes after.' Compare a priori o a posteriori argument an argument based on observation

**apparat** /əˈpɒræt/ noun the large group of state employees who ran a Communist country

**apparatchik** /əˈpærətʃɪk/ noun 1. a government employee in a Communist country 2. a civil servant who follows rules too closely and works slowly (disapproving or humorous; used as criticism) (NOTE: The plural is apparatchiki or apparatchiks.)

**appeal** /əˈpiːl/ noun 1. a challenge to the ruling of the chairman of a meeting o Senator Brown made an appeal against the ruling of the President of the Senate. 2. the process of asking a government department to change a decision o The appeal against the planning decision will be heard next month. 3. the process of asking a higher court to change a decision of a lower court o an appeal to the House of Lords o verb to ask someone to change a decision o The company appealed against the decision of the planning officers. o She has appealed to the Supreme Court. (NOTE: you appeal to a court or against a decision; an appeal is heard and allowed or dismissed)

**Appeal Committee** /əˈpiːl ˈkeɪˌmiːtə/ noun a committee set up by the House of Lords to consider petitions to appeal to the House of Lords from the Court of Appeal

**Appeal Court** /əˈpiːl ˈkɔːt/ noun the civil or criminal court to which a person may go to ask for a decision made by a lower court to be changed, and the decisions of which are binding on the High Court and lower courts. Also called Court of Appeal, Court of Appeals

**COMMENT:** In English law, in the majority of cases decisions of lower courts and of the High Court can be appealed to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal is divided into the Civil Division and the Criminal Division. The Civil Division hears appeals from the County Court and the High Court; the Criminal Division hears appeals from the Crown Court. From the Court of Appeal, appeal lies at present to the House of Lords. In 2004 parliament was debating legislation to replace the House of Lords with another final court of appeal to be called the Supreme Court. Appeals from some Commonwealth countries may be heard from the highest court of these countries by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which is at present in effect made up of the same judges as the House of Lords.

**appease** /əˈpiːz/ verb to make concessions to another person, group or country in order to avoid conflict

**appeasement** /əˈpiːzmənt/ noun the policy of avoiding conflict by making concessions

**appellate** /əˈpelət/ adjective relating to a legal or formal appeal o appellate jurisdiction the jurisdiction of the House of Lords to hear appeals

**Appellate Committee** /əˈpelət ˈkeɪˌmiːtə/ noun the committee of the House of Lords which considers appeals and reports on them to the House

**appendix** /əˈpendɪks/ noun additional text at the end of a document o The map showing the properties covered by the proposal is attached as an Appendix. o See Appendix B for the list of county councils. (NOTE: The plural is appendices.)
appoint /əˈpɔɪnt/ verb to choose someone for a job

The government has appointed a QC to head the inquiry.

The council has appointed a race relations adviser.

appointee /əˈpɔɪntɪz/ noun a person who is appointed to a job

appointment /əˈpɔɪmnt/ noun

1. an arrangement to meet

by appointment by arrangement in advance

2. the fact of being given a new job

his recent appointment as an EU Commissioner by royal appointment requested by a king or queen as a supplier of goods or services

apportionment /əˈpɔrʃəmənt/ noun the distribution of seats in the US House of Representatives or a state legislature in proportion to the population of states or electoral districts

appropriation /əˌprɔpriˈeʃən/ noun the granting of money for a particular purpose, especially allocating money to be spent by a particular government department

appropriation bill /əˌprɔpriˈeʃən bɪl/ noun a bill which grants money to the government to be used in a way which has been approved in an authorisation bill

appropriations committee /əˌprɔpriˈeʃənz ˈkɔˌmɪtɪ/ noun especially in the US Congress, a committee which examines government spending

a priori /əˈpriəri/ Latin phrase meaning ‘from what came before.’ Compare a posteriori a priori argument reasoning based on principles or assumptions, not on real examples

Arabism /ˈærabɪzəm/ noun support for Arab causes or viewpoints

Arab League /ˈærəb lɪʒ/ noun a political and economic association of Arab states

arbitrate /əˈbrɪtret/ verb to settle a legal dispute between parties by referring it to an outside person instead of going to court, e.g. in a building, ship-

ping or employment dispute to arbitrate in a dispute

arbitration /əˈbrɪtrəʃən/ noun the settling of a dispute by an outside person, chosen by both sides to submit a dispute to arbitration to refer a question to arbitration to take a dispute to arbitration to go to arbitration

arbitration agreement /əˌbrɪtəˈrɪʃən əˈgrɪmənt/ noun the agreement by two parties to allow an independent person to try to settle the dispute between them

arbitration award /əˌbrɪtəˈrɪʃən ɔrˈdər/ noun the ruling given by an independent person who has been asked to settle a dispute

arbitration board /əˌbrɪtəˈrɪʃən bɔrd/, arbitration tribunal /əˌbrɪtəˈrɪʃən ˈtrɪbjuːnl/ noun an independent group of people involved in settling a legal dispute

arbitrator /əˌbrɪtəˈrɪtər/ noun an independent person who is chosen by both sides in a dispute to try to settle it an industrial arbitrator to accept or reject the arbitrator’s ruling

archives /əˈrɪkvərz plural noun historical records 18th century archives of borough council meetings

archivist /əˈrɪkvɪst/ noun a person who is responsible for the official records of a government department, local authority or other group

aristocracy /əˈrɪstəkrəsi/ noun the class in society composed of families who are landowners and who have inherited titles such as Lord or Duke

aristocrat /əˈrɪstəkrət/ noun a member of the aristocracy

Many aristocrats were killed during the revolution.

aristocratic /əˈrɪstəkrətɪk/ adjective relating to the aristocracy aristocratic families

Aristotle /əˈrɪstətl/ noun the Ancient Greek philosopher (384–322 BC) who began the study of political constitutions in his book The Politics.

(Aristotle claimed that ‘man
arm /әrm/ verb to provide with weapons

armaments /әrmәnәnts/ plural noun heavy weapons

armed /әrmid/ adjective provided with weapons ○ It’s now common to see armed guards at airports.

armed conflict /әrmd kәn’фkt/ noun war

armed forces /әrmd fәrs/ plural noun the army, navy and air force

armed neutrality /әrmd nju: t‘rәlәtә/ noun the condition of a country which is not directly involved in a war between other countries, but is ready to defend itself in case it cannot avoid becoming involved

armistice /әrmistis/ noun the agreement to stop fighting at the end of a war

armoury /әmәri/ noun the arms of a country ○ a country’s nuclear armoury (Note: The US spelling is armory.)

arms control /әrmz kan’trәul/ noun the control of the sale of weapons by one country to another

arms race /әrmz rәs/ noun competition between countries to buy more and better weapons

army /әrmid/ noun the part of a country’s armed forces which fights mainly on land

article /ә’tәkl(ә)/ noun 1. a section of a legal agreement ○ See article 8 of the constitution. 2. a articles of association, articles of incorporation US a document which regulates the way in which a company’s affairs are managed

ASEAN abbreviation Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Asquith /әskәwθ/, Herbert Henry (1852–1928) His 1908–16 government introduced retirement pensions and national insurance, and passed the Parliament Act (1911) that restricted the power of the House of Lords to veto bills

assembly /ә’sembli/ noun 1. a group of elected people who have the power to pass laws 2. a group of elected or appointed people who come together to discuss political issues and make decisions, especially for a specific region ○ the assembly of the Organization of American States ○ the General Assembly of the United Nations the meeting of all the members of the United Nations to discuss international problems, where each member state has one vote 3. the action of coming together in a group for a meeting ○ the right of assembly

assemblyman /ә’sembliәn/ noun in some countries, a member of a group of people who come together to discuss political problems or pass laws

assembly member /ә’sembli ,mәmbәr/ Assembly Member noun a member of an elected or appointed group of people who come together to discuss political problems or pass laws ○ a Welsh Assembly Member ○ Member of the Welsh Assembly

Assembly of Deputies /ә,semlbi әv ә’dәpiәtiz/ noun the lower house of the legislature in Romania

Assembly of the Republic /ә,semlbi әv ә’dәrә’pәblik/ noun the legislature in Portugal

assemblywoman /ә’sembli ,wәmәn/ noun in some countries, a woman who is a member of a group of people who come together to discuss political problems or pass laws

assistant /ә’sistәnt/ noun a person who helps someone else, especially a superior employee ○ The assistant librarian is away on holiday.

associate of the Crown Office /ә,semsiәt әv әt kraәn ‘fәris/ noun an official who is responsible for the administrative work of a court

Association of First Division Civil Servants /ә,semsiәt fәt’vәnts/ noun a trade union representing the
ordered the commercial attaché to return home.

**attack** /ˈtæk/ **verb** 1. to try to hurt or harm someone. 2. to criticise someone or something. 3. MPs attacked the government for not spending enough money on the police. 4. The newspaper published an attack on the government.

**attack dog** /ˈtæk dɔɡ/ **noun** an aggressive supporter or spokesperson for a politician or political party.

**Attiendeer** /ˈætɪnˌdər/ **noun** 1. formerly, the method used to convict people of treason by an act of parliament rather than holding a trial. 2. the government, who advises government departments on legal problems.

**Attorney-General** /ˈætərnəri ˈdʒenərəl/ **noun** 1. in the United Kingdom, one of the Law Officers, a Member of Parliament and member of the government, who advises government departments on legal problems and decides if major criminal offences should be tried. 2. in a US State or in the federal government, the head of legal affairs. (Note: In the US Federal Government, the Attorney-General is in charge of the Justice Department.)

**Atlanticism** /ˈætlɪntəsɪz(ə)m/ **noun** a belief that western Europe and the United States can gain political and economic benefits from cooperation, especially in military matters.

**attaché** /ˈætəʃ/ **noun** 1. a senior official in an embassy. 2. a cultural attaché.
audience /ˈɔ:dʒəns/ noun an interview or discussion with an important person

Auditor-general /ˈɔ:dʒən(t)ər/ noun an officer of the Australian government who makes sure government expenditure is approved by law

Australian ballot /ˈɔ:stɪlɪən/ noun same as secret ballot

Australian Capital Territory /ˈɔ:stɪlɪən/ noun the region round the capital, Canberra, which is not part of any of the states.

Australian Democrats /ˈɛməkrətɪs/ noun in Australia, a political party that has held power in the Australian upper house for most of the time since 1977

Australian Labor Party /ˈɔ:stɪlɪən/ noun Australia, the principal political party of the left and one of the two main political parties. Abbr ALP

autarchy /əˈʊtərkeɪ/ noun the situation where a state has total power over itself, and rules itself without outside interference

aukacy /əˈʊtərkeɪ/ noun the situation where a state can provide all it needs without outside help

authorisation bill /ɔ:ˈθɔrɪzəʃn ˈbɪl/ noun US in the US Congress, a bill which permits the spending of money on a project. It may also limit the amount of money which can be spent.

authoritarian /ɔːθɔˈteərɪən/ adjective exercising strict control

authoritarian regime a government which rules its people strictly and does not allow anyone to oppose its decisions

authority /ɔːθɔˈteərəsi/ noun 1. the official power given to someone to do something, the legal right to do something 2. the person or book which has the best information 3. the authorities the government or people who have legal power over something

Australia, the principal political party of the left and one of the two main political parties. Abbr ALP

authoritarianism /ɔːθɔˈteərɪən ɔmən/ noun the theory that a government must rule its people strictly

authority /ɔːθɔˈteərəsi/ noun 1. the official power given to someone to do something, the legal right to do something 2. the person or book which has the best information 3. the authorities the government or people who have legal power over something

Australian Democrats /ˈɛməkrətɪs/ noun in Australia, a political party that has held power in the Australian upper house for most of the time since 1977

Australian Labor Party /ˈɔ:stɪlɪən/ noun Australia, the principal political party of the left and one of the two main political parties. Abbr ALP

autocracy /əˈʊtərkeɪərɪən/ noun 1. a country ruled by a dictator 2. a country ruled by a dictator

autocrat /əˈʊtərkrət/ noun (often as criticism) a dictator, a ruler with total personal power over the people he or she rules

autocratic /əˈʊtərkrətɪk/ adjective ruled by a dictator 1. The regime became too autocratic and was overthrown by a military coup.

autocratically /əˈʊtərkrətɪkəli/ adverb like a dictator

autonomous /əˈʊtənəməs/ adjective a region which governs itself within a larger political unit, an autonomous regional government

The federation is formed of several autonomous republics.

autonomy /əˈʊtənəmi/ noun the power of a region to govern itself within a larger political unit, the separation of a region to govern itself for their state

The government has granted the region a limited autonomy.

AV abbreviation alternative vote

axis /ˈæksəs/ noun an association between several people, organisations, or countries that is regarded as a centre of power or influence
Axis /ˈækstəs/ noun the military and political alliance of Germany, Italy, and, later, Japan that fought the Allies in World War II

ayatollah /ˌaɪəˈtɒlə/ noun a Muslim leader, especially in Iran

aye /ə/ noun in the House of Commons, a vote for a motion.

Azapo /əˈzəpəʊ/ noun a Socialist political movement in South Africa

the Aye lobby, the Ayes lobby a room in the House of Commons, through which MPs pass if they are voting for a motion. the Ayes have it an announcement that a motion has been passed
Baath /ˈbɑːθ/ noun a Socialist party in several Arab countries, including Iraq and Syria.

Baathism /ˌbaːθɪzəm/ noun the beliefs of the Baath party, combining the elements of pan-Arabism, state control, anti-Semitism and the cult of an authoritarian ruler. Baathism was found in Iraq until the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003, and still exists in Syria.

back /bæk/ verb to support someone or something □ to back a bill to support a Bill in Parliament

back bench /ˈbæk ˈbêntʃ/ adjective referring to the seats behind the front row in the House of Commons and the MPs who occupy them □ backbench MPs

backbench /ˈbæk ˈbêntʃ/ noun an ordinary Member of Parliament who does not sit on the front seats in the House of Commons, and is not a government minister or an Opposition shadow minister. Also called backbench MP

back benches /ˈbæk ˈbêntʃz/ plural noun the rows of seats in the House of Commons, behind the front row, where the Members of Parliament who are not government ministers and not Opposition shadow ministers sit

back channel /ˈbæk ˈʃeɪn(ə)l/ noun a way of passing sensitive information in politics or diplomacy that avoids the usual procedures □ They denied the existence of back-channel contacts between the two countries □ They uncovered an apparent back channel (or attempted back channel) using a businessman who had a relationship with a minister in their government.

background /ˈbækɡraʊnd/ noun 1. past work or experience or family connections □ Can you tell us something of the candidate’s family background? 2. past details □ She explained the background to the claim. □ The House asked for details of the background to the case. □ I know the contractual situation as it stands now, but can you fill in the background details?

backwoodsman /ˈbækˌwudzˌmən/ noun formerly, a hereditary peer in the House of Lords who lived in the country, appeared only rarely in the House and was regarded as having reactionary or eccentric opinions (informal)

balance of payments /ˈbæləns əv ˈpeɪmənts/ noun the international financial position of a country, measured according to the level of imports and exports

balance of power /ˈbæləns əv ˈpouər/ noun 1. a situation where two powerful states, or groups of states, are equal in power □ The superpowers have achieved a balance of power for the last twenty years. □ The rise of the military government has threatened the balance of power in the region. 2. to hold the balance of power (of a small group) to be in a position where no group has a majority and so effectively able to hold power by acting with another small group □ The balance of power is held by the small Democratic Party. □ Although the Liberals only have two seats on the council, they hold the balance of power because the other two parties have twenty seats each.
balkanisation /ˈbɔːlkənəs/ noun the division of an area into small political units that are often opposed to each other
ballot /ˈbɛlət/ noun 1. an election where people vote for someone by marking a cross on a paper with a list of names 2. an act of choosing someone by putting names in a box and then taking one name out at random (in the House of Commons, private members Bills are placed in order of precedence by ballot. ■ verb 1. to take a vote by ballot 2. The company is balloting for the post of president. 2. to choose by ballot MP's balloted for Private Member's Bills.
ballet box /ˈbɛlət bɒks/ noun the box into which voting papers are put
ballot paper /ˈbɛlət ,pɜːrpa/ noun a paper on which the voter marks a cross to show for whom he or she wants to vote
ballot-rigging /ˈbɛlət ,rɪɡɪŋ/ noun 1. an illegal attempt to manipulate the votes in an election so that a specific candidate or party wins ■ The electoral commission accused the government party of ballot-rigging. 2. an illegal attempt to miscount or lose voting papers, so that a particular candidate or party wins
banana curtain /ˈbænə kərtən/ noun the imaginary barrier that isolated China on ideological grounds from Western countries after the Communist revolution of 1949 until 1979
banana republic /ˈbænə rɪˈpʌblɪk/ noun a small country with an economy that depends on the export of a single product
bandwagon effect /ˈbændwɑːɡən ɪˈfekt/ noun an increase in votes in an election for a political party or candidate who has been ahead in the opinion polls. Compare boomerang effect
banishment /ˈbænɪʃmənt/ noun the fact of being ordered to leave a country or region
bank base rate /ˈbɛŋk ˈbeɪs ˌreɪt/ noun the basic rate of interest which a bank charges
bank charter /ˈbɛŋk ˈtʃɑːtər/ noun the official government document allowing a banking company to be set up
bank holiday /ˈbɛŋk ˈhɒlɪdeɪ/ noun in the UK, a day which is a public holiday when the banks are closed (note: The American term is national holiday)
Bank of England /ˈbɛŋk əv ˈɪŋɡlənd/ noun the central British bank, owned by the state, which, together with the Treasury, regulates the nation’s finances, and which since 1997 has almost complete independence to set interest rates
COMMENT: The Bank of England issues banknotes (which carry the signatures of its officials). It is the lender of last resort to commercial banks and puts into effect the general financial policies of the government. The Governor of the Bank of England is appointed by the government.
bankrupt /ˈbæŋkrʌpt/ adjective, noun referring to people that a court has decided are incapable of paying their debts and whose business is taken away from them ■ a bankrupt property developer ■ He was adjudicated or declared bankrupt. ■ She went bankrupt after two years in business. ■ noun someone who is bankrupt ■ certified bankrupt a bankrupt who has been discharged from bankruptcy with a certificate to show he or she was not at fault ■ discharged bankrupt a person who has been released from being bankrupt ■ undischarged bankrupt a person who has been declared bankrupt and has not been released from that state ■ verb to make someone become bankrupt ■ The recession bankrupted my father.
COMMENT: A person who is bankrupt cannot serve as a Member of Parliament, a Justice of the Peace, or a director of a limited company, and cannot sign a contract or borrow money.
bankruptcy /ˈbæŋkrʌptsi/ noun the state of being bankrupt ■ The re-
bankruptcy notice
cession has caused thousands of bankruptcies.

bankruptcy notice /ˌbɑŋkræpti/ noun a notice warning someone that they will be declared incapable of paying their debts and have their business taken away from them if they fail to pay money owed

banner /ˈbænər/ noun a piece of material on which a slogan or a political or other statement is written and displayed or carried in a protest. o The demonstrators carried banners with the words 'Power to the People'.

bar /bɑr/ noun 1. the profession of a barrister, or lawyer qualified to speak in a higher court. o to be called to the bar to pass examinations and fulfil certain requirements to become a barrister. 2. all barristers or lawyers qualified to speak in the higher courts. o the Bar 1. the profession of barrister 2. all barristers. o the Bar of the House 1. a line across the floor of the House of Commons, behind which people who are not members can stand to present petitions or to be questioned. o He appeared in person at the Bar of the House. 2. a rail across the floor of the House of Lords, behind which people who are not peers can stand

COMMENT: At the State Opening of Parliament MPs go to the House of Lords and stand behind the Bar of the House to hear the Queen's Speech.

baron /ˈbærən/, Baron noun 1. a person of the lowest rank of nobility in the British House of Lords, or a life peer. 2. also Baron a nobleman of various ranks in some European countries

COMMENT: Life peers and peeresses are barons and baronesses; barons are directly addressed as 'Lord' followed by their family name. In some European countries, Baron is used as a form of address: so, Baron Smith is addressed as 'Lord Smith', but Baron Schmidt is addressed as 'Baron Schmidt'.

baroness /ˈbærənəs/ noun 1. the wife of a person of the lowest rank of nobility in the British House of Lords, a woman of the lowest rank of nobility in the British House of Lords, or a life peeress. 2. a noblewoman or the wife of a nobleman of various ranks in some European countries

COMMENT: A baroness would usually be directly addressed as 'Lady' followed by her family name, though she may be referred to as 'Baroness': Baroness Thatcher

baronet /ˈbærənət/ noun in the UK, someone who has the title Sir and whose right to this title can be passed from father to son

COMMENT: Baronets are addressed as 'Sir', followed by the Christian name and family name; their wives are addressed as 'Lady' followed by the family name (so Sir John Smith's wife is directly addressed as 'Lady Smith'); the title passes to the heir, but does not qualify the holder for a seat in the House of Lords. Baronets can be Members of Parliament.

baronetcy /ˈbærənətsi/ noun a title which can be passed from father to son but does not qualify the holder for a seat in the House of Lords

barony /ˈbærəni/ noun the title of a person of the lowest rank of nobility in the British House of Lords

barricade /ˈbærɪkɪd/ noun an informal barrier set up to block a street or passageway, especially by protesters. o verb to block a street or passageway

Barroso /ˈbærəsoʊ/, Jose Manuel Durao (b. 1956) the president of the European Commission (2004–)

basic industry /ˈbɛskɪkˈɪndəstri/ noun an industry on which a country's economy depends

basic rate tax /ˈbɛskɪk rɛt,ˈteɪks/noun the lowest rate of income tax

basics /ˈbɛskɪks/ plural noun 1. the most important facts about something 2. the most essential things such as food and heating. o Their weekly income barely covers the basics. o to get back to basics 1. to start discussing the basic facts again 2. to return to traditional values

basis /ˈbɛsɪs/ noun 1. the point or number from which calculations are made. o We have calculated the costs
on the basis of a 6% price increase. 2. the general terms of agreement or general principles on which something is decided: We have three people working on a freelance basis. 2. on a short-term or long-term basis for a short or long period: He has been appointed on a short-term basis.
battlebus /’bæt(ə)ləbʌs/ noun a bus used by a candidate in an election campaign to tour the constituency or used by a candidate in an election (informal)
beating /’biːtɪŋ/ verb to defeat someone in an election: The main Opposition party was beaten into third place in the election.
belli + casus belli belligerency /’bɛlɪdʒərənsi/ noun the state of being at war or of threatening to start a war.
belligerent /’bɛlɪdʒərənt/ adjective aggressive or at war with another country: The UN will try to achieve a ceasefire between the belligerent parties.
bench /benʃ/ noun a long seat for several people, as found in the Houses of Parliament: back benches, front benchers Opposition front bench
benefit /’bɛnɪfɪt/ noun 1. money or advantage gained from something: She receives £50 a week as unemployment benefit. 2. The sickness benefit is paid monthly: The insurance office sends out benefit cheques each week.
benefit claim /’bɛnɪfɪt kliːm/ noun a request for a benefit to be paid
benefit tourism /’bɛnɪfɪt ,tjuːərɪz(ə)m/ noun the practice of moving from a poor country to a richer country to receive its health and social benefits
Benelux /’bænəlʌks/ noun Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg

Bentham /’benθəm/ Jeremy (1748–1832) English philosopher most famous as the founder of Utilitarianism (NOTE: Bentham's Utilitarian principle that laws should be made so as to achieve the greatest happiness of the greatest number of people has been interpreted in many ways and is often misunderstood.)
betray /’bɛtɪəɹ/ verb He betrayed the secret to the enemy, to betray your country to give away your country's secrets to an enemy
betting duty /’bɛtɪŋ ’djuːtɪ/ betting tax /’bɛtɪŋ tɛks/ noun a tax raised from gambling on horses and dogs
Bharatiya Janata Party noun an Indian political party that advocates Hindu nationalism. Abbr BJP
bicameral /’bɛrɪkəmərəl/ adjective of a legislature or law-making body, having two chambers or houses: The United Kingdom has a bicameral system composed of the House of Commons and House of Lords. The United States has a bicameral legislative assembly, composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate.
bicameralism /’bɛrɪkəmərəlɪzəm/ noun a system of government where there are two houses in the legislature or law-making body (NOTE: The two chambers are usually referred to as the Upper and Lower Houses: systems with only one chamber are called unicameral.)
Big Ben /’bɪɡ ’bɛn/ noun a large bell which strikes the hours in the Clock Tower of the British Houses of Parliament
big government /’bɪɡ ’ɡɑːv(ə)nəmənt/ noun government regarded disapprovingly as spending too much and attempting to control too many aspects of people's lives
bilateral /’bɪlətər(ə)l/ adjective of an activity or agreement involving two parties or countries: The minister signed a bilateral trade agree-
bilateral

ment. ☞ multilateral, trilateral, unilateral.

‘...the Federal Government will try to negotiate with the US to find a bilateral solution for the dispute’

[Toronto Globe & Mail]

bilateral /'bɪlətərəl/ adverb

by the action of two parties or countries ☞ The agreement was reached bilaterally.

bill /bɪl/ noun 1. the draft or first version of a new law which will be discussed in Parliament ☞ The house is discussing the Noise Prevention Bill. ☞ The Finance Bill had its second reading yesterday. ☞ Private Member’s Bill, Private Bill, Public Bill 2. a written paper which is a promise to pay money ☞ a bill of exchange a document which orders one person to pay another person a sum of money 3. a charge to be paid for work done ☞ The bill for cleaning up the beaches will be very large. ☞ verb to present a bill to someone so that it can be paid

COMMENT: A Bill passes through the following stages in Parliament: First Reading, Second Reading, Committee Stage, Report Stage and Third Reading. The Bill goes through these stages first in the House of Commons and then in the House of Lords. When all the stages have been passed the Bill is given the Royal Assent and becomes law as an Act of Parliament. In the USA, a Bill is introduced either in the House or in the Senate. Any number of Senators may jointly sponsor a single bill in the Senate; in the House of Representatives, a maximum of 25 members may jointly sponsor a bill. After its introduction, a bill is referred to a committee which examines it in public hearings, then passes it back for general debate in the full House. The Bill is debated section by section in Second Reading and after being passed by both House and Senate is engrossed and sent to the President for signature (or veto).

bill of attainder /bɪl əˈtændər/ noun formerly, a way of punishing people legally without holding a trial, especially in cases of treason, by passing a law in parliament to convict and sentence them

bill of indictment /bɪl əˈdɪktmənt/ noun US 1. a draft of an indictment which is examined by the court, and when signed becomes an indictment 2. a list of charges given to a grand jury, asking them to indict the accused

bill of rights /bɪl əˈraɪts/ noun a list of basic human rights guaranteed in the law of a specific country

Bill of Rights /bɪl əˈraɪts/ noun 1. an Act passed in 1689, restating the rights of Parliament and people after the Revolution of 1688 2. the first ten amendments of the constitution of the United States which refer to the rights and privileges of the individual

binational /ˌbaɪnəˈneɪʃ(ə)nəl/ adjective between two countries

binding precedent /ˈbændɪŋ ˈprɛsɪd(ə)nt/ noun the decision of a higher court which has to be followed by a judge in a lower court

biological warfare /ˌbaɪəˈlɑːdʒɪk(ə)l/ noun the use of biological material to cause disease during war

bioterrorism /ˌbaɪətɜːrˈɛrɪz(ə)m/ noun terrorist attacks involving the use of biological or chemical weapons

bipartisan /ˌbaɪpɑːˈtɪz(ə)nt/ adjective accepted by the opposition as well as by the government ☞ a bipartisan approach to the problem of municipal finance ☞ a bipartisan foreign policy a foreign policy agreed between the Government and Opposition

bipartite /ˌbaɪpɑːrˈtɪt/ adjective with two sides taking part ☞ bipartite talks

Bircher /ˈbɪrʊʃ/ noun a member of the John Birch Society, a right-wing political organisation in the United States whose main purpose is fighting Communism

Bishops’ Bench /ˈbɪʃəps/ noun the seats in the House of Lords where the archbishops and bishops who are members of the House of Lords sit. The seats have arms unlike the other seats. ☞ Lords Spiritual
elected, in 2001 was the first Labour leader to be re-elected and gradual social reform, prudent political policies and style of government—Blairism. Blair became prime minister in 1997 and elected Labour Party leader in 1994, drawing up a black list of suppliers that are not approved of.

The United States to encourage social equality and pride in their racial identity. Black Power was active in the United States especially in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The Black Panthers were a member of a militant African American political organisation opposed to white domination that was active in the United States. Black Sash is originally an organisation of white women campaigners against apartheid in South Africa, now a multiracial organisation which promotes civil rights. Blair was elected Labour Party leader in 1994, became prime minister in 1997 and was the first Labour leader to be re-elected, in 2001.

Blairism is the political policies and style of government of Tony Blair, especially moderate and gradual social reform, prudent financial management, and tight control over the presentation of policy.

Blame is to say that someone has done something wrong or is responsible for a mistake. The council chairman blamed the opposition for not supporting the amendment. The lack of fire equipment was blamed by the coroner for the deaths. The spokesman blamed the closure of the hospital on the lack of government funds.

The council is drawing up a black list of suppliers.

A group of countries who co-operate as a result of having the same political views is a bloc. The former Eastern bloc was responsible for a mistake one has done something wrong or is responsible for.

A group who can veto a block vote is a blocking minority. A blocking minority can operate in some cases in the EU Council of Ministers.

A block vote is a vote by someone who is representing the
wishes of a large number of people in a particular organisation such as a trade union

Bloquiste /blɔkˈɪst/ noun a member or supporter of the Bloc Québécois

blue /blu/ noun the colour traditionally used by the British Conservative Party and other parties of the Right: a true-blue Tory a person who has strongly Conservative views

Blue Book /blu:ˈbʊk/ noun a government publication with a blue cover, e.g. the report of a Royal Commission

blue laws /ˈbluːzlɔːz/ plural noun US laws relating to what can or cannot be done on a Sunday

blue pencil /ˈbluːpensəl/ verb formerly, to cross out items from a newspaper or report which it was forbidden to publish

Bn abbreviation baron

board /bɔːd/ noun a group of people who run an organisation, e.g. a company, trust or society: a board of directors a group of directors elected by the shareholders to run a company: the government has two representatives on the board of the nationalised industry: he sits on the board as a representative of the bank: two directors were removed from the board at the AGM: a board of management a group of people who manage an organisation

Board of Deputies /ˈbɔːd əv ˈdɛpjuːtɪz/ noun a body that represents the legal and political interests of British Jews

Board of Trade /ˈbɔːd əv ˈtreɪd/ noun a British government department that regulates commerce and promotes exports, part of the Department for Trade and Industry since 1970: the President of the Board of Trade

body /ˈbɒdɪ/ noun 1. an organisation or group of people who work together: Parliament is an elected body: the governing body of the university has to approve the plan to give the President an honorary degree: non-departmental public body 2. a large amount of something: a growing body of evidence: a body of opinion a group of people who have the same view about something: There is a considerable body of opinion which believes that capital punishment should be reintroduced.

body politic /ˈbɒdɪ ˈpɒlətɪk/ noun all the people of a state considered as a group

bollweevil /ˈbolwɪvɪl/ noun US a senator or congressmen from one of the states of the Deep South (informal)

Bolshevism /ˈbɒlʃəvɪzəm/ noun 1. the beliefs of the Bolsheviks, especially the need for the overthrow of capitalism: Communist or revolutionary socialism

bolshevik /ˈbɒlʃəvɪk/ adjective 1. referring to the main Communist party in Russia at the time of the Revolution: Lenin was the leader of the Bolshevik Party: 2. Communist, usually referring to the Soviet Union (dated informal): a member of a Communist Party, especially in the Soviet Union, or someone with left-wing views (dated informal)

COMMENT: The word comes from the Russian ‘bolshinstvo’, meaning majority, because this section of the Communist Party was in the majority at the time of the Russian Revolution.

bolshevism /ˈbɒlʃəvɪzəm/ noun 1. the beliefs of the Bolsheviks, especially the need for the overthrow of capitalism: Communist or revolutionary socialism

bona fide /ˈbɔːnə ˈfʌdɪ/ Latin phrase meaning ‘in good faith’: a bona fide offer an offer which is made honestly or which can be trusted

bona fides /ˈbɔːnə ˈfʌrdɪz/ Latin phrase meaning ‘good faith’: evidence of honesty and good standing: Her bona fides was or were accepted by the company.

bonded /ˈbɒndɪd/ adjective held under restrictions

bondholder /ˈbɒndhəʊldə/ noun a person who invests in government stocks

boomerang effect /ˈbʊməræŋ ɪˈfekt/ noun a decline in votes in an
lecture for a political party or candidate who has been ahead in the opinion polls. Compare bandwagon effect.

**booth** /bʊθ/ noun, polling booth

**border** /ˈbɔːrdər/ noun the frontier between two countries. ○ a border town ○ He was stopped by the border guards.

**borough** /ˈbɔːrəʊ/ noun a town which has been given the right to have its own council. ○ rotten borough ○ borough architect, borough engineer, borough treasurer the officials in charge of the new buildings or machinery or finances of a borough

**bounty** /ˈbaʊnti/ noun 1. a government payment or subsidy made to help an industry 2. a payment made by government to someone who has saved lives or found treasure

**bourgeois** /ˈbɔːrwaɪəs/ adjective 1. middle class or referring to the class of businessmen and professional people 2. used by Communists to criticise an outlook which is traditional and conservative and opposed to communism ○ The Party is trying to reduce its bourgeois image by promoting young activists to the Central Committee. ○ noun a middle-class person

**bourgeoisie** /ˈbuːroʊˌzaɪə/ noun the middle class, usually the richer upper levels of the middle class, formed of businessmen and professional people

**boycott** /ˈbɔɪkət/ noun a refusal to buy or to deal in goods from a country or company, used as a punishment ○ The union organised a boycott against or of imported cars. ○ verb to refuse to buy or to deal in goods from a country or company, as a punishment ○ The company’s products have been boycotted by the main department stores. ○ We are boycotting all imports from that country. ○ to boycott a meeting to refuse to attend a meeting

**branch** /ˈbrɑːntʃ/ noun 1. a local office of a bank or large business; a local shop of a large chain of shops ○ The bank or the store has branches in most towns in the south of the country. ○ The insurance company has closed its branches in South America. ○ He is

...
branch stacking

the manager of our local branch of Lloyds bank. - We have decided to open a branch office in Chicago. - The manager of our branch in Lagos or of our Lagos branch. 2. a section of government - The three branches of government are the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. 3. a part or separate section - The school welfare service is a branch of the county education service. - The Law of Contract and the Law of Tort are branches of civil law.

breach of confidence /ˈbriːʃ əv ˈkɒnfɪdəns/ noun the act of revealing a secret which someone has told you

deliberately or effectively

someone else to perform that job honorably

undertaken to do a job on behalf of itself

We broke off the discussion at midnight. - The government has broken off negotiations with the insurgents. - to break off diplomatic relations with a country to recall the ambassador and close down the embassy in a country

break out /ˈbreʊk ˈaʊt/ verb to start suddenly

War broke out between the ethnic groups in the region.

break up /ˈbreɪk ˈʌp/ verb 1. to divide something large into small sections - The company was broken up and separate divisions sold off. 2. to come to an end or to make something come to an end - The meeting broke up at 12.30. - The police broke up the protest meeting.

bribe /ˈbraɪb/ noun money offered to someone to get them to do something to help you, especially something dishonest - The minister was accused of taking bribes. - to give someone money to get them to help you, especially by doing something dishonest - He bribed a senior official to get the import licence.

bribery /ˈbraɪbəri/ noun the crime of paying someone money to get them to do something to help you, especially by doing something dishonest - Bribery in the security warehouse is impossible to stamp out.

brief /ˈbriːf/ verb to explain something to someone in detail - The superintendent briefed the press on the progress of the investigation. - to brief a minister, officer to give a minister or officer all the details of the case which he will argue in Parliament or on TV or in committee

briefing /ˈbriːfɪŋ/ noun an occasion when someone is given information about something - All the Whitehall journalists attended a briefing given by the minister.

briefing papers /ˈbriːfɪŋ ˈpeɪpəz/ plural noun documents prepared by officials for a Minister to study

bring down /ˈbrɪŋ ˈdəʊn/ verb to make a government lose power - The government was brought down by the scandal.
bring forward /ˌbrɪŋ ˈfɔːrwɔːd/ verb to move something to an earlier date
The date of the hearing has been brought forward to March.

bring up /ˌbrɪŋ ʌp/ verb to refer to something for the first time
The chairman brought up the question of corruption in the police force.

brinkmanship /ˌbrɪŋksmænʃip/ noun especially in international relations, the practice of allowing a dispute to come close to war in the hope of forcing the opposition to agree to a proposal

British /brɪtʃ/ noun a British person (informal)

British Isles /brɪtʃ əlz/ noun the group of islands off the north coast of Europe, consisting of the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland), the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man

British Standards Institute /ˌbrɪtʃ ˈstændədz ˌɪnstɪtʃuːt/ noun an official body which makes rules about standards of quality and safety

Briton /brɪt(ə)n/ noun a British person

budget /ˈbædʒɪt/ noun a plan of expected spending and income, usually for a period of one year, e.g. the plan made by a government’s finance minister about the budget the annual plan of taxes and government spending proposed by a finance minister the Budget statement a speech by a Chancellor of the Exchequer presenting his budget to Parliament

buffer

Budget box /ˈbædʒɪt bɒks/ noun an old red case in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer traditionally carried the Budget papers to Parliament on the day he announced the budget for the next year despatch box

budget deficit /ˈbædʒɪt ˌdɛfɪsɪt/ noun the amount by which what a government spends is more than what it receives in tax and other income

budgeting /ˈbædʒɪtiŋ/ noun the activity of preparing plans about spending and income

budget variance /ˌbædʒɪt vərˈsəns/ noun the difference between the plans made in a budget and what the actual spending and income is

Budgetary /ˈbædʒɪtiəri/ adjective referring to a budget

budgetary control /ˌbædʒɪtiəri ˈkəntrəʊl/ noun the process of keeping a check on spending

budgetary policy /ˌbædʒɪtiəri ˈpɒləsi/ noun the policy of planning income and spending

budgetary requirements /ˌbædʒɪtiəri rɪˈkwɪrəməntz/ plural noun the spending or income needed by the government’s plans

Budget box /ˈbædʒɪt bɒks/ noun an old red case in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer traditionally carried the Budget papers to Parliament on the day he announced the budget for the next year despatch box

budget deficit /ˈbædʒɪt ˌdɛfɪsɪt/ noun the amount by which what a government spends is more than what it receives in tax and other income

budgeting /ˈbædʒɪtiŋ/ noun the activity of preparing plans about spending and income

budget variance /ˌbædʒɪt vərˈsəns/ noun the difference between the plans made in a budget and what the actual spending and income is

Budget /ˈbædʒɪt/ noun a country or area of land between two countries which prevents them attacking one another

The UN tried to establish a buffer zone between the two warring factions.
buffer state

The small country found it had become a buffer state between the two belligerents.

buffer state /ˈbʌʃə stet/ noun a small neutral state that is between two potentially hostile countries and therefore reduces the risk of conflict between them.

building permit /ˈbɪldɪŋ ˈpɜːrɪmt/ noun an official document which allows someone to build on a piece of land.

docco /ˈbʌlɪ pʌlpt/ noun a position of authority that gives the holder the opportunity of a wide audience for his or her views, e.g. a political office.

Bundesbank /ˈbʊndəzbaŋk/ noun the German Central Bank.

Bundesrat /ˈbʊndəsrət/ noun 1. the upper house of the legislature in Austria and Germany 2. the federal council in Switzerland, similar to a cabinet.

Bundestag /ˈbʊndəztɑ/ noun the lower house of legislature in Germany.

bureau /ˈbjuərəʊ/ noun 1. an office that provides a particular service 2. an employment bureau 3. a government office or agency 4. the European Affairs Bureau of the European Union (EUF) 5. the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

bureaucracy /ˈbjuərəkrəsɪ/ noun 1. the group of civil servants or officials who run central or local government 2. the investigation of complaints is in the hands of the local bureaucracy. 3. the new president found it difficult to change the way the bureaucracy worked. 2. an annoying and puzzling system of rules (informal) 3. too much bureaucracy and red tape.

bureaucrat /ˈbjuərəkræt/ noun someone who works in a government or official office (often disapproving) 2. The bureaucrats in the state capital are well-known for their slowness of their decision-making.

bureaucratic /ˈbjuərəkrætɪk/ adjective referring to a bureaucracy or to bureaucrats (often disapproving) 2. You have to follow the correct bureaucratic procedures. 3. The investigation has been held up by bureaucratic middle.

burgermeister /ˈbaʊɡəmarshta/ noun the mayor of a German town.

burgh /ˈbaʊə/ noun a Scottish borough or town.

burgher /ˈbaʊər/ noun a person who lives in a borough or town.

burgomaster /ˌbaʊɡəmarshtaʊr/ noun the mayor of a Dutch or Flemish town.

Burke, Edmund /ˈbaʊrк/ noun the Irish politician and writer (1729–97), whose ideas are often said to sum up traditional conservatism best. (NOTE: Burke’s theory of representation is still quoted in the modern world. He believed that an MP should work for all his constituents, not just those who voted for him, and that the MP should decide for himself how to vote without referring back to seek the views of his constituents.)

Bush /bʊʃ/ George W. (b. 1946) the 43rd president of the United States (2001–)

business /ˈbaɪznəs/ noun 1. the work of making, buying or selling 2. a company, shop or factory which makes, buys or sells things 3. a factory or company which makes, buys or sells things 4. a building or town.

bureaucrats

bureaucratic

bureaucracy

bureaucrat

building permit

burgher

Bundesrat

Burke, Edmund

Burgher

business

bureaucracy

buffer state

bureaucrat
**business rate** /ˈbiznɪs rɛt/ noun a local tax paid by businesses in the UK

**business ratepayer** /ˌbiznəs rɛtˈpeɪər/ noun a business which pays local taxes on a shop or factory

**Butskellism** /ˈbʌtskɛlɪz(ə)m/ noun the relatively similar policies of the Conservative and Labour parties in the United Kingdom in the 1950s, when R. A. Butler and Hugh Gaitskell were the chancellors of the two parties when in power.

**by-election** /ˈbeɪ ɪˌlɛkʃən/ noun an election for Parliament or for a council in one constituency or ward held because of the death or retirement of the person first elected

**bylaw** /ˈbaɪ əl/ byelaw, by-law, bye-law noun a rule or law made by a local authority or public body and not by central government. The bylaws forbid playing ball games in the public gardens. According to the local bylaws, noise must be limited in the town centre.

**Byzantine** /ˈbaɪzənɪn/ adjective too complicated to be easily understood. It is difficult to follow the Byzantine discussions between the two countries about the boundary dispute.
CA abbreviation consular agent
CAB /ˈkeɪbɪt/ ˈkæbɪt, ˈkeɪbɪt/ CABX abbreviation Citizens’ Advice Bureau or Bureaux
cabal /ˈkæbəl/ noun a small group of politicians who plan action in secret to get power or advantage
Cabinet /ˈkeɪbɪnt/ noun Cabinet 1. a committee formed of the most important members of the government, chosen by the Prime Minister or President to be in charge of the main government departments. Cabinet meetings are held in the Cabinet room. The Cabinet meets on Thursday mornings. The Prime Minister held a meeting of the Cabinet yesterday. Cabinet Committee /ˈkeɪbɪnt kəˌmɪtə/ noun one of a number of committees which are formed from Cabinet ministers, junior ministers or civil servants, who advise the Cabinet and Prime Minister on certain matters Cabinet government /ˌkeɪbɪnt ˈɡəvərnənt/ noun a form of government where a Prime Minister or President works closely with a group of ministers. Cabinet Minister /ˌkæbɪnt ˈmɪnɪstə/ noun a minister who is a member of the Cabinet Cabinet Office /ˌkeɪbɪnt ˈɔːfɪs/ noun the section of the British Civil Service which works for the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Cabinet Secretary /ˌkæbɪnt ˈsekrətri/ noun the head of the Cabinet Office and of the British Civil Service, who attends Cabinet meetings. Also called Secretary to the Cabinet
cadre /ˈkædər/ noun an active member or group of key members of a party, especially a Marxist party
calendar /ˈkælɪndər/ noun 1. a book or set of sheets of paper showing the days and months in a year, often attached to pictures. 2. a list of events with the dates on which they will take place. 3. US a list of Bills for consideration by committees of the House of Representatives or the Senate. Calendar Wednesday /ˈkælɪndər ˌwenzdeɪ/ noun the day of the week when the House of Representatives can consider bills from committees during a short debate
call for /ˈkɔːl fɔːr/ verb to ask publicly for something, or say that some-
thing is necessary. 1. The Opposition called for the Minister’s resignation.
call in /kɔli/ inf. verb 1. to visit for a short time. 2. The MPs called in to a shopping centre on their campaign trail. 3. to ask someone to come to help. 4. The Department of Trade decided to call in the Fraud Squad to help in the investigation.
call off /kɔləf/ verb to ask for something not to take place or not to continue. 1. The search for the missing children has been called off. 2. The visit was called off because the Foreign Minister was ill.
call on /ɔn/ verb 1. to visit someone. 2. The visiting Swedish Foreign Minister called on the President yesterday for talks. 3. to ask someone to do something. 4. The minister called on community leaders to help prevent street crime.
camerilla /ˈkæmərɪlə/ noun a small group of advisers, especially a group privately advising an important person.
camera /ˈkæmərə/ noun in camera campaign /kæmˈpeɪn/ noun 1. a planned method of working to achieve something. 2. The government has launched a campaign against drunken drivers. 3. the work of candidates before an election when they try to win votes. 1. verb to try to change something by writing about it or by holding protest meetings or by lobbying Members of Parliament. 2. They are campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty. 3. They are campaigning against the death penalty. 4. She is campaigning for the reintroduction of the death penalty. 5. He is campaigning for a revision of the Official Secrets Act. 6. to try to get people to vote for you in an election. 1. She is campaigning on the issue of more money for the school system. 2. He had been campaigning all day from the top of a bus.
campaigner /ˈkæmpənər/ noun a person who is campaigning for a party or for a candidate or for a cause. 1. He is an experienced political campaigner. 2. She is a campaigner for women’s rights.
campaign trail /kæmˈpeɪn trel/ noun a series of meetings or visits which are held by a candidate before an election in order to win votes.
camp David /ˈkeɪmp ˈdɛvəd/ noun the official country home of the Presidents of the United States.
camp follower /ˈkæmp ˈfɔlər/ noun a person who supports a party or leader for selfish reasons (disapproving).
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms noun a statement of the fundamental rights and freedoms of Canadian citizens that forms part of the Constitution Act, 1982.
cancel /ˈkænsəl/ verb to stop or call off something.
cancellation clause /ˈkænsəl ˈklɔsəl/ noun a clause in a contract which states when the contract may be brought to an end.
candidacy /ˈkændɪdəsi, ˈkændɪdəsi/ noun the fact of taking part in an election. 1. The Senator has announced his candidacy for the Presidential election. 2. someone or something that is assessed for their suitability for something. 1. We interviewed ten candidates for the post of communications officer. 2. The hotel is one of the main candidates for the conference location.
canton /ˈkæntən/ noun one of the 22 official regions into which Switzerland and some other countries are divided.
canvass /ˈkænvəs/ verb to visit people to ask them to vote for a certain candidate or to say what they think.  
Party workers are out canvassing voters.  
 apropos of  
name  

to canvass support to ask people to support you.  
She is canvassing support for his Bill among members of the Opposition  

canvasser /ˈkænvəsər/ noun a person who visits people to ask them to vote for a certain candidate or to say what they think  

canvassing /ˈkænvəsing/ noun the action of asking people to vote for some party or candidate, or to say what they think  

CAP abbreviation  
Common Agricultural Policy  

capita /ˈkeptə/ • per capita  
capital /ˈkept(ə)l/ noun 1. money and property used in a business  
2. capital city  
capital city /ˈkept(ə)l ˈsɪti/ noun the main town in a country, where the government and parliament are usually found  
capital crime /ˈkept(ə)l ˈkraim/ noun a crime for which the punishment is death. Also called capital offence  
capital gains /ˈkept(ə)l ˈgeinz/ noun money made by selling property or shares at a profit  
capital gains tax /ˈkept(ə)l ˈgeinz,ˈteks/ noun a tax paid on capital gains  
capitalism /ˈkept(ə)lɪz(ə)m/ noun 1. the belief in the economic system based on the private ownership of money and property used to create profits. 2. the economic system, where money and property are owned privately and businesses are run for profit by their owners rather than by the state  
capitalist /ˈkept(ə)lɪst/ noun a person who owns money and property and uses them to make profits (sometimes disapproving).  
adjective based on capitalism as an economic system. Capitalist countries countries, mainly in the West, whose economies are run on capitalist principles  

the capitalistic systems all capitalist countries working together  
capitalistic /ˈkeptəˈlistɪk/ adjective similar to capitalism (disapproving)  
capital levy /ˈkept(ə)l ˈlevi/ noun a tax on the value of a person’s property and possessions  
capital transfer tax /ˈkept(ə)l ˈtɜrəfɜːrət ˈteks/ noun a tax paid when property or large sums of money are given by one person to another  

Capitol /ˈkept(ə)l ˈhɪl/ noun the building in Washington, D.C., where the US Senate and House of Representatives meet  

Capitol Hill /ˈkept(ə)l ˈhɪl/ noun a hill in Washington D.C., on which the Capitol building stands, together with other important government buildings  

on Capitol Hill, on the Hill in the US Senate or House of Representatives  

The feeling on Capitol Hill is that the President will veto the proposal.  

Captain of the Honourable Corps of Gentleman-at-Arms /ˌkeptən oʊ ˈdiˌmənətərɪəl ˈkɔrps əv ˈdʒentɪlˌmæn ət ˈærmz/ noun in the House of Lords, the Government Chief Whip.  

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury  
capture /ˈkeptʃər/ verb to take or get control of something  
The Opposition captured six seats in the general election.  
card vote /ˈkɑrd vɔrt/ noun a vote taken at meetings of the Trades Union Congress, where union representatives vote on behalf of the members of their union by holding up a card showing the number of members they are representing  
care order /ˈkɑr ər ər dər/ noun an order from a juvenile court, putting a child into the care of a local authority  
care proceedings /ˈkɑr ˈprɛndsɪŋz/ noun legal action to put a child into the care of someone  
caretaker /ˈkeɪteɪkər/ adjective temporarily responsible for a job or activity.
Agreed when the majority of people voting supported it.

The government has given him carte blanche to act on behalf of the government.

The agent was only carrying out or ried in a law court, investigated by the police or to be de-

The motion was carried.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The government won the vote.

He has carte blanche to act on behalf of the government or The government has given him carte blanche to act on its behalf.

The motion put forward a very strong case for repealing the statute.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.

The newspapers and television bulletins carried the story for a week.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government’s case is particularly weak.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.

The newspapers and television bulletins carried the story for a week.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government’s case is particularly weak.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.

The newspapers and television bulletins carried the story for a week.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government’s case is particularly weak.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.

The newspapers and television bulletins carried the story for a week.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government’s case is particularly weak.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.

The newspapers and television bulletins carried the story for a week.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government’s case is particularly weak.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.

The newspapers and television bulletins carried the story for a week.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government’s case is particularly weak.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.

The newspapers and television bulletins carried the story for a week.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government’s case is particularly weak.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.

The newspapers and television bulletins carried the story for a week.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government’s case is particularly weak.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.

The newspapers and television bulletins carried the story for a week.

There is a strong case against the accused.

The government’s case is particularly weak.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried.

The police carried out the raid with great speed.

His arguments were considered certain or true.

The government carried through reforms to the House of Lords.

The motion was carried a for-

The police carried the day.
casting vote

where social classes were formerly strictly divided

casting vote /ˈkæstɪŋ ˈvəʊt/ noun a vote used by the chairman in a case where the votes for and against a proposal are equal. ○ The chairman has a casting vote. ○ He used his casting vote to block the motion.

casual vacancy /ˈkæʒuəl ˈveɪkænsi/ noun a position on a committee which is empty and needs to be filled temporarily until the next full committee elections take place.

casus belli /ˈkɑːsʊs ˈbɛli/ Latin phrase meaning "case for war": a reason which is used to explain why a country has gone to war.

catch /kætʃ/ verb to catch the Speaker's eye (of an MP) to stand up to show the Speaker a wish to speak in a debate.

caucus /ˈkoʊkəs/ noun 1. a group of people in a political party, or a political assembly who meet to influence policy or choose a candidate. 2. US a meeting of powerful members of a political party particularly in the US Congress (NOTE: The plural is caucuses.)

caudillo noun (in Spanish-speaking countries) a military or political leader.

cause list /ˈkɔːz lɪst/ noun a list of cases which are to be heard by a court.

CBI abbreviation Confederation of British Industry.

censor /ˈsɛnsər/ noun 1. in some countries, an official whose job is to say whether books, films or television programmes are acceptable and can be published or shown to the public. ○ The film was cut or was banned or was passed by the censor. 2. in some countries, an official whose duty is to prevent the publishing of secret information or of information which may be harmful to the government. ○ All press reports have to be passed by the censor. ○ verb to perform the work of censors. ○ All press reports are censored by the government. ○ The news of the riots was censored. ○ The TV report has been censored and only parts of it can be shown.

censorship /ˈsɛnsərʃəp/ noun the act of censoring published or broadcast material. ○ TV reporters complained of government censorship. ○ The government has imposed strict press censorship or censorship of the press. (NOTE: no plural)

censure /ˈsɛnsər/ noun strong criticism ○ motion of censure, censure motion a proposal from the Opposition to pass a vote to criticise the government. ○ verb to criticise someone strongly. ○ The Opposition put forward a motion to censure the Government. ○ The Borough Architect was censured for failing to consult the engineers.

central bank /ˈsɛntrəl bæŋk/ noun the main government-controlled bank in a country, which sets interest rates and issues currency and tries to control the foreign exchange rate.

Central Committee /ˈsɛntrəl ˈkɒmɪtɪ/ noun in a Communist party, the group responsible for party policy.

central government /ˈsɛntrəl ˈɡʌvərnənt/ noun the system of administration which operates nationally and deals with matters affecting the whole country, as opposed to local or regional government, which deal
with matters which concern only some parts of the country

Central Intelligence Agency /ˈzentralaɪəns/ noun US the main government intelligence office in the USA. Abbr CIA (NOTE: The equivalent UK organisation are MI5 and MI6.)

centralisation /ˈsentrəlɪzəʃən/ noun a political movement which aims to move towards a situation by which as many government activities as possible take place in one place rather than in many places

centralise /ˈsentralaɪz/ verb to try to achieve control of something from one point rather than many points o The gathering of all personal records has been centralised in the headquarters of the Department of Health.

centralism /ˈsentrəlɪzəm/ noun a political system where decisions are taken by a central group of people

centre /ˈsentr/ noun 1. the position occupied by parties or people in the middle of the range of political ideas o The Liberal Democrats in the UK are often thought to be in the centre. (NOTE: The US spelling is center.) 2. an important town or an industrial town o the centre for the shoe industry (NOTE: The US spelling is center.) 3. an office (NOTE: The US spelling is center.)

Comment: The division of political parties and political ideas into left, right and centre dates from the French Revolution when deputies in the National Assembly sat on the left or right of the chamber according to their views. It was easiest to apply these labels when socialist (left) parties faced conservative (right) parties in the middle years of the twentieth century. Some commentators say the old divisions of left and right are less and less relevant in the modern world, but they continue to be used.

Central link /ˈsentrəlɪŋk/ noun an Australian government agency that offers to the public services such as advice on finding employment and eligibility for social security payments

centrism /ˈsentrɪzɪm/ noun support for moderate political or other views

centrist /ˈsentrɪst/ adjective referring to the centre in politics o The group advocates a return to centrism politics. 1 noun a person who is in favour of the centre in politics

ceremonial /sɪˈrəmənɪəl/ adjective referring to a ceremony o ceremonial robes o a ceremonial procession.

ceremony /ˈsɜrəmənɪ/ noun an official occasion, e.g. the State Opening of Parliament o The mayor presided at the ceremony to open the new council offices. o Special police were present at ceremonies to mark the National Day.

certificated /sɛrtɪfiˈkeɪtɪd/ adjective given official permission or approval

certificated bankrupt /səˈtɪfɪkatɪd/ noun some one who owed money and who has been given an official document to show that he or she is no longer bankrupt

cession /ˈseʃən/ noun the act of giving possession of a piece of land by one country to another o the cession of the Philippines to the USA in 1898

CG /sɪt/ abbreviation Consul General

CGBR abbreviation Central Government Borrowing Requirement

CGS abbreviation Chief of General Staff
lenged the government’s unemployment statistics. 2. to object to or refuse to accept something such as evidence. 2. to challenge a sentence passed by magistrates by appeal to the Crown Court. 3. to ask someone to do something difficult, which he or she may not be able to do. 3. She challenged the Prime Minister to a debate on television.

chamber /tʃeɪmbə/ noun 1. a room where a committee or legislature meets. 2. a part of a parliament where a group of representatives meet, or the representatives meeting there. In many parliaments there is a lower chamber and an upper chamber. 2. The British Parliament is formed of two chambers – the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Chamber of Commerce /tʃeɪmbər/ noun 1. a group of local businessmen who meet to discuss problems which they have in common, and to support business in the town. 2. an official organisation representing a country’s business interests in another country. 2. the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Britain. 2. the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain.

Chamber of Deputies /tʃeɪmbər/ noun the lower section of the legislature in many countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Paraguay, Spain.

Chamber of Representatives /tʃeɪmbər/ noun the legislature in Morocco.

champagne socialist /ʃæmpəni ˈsɔːfləlist/ noun someone who is rich but holds socialist principles.

Chanc. abbreviation 1. chancellor.

chancery /tʃænˈsərri/ noun 1. the position of chancellor. 2. an office attached to an embassy.
Chancellor /ˈtʃǽnsər(ə)/ noun same as Chancellor of the Exchequer a same as Lord Chancellor • noun 1. the head of the government in Austria or Germany 2. the main secretary of an embassy

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster /ˈtʃǽnsələr əv dætˈfiː/ noun a title given to a member of the British government with no specific responsibilities attached to it

Chancellor of the Exchequer /ˈtʃǽnsəˌkər/ noun the leading finance minister in the British government

chancery /ˈtʃǽnsəri/ noun an office attached to an embassy or consulate, especially the political section (NOTE: The US term is chancellery.)

change of use /ˈtʃeɪndʒ əv ˈjuːs/ noun an order allowing a property to be used in a different way, e.g. allowing a shop to be used as a factory

channel /ˈtʃeɪn(ə)/ noun a way in which information or goods are passed from one place to another. • usual channels • to go through the official channels to deal with government officials, especially when making a request • to open up new channels of communication to find new ways of communicating with someone

chaplain /ˈtʃeɪplən/ noun a priest employed by someone or attached to a group (NOTE: The Speaker’s Chaplain says prayers at the beginning of each day’s business in the House of Commons.)

charge /ˈtʃaɪdʒ/ noun 1. the cost which must be paid for something • to charter a plane • to charter a boat or a company, and giving it the special quality which makes a leader popular • The old leader has been replaced by a charismatic young politician from the north of the country.

Charter of Rights /ˈtʃaɪtə(r) əv ˈrʌts/ noun the section of the Canadian Constitution which states the rights of people who have Canadian citizenship

Charism /ˈtʃaɪzəm/ noun the beliefs of a movement advocating political and social reform in England between 1838 and 1848. Among its aims were: improvements in the education and living conditions of the working classes, payment for Members of Parliament, the right to vote for adult males, electoral districts of equal
chauvinism

size and influence, and voting by ballot.

chauvinism /ˌsoʊvəˈnɪzm(ə)l/ noun an excessive feeling of pride in one’s country or gender (used as criticism)
○ The President was accused of male chauvinism

chauvinist /ˌsoʊvəˈnɪstl/ noun a person who is excessively proud of his or her country or gender. Compare patriot
check /tʃekl noun to examine carefully
checking /tʃekɪŋ/ noun a careful examination ○ The inspectors found some defects during their checking of the building.

Cheney /ˈtʃeɪnɪ/, Dick (b. 1941) vice president of the United States (2001–)
Chequers /tʃekərz/ noun the official country house of the British Prime Minister

Chief /tʃiːfl/ noun a traditional tribal leader
Chief Constable /tʃiːf kənˈstæbl/ noun the person in charge of a regional police force
Chief Executive /tʃiːf ˈzekjətʃər/ noun the president of the United States
Chief Executive /tʃiːf ˈzɛkjətʃər/ noun the highest-ranking permanent official of an executive body, e.g. the head of a government, the governor of a US state, or the head of a local authority

Chief Justice /tʃiːf ˈdʒʌstɪs/ noun US the senior judge in a court

Chief Minister /tʃiːf ˈmɪnɪstə/ noun the head of government in a federal region such as an Indian state
Chief Officer /tʃiːf ˈɒffɪsə/ noun a person who is head of a department in a local authority, responsible to the Chief Executive

COMMENT: A local authority will have several Chief Officers: Chief Education Officer, Chief Housing Officer, Chief Planning Officer, and so on; all of whom are responsible to the Chief Executive. In some authorities they are called Director: Director of Education, Director of Finance, etc.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury /ˌtʃɪf ˌsekrəˈtrɪ tiː ə ˈtroʊlz(ə)/ noun a British government minister, working under the Chancellor of the Exchequer, dealing especially with financial planning

Chief Whip /tʃiːf ˈwɪpl noun the main whip of a party, whose job it is to make sure that MPs of that party vote according to the party’s policy ○ The Government Chief Whip made sure the MPs were all present for the vote.
○ Government Chief Whip (NOTE: Traditionally, Chief Whips do not speak in debates.)

Chiltern Hundreds /ˌtʃɪltə ˈhʌndrədz/ noun a former administrative division of the country west of London, in Buckinghamshire. ○ to apply for the Chiltern Hundreds to apply to resign from Parliament (informal)

COMMENT: As MPs are not allowed to resign from Parliament, the only way in which they can do so is to apply for a paid office or office of profit under the crown, such as this one or the Stewardship of the Manor of Northstede.


Christian Democrat /ˈkrɪstɪ ˈdɛmæktrækl noun in several European countries, a member of a moderate conservative political party

Churchill /ˈtʃɜːlzfl/, Sir Winston (1874–1965) prime minister (1940–45, 1951–55) of Britain during World War II. He wrote The Second World War (1948–53) and won the Nobel Prize in literature in 1953.

churchillian /ˈtʃɜːlɪən/ adjective a form of strong political leadership or a style of inspiring public speaking similar to that of Winston Churchill who was UK Prime Minister during the Second World War

CIA /sɪər ˈɛər/ abbreviation Central Intelligence Agency
circular /'sə:kjʊlər/ noun a leaflet or letter sent to many people
circularise /'sə:kjʊləraɪz/, circularize verb to send a circular to many people at the same time: The committee has agreed to circularise the information in advance.
circulate /'sə:kjʊleɪt/ verb to send something to a number of people: They circulated the proposals in a letter signed by the chairwoman.
circulation /'sə:kjʊleɪʃn/ noun 1. movement around something: The company is trying to improve the circulation of information between departments. 2. the passing of money from one person to another: (of newspapers) the number of copies sold.
circumstances /'sə:kəmstənsiz/ plural noun the situation as it is when something happens: The Home Secretary described the circumstances leading to the riot in the prison.
CIS /sɪətʃən/ abbr abbreviation Commonwealth of Independent States.
citation /sɪ'teɪʃn/ noun 1. a quotation from a text. 2. an official request asking someone to appear in court (NOTE: used mainly in the Scottish and US courts). 3. a reference to a legal case or authority or precedent.
citation clause /sɪ'teɪʃn klaʊs/ noun the section in a Bill which gives the short title by which it should be known when it becomes an Act.
cite /sɪt/ verb to refer to something as an example: The letter cited several previous cases of failure to act.
citizen /'sɪtɪzn/ noun 1. a person who lives in a city or a particular place: the citizens of Manchester. 2. a person who has the legal right to live in a particular country: He is a French citizen by birth.
Citizens' Advice Bureau /'sɪtɪznz əd'veɪs, ˈbɒdʒərəʊ/ noun an office where people can go to get free advice on legal problems. Abbr CAB (NOTE: The plural is Citizens' Advice Bureaux.)
citizen's arrest /'sɪtɪznzə'rest/ noun the arrest of a suspected criminal by an ordinary citizen, not a policeman.
Citizens' Charter /'sɪtɪznz ˈkɑːtʃər/ noun a document which states what rights a citizen has.
citizenship /'sɪtɪzn∫ɪp/ noun 1. the legal status of being a citizen of a country, entitled to its protection and to political rights. 2. the way people take part in the life of their community as they discuss their rights and carry out their responsibilities (NOTE: In the UK, citizenship is now a part of the curriculum in schools.).
city /'sɪti/ noun a large town.
civic /'sɪvɪk/ adjective referring to a city or the official business of running a city: civic dignitaries the mayor and other senior officials of a city or town. civic reception an official reception for someone, organised by the mayor and council of a city.
civic centre /'sɪvɪk ˈsɛntə/ noun the building in a town or city where its local government is based.
civil /'sɪv(ə)l/ adjective referring to the rights and duties of citizens.
Civil and Public Services Association /'sɪv(ə)l ən ˈpʌblɪk ˈsɛvɪsɪz ə,ˈsɒsiətɪʃn/ noun a trade union representing civil servants. It was merged with the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union in 1996 to become (PCS). Abbr CPSA.
civil defence /'sɪv(ə)l dɪˈfens/ noun the procedure for protecting the population during a war or emergency.
civil disobedience /'sɪv(ə)l ˈdɪsəˌbɪdɪns/ noun the activity of breaking the law as an act of protest: The group planned a campaign of civil disobedience as a protest against restrictions on immigrants.
Civil Guard /'sɪv(ə)l ɡɔːd/ noun one of the police forces in Spain.
civilian /'sɪvɪliən/ adjective referring to an ordinary citizen, who is not...
civilisation - noun a member of the armed forces, a civil servant, or a member of the Royal Family. The Queen and some senior members receive an annual sum of money for carrying out religious ceremony, and privately employed. In USA, a large part of the civil service is traditionally said to be politically neutral, anonymous, and permanently employed. In USA, a large part of the civil service changes with a change in the administration.

Civil List - noun the annual sum of money for carrying out official duties, given by Parliament to the Queen and some senior members of the Royal Family.

Civil marriage - noun a legal marriage without a religious ceremony.

Civil rights - noun the rights of each individual according to the law.

Civil servant - noun a person who works in the government departments which administer a country. In Britain, the Royal Family is traditionally said to be politically neutral, anonymous, and permanently employed. In USA, a large part of the civil service changes with a change in the administration.

Civil service - noun the government departments which administer a country. You have to pass an examination to get a job in the civil service or to get a civil service job. (Note: Members of the armed forces, magistrates, and judges are not part of the British civil service.)

Civil law - noun the laws relating to people's rights and the agreements made between individuals. Compare criminal law.

Civil marriage - noun a legal marriage without a religious ceremony.

Civil rights - noun the rights of each individual according to the law.
cial workers and junior managers;
Class C2: skilled manual workers;
Class C3: semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers; Class E: pensioners, casual workers, long-term unemployed.

class action /klæs ˈækʃən/, class suit /klæs ˈsət/ noun US a legal action brought on behalf of a group of people

class alignment /klæs ə ˈlaɪnmənt/ noun the connection between a class of people and a particular political party (NOTE: In Great Britain, the class alignment between the Labour Party and the working class is in decline as is the class alignment between the Conservative Party and the middle class.)
class-conscious /klæs ˈklaʊnʃəs/ adjective aware of differences of social class
class dealignment /klæs də ˈlaɪnmənt/ noun the way in which in recent years social class has indicated less clearly how people will vote
classification /klæsɪˈfɪkʃn/ noun 1. a way of putting things into classes 2. the process of making information secret
classified information /kləˈsɪsfaiəd, ˌɪnfəˈmesjən/ noun information which is secret and can be told only to specific people
classify /kləˈsɪfai/ verb 1. to put into groups of similar things 2. to make information secret
classless /klæsˈles/ adjective a society which has no class divisions
Over the last twenty years the country has moved towards a classless society.
class struggle /klæs ˈstræɡ/ noun the Marxist concept of the ruling and working classes competing to achieve political and economic power
class war /klæs ˈwɔr/, class strife noun confrontation between different social classes
clause /kləʊz/ noun 1. a section of a contract or of the constitution of a country or political party 2. There are ten clauses in the contract. 2. a part of a Bill being considered by Parliament, which becomes a section of an Act

According to clause six, some categories of business will be exempted from tax.

Clause IV /kləʊz ˈfɔːv/ noun a part in the constitution of the British Labour Party which before 1995 committed the party to support nationalisation, and which after 1995 committed the party to a broader series of aims, but which included no support for nationalisation (NOTE: Tony Blair’s first major step as leader of the Labour Party was to change Clause IV, which had first been adopted by the party in 1918. The reform of Clause IV marked an important stage in the development of what is called ‘New Labour’.)

claw back /klɔ: ˈbeɪk/ verb to take back money which has been allocated
Income tax claws back 25% of pensions paid out by the government.
clawback /klɔ:ˈbeɪk/ noun money taken back
clean bill /ˈkliən bɪl/ noun US a bill made up of the original text, with amendments made during Committee, which is presented to the House of Representatives or Senate again as one whole new bill, so as to avoid having to discuss each amendment separately
clerk /klərk/ noun an official who keeps records of a legislative or administrative body or accounts clerk or sales clerk or wages clerk
clerk assistant /klərk əˈsɪstənt/ noun the assistant to the Clerk of the House in the House of Commons

Clerk of the House /ˈklərk əv də ˈhauz/ noun 1. US the head of the administrative staff which runs the House of Representatives, 2. the head of the administrative staff which runs the House of Commons and advises the Speaker on points of procedure

Clerk of the Parliaments /ˈklərk əv də ˈpærliəmənts/ noun the head of the administrative staff in the House of Lords

client country /ˈklaɪənt ˈkæntri/, client state /ˈklaɪənt stɛt/ noun a
client state

country which depends on another country for such things as defence and trade

client state /ˈklaʊənt stɛt/ noun a country that depends on another for economic, political, or military support

Clinton /ˈklaɪntən/, Bill (b. 1946) 42nd president of the United States (1993-2001). Before his election to the White House he was Democratic governor of Arkansas (1978-80, 1982-92). In 1999 he was impeached and acquitted by the US Senate for perjury and obstruction of justice.

Cllr abbreviation Councillor

close /kləʊz/ noun the end. At the close of the debate, the government's majority was only six.

closed /kləʊzd/ adjective 1. shut or not open or not doing business The office is closed on Mondays. 2. All the banks are closed on the National Day. 2. restricted to a few people

closed rule /ˌkləʊzd ˈruːl/ noun the rule which limits the time available for the discussion of a bill. Also called gag rule

closed session /ˌkləʊzd ˈsɛʃ(ə)n/ noun a meeting which is not open to the public or to journalists The town council met in closed session to discuss staff problems in the Education Department. 2. The public gallery was cleared when the meeting went into closed session.

close-run /ˈkləʊz ˈtəʊn/ adjective winning by only a few points more than an opponent A close-run election is expected.

closing speeches /ˈkləʊzɪŋ ˈspiːtʃəz/ plural noun the final speeches for and against a motion in a debate

closure /ˈkləʊʒər 1. the act of closing. 2. (in the House of Commons) the ending of the debate

closure motion /ˈkləʊʒər ˈməʊʃ(ə)n/ noun a proposal to end a debate

Cmnt: When wishing to end the debate on a motion, an MP says 'I move that the question be now put' and the Speaker immediately puts the motion to the vote.

closure /ˈkləʊʒər 1. noun US a motion to end a filibuster in the Senate, and thus prevent a measure being defeated, requiring a three-fifths majority to pass

CMEA abbreviation Council for Mutual Economic Assistance

Cmnd abbreviation Command Papers

CND abbreviation Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

CO abbreviation Commonwealth Office

coalition /ˌkɔləˈʃən/ noun a group of two or more political parties who come together to form a government, when no single party has an absolute majority. The coalition government fell when one of the parties withdrew support.

'...the question of a coalition has arisen because all three parties are within seven points of each other in the polls and the chances are high that the next election will not give any party a majority' [Toronto Globe & Mail]

'England does not love coalitions' [Benjamin Disraeli]

Coalition /ˌkɔləˈʃən/ noun in Australia, a long-standing political coalition between the Liberal Party and the National Party

coalition government /ˌkɔləˈʃən ˈɡəvə(ə)nmənt/ a government in which no party has complete control and two or more parties agree to govern together (NOTE: During World War II, all three major parties in the United Kingdom, Conservative, Labour and Liberal, formed a government together.)

code /kəʊd/ noun 1. an official set of laws or regulations. 2. a set of laws of a country. 3. a set of semi-official rules. 4. a system of signs, numbers, or letters which mean something. a message in code

write something using secret symbols or signs. coded instructions

 broader
new aircraft.

invoices and case law relating to an issue, to act of bringing together of all statutes around 1946 to 1989 and their respective allies, from hostile relations between the former and their organisational way set out things such as laws or rules in a country

an enemy who is occupying his or her country may represent different parties.

The President and Parliament are elected for different periods of time and so may represent different parties.

collaborate /kəˈlæbərət/ verb 1. to work together o We are collaborating with a French firm on building a bridge. o They collaborated on the new aircraft. 2. to work together with an enemy who is occupying your country

collaboration /kəˈlæbərəʃən/ noun 1. working together o Their collaboration on the development of the computer system was very profitable. 2. the act of helping an enemy

collaborator /kəˈlæbərətər/ noun 1. a person who works with another o The head of the research department thanked all her collaborators for their help. 2. a person who works with an enemy who is occupying his or her country o After the war, several people were executed as collaborators.

collective /kəˈlektaɪv/ noun a business such as a farm or factory under state control which is run by the people who work in it

collective leadership /kəˌlektaɪv ˈlɪdərəʃən/ noun a system of government where several leaders rule the country together, making decisions as a group, without one being in total charge

collective responsibility /kəˌlektaɪv ˈrɪspənsəbɪləti/ noun the principle that all members of a group are responsible together for the actions of the group (NOTE: In the UK the Cabinet and all ministers are said to be governed by the principle of collective responsibility)

collective security /kəˌlektaɪv sɪ kjuərəti/ noun a system by which a number of states agree to protect each other from attack o The United Nations was set up after the Second World War to create the conditions of collective security which the League of Nations had failed in the period before the war to establish.

collectivism /kəˈlektaɪvɪz(ə)m/ noun a political and economic theory based on the desire to protect individuals from exploitation by creating a belief in the value of community action

collectivity /ˌkəlekˈtɪvɪtɪ/ a community ■ noun a group of people

collegial /kəˈliːdʒiəl/ adjective relating to control or government based on a number of people working together as a team, rather than by a sin-

Code Napoleon /ˌkɔd nəˈpɔlɔː/ noun the civil laws of France introduced by Napoleon
code of conduct /ˌkɔd əvˈkɒndəkt/ noun the unwritten rules by which a particular group of people are expected to behave

Code of Conduct for Ministers /ˌkɔd əvˈkɒndəkt fəˈmɪnɪstəz/ noun a document authorised by the Prime Minister and first made public in 1992 in which the powers and responsibilities of government ministers are defined
code of practice /ˌkɔd əvˈpræktɪs/ noun the set of rules by which the members of a profession agree to work
codification /ˌkɔdɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ noun 1. the act of putting all laws together into a single document 2. the act of bringing together of all statutes and case law relating to an issue, to make a single Act of Parliament. o consolidation
codify /ˈkɔdɪfai/ verb to write and set out things such as laws or rules in an organised way
coding /ˈkɔdɪŋ/ noun the act of putting a system of signs, numbers or letters on something o the coding of invoices

cohabitation /ˌkɔˌhæbtəˈteɪʃən/ noun the situation where different political parties are in power in different branches of government. In France, the President and Parliament are elected for different periods of time and so may represent different parties.
cold war /ˌkɔld ˈwɔr/ noun the hostile relations between the former Soviet Union and the United States, and their respective allies, from around 1946 to 1989
collegiate /ˈkɔlɪdʒiət/ adjective sharing responsibilities as a group. collegiate decisions decisions taken by a group of people collectively

colloquium /ˈkɑləkwɪəm/ noun a meeting for discussion

collusive action /ˈkɔləsɪv ˈekəʃən/ noun action taken in secret agreement with another person, which is often dishonest or open to criticism

colonial /ˈkɑlənɪəl/ adjective referring to countries ruled over or settled by other countries. Granting of independence ended a period of a hundred years of colonial rule. The colonial government was overthrown by a coup led by the local police force. colonial powers countries which rule colonies. colonial dependency /ˈkɔlənɪəl ˈdɛpənʤəsi/ noun a country ruled by another country

colonialism /ˈkɔlənɪəlɪzəm/ noun the theory or practice of establishing colonies in other lands. colonialism and demands independence.

colonialist /ˈkɔlənɪəlist/ adjective believing in colonialism. colonial status /ˈkɔlənɪəl ˈstætəs/ noun the legal position of being a colony

colonisation /ˌkələnəˈzeɪʃən/, colonization noun the act of making a country into a colony

colonise /ˌkələnəzaɪ/, colonize verb to take possession of an area or country and rule it as a colony. The government was accused of trying to colonise the Antarctic Region.

colonist /ˌkələnɪst/ noun a person who goes or is sent to another country or region to settle in a colony

colony /ˈkɔləni/ noun 1. a country or area ruled and/or settled by another country. 2. a group of people from the same foreign country, settled in a town, who form a separate social group. 3. the Japanese colony in Vancouver. 4. There is a large German colony in London.

comity /ˈkəmətɪ, ˈkɒmətɪ/ comity of nations noun the respect shown in one country for the laws and customs of another

command /ˈkɑmənd/ noun 1. an order. 2. leadership. The committee has commanded the Chief of Police to arrest the Members of Parliament. The chairman commanded that the public gallery should be cleared. The measure commands widespread support in the House. Can the Minister command enough support to win the vote?

commander /ˈkɑməndər/ noun the officer in charge of a police district in London. Command Papers /ˈkɑmənd ˈpəpəz/ plural noun papers such as White Papers or reports of Royal Commissions which are presented to Parliament by the responsible government minister, so called because they are printed ‘by Command of Her Majesty’ (NOTE: Command Papers are numbered Cmd 4546, etc.)

commence /kɑˈmɛns/ verb to begin. In the House of Commons, the business of the day commences with prayers. The proceedings commenced with the swearing-in of witnesses. The committee has commenced the examination of the Bill, clause by clause.

commencement order /ˈkɑmən(ə)nt/ noun an order that brings an Act or part of an Act into effect after the Royal Assent has been given.
comment /ˈkɒment/ noun a remark or spoken or written opinion ○ The Secretary of State made a comment on the progress of negotiations. ○ The newspaper has some short comments about the Bill. ■ verb to remark or to express an opinion ○ The Speaker commented on the lack of respect shown by MPs. ○ The newspapers commented on the result of the vote.

commentary /ˈkɒmentəri/ noun
1. a set of notes which comment on the main points of a document 2. a book which comments on the law

commentator /ˈkɒmentətər/ noun a journalist who comments on current events ○ a report by the political commentator in ‘The Times’ on unrest on the Government back benches

commerce /ˈkɒmɜːs/ noun business activities or the buying and selling of goods and services. ○ Chamber of Commerce

commercial /ˈkɒmɜːʃ(ə)l/ adjective 1. referring to business 2. intended to make money

commercial attaché /ˈkɒmɜːʃ(ə)l əˈtætʃ/ noun a diplomat whose job is to encourage business between his country and the country where he works

commercial law /ˈkɒmɜːʃ(ə)l ˈlɔːr/ noun law relating to businesses

commission /ˈkɒmɪʃ(ə)n/ noun
1. a group of people officially appointed to examine a problem ○ The government has appointed a commission of inquiry to look into the problems of prison overcrowding. ○ He is the chairman of the government commission on football violence. 2. an official order to someone, giving him or her authority and explaining the duties ○ he has a commission in the armed forces he is an officer in the armed forces 3. a payment made by someone to another person who is acting as their agent ○ She has an agent’s commission of 15% of sales.

commissioner /ˈkɒmɪʃ(ə)mər/ noun 1. a member of an official group which has been appointed to examine a problem 2. a person who has a particular official job ○ Parliamentary Commissioner, Local Commissioner 3. a member of the European Commission

commissioner for oaths /ˈkɒmɪʃ(ə)mər fər ˈɔːths/ noun a lawyer who has the job of administering oaths

Commissioners of Inland Revenue /ˈkɒmɪʃ(ə)mərz əv ˈɪnlænd ˈrɪvənjuː/ noun the Board of Inland Revenue

Commission for Equality and Human Rights /ˈkɒmɪʃ(ə)mərz əv ˈɪnland ˈrɪvənjuː ˈhjuːmən ˈraɪts/ the organisation to be set up in 2006 to support human rights especially for minority groups and women. Abbr CEHR

Commission for Racial Equality /ˈkɒmɪʃ(ə)mərz əv ˈræʃ(ə)l ˈeq(ə)lɪn/ the organisation which works to improve race relations in the UK and to remove racial discrimination. Abbr CRE (Note: In 2006 the Commission for Racial Equality will be merged with other bodies to form the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.)

commit /ˈkɒmɪt/ verb to send a bill to a parliamentary committee to be reviewed ○ He was committed for trial at the Crown Court.

commitment /ˈkɒmɪtmənt/ noun a promise or agreement to do something ○ We have honoured the commitments made in our manifesto.

commitology /ˈkɒmɪtɒlədʒi/ noun in the European Union, the system of appointing committees to deal with various areas of action

committed /ˈkɒmɪtɪd/ adjective 1. holding strong political views ○ She is a committed socialist. 2. already promised to be used in a specific way ○ Half next year’s budget is already committed. ○ The government’s subsidy has been committed to repairs to the Town Hall. 3. obliged to act in a particular way ○ The council is committed to a policy of increasing services and reducing property taxes.
**committee** /kaˈmɪti/* noun* 1. an official group of people who organise or plan for a larger group ♦ to be a member of a committee or to sit on a committee ♦ He was elected to the Finance Committee. ♦ The new plans have to be approved by the committee members. ♦ She is attending a committee meeting. ♦ He is the chairman of the Planning Committee. ♦ She is the secretary of the Housing Committee. ♦ Select Committee ♦ to chair a committee to be the chairman of a committee 2. Committee a section of a legislature which considers bills passed to it by the main chamber ♦ the House went into Committee the House of Commons became a Committee of the Whole House **committee meeting** /kaˈmɪti ˈmɪtɪŋ/ *noun* a meeting of the members of a committee **Committee of Permanent Representatives** /kəˈmɪtɪ əv pərˈmenənt ˌrepəˈzentətɪv/* noun* in the European Union, the institution which prepares for meetings of the Council of Ministers and passes information between member governments and the Council of Ministers. Abbr COREPER **Committee of Selection** /kəˈmɪti əv ˈsɛləkʃən/* noun* the committee which chooses the members of the other committees in the House of Commons **Committee of the Parliamentary Commission** /kəˈmɪtɪ əv də ˈpærliˌment(ə)rəˈkəˌmɪtɪ əv/* noun* the committee which examines reports by the Ombudsman **Committee of the Regions** /kəˈmɪtɪ əv də ˈrɛidʒənz/* noun* in the European Union, the body which brings together representatives of regional and local authorities from all over the Union **Committee of the Whole** /kəˈmɪtɪ əv də ˈhəul/* noun* the committee formed of at least one hundred members of the House of Representatives in the USA, which discusses a bill which has already been debated in a Standing Committee **Committee of the Whole House** /kəˈmɪtɪ əv də ˈhəul/ *noun* the House of Commons acting as a committee to examine the clauses of a Bill **Committee on Standards and Privileges** *noun* the committee of the House of Commons that makes sure that MPs follow the rules of conduct that are designed to stop them making wrong use of the power of their position **Committee on Standards in Public Life** *noun* a committee of the House of Commons set up to review the activities of holders of public office, including paid activities outside parliament, and to recommend any changes in practice that are necessary to make sure of high standards. Also called Nolan Committee **Committee Stage** /kəˈmɪtɪ steɪdʒ/* noun* one of the stages in the discussion of a Bill, where each clause is examined in detail ♦ The Bill is at Committee Stage and will not become law for several months. **common** /ˈkɒmən/* adjective* referring to or belonging to several different people or to everyone ♦ the common good the interest of all members of society ♦ the government is working for the common good of the people ♦ common ownership ownership of a company or a property by a group of people who each own a part **commonalty** /ˈkɒmənələti/* noun* the class of ordinary people considered as a political class, as compared with the upper classes **commoner** /ˈkɒmənər/* noun* an ordinary citizen, who is not a member of a noble family **common law** /ˈkɒmən ˈlɔ/ *noun* 1. law made by decisions of the courts, rather than by act of parliament ♦ the general system of laws which in the past were the only laws existing in England, and which in some cases
have been replaced by acts of parliament.

**common-law** /'kəmən lɔ/ adjective according to an old system of laws

- common-law marriage a situation where two people live together as husband and wife without being married
- common-law wife a woman who is living with a man as his wife, although they have not been legally married

**common market** /'kəmən 'mɑrkɪt/ noun an economic association of countries with the aim of removing or reducing trade barriers

**Common Market** /'kəmən 'mɑrkɪt/ noun formerly, the European Economic Community, now the European Union

**commons** /'kəmənz/ noun ordinary people as compared with the upper classes

**Commons** /'kəmənz/ plural noun same as House of Commons

- The Commons voted against the Bill. ○ The majority of the Commons are in favour of law reform. ○ He was first elected to the Commons in 1979. ○ The Bill was passed after an all-night Commons sitting.

**Commonwealth** /'kəmənwelθ/ noun

1. the association of independent states which were once ruled by Britain
2. a self-governing state, usually with a republican system of government (used in titles) ○ the Commonwealth of Australia ○ the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
3. the period between 1649 and 1660 when there was a republican government in England and Cromwell ruled as Lord Protector

**Commonwealth of Independent States** /'kəmənwelθ əʊdɪn'pend ənt stɛts/ noun an organisation formed of the majority of the republics which were in the past part of the USSR. Abbr CIS

**Commonwealth Secretariat** /'kəmənwelθ ˈsekrətəriət/ noun an office and officials in London, organising the links between the member states of the Commonwealth. The office is headed by the Commonwealth Secretary-General.

**communal** /'kəmən(j)uːl/ adjective shared by all the members of a group or community

- The offices share a communal kitchen. ○ Tenants have the right to use the communal gardens.

**commune** /'kəmjuːn/ noun

1. a group of people who live and work together, and share their possessions
2. a small administrative area in some countries such as Switzerland or France, usually with its own mayor and council

**communicate** /'kəʊmjuːnikət/ verb to pass information to someone ○ The news was communicated to the press by the Prime Minister’s Press Secretary. ○ The members of the jury must not communicate with the witnesses.

**communication** /'kəʊmjuːnikeɪʃən/ noun 1. the passing of information ○ to enter into communication with someone to start discussing something with someone, usually in writing ○ We have entered into communication with the relevant government department. 2. an official message ○ We have had a communication from the local tax inspector. ○ plural noun communications the methods of passing information and of transport ○ good road and rail communications ○ electronic communications systems

**communiqué** /ˈkəʊmjuːnɪkə/ noun an official announcement ○ In a communiqué from the Presidential Palace, the government announced that the President would be going on a world tour.

**Communism** /'kəmjuːnɪzəm/ noun

1. a social system in which all property is owned and shared by society as a whole, with none belonging to individual citizens
2. the political and economic system in countries governed by Communist parties

**Communist** /'kəmjuːnist/ adjective practising Communism; referring
communitarianism /ˈkɒmjuːtəriənərɪən/ noun the political theory that emphasises the need for strong neighbourhoods and social institutions to provide support to families and individuals

community /ˈkəmjuːnəti/ noun 1. a group of people living or working in the same place. 2. the European Community, now replaced by the European Union. Community ministers the ministers of Member States of the European Union

community association /ˈkəmjuːnəti əˈsəʊsiəʃən/ noun an organisation in which people from a local area meet socially and to discuss local matters

community charge /ˈkəmjuːnəti tʃɑːdʒ/ noun a local tax paid by each adult person. poll tax (note: This unpopular tax introduced by the government in 1989 was replaced in 1993 by the council tax. The introduction of the tax contributed to the fall of Mrs Thatcher as Prime Minister.)

community council /ˈkəmjuːnəti ˈkjʊnsəl/ noun a body set up to represent people in a small area

community home /ˈkəmjuːnəti həʊm/ noun a house which belongs to a local authority, where children in care can be kept

Community legislation /ˈkəmjuːnəti ˈleɡəsiən/ noun the laws made by the European Union (note: There are two main types of European laws: directives and regulations)

community policing /ˈkəmjuːnəti ˈpɔːlɪstɪŋ/ noun a way in which the police can work by consulting the people who live in an area and trying to be sensitive to their particular needs and concerns

community politics /ˈkəmjuːnəti ˈpɒlɪtɪks/ noun the work of politicians in a community who deal with individual problems at local government level and try to encourage as much local participation as possible. The party is strong in community politics.

community service order /ˈkəmjuːnəti ˈsɜːvɪs ˈɔːdər/ noun a punishment which involves doing unpaid work in the local community

Companies Act /ˈkɒmpəni ˈækt/ noun an Act of the British parliament which states the legal limits within which a company may do business

company /ˈkɒmpəni/ noun 1. the organisation which runs a business. 2. in the company of being with. He was often seen in the company of the Prime Minister.

company law /ˈkɒmpəni ˈlɔː/ noun the laws relating to the way business organisations may work

compatriot /ˈkɒmpətriət/ noun a person from the same country

compensatory /ˌkɒmplənˈtəri/ adjective providing somebody or a group with payment to help remove the pain or offence caused by some wrong action done to them

competence /ˈkɒmpəntns/ noun being able to do a job. Candidates will be asked to show competence in handling computers.

competent /ˈkɒmpənt nt/ adjective 1. able to do a job. She is a competent manager. 2. legally able to do something

complainant /ˈkɒmplɪnənt/ noun a person who makes a complaint or who starts a legal action against someone

complaint /ˈkɒmplənt/ adjective agreeing with something. Not compliant with. The settlement is not compliant with the earlier order of the court.

comply /ˈkɒmpli/ verb to comply with to obey a rule or law or do what someone asks. The government has
decided it will comply with the requirements of the European Commission. She refused to comply with the social worker’s instructions.

**composite** /ˈkɒmpəzət/ verb to group together similar proposals from different local branches of an organisation such as a political party or a trade union so that they can be considered in a single discussion at a conference.

**comprise** /ˌkɒmp्रəmaɪz/ noun an agreement between two sides, where each side gives way a little in order to agree.

**compromise** /ˌkɒmprəmɪz/ noun an agreement between two sides, where each side gives way a little in order to agree. After some discussion a compromise solution was reached.

**compromise** /ˌkɒmprəmɪz/ verb 1. to reach an agreement by giving way a little, 2. to involve someone in something which damages his or her reputation.

...these activists are used to making compromises with their political opponents. [New Statesman]

**comptroller** /ˈkɒmptrələ/ noun a person in charge of accounts

**Comptroller and Auditor-General** /ˈkɒmptrələ əˈdʒʊdɪtər ˈɡɛnərəl/ noun the official in charge of the National Audit Office, whose duty is to examine the accounts of government departments, and to advise the Public Accounts Committee.

**compulsory** /ˈkɒmpələri/ adjective forced or ordered, obligatory for everyone.

**compulsory purchase** /ˌkɒmpələri ˈpɜːʃəs/ noun the buying of a property by the local council or the government even if the owner does not want to sell

**compulsory purchase order** /ˌkɒmpələri ˈpɜːʃəs ˈɔːdər/ noun an official order from a local authority or from the government ordering an owner to sell his or her property to them. Abbr CPO

**concede** /kənˈsiːd/ verb to admit that someone is right, or to reach an agreement by giving way a little, 1. after some discussion a compromise solution was reached.

The minister was forced or ordered, obligatory for everyone.

After some discussion a compromise solution was reached. After two recounts the sitting MP had to concede defeat.

**concession** /kənˈʃeʃən/ noun 1. an agreement that someone is right, or an agreement to give something which someone wants. The government will make no concessions to terrorists.

As a concession to the Opposition, the council leader agreed to hold an emergency meeting.

The employers have made several concessions in the new wages deal.

**concession speech** /kənˈʃeʃən spiːtʃ/ noun a speech made by the person who has lost an election, admitting that he or she has lost.

**conciliate** /kənˈsɪliət/ verb to work with opposing groups to bring them to an agreement, e.g. in an industrial dispute.

**conciliation** /kənˌsɪliəˈʃən/ noun the process of bringing together the parties in a dispute so that the dispute can be settled.

**concord** /ˈkɒŋkɔːd/ noun a peace treaty.

**concordat** /kənˈkɔːdət/ noun an agreement between the Roman Catholic Church and a government, which allows the Roman Catholic Church special rights.

**concurrent** /ˌkɒnˈkərənt/ noun taking place at the same time.

**concurrent resolution** /ˌkɒnˈkərənt ˌrezaˈluːʃən/ noun a motion which shows how the House of Representatives feels about a problem.
condominium /ˈkɒndəˈmiːniəm/ noun 1. the rule of a colony or protected territory by two or more countries together 2. US a system of ownership, where a person owns a flat in a building, together with a share of the land and common parts such as the stairs or roof

Confederacy /ˈkɔnfədərəsɪ/ noun the group of eleven Southern states which seceded from the Union and fought the North in the American Civil War (1861–65)

confederate /ˈkɔnfədərət/ adjective relating to a confederation

Confederate /ˈkɔnfədərət/ adjective referring to the Southern states in the American Civil War. the Confederate Army. the Confederate headquarters. the Confederate States. a supporter of the Confederacy in the American Civil War

confederation /ˈkɔnfəˌfɛdəræʃən/, confederacy /ˈkɔnfəˌfɛdərəsi/ noun a group of independent states or organisations working together for common aims. a loose confederation of states in the area (note: A confederation (as in Switzerland) is a less centralised form of government than a federation (as in Canada.).)

Confédération Helvétique noun the official French name for Switzerland

Confederation of British Industry /ˈkɔnfəˌfɛdəræʃən əv ˈbreɪtɪʃ ˈɪndəstri/ noun the organisation representing employers in the UK. Abbr CBI

confer /ˈkɔnfər/ verb 1. to give power or responsibility to someone. the discretionary powers conferred on the tribunal by statute 2. to discuss. The Leader of the Council conferred with the Town Clerk.

conference /ˈkɔnfrəns/ noun 1. a meeting of a group of people to discuss something. The Police Federa-
tion is holding its annual conference this week. The Labour Party Annual Conference was held in Brighton this year. She presented a motion to the conference. The conference passed a motion in favour of extending nursery education. US a meeting between representatives of the Senate and House of Representatives to discuss differences of opinion over a bill

confidence vote /ˈkɔnfɪdəns ˈvəʊt/ noun a vote to show that a person or group is or is not trusted. He proposed a vote of confidence in the government. The chairman resigned after the motion of no confidence was passed at the AGM.

confidential /ˈkɔnfɪdənl/ adjective secret or not to be told or shown to other people. She was dismissed for sending a confidential report to the newspaper. The letter was marked 'Private and Confidential'.

confidential report /ˈkɔnfɪdənʃəl ˈrəptər/ noun a secret document which must not be shown to other than a few named persons

conflict noun /ˈkɔnflɪkt/ a disagreement. Negotiations are taking place to try to end the conflict in the area. not to agree. The report of the consultant conflicts with that of the council officers. The UK legislation appears to conflict with the directives of the EU.

conflict of interest /ˈkɔnflɪkt əv ˈɪntrəst/ noun a situation where a person may profit personally from decisions which are taken by them in an official position or may not be able to act properly because of some other person or matter with which they are connected

Conflict of Laws /ˈkɔnflɪkt əv ˈlɔːz/ noun the situation when a legal case involves the laws of two or more countries and it is not clear under whose laws it should be tried

conformity /ˈkɔnformɪtɪ/ noun behaviour which is expected by usual standards
confrontation politics /ˌkɒnfrəntəʃən polətɪks/ noun the form of political activity, where opposing sides always attack each other and try to reduce each other’s popular support, possibly creating an atmosphere of violence. Compare consensus politics

congestion charge /ˈdʒestʃən ˈtʃɔdʒəs/ noun a charge made for driving a vehicle into a city during the main part of the day, as an attempt to reduce traffic

Congress /ˈkɒngres/ noun 1. the elected federal legislative body in many countries, especially in the USA (formed of a lower and upper house, usually called the House of Representatives and the Senate) ○ The President is counting on a Democrat majority in Congress. ○ He was first elected to Congress in 1975. ○ At a joint session of Congress, the President called for support for his plan. 2. the unicameral legislature in Guatemala and Honduras 3. a large meeting ○ The Trade Union Congress 4. used in the name of political parties, e.g. the African National Congress in South Africa

Congressional /ˈkɒnɡrəʃənal/ adjective referring to Congress ○ a Congressional subcommittee

congressional district /ˈkɔŋɡrəʃənl diˈstrɪkt/ noun a district in a US state that can elect one representative to the House of Representatives

Congressional Record /ˈkɔŋɡrəʃənal ˈrekɔrd/ noun the printed record of the work of the House of Representatives and Senate including the speeches made there

Congressman, Congresswoman noun a member of the US Congress (NOTE: When used with a name, Congressman Smith, it refers to a member of the House of Representatives.)

Congress of Deputies /ˌkɒŋgres əv ˈdepjɔrteiz/ noun the lower house of the legislature in Spain

Congress Party /ˌkɒŋgres pərti/ noun a political party in India

conquer /ˈkɒŋkɑr/ verb to defeat by force ○ The victorious army is engaged in establishing the rule of law in the areas which it has conquered.

conqueror /ˈkɒŋkɑrər/ noun the person who defeats an enemy or leads the invasion of a country and takes possession of it

conquest /ˈkɒŋkwest/ noun 1. the act of defeating or taking by force 2. the country which has been taken by force

Cons. abbreviation Conservative

conscientious objector /ˌkɔnʃənʃiəs əbˈdʒektər/ noun a person who refuses to join the army, because he feels that it is morally wrong

conscript /ˈkɔnskrip/ noun a person who has to join the armed forces as part of legal military service ○ a conscript army an army formed of conscripts ○ verb to order someone to join the armed forces

conscription /ˌkɔnˈskripʃən/ noun the legal obligation to join the armed services

consensual /ˌkɔnsensus əˈbɪdʒ/ adjective happening by agreement

consensus /ˌkɔnsensus əˈbɪdʒ/ noun general agreement ○ There was a consensus between all parties as to the next steps to be taken. ○ In the absence of a consensus, no decisions could be reached.

consensus politics /ˌkɔnsensus polətɪks/ noun a form of political activity, where the main political parties agree in general on policy. Compare confrontation politics

consent /ˈkɑnˌsent/ noun agreement ○ age of consent

Consent Calendar /ˌkɑnˌsent ˈkælɪndər/ noun US a list of bills which are not controversial

conservatism /ˌkɔnsərvəˌtizəm/ noun 1. the ideas and beliefs of people
Conservative

who support established ideas and are against sudden change 2. Conservatism the principles and practice of Conservative politicians or supporters of a Conservative party

Conservative /ˈkɒnˌsɜːvətɪv/ adjective 1. supporting established ideas and institutions, and against sudden change 2. cautious 3. Conservative referring to the Conservative Party or the Conservative government of 1979

conservative /ˈkɒnˌsɜːvətɪv/ adjective 1. supporting established ideas and beliefs and those who support the Conservative Party 2. Conservative a supporter 2. Conservative with a small 'c'

Conservative Party /ˌkɒnˌsɜːvəˈtɜːriəl/ noun the political party which is in favour of only gradual change in society, and against state involvement in industry and welfare

Conservative Party of Canada /ˌkɒnˌsɜːvəˈtɜːriəl ˈpɑːti əv ˈkænədə/ noun a Canadian political party formed from the Progressive Conservative Party and the Canadian Alliance in 2003

Consolidate /ˌkɒnˌsɔrˌdeɪt/ verb to bring several Acts of Parliament together into one act

Consolidated Fund /ˌkɒnˌsɔrˌdeɪt ˈfʌnd/ noun the total government money formed of all taxes and other government income

Consolidated Fund Bill /ˌkɒnˌsɔrˌdeɪt ˈbil/ noun a bill in the House of Commons to allow money to be raised for government spending

Consolidating Act /ˌkɒnˌsɔrˌdeɪt ək/ noun an Act of Parliament which brings together several previous Acts on the same subject

Consolidation /ˌkɒnˌsɔrˌdeɪʃən/ noun the act of bringing together various Acts of Parliament which deal with one subject into one single Act

Consort /ˌkɒnsɔr/ noun the husband or wife of a King or Queen

Conspiracy /ˌkɒnˌspɪrəsi/ noun secret agreement or plan to do something wrong or illegal 2. a conspiracy to oust the leader 3. conspiracy of silence an agreement between a group of people to say nothing to anyone else about something that has happened

Conspirator /ˌkɒnˌspɪrətər/ noun a person who is part of a group who make a secret agreement to do something wrong 2. After the Gunpowder Plot, the conspirators were rapidly arrested

Conspiratorial /ˌkɒnˌspɪrəˈtərɪəl/ adjective as in a secret agreement made by a group to do something wrong 2. He spoke in a conspiratorial whisper

Conspirologist /ˌkɒnˌspɪrəˈlɒdʒɪst/ noun someone who believes in conspiracy theories

Constable /ˌkɒnʃtəbl/ noun 1. a police constable 2. in some towns or townsships in the United States and, historically, in British towns and boroughs, a low-ranking law officer

Constabulary /ˌkɒnʃtəbljʊərI/ noun the police force of a city or a district 2. adjective relating to a police
force, or involved in being a police officer.

**constituency** /ˈkɒnˌstɪtjuˈɒnsi/ *noun* 1. an area of a country which is represented by a Member of Parliament. She represents one of the northern constituencies. 2. *a good constituency* MP an MP who looks after the interests of his or her constituents well. an area of support. The leader’s natural constituency is the working class.

**constituency party** /ˈkɒnˌstɪtjuˈɒntjər/ *noun* a branch of a national political party in a constituency.

**constituent** /ˈkɒnˌstɪtjuˈɒnt/ *noun* a person who lives in a constituency. The MP had a mass of letters from his constituents complaining about aircraft noise.

**constitution** /ˈkɒnˌstɪʃən/ *noun* 1. the laws under which a country is ruled, which give the people rights and responsibilities, and which give the government powers and duties. 2. *The freedom of the individual is guaranteed by the country’s constitution.* The new president asked the assembly to draft a new constitution. Under the society’s constitution, the chairman is elected for a two-year period. Payments to officers of the association are not allowed by the constitution.

...the Constitution guarantees a very limited number of rights, including free trade among the states, no discrimination against interstate residents, etc.’ [The Age (Melbourne)].

**comment:** Most countries have written constitutions, usually drafted by lawyers, which can be amended by an Act of the country’s legislative body. The United States constitution was drawn up by Thomas Jefferson after the country became independent, and has numerous amendments (the first ten amendments being the Bill of Rights). Great Britain is unusual in that it has no written constitution and relies on precedent and the body of laws passed over the years to act as a safeguard of the rights of the citizens and the legality of government.

**Constitution** /ˌkɒnˌstɪʃən/ *noun* the Constitution of the United States, containing seven articles and 26 amendments, that has been in effect since its adoption in 1789.

**constitutional** /ˌkɒnˈstɪʃənl/ *adjective* 1. referring to a country’s constitution. Censorship of the press is not constitutional. 2. according to a constitution. The re-election of the chairman for a second term is not constitutional.

**constitutionalise** /ˌkɒnʃəˈnəlaɪz/ *verb* 1. to make a piece of legislation part of a constitution, or permit a practice through a constitution. 2. to bring a form of government, a country or an organisation under the control of a constitution.

**constitutionalism** /ˌkɒnʃəˈnəlɪzəm/ *noun* 1. the system of government based on a constitution. 2. belief in government based on a constitution.

**constitutionality** /ˌkɒnʃəˈnəlɪtɪ/ *noun* the degree to which something obeys the rules of a constitution.

**constitutional law** /ˌkɒnʃəˈnəl lɔ/ *noun* laws under which a country is ruled or laws relating to the government and its work.

**constitutional lawyer** /ˌkɒnʃəˈnəl lɔr/ *noun* a lawyer who specialises in constitutional law.

**constitutional monarchy** /ˌkɒnʃəˈnəl ˈmɒnəki/ *noun* the system of government where the king or queen has limited powers and most power is in the hands of an elected legislature and executive.

**constitutional right** /ˌkɒnʃəˈnəl rʌt/ *noun* a right which is guaranteed by the constitution of a country.

**constitutive** /ˈkɒnˌstɪtjuˈɪtɪv/ *adjective* having the power to create an offi-
constructive engagement 54
cosnul /'konsəl noun 1. a person who represents a country in a foreign
city, and helps his country’s citizens
and business interests there. Abbr Consul in
to a consul General 2. (in ancient
Roman government) one of two leaders
of the government, elected every year
Consultant /'konsələnt noun the act of giving advice in a specialist
area. A consulting firm. He offers a consultancy service.
Consultant /'konsələnt noun someone who gives specialist advice
Consultation document /'konsəl ə'teiʃən, ə'dokjumənt noun a paper with
proposals which is given to people who
are asked to comment and make suggestions for improvement
Consultative /'konsəltətiv adjective being asked to give advice.
Consulting /'konsəltəŋ adjective referring to a person who gives
specialization advice. A consulting engineer
Consumer council /'kən, ˈsiːma noun a group representing
the interests of people who buy goods
and services.
Consumer credit /'kən, ˈsiːma noun the provision of loans
by banks to help people buy goods
Consumerism /'kən, ˈsiːmorizəm noun the movement
for the protection of the rights of people who buy goods and services
Consumer legislation /'kən, ˈsiːma, ˈledʒərəʃən noun the set of
laws which give rights to people who buy goods or who pay for services
Consumer protection /'kən, ˈsiːma prəˈtektʃən noun the legal
protection of people who buy goods and services
Consumerism and consumerism.
Consumerism is the movement
for the protection of the rights of people who
consumer credit and consumer protection.
Consumption /'kənˌsəmpʃən noun 1. the use or purchase of goods
or services. A car with low petrol consumption.
The factory has a heavy consumption
of coal. 2. the process of eating or drinking things.
Increased consumerism consumption of fatty sugary foods
Consumer council and consumerism.
Consumerism is the movement
for the protection of the rights of people who
consumer credit and consumer protection.
Consumerism is the movement
for the protection of the rights of people who
consumer credit and consumer protection.
Consumerism is the movement
for the protection of the rights of people who
consumer credit and consumer protection.
Consumerism is the movement
for the protection of the rights of people who
consumer credit and consumer protection.
Consumerism is the movement
for the protection of the rights of people who
consumer credit and consumer protection.
Consumerism is the movement
for the protection of the rights of people who
consumer credit and consumer protection.
Compare *aye* (note: Disagreement is shown by the phrase 'not content'.)

**contents** /ˈkɒntents/ plural noun the things contained inside something ◦ The customs officials inspected the contents of the box.

**contest** /ˈkɒntest/ noun a competition, especially in an election ◦ She won the leadership contest easily. ◦ verb 1. to argue that a decision or a ruling is wrong ◦ I wish to contest the claim made by the Leader of the Opposition. 2. to fight an election ◦ The seat is being contested by five candidates.

**context** /ˈkɒntekst/ noun 1. a general situation in which something happens ◦ The action of the police has to be seen in the context of the riots against the government. 2. the other words which surround a word or phrase ◦ The words can only be understood in the context of the phrase in which they occur.

**Continental Europe** /ˈkɒntɪnənl ˈjuːəp/ noun Europe excluding the British Isles

**contingent** /ˈkɒntɪndʒənt/ adjective dependent on something else

**contractarianism** /ˈkɒntræktəˈrɪənɪzəm/ noun the political theory which says that government is based on an agreement between the people and the government

**contract law** /ˈkɒntrækt ˈlɔː/ noun laws relating to agreements

**contradict** /ˈkɒntrədɪkt/ verb not to agree with or to say exactly the opposite ◦ The statement contradicts the report in the newspapers. ◦ The witness before the committee contradicted himself several times.

**contradiction** /ˈkɒntrədɪkʃən/ noun a statement which disagrees with another statement ◦ There is a contradiction between the Minister’s statement in the House of Commons and the reports published in the newspapers.

**contradictory** /ˈkɒntrədɪktəri/ adjective not agreeing ◦ a mass of contradictory evidence

**contrary** /ˈkɒntrəri/ noun opposite ◦ contrary to used to emphasise that something is true, even though the opposite may be expected ◦ Contrary to (all) expectations, the party won the election easily. ◦ Contrary to popular belief or opinion, common-law marriage offers little protection to women.

**contravene** /ˈkɒntrəvən/ verb to break or to go against rules or laws ◦ The workshop has contravened the employment regulations. ◦ The fire department can close a restaurant if it contravenes the safety regulations.

**contravention** /ˈkɒntrəvərənʃən/ noun the act of breaking a rule or law

**control** /ˈkɒntrəʊl/ noun 1. the power of being able to direct something ◦ The company is under the control of three shareholders. ◦ The Democrats gained control of the Senate. ◦ The rebels lost control of the radio station. 2. the activity of checking something or making sure that something is kept in check ◦ verb to have power over something ◦ to control a council to have a majority on a council and so direct its business ◦ Senate is controlled by the Conservatives, while the Socialists have a majority in the national Assembly.

**controlled economy** /ˈkɒntrəˈkdɪəməni/ noun an economy where most business activity is directed by orders from the government

**controversial** /ˈkɒntrəvaˈsəriəl/ adjective causing a lot of argument ◦ The council has decided to withdraw its controversial proposal to close the sports club. ◦ The bill was not controversial and was supported by members of both sides of the house.

**controversy** /ˈkɒntrəvəsəri/ noun a strong argument about an issue ◦ There has been a lot of controversy about the government’s tax proposals.

**convener** /ˈkɒnvənər/ noun a person who calls a meeting
convention /kənˈvenʃən/ noun 1. the general way in which something is usually done, though not enforced by law. o It is the convention for American lawyers to designate themselves 'Esquire.' 2. a meeting, or series of meetings held to discuss and decide important matters. o The Democratic Party Convention to select the presidential candidate was held in Washington. 3. an international treaty. o The Geneva Convention on Human Rights. o The three countries are all signatories of the convention.

convention bounce /kənˈvenʃən bəns/ noun an increase in the support shown for a presidential candidate after nomination at a party convention.

convergence criteria /kənˌvərˈʒəns kriˈəriə/ noun the economic rules set out in the Maastricht treaty (1993), which members of the European Union have to satisfy in order to move to the single European currency or euro.

conviction /kənˈvikʃən/ noun 1. a feeling of being sure that something is true. o It is her conviction that the proposed legislation will result in the sale of council houses being delayed. 2. a decision that someone accused of a crime is guilty. o She had three convictions for drunken driving.

conviction politics /kənˌvikʃən ˈpələtiks/ noun political policies based on firmly held beliefs.

convince /kənˈvɪns/ verb to make someone believe something is true. o The government minister tried to convince the strikers that their claims would be heard. o The Finance Minister had difficulty in convincing Parliament that the budget deficit would be reduced.

convulsion /kənˈvəlʃən/ noun a sudden extreme change (informal). o This compromise allowed the court to avoid the political convulsion that would have come with a decision to remove the leader from office.

cooperate /kəʊˈəpərət/ verb to work together. o The governments are cooperating in the fight against piracy. o The two firms have cooperated on planning the computer system.

cooperation /kəʊ,prəˈreɪʃən/ noun working together. o The work was completed ahead of schedule with the cooperation of the whole staff.

cooperative society /kəʊˌprəʊəˈsəʊrɪv ˈsəʊsəti/ noun a society where the customers and workers are partners and share the profits.

co-opt /kəʊˈɔpt/ verb to co-opt someone onto a committee to ask someone to join a committee without being elected. o adjective co-opted made a member of a committee without being elected. o She is a co-opted member of the education committee.

cope /kəʊp/ verb to deal with. o The House is having difficulty in coping with the mass of legislation before it this session. o The Chairman of the Finance Committee said that she doubted if the Borough Treasurer’s office could cope with the extra workload.

co-principality /ˌkəʊ,prɪnˈsælɪti/ noun a state ruled by two princes.

Copyright Act /ˈkɒprɪrət ˈækt/ noun the Act of Parliament controlling the copying of written material without the permission of the author and publisher.

Copyrighted /ˈkɒprɪrətɪd/ adjective relating to materials covered by the Copyright Act.

Copyright law /ˈkɒprɪrət lɔ/ noun laws concerning the copying of written materials.
books containing Roman civil law as working most of the time to achieve what we should think of the core executive as struggling for power rather than thinking of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as struggling for power.

The phrase meaning "corporatist views" holds corporatist views. The policies of the government are the mayors and corporation of constituencies who have grown from the central government. The major political issues are discussed by powerful or influential people and important decisions are taken.

The plural is "corrigenda." The word is to be corrected (NOTE: The plural is corrigenda.)

He holds corporatist views. He says to bribe someone to make them act dishonestly accepting bribes on the part of officials. Magistrates are investigating corruption in the police force.

The cost-of-living in salaries increases, and the money which has to be paid for basic needs such as food, heating, and rent to allow for the rise in the cost of living in salariescost-of-living allowance. a special regular addition to normal salary to cover increases in the cost of living. The increased cost of living is the cost-of-living index.
measuring the cost of living which is shown as a percentage increase on the figure for the previous year

**COTW** noun the countries that opposed Saddam Hussein in the Iraq War of 2003. Full form **Coalition of the Willing**

**council** /ˈkaʊnsəl/ noun 1. an official group chosen to run something or to advise on a problem. 2. **Security Council** 2. a group of representatives elected to run an area of a country. Also called **local council**, **borough council**, **town council**, **county council**. same as Privy Council 4. a body of the legislature in several states 5. a meeting of a council adj. relating to or belonging to a local council. a **new council policy**

"...the council could try and cut spending to make a balanced budget" [Local Government News]

**council chamber** /ˈkaʊnsəl ˈtʃeəmə/ a room in the Town Hall where a local council meets

**council estate** /ˈkaʊnsəl ɪˌstɛt/ noun an area of houses and flats belonging to a local council

**council house** /ˈkaʊns(ə)l ˈhɑːs/, **council flat** /ˈkaʊns(ə)l ˈflæt/ noun a home belonging to a local council, for which rent is paid

**council leader** /ˈkaʊnsəl ˈliːdər/ noun a person elected by the main party running a local council as their leader. Compare **mayor**

**councillor** /ˈkaʊnsələr/ noun an elected member of a council, especially a council that runs a city, county etc.

**councilman** /ˈkaʊnsəlmən/ noun **US** a man who is an elected member of a city council in the USA

**Council of Europe** /ˈkaʊnsəl əv ˈjuːrəpi/ noun the oldest of the European political organisations, with its headquarters in Strasbourg. Abbreviation **COE**

**COMMENT:** The Council of Europe was founded in 1949, and currently has 45 members. Its aim is to foster unity of action between European countries in educational, legal and other areas. It established the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (the 'European Convention on Human Rights') in 1950 and the European Court of Human Rights, in Strasbourg, in 1959. The Convention was the first international legal agreement to protect human rights. More recently it has established conventions on the protection of minorities, the prevention of human cloning and cybercrime.

**council officer** /ˈkaʊnsəl ˈɔfɪsə/ noun a civil servant employed by a town or county council

**Council of Ministers** /ˈkaʊnsəl(ə)l əv ˈmɪnɪstərz/, **Council of the European Union** /ˈkaʊnsəl(ə)l əv ðə ˈjuːrəpi ˈjuːnɪən/ noun the body made up of ministers of the Member States of the European Union which plays a major part in developing the laws of the Union

**council of war** /ˈkaʊnsəl əv ˈwɔːr/ noun 1. a meeting of military leaders in wartime to discuss what action should be taken. 2. a meeting to decide on a plan of action in any emergency

**council tax** /ˈkaʊnsəltækz/ noun a local tax raised on each property, paid by the occupier of the property, and calculated according to the value of the property

**council tenant** /ˈkaʊnsəl ˈtenənt/ noun a person who lives in council property and pays rent to the council

**councilwoman** /ˈkaʊnsəlwʊmən/ noun **US** a woman who is an elected member of a city council in the USA

**counsellor** /ˈkaʊnsələr/ noun 1. a trained person who gives advice or help 2. They want to see a marriage guidance counsellor. 2. a person employed in an embassy. 3. **US** a lawyer who advises a person in a legal case
count /kaʊnt/ noun 1. the act of counting o the count of votes after an election o The count started at ten o'clock and finished just after midnight. 2. recount 2. (in the House of Commons) the act of counting how many MPs are present. If there are fewer than 40, the sitting is adjourned. 3. a separate charge against an accused person read out in court o He was found guilty on all four counts. 4. the count on a noble title, used in Europe apart from the United Kingdom (note: the title is used in France (comte), Spain (Conde), Italy (Conte), Germany (Graf), and other countries.)
counter /ˈkaʊntə/ noun something which opposes o The legislation is seen as a counter to the increasing power of local government. 1. adverb in opposition to something
counter- /ˈkaʊntə/ prefix against
counter-coup /ˈkaʊntəˌkʌp/ noun a coup against a group that took political power in an earlier coup
counter-demonstration /ˈkaʊntərˌdɪmənˌstrəʃən/ noun a protest held in opposition to another protest
counter-espionage /ˈkaʊntərˌɛspɪnəʒən/ counter-intelligence /ˈkaʊntər ɪnˈtelɪdʒəns/ noun the activities involved in working against the spies of another country. o The offices were bugged by counter-intelligence agents.
counter-insurgency /ˈkaʊntərˌɪnˈsɜːrʒənsi/ noun military action against people who are fighting their own government
countermand /ˈkaʊntərˌmænd/ verb to overturn a command made earlier
counterpart /ˈkaʊntəpɑːrt/ noun a person who has a similar job or is in a similar situation. o The British Minister of Defence wrote to his Spanish counterpart.
counter-revolution /ˈkaʊntərˌrɛvəˈluːʃən/ noun a violent reaction against a rebellion

NOTE: The US spelling is counselor.
county council /ˈkaʊnti ˈkaʊnsəl/ noun a group of people elected to run a county
county town /ˈkaʊnti tuːn/ noun the main administrative centre in a county, where the county council offices are situated
coup /ˈkʊəp, ˈkɔːp dʒeɪt/ noun a rapid change of government which removes one government by force and replaces it by another. After the coup, groups of students attacked the police stations.
Court of Session /kəət əv ˈseʃən/ noun the highest civil court in Scotland, consisting of the Inner House and Outer House
covert /ˈkɔvət, ˈkɔvət/ adjective hidden or secret, covert action an action which is secret, e.g. spying
CP abbreviation Communist Party (NOTE: In some other languages, it is often written PC: PCF (Parti Communiste Français); PCI (Partito Comunista Italiano.).)
CPO abbreviation compulsory purchase order
CPS abbreviation Crown Prosecution Service
CPSA abbreviation Civil and Public Services Association
CPSU abbreviation Community and Public Service Union

CRB abbreviation Criminal Records Bureau
CRE abbreviation Commission for Racial Equality
credentials /ˈkredəns/ noun the official documents, proving that an ambassador has been appointed legally by the country he or she represents. Also called letters of credence to present his or her credentials, to present his or her letters of credence (of an ambassador) to visit for the first time the head of the state of the country where he or she is ambassador, and hand over the documents that show that he or she has been legally appointed
criminal action /ˈkrɪmən(ə)l/ noun a case brought usually by the state against someone who is charged with a crime
criminal law /ˈkrɪmɪnl/ noun the laws relating to acts committed against the laws of the land and which are punished by the state

Crown /kraʊn/ noun the King or Queen as representing the State ○ Mr Smith is appearing for the Crown ○ the Crown submitted that the maximum sentence should be applied in this case ○ the Crown case or the case for the Crown was that the defendants were guilty of espionage 2. the circular ornament made of gold worn on the head by a king or queen on formal occasions 3. the monarchy ○ verb to put a crown on the head of a king or queen to show that they have become the head of state ○ British kings and queens are crowned in Westminster Abbey. ○ coronation

Crown Agency /ˌkraʊn ˈeɪdʒənsi/ noun a member of a government board which provides financial, commercial and other services to some foreign governments and international organisations

Crown Colony /ˌkraʊn ‘kɒlni/ noun an overseas territory under the formal control of the UK government

Crown copyright /ˌkraʊn ‘kɒpjərʌt/ noun the right to restrict copying of documents published by the government

Crown Court /ˌkraʊn ‘kɔːt/ noun the court, above the level of the magistrates' courts, which has centres all over England and Wales and which hears criminal cases (NOTE: A Crown Court is formed of a circuit judge and jury, and hears major criminal cases.)

crowned head /ˈkraʊnd hed/ noun a king or queen ○ All the crowned heads of Europe attended the state funeral.

Crown Lands /ˈkraʊn ˈlændz/, Crown property noun land or property belonging to the King or Queen

Crown Prince /ˌkraʊn ‘praɪsns/ noun in some countries, the title given to the eldest son of a king, who will become king himself on the death of his father

Crown privilege /ˌkraʊn ˈprɪvɪlɪdʒ/ noun the right of the government not to have to produce docu-
Crown Prosecution Service

Crown Prosecution Service /ˌkraʊn ˈprɒskjʊʃ(ə)n, ,s21vəs/ noun the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, whose job is to bring criminals to court. Abbr CPS

Crown prosecutor /ˌkraʊn ˈprɒskjʊtʃər noun an official of the Director of Public Prosecution’s department who is responsible for bringing criminals to court in a local area.

 crusade /ˈkruːz/ noun strong action to stop or change something. The government has launched a crusade against drugs. verb to take part in a crusade. She has been crusading for more government action to reduce unemployment.

crusader /ˈkruːzədər noun a person who takes part in a campaign to change something. She was a famous crusader for women’s right to vote.

crypto- /ˈkrɒptəʊ/ prefix hidden. crypto-communist a secret communist.

 CS /sɪt ˈes/ abbreviation civil service

CSC abbreviation Civil Service Commission

CSU abbreviation Civil Service Union

cultural /ˈkəltʃərəl/ adjective 1. referring to a society’s culture. respect for cultural differences. referring to the arts. asking for increased public support for cultural activities such as opera and ballet.

cultural attaché /ˈkəltʃərəl əˈtætʃ/ noun a member of an embassy representing his or her country’s interests in the fields of art, music, literature.

culture /ˈkəltʃər/ noun 1. a society’s way of thinking and behaving. European history and culture. 2. activities involving art, music or literature.

curfew /ˈkɜːfjuː/ noun an order forbidding movement out of doors at specific times. The government has imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the city.

currency /ˈkɜːrənsi/ noun the money in coins and notes which is used in a particular country.

currency reserves /ˈkɜːrənsi rɪˈzɜːrvz/ plural noun the foreign money held by a government to support its own currency and to pay its debts.

customs /ˈkʌstəmz/ plural noun the government department which organises the collection of taxes on goods brought into a country, or one of its offices at an airport or port.

Customs and Excise /ˈkʌstəmz ˈɛksaɪz/ an ‘eksəiz/ noun the government department which deals with VAT, with taxes on goods brought into the country, and taxes on products such as alcohol produced in the country. Also called Excise Department.

customs barrier /ˈkʌstəmz ˈbærər/ noun a tax intended to prevent imports.

customs duty /ˈkʌstəmz ˈdjuːtɪ/ noun same as import duty.

customs union /ˈkʌstəmz ˈjuːniʃən/ noun an agreement between several countries that goods can travel between them without paying tax, while goods from other countries are taxed.

cutback /ˈkʌtbaʊk/ noun a reduction in the amount of money spent on something, leading to a reduction in something provided. cutbacks on social security spending. cutbacks in healthcare services.
Dáil, Dáil Éireann noun the lower house of parliament in the Republic of Ireland. The upper house is the Seanad Éireann; the members of the Dáil are called Teachta Dála (TD).

dark horse noun US a candidate who receives unexpected support in an electoral campaign.
data noun 1. information which is available on computer
2. facts used to come to a decision
data protection noun the protection of information such as records about private people in a computer from being copied or used wrongly.
date of commencement noun the day of the year when an Act of Parliament or other legal document takes effect.

Daughters of the American Revolution noun in the United States, a women’s patriotic society founded in 1890 by descendants of those who fought in the War of American Independence. Abbr DAR

day-to-day adjective taking place as a regular part of normal life.

Dayton Accords noun an agreement signed by the presidents of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia in 1995, to end hostilities in the former Yugoslavia.

DC abbreviation 1. District Council
2. District of Columbia

dead letter noun something which is no longer in use.

deadlock noun the point when two sides in a dispute cannot agree.
deadlocked adjective unable to agree to continue discussing.
talks have been deadlocked for ten days after ten days the talks have not produced any agreement.
deadlock noun a business agreement or contract.
do to arrange a deal or to set up a deal or to do a deal or to sign a deal.
deadly adjective

deadly injury noun the death of a person who is injured in an accident.
deadly poison noun a poison that can kill people.
deadly serious adjective very serious.

debate verb 1. to discuss a proposal before making a decision, usually by a vote.

The MPs are still debating the Data Protection Bill. 2. to consider something carefully before acting.
debate on the address

debate on the address /dɪˈbɛt ɒn dəˈɑːdres/ noun the debate after the Queen’s Speech at the Opening of Parliament, where the motion is to present an address of thanks to the Queen, but the debate is in fact about the government’s policies as described in the Queen’s Speech.

decency /dɪˈsensi/ noun polite behaviour that is acceptable to society in general. The film shocked public decency.

decent /dɪˈsent/ adjective following polite behaviour acceptable to society in general. This book will shock any decent citizen.

decentralisation /dɪˌsɛntrələˈzeɪʃən/ noun decentralization noun moving power from the centre to local areas.

decentralise /dɪˈsentrəlɪz/ decentralize verb to move power, authority or action from a central point to local areas. The decision-making processes have been decentralised to semi-autonomous bodies.

decision /dɪˈsɪʒ(ə)n/ noun 1. a choice made about what to do in a situation to come to a decision or to reach a decision. The process of thinking clearly and quickly about what to do. 2. a judgment in a civil court. 3. the decision of the House of Lords is final a decision of the House of Lords, against which there is no appeal in the European Union, binding legislation. 4. directive, recommendation, regulations.

COMMENT: In the EU a decision is binding in its entirety on those to whom it is addressed, a decision may be addressed to a Member State, to an organisation or to an individual person (see Article 189 EC).

decision-maker /dɪˈsɪʒ(ə)n ˌmɛrkər/ noun a person who has to decide what is the best thing to do in a situation, especially someone who has important decisions to make.

decision-making /dɪˈsɪʒ(ə)n ˌmɛrkɪŋ/ noun the process of deciding what is the best thing to do in a situation. The decision-making processes the ways in which decisions are reached.

declaration /dɪˈklɛrəʃən/ noun 1. an official or important statement. 2. the official statement that someone has been elected. The count has been going on since 10 o’clock and we are still waiting for the declaration.

Declaration of Human Rights /dɪˌklɛrəʃ(ə)n əv hjuˈreɪnts/ noun a United Nations document approved on 10 December 1948, by the General Assembly, setting out the basic rights of all human beings.

declaration of independence /dɪˌklɛrəʃ(ə)n əv inˈdapeutəndəns/ noun a statement from a country making itself independent of another country which was ruling it. Declaration of Independence /dɪˌklɛrəʃ(ə)n əv inˈdapeutəndəns/ noun the document written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776 by which the American colonies announced their independence from Britain.

declaration of war /dɪˌklɛrəʃ(ə)n əv ˈwɔːr/ noun a statement by a country that it considers itself at war with another country.

declare /dɪˈklɛr/ verb to make an official statement, or announce something to the public. Acted with decision 3. a declared supporter of proportional representation. 2. officially stated. Taxes are paid on declared income.

declassification /dɪˌklæsɪˈfɪʃən/ noun the act of making something no longer secret.
declassify /di:ˈklɛsɪfaɪ/ verb to make a secret document or piece of information available to the public. The government papers relating to the war have recently been declassified.

decolonisation /ˌdɪkəˈlɒnəsɪən/, decolonization noun the process by which a state gives its foreign territories their independence.

decolonise /ˌdɪkəˈlɒnəz/ verb to give a colony its independence.

decommission /ˌdɪkəˈmɛʃən/ verb to officially stop using something such as a weapon.

decorate /dɪˈkərət/ verb to use something to decorate the price of something to officially stop using something such as a weapon.

decree /dɪˈkriː/ noun an order made by a head of state to govern by decree to rule a country by issuing orders without having them debated and voted in a parliament. The President decreed that June 1st should be a National Holiday.

deductible /ˈdɪdʌktəb(ə)l/ adjective taken away from an amount of money. deductible allowance a tax-deductible deducted from an income before tax is paid.

deduction /ˈdɪdʌkʃən/ noun 1. business expenses which can be claimed against tax. 2. US tax deductions.

defacto /ˈdɛfəktoʊ/ Latin phrase meaning 'in fact': as a matter of fact, even though the legal title may not be certain. He is the de facto owner of the property.

defacto /ˈdɛfəktoʊ/ noun the de facto authority or rule of a country by a group because it is in power, whether ruling legally or not. de facto recognition recognition of a new government because it is in power, whether it is ruling legally or not.

defamacion /ˌdɛfəˈmæʃən/ noun the offence of causing harm to somebody by speaking or writing in a dishonest way about them. (NOTE: Defamation may be libel if it is in a permanent form, such as printed matter, or slander if it is spoken.)

defamatory /ˈdɛfəmətərəri/ adjective intended to harm someone by saying or writing bad or false things about them.

defame /ˈdɛfəm/ verb to say or write bad or false things about the character of someone so as to damage his or her reputation.

defeat /dɪˈfɪt/ noun the failure to get a majority in a vote. The minister offered to resign after the defeat of the motion in the House of Commons.

defeat /dɪˈfɪt/ verb to be rejected or something in a vote. The bill was defeated in the Lords by 52 to 64. The government was defeated in a vote on law and order.

defect /dɪˈfekt/ verb 1. (of a spy, agent or government employee) to leave one country or group to work for another country or group. 2. (of a Member of Parliament) to leave your party and join another.

defection /dɪˈfektʃən/ noun the act of leaving one country or group to work for another country or group.

defector /dɪˈfektaɪə/ noun a person who leaves one country or group to work for another country or group.

defence /ˈdɛfnəns/ noun 1. actions taken to protect someone or something against attack. (NOTE: The US spelling is defense.) 2. the system of armed forces and weapons that a country uses to protect itself from attack by other countries. (NOTE: The US spelling is defense.) 3. something said or done in response to criticism. In his speech he made a strong defence of the decision to raise taxes. (NOTE: The US spelling is defense.) 4. the case made in a law court in support of the person who is on trial. (NOTE: The US spelling is defense.) 5. the lawyer or lawyers who speak in
defend /dɪˈfend/ verb 1. to act to protect someone or something 2. to fight an election to keep an elected po-
sition 3. to speak to show that your actions were right 4. The Minister defended his decision.
defender /dɪˈfendər/ noun someone who is chosen or elected by other peo-
ple to put their case at a meeting or in an assembly 5. The Dou-
ble Premier rejected the claim of ID cards until a later date.
defence /dɪˈfens/ noun a system of defence 6. The defence budget is de-
fined as non-potest delegare related to a country's sys-
tem of defence 7. The defence strategy the govern-
ment has introduced some deflationary measures in the budget. Defra /ˈdefrə/ abbreviation Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
defy /dɪˈfai/ verb 1. to refuse to obey a person or order 2. The protesters have defied the court order. 2. to be impossible to believe or explain 3. to defy belief or to defy explanation.
defiant /dɪˈfɛənt/ adjective openly refusing to obey a person, order or rule 4. The Prime Minister was defiant, insisting there would be no change of direction.
defiantly /dɪˈfɛəntli/ adverb showing an open refusal to obey a person, order or rule
deficit /ˈdefɪsɪt/ noun the amount by which spending is higher than income 1. The council is trying to agree on how to reduce its current deficit. 2. The President has promised to reduce the budget deficit. 3. trade deficit ‘...the Deputy Premier rejected the claim that the budget deficit had developed over a number of years’ (Canberra Times)
deflation /dɪˈfleɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the economic situation when prices fall
deliberative /dɪˈlɪbrətɪv/ adjective relating to careful discussion
delimit /dɪˈlɪmɪt/ verb to state clearly what the boundaries of something are ○ The terms of reference of the commission are strictly delimited.
deliver /dɪˈlɪvər/ verb 1. to obtain the support of a place or people for a candidate or political party 2. to do something that was promised ○ There are increasing signs that people believe the government has delivered on healthcare.
Dem. abbreviation 1. Democrat 2. Democratic
demagogic /ˌdɛməɡəˈdʒɪk/ adjective appealing to people’s emotions and prejudices in order to influence them
demagogue /dɪˈmæɡəɡoʊ/ noun a leader who is able to get the support of the people by exciting their feelings (disapproving)
demagogy, demagoguery noun the activity of appealing to feelings such as fear, greed or hatred of the mass of the people
demand /dɪˈmænd/ noun the fact that people want goods and services or the amount of goods or services that people want ○ Because many people now live alone, the demand for housing is increasing. ○ Organic food is being imported to meet the rising demand.
demarcate /dɪˈmɑrkət/ verb to decide on and set the boundaries of a piece of land
demarcation /dɪˈmɑrkəʃən/ noun the process of deciding on and setting the boundaries of a piece of land
démarche /dəˈmɑɾʃ/ noun a measure taken by diplomats, especially a spoken protest
demission /dɪˈmɪʃən/ noun resignation from an important official post
demit /dɪˈmɪt/ verb to resign from an important official post
demo /dɪˈməʊ/ noun same as demonstration (informal)
democracy /dɪˈmɒkrəsi/ noun 1. a theory or system of government by the people or by the elected representatives of the people ○ After the coup, democracy was replaced by a military dictatorship. ○ social democracy 2. a country ruled by its people or their representatives ○ The pact was welcomed by western democracies.
democrat /dɪˈmɑkræt/ noun a person who believes in democracy
Democrat /dɪˈmɑkræt/ noun 1. a member of the Democratic Party, one of the two major political parties in the United States 2. a member of the Australian Democrats, a centre-left minority political party
democratic /dɪˈmɑkrətk/ adjective 1. referring to a democracy ○ After the coup, the democratic processes of government were replaced by government by decree. 2. free and fair or reflecting the views of the majority ○ The resolution was passed by a democratic vote of the council. ○ The action of the leader is against the wishes of the party as expressed in a democratic vote at the party conference.
Democratic /dɪˈmɑkrətɪk/ adjective relating to or associated with the Democratic Party of the United States or the Australian Democrats
democratically /dɪˈmɑkrətɪkli/ adverb in a democratic way ○ He is the first democratically elected president following the end of military rule.
democratic deficit /dɪˈmɑkrətɪk ˈdefɪsɪt/ noun the failure of a fully democratic system to behave in a democratic way (NOTE: The European Union has often been accused of having a democratic deficit since the power lies in the Commission and Council of Ministers rather than the European Parliament.)
Democratic Party /dɪˈmɑkrətɪk ˈpɑrti/ noun one of the two main political parties in the USA, which is in favour of some social change and state help for poor people, together with restrictions on the power of the federal
1. student demonstration.
   about something about something about something
   government.
   were demonstrating against the gov-

2. to show something or make some-
thing clear.
   The police demonstrated how the bomb was planted.
   The MP’s comments demonstrated an apparent lack of sympathy for the unemployed.
   2. to make a public protest about something.
   Crowds of students were demonstrating against the government.

2. an act of showing.
   The manager gave a demonstration of the new computer system for recording details of tenants and their rents.
   2. an act of protesting about something.
   Police broke up the student demonstration.

2. a Northern Ireland political party, established by the Reverend Ian Paisley in 1971, and strongly committed to the maintenance of the union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

democratise /dɪˌmɔkrətɪs/ verb to make a country into a democracy
demonstrate /ˈdɛmənstrɪt/ verb
to show something or make something clear.
   1. to show something or make something clear.

2. to make a public protest.
   The manager gave a demonstration of the new computer system for recording details of tenants and their rents.
   2. an act of protesting about something.
   Police broke up the student demonstration.

2. an act of showing.
   The manager gave a demonstration of the new computer system for recording details of tenants and their rents.
   2. an act of protesting about something.
   Police broke up the student demonstration.

2. a Northern Ireland political party, established by the Reverend Ian Paisley in 1971, and strongly committed to the maintenance of the union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

democratise /dɪˌmɔkrətɪs/ verb to make a country into a democracy
demonstrate /ˈdɛmənstrɪt/ verb
1. to show something or make something clear.
   The police demonstrated how the bomb was planted.
   The MP’s comments demonstrated an apparent lack of sympathy for the unemployed.
   2. to make a public protest about something.
   Crowds of students were demonstrating against the government.

2. an act of showing.
   The manager gave a demonstration of the new computer system for recording details of tenants and their rents.
   2. an act of protesting about something.
   Police broke up the student demonstration.

2. a Northern Ireland political party, established by the Reverend Ian Paisley in 1971, and strongly committed to the maintenance of the union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

democratise /dɪˌmɔkrətɪs/ verb to make a country into a democracy
demonstrate /ˈdɛmənstrɪt/ verb
1. to show something or make something clear.
   The police demonstrated how the bomb was planted.
   The MP’s comments demonstrated an apparent lack of sympathy for the unemployed.
   2. to make a public protest about something.
   Crowds of students were demonstrating against the government.
education at all levels and ages, and training people for work. Abbr DfE

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs** noun a UK government department responsible for the natural and developed environment, safe food supplies, rural communities, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Abbr DEFRA

**Department for International Development** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt fə ɪnˈtɜːrstɪnərɪˈntərərɪvə/ noun a UK government department responsible for policies aimed at reducing global poverty and promoting sustainable developments. Abbr DFID

**Department for Transport** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt fə ˈtrænspoʊrt/ noun a UK government department responsible for overseeing the transport system. Abbr DfT

**Department for Work and Pensions** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt fə ˈwɜːk ənd ˈpenʃənz/ noun a UK government department responsible for overseeing the transport system. Abbr DWP

**Department of Defense** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt av ˈdɪfens/ noun the executive department of the US federal government that is mainly responsible for promoting national security and overseeing the armed forces. Abbr DOD

**Department of Energy** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt av ˈenədʒi/ noun the executive department of the US federal government that is mainly responsible for developing energy technology and regulating energy production and use. Abbr DOE

**Department of Environmental Protection** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt av ɪn vərənˈməntəl prəˈtekʃən/ noun a US state agency responsible for protecting human health by ensuring clean air and water and safe management of hazardous waste materials. Abbr DEP

**Department of Finance Canada** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt əv ˈfænəns ˈkænədə/ noun the Canadian government department that is responsible for preparing the federal budget, overseeing tax policies and legislation, and regulating the country’s banks and financial institutions

**Department of Health** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt av ˈhælθ/ noun a UK government department with the responsibility of improving the health and well-being of the population. Abbr DH

**Department of Homeland Security** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt av ˈhɔmli,liːnd ˈhjʊmənˌsɪkiːərɪti/ noun the executive department of the US federal government that was established in the aftermath of 11 September 2001, to protect the country against future terrorist attacks. Abbr DHS (NOTE: It became an official cabinet department on 24 January 2003, bringing together 22 previously existing agencies to better coordinate defence planning and strategy.)

**Department of Housing and Urban Development** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt əv ˈhɔʊzɪŋ ən ˈʌrən dɪˈveləpmənt/ noun the executive department of the US federal government that is mainly responsible for promoting community development and enforcing fair housing laws. Abbr HUD

**Department of Human Resources and Skills Development** noun the Canadian government department that is responsible for developing and administering policies relating to labour and homelessness. Abbr HRSD

**Department of Justice** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt av ˈdʒəstɪs/ noun US the department of the US government responsible for federal legal cases, headed by the Attorney-General. Also called Justice Department

**Department of Justice Canada** /dɪˌpɑːrtmənt av ˈdʒəstɪs ˈkænədə/ noun the Canadian government de-
Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services is the government department that is mainly responsible for providing services and protection to people living in poverty or situations of abuse or neglect. Abbr DSS

Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior is the executive department of the US federal government that is mainly responsible for developing the nation’s natural resources, managing national parks, and overseeing Native American reservations and outlying territories. Abbr DOI (NOTE: The UK does not have a government department called the ‘Department of the Interior’: the Home Office is responsible for supervising the police and policy on law and order.)

Department of Trade and Industry

The Department of Trade and Industry is the British government department dealing with business and commerce.

Dependent

A person, especially a relative, who is supported financially by someone else.

Dependency

A country or state that belongs to another country with which it does not share a border.

Dependency theory

A theory of international relations that important countries influence other countries as a result of their economic power.

deport /dɪˈpɔːt/ verb to send someone away from a country.

depart /dɪˈpɑːrt/ verb to prevent a discussion about something being carried out according to fixed political views.

depopulated /dɪˈpɒpjʊlətɪd/ adjective of an area where there are now far fewer people living than there were in the past.

depost /dɪˈpɒst/ noun money paid by a candidate in an election, which is not returned if the candidate does not win enough votes.

deposition /dɪˈpɒzɪʃn/ noun the act of sending someone away from a country.

deposition order /dɪˈpɒzɪʃn ˈɔrðər/ noun an official order to send someone away from a country.

depository /dɪˈpɒzɪtɒri/ noun a US state agency responsible for providing services and protection to people living in poverty or situations of abuse or neglect.

depose /dɪˈpɔʊz/ verb to remove a political leader or a king or queen from their job.

depress /dɪˈpreʃ/ verb to put documents somewhere for safe keeping or for information.

Comment: Information which has not been presented to MPs in any other way may be placed in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords library by a Minister or the Speaker as a ‘deposited paper’. Most deposited papers are replies to written parliamentary questions.

deprop /dɪˈprɒp/ adjective not having the basic things regarded as necessary for a pleasant life.

depopulation /dɪˈpɒpjʊleɪʃn/ noun a group of people who have been cho-
sen to represent and act on behalf of a larger group of people. **depute** /dɪˈpjuːt/ **verb** to give someone the job of doing something.  He was deputed to act as chairman. **adj**ective same as **deputy** (used after nouns)

**deputy** /dɪˈpjuːti/ **noun** 1. a person who takes the place of a higher official or who helps a higher official. She acted as deputy for the chairman. She acted as the chairman’s deputy. 2. **U**S a person who acts for or helps a sheriff. *(in some countries)* a member of a legislative body. After the Prime Minister resigned, the deputies of his party started to discuss the election of a successor.

**Deputy Mayor** /dɪˈpjuːti ˈmeɪər/ **noun** a member of a town council who acts for a mayor if he or she is absent.

**Deputy Minister** /dɪˈpjuːti ˈmɪnɪstr/ **noun** in Canada the chief civil servant in charge of a ministry. *(Note: In the UK, the post is called the Permanent Secretary.)*

**Deputy Prime Minister** /dɪˈpjuːti præm ˈmɪnɪstr/ **noun** the title given to a senior Cabinet minister who acts for the Prime Minister if he or she is absent.

**Deputy Speaker** /dɪˈpjuːti ˈspɪkə/ **noun** a MP, elected by other MPs, who acts as chair of the House of Commons when the Speaker is absent. *(Note: There are three Deputy Speakers: one has the additional title of the Chairman of Ways and Means, the others are Deputy Chairmen of Ways and Means.)*

**derecognition** /ˌdɪrɪˈkɒɡənɪˈʃən/ **noun** the situation when one country decides not to accept the government of another country as the rightful government.

**deregulate** /dɪˈrɛɡjʊleɪt/ **verb** to remove government controls from an industry.

---

**deregulation** /ˌdɪrɪˈɡjuːleɪʃən/ **noun** reducing government control over an industry.

**dereliction** /ˌdɛrəˈliʃən/ **noun** the failure to do what you ought to do. He was found guilty of gross dereliction of duty.

**derogation** /ˌdɛrəˈɡeɪʃən/ **noun** the temporary suspension of a regulation or directive.

**desegregate** /dɪˈsɛɡrəɡeɪt/ **verb** to end the separation of people based on their ethnic background.

**desegregation** /ˌdɪsɛɡrəˈɡeɪʃən/ **noun** the ending of the separation of people based on ethnic background.

**deselect** /dɪˈsɛkt/ **verb** to decide that a person who had been chosen by a political party as a candidate for a constituency is no longer the candidate.

**deselection** /ˌdɪsɛkˈleʃən/ **noun** the act of deseleting a candidate. Some factions in the local party have proposed the deselection of the candidate.

**desert** /dɪˈzɜːt/ **verb** to leave the armed forces without permission.

**designate** /dɪˈzɛɡnɪteɪt/ **adj**ective a person who has been given a job but who has not yet started work. The chairman designate. **verb** to name or to appoint officially. The area was designated a National Park.

**despatch** /dɪˈspætʃ/ **verb** to send. The letters about the rates were despatched yesterday.

**despatch box** /dɪˈspætʃ bɒks/ **noun** 1. the red leather case in which government papers are sent to ministers. Also called red box. 2. one of two boxes facing each other on the centre table in the House of Commons at which a Minister or member of the Opposition Front Bench stands to speak. To be at the despatch box (of a minister) to be speaking in Parliament.
which is not yet fully industrialised helping its economy grow

activities in a region or country and

/vertstrokeinferiorəriə

ment in healthcare

to build houses on it

ness person who buys up land in order

development plan

abeyance.)

the process of encouraging business activities in a region or country and helping its economy grow.

development plan

pl/en noun a plan drawn up by a govern-
ernment or council to show how an area should develop over a period of time.

deviate /di:vıet/ verb to move away from a planned course of action

deviationism

/noun departure from accepted political views, especially from orthodox communism

devolution /di:vəlju:ʃən/ noun the passing of power from a central government to a local or regional authority (NOTE: In the UK, devolution is the process by which since 1997 a parliament has been set up in Scotland, and assemblies have been created in Northern Ireland, Wales and Greater London.)

COMMENT: Devolution involves the transfer of more power than decentralisation. In a devolved state, the regional authorities are almost autonomous.

devolutionist /di:vəlju:ʃənist/ noun someone who favours transferring power from a central government to smaller political units

devolve /di:vləv/ verb to transfer power from a central to a regional or local authority (NOTE: Power is devolved to regional assemblies.)

Devolved Assembly /di:vəld əˈsembli/ noun one of the representative bodies set up in the UK in 1998, which are the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, Northern Ireland Assembly and, in 2000, the Greater London Assembly

devolved government /di:vəld ˈgəvərnment/ noun government with the power to make laws on the internal affairs of a region of a country (NOTE: Devolved governments were established in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in 1998, but in 2004 the one in Northern Ireland is in abeyance.)

DFES abbreviation Department for Education and Skills

DFID /ˈdɛfɪd/ abbreviation Department for International Development

DfT abbreviation Department for Transport
diary /ˈdɛəri/ noun 1. a book in which you can write notes or appointments for each day of the week and record events which have taken place.
dictator /ˈdɪkˈtætər/ noun 1. a ruler who has complete power.  The country has been ruled by a military dictator for six years.  The MPs accused the party leader of behaving like a dictator.
dictatorial /ˈdɪkʃərəli/ adjective 1. referring to a ruler who has complete power.  a dictatorial form of government. 2. behaving like a ruler with complete power.  Officials disliked the Minister’s dictatorial way of working.
dictatorship /ˈdɪkτətʃɪp/ noun 1. rule by someone with complete power.  Under the dictatorship of Mussolini, personal freedom was restricted.  the dictatorship of the proletariat in Marxist theory, the period after a revolution when the Communist Party takes control until a true classless society develops. 2. a country ruled by an army officer as a dictator.
diehard noun, adjective a person who strongly opposes any form of change.  He’s a diehard Conservative.  Diehard Labour supporters criticised the new style of leadership.
Diet /ˈdɛət/ noun the legislative body in Japan and some other countries.
diplomatic immunity

/diplomatik ɪ'mjʊənɪti/ noun the right of not being subject to the laws of the country in which you are living, because you are a diplomat ○ She claimed diplomatic immunity to avoid being arrested.

diplomatic relations /diplomatɪk riˈleʃ(ə)nz/ plural noun the arrangements by which two countries have representatives in each other's country and deal with each other formally ○ The countries have broken off diplomatic relations.

diplomatic service /diplomatɪk ˈsɜːvəs/ noun the government department concerned with relations with other countries, including those who work in embassies, consulates, and other representatives abroad ○ He has decided on a career in the diplomatic service.

diplomatist /ˌdɪpləˈmætɪst/ noun same as diplomat (formal)

direct action /ˈdɪrɛkt ˈæktʃən/ noun political or industrial action intended to have immediate and noticeable effect that will influence opinion, e.g. a strike, boycott or civil disobedience

direct democracy /dɪrɛkt deməkrəsi/ noun rule of the people by the people without the intervention of representatives ○ The only really viable form of direct democracy for the modern world is the use of referendums.

direct election /dɪrɛkt ɪˈlektʃən/ noun an election where the voters vote for the person who will represent them, as opposed to elections where the voters vote for people who then choose the representative

direction /dɪrɛktʃən/ noun 1. control or leadership 2. the general progress of something ○ unhappy about the direction the party has taken in recent years • directions instructions which explain how something should be done ○ The court is not able to give directions to the local authority.

directive /dɪrɛktɪv/ noun 1. an order to someone to do something 2. a piece of legislation made by the European Commission ○ The Commission issued a directive on food prices. (NOTE: A directive of the European Commission is binding as to the result to be achieved, but leaves to the national authorities the choice of form and method (Article 189 EC).)

direct labour organisation /ˈdɪrɛkt leəˈbɔːr, ˌdʒʊʒənəlˈzɛf(ə)n/ noun a group of workers employed by a council or other government department, as opposed to a group who are privately employed by a company which has a contract to do the work from the council or government department. Abbr DLO

director /ˈdɪrɛktər/ noun 1. a person whose job involves managing all or part of an organisation or company ○ He is the director of a government institute. ○ She was appointed director of the charity. 2. the person appointed by the shareholders to manage a company 3. the chief officer of a department or government organization, in charge of the education or housing or social services in his or her area

director-general /ˈdɪrɛktər(ə)ˈdʒɜːnərəl/ noun an administrative section of the European Commission

director-general /ˈdɪrɛktər(ə)ˈdʒɜːnərəl/ noun 1. a person in charge of a large organisation, with several directors responsible to him or her 2. in the European Union, a civil servant in charge of one of the directorates-general in the European Union

Director-General of Fair Trading /ˈdɪrɛktər(ə)ˈdʒɜːnərəl əv, ˌfɛətɪndʒ/ noun the official in charge of the Office of Fair Trading, a body which regulates businesses and protects consumers

Director of Education /ˈdɪrɛktər əv, ˈedʒjuˈkeʃ(ə)n/ noun an officer of
a local authority who is responsible for schools and colleges in the area

Director of Public Prosecutions /ˈdɪərɪktər ˈprɛsɪʃən/ noun the government official in charge of the Crown Prosecution Service, reporting to the Attorney-General, who advises on criminal cases brought by the police, prosecutors in important cases and advises other government departments if prosecutions should be started. The papers in the case have been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Abbr DPP
directory /ˈdɪərɪkt(ə)rɪ/ noun a list of people or businesses with their addresses and telephone numbers, and sometimes further information about them
direct primary /ˈdɪərɪkt ˈpærəməri/ noun in the United States, a primary election in which the candidates for an office are each chosen by popular vote
direct tax /ˈdɪərɪkt ˈtæks/ noun tax which is paid on money that has been earned or profits, e.g. income tax
direct taxation /ˈdɪərɪkt ˈtæksɪˈteɪʃən/ noun the system of taxing a person or organisation on money that has been earned or on profits
dirigisme noun tight government control of a country’s economy and social institutions
dirty trick /ˈdɪərɪtɪ ˈtrɪk/ plural noun tactics used in a political campaign against an opponent that are not completely fair or honest
Disability Rights Commission /ˌdɪsəˈablɪti ˈrɛts rɪˈmaɪʃən/ an organisation which works to improve the conditions of people with disabilities and to remove any discrimination against them. Abbr DRC (NOTE: In 2006 the Disability Rights Commission will be merged with other bodies to form the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.)
disadvantage /ˌdɪsəˈvantɪdʒ/ noun something which makes someone or something less successful than others. It is a disadvantage for a tax lawyer not to have studied to be an accountant. at a disadvantage less likely to be successful. not having studied law puts him at a disadvantage.
disadvantaged /ˌdɪsəˈvæntɪdʒd/ adjective referring to people who have less money, education or opportunities than others, or to places where conditions are more
disappear /ˌdɪsəˈpɪər/ verb to arrest or kill a political opponent without the process of law
dismantle /ˌdɪsmənt/ verb the process of reducing the number of arms held by a country
disbursement /ˌdɪsbəˈzmənt/ noun the payment of money from a large amount which has been collected for a purpose
discharge /ˌdɪʃərɑː/ verb. The judge discharged the jury. to discharge a committee US to remove control of a bill from a committee, especially if a committee has not reported on a bill within 30 days
Discharge Calendar /ˌdɪʃər ˈkæləndər/ noun a list of motions for discharging committees
disciplinary /ˌdɪskəˈplɪnərɪ/ adjective referring to punishment for breaking rules. disciplinary procedure a way of warning someone officially that he or she is not doing things in the expected way. to take disciplinary action against someone to punish
disclaimer /dɪsˈkleɪmər/ noun a legal refusal to accept responsibility or to accept a right

disclosure /dɪskluːzər/ noun the act of telling details or of publishing a secret. o The disclosure of the takeover bid raised the price of the shares. o The defendant’s case was made stronger by the disclosure that the plaintiff was an undischarged bankrupt.

discretionary /dɪskrɪˈtʃərē/ adjective available to use if necessary o the minister’s discretionary powers which the minister could use if he thought he should do so

discriminate /dɪskrɪˈmeɪt/ verb to note real or imagined differences between things and act on these judgments, sometimes unfairly o The planning committee finds it difficult to discriminate between applications which improve the community, and those which are purely commercial.

discrimination /dɪskrɪˈmeɪʃən/ noun action which treats different groups of people in different ways, sometimes unfairly o Racial discrimination is against the law. o She accused the council of sexual discrimination in their recruitment policy.

disenfranchise /dɪsɪnˈfrendʒ/ verb to deprive a person or organisation of a privilege or legal right, especially the right to vote

disestablish /dɪsɪˈstæbliʃ/ verb to end a legal relationship between a state and a church or religion

disloyal /dɪsˈlәʊəl/ adjective not supporting your country, friends or political party

disloyalty /dɪsˈlәʊəlɪtɪ/ noun behaviour that does not support your country, friends or political party

disqualify /dɪskwɑːlɪˈfeɪ/ verb to prevent someone from continuing to do something because they have done something wrong, or because it is not allowed by a set of rules o After the accident he was fined £1,000 and disqualified from driving for two years. o Being a judge disqualifies her from being a Member of Parliament.

disqualifying /dɪskwɑːlɪˈfyaɪng/ adjective not allowed by a set of rules o the rules in some way


dissent /dɪsert/ noun strong lack of agreement o The opposition showed its dissent by voting against the Bill. o verb not to agree with someone o The motion was carried, three councillors dissented. o dissenting opinion the opinion of a member of a committee, showing that he or she disagrees with the other members

dissident /dɪsˈsɪdənt/ adjective not in agreement with a political group or government o a dissident writer

disestablishment /dɪsɪˈstæbliʃmənt/ noun the formal process of ending a business or legal relationship o also dissolution of Parliament
process of ending a parliament, which is followed by a general election. The government lost the vote of no confidence, and so the Prime Minister asked for a dissolution of Parliament.

dissolve /dɪˈzɔlv/ verb to bring a business or legal relationship to an end.

to dissolve Parliament to end a session of Parliament, and so force a general election.

**district** /ˈdɪstrɪkt/ noun a section of a town or of a country.

District Auditor /ˈdɪstrɪkt ˈɔːdɪtə/ noun a local official of the Audit Commission.

**district council** /ˈdɪstrɪkt ˈkaʊnsəl/ noun an elected body which runs a local area.

**district court** /ˈdɪstrɪkt kɔːt/ noun US A court in a federal district.

District of Columbia /ˈdɪstrɪkt vəˈlaʊmbɪə/ noun the district of which the US capital Washington is the centre, which is not part of any state of the USA and is administered directly by Congress. Abbr DC.

**district registry** /ˈdɪstrɪkt ˈredʒɪstrɪ/ noun the office where records of births, marriages and deaths are kept for an area.

divide /dɪˈvɑːd/ verb.

1. to make into separate sections; The country is divided into six administrative regions.

2. The two departments agreed to divide the work between them, in the House of Commons to vote.

3. to disagree, or make people disagree; They were divided on the issue of the benefits of membership of the European Union.

**division** /dɪˈvɪʒən/ noun.

1. a section of something which is divided into several sections; Smith's is now a division of the Brown group of companies.

2. one of the separate sections of the High Court (the Queen's Bench Division, the Family Division and the Chancery Division) or the sections of the Appeal Court (Civil Division and Criminal Division).

3. (in the House of Commons) a vote; In the division on the Law and Order Bill, the government had a comfortable majority.

**divide** 2. the act of dividing or of being divided; division of responsibility the act of sharing the responsibility for something between several people.

**COMMENT:** When a division is called in the House of Commons, the Speaker names four MPs as tellers, bells are rung and the doors out of the division lobbies are closed. MPs file through the lobbies and are counted as they pass through the doors and go back into the chamber. At the end of the division, the tellers report the numbers of Ayes and Noes, and the Speaker declares the result by saying 'the Ayes have it' or 'the Noes have it'.

divisional /dɪˈvɪʒən(ə)l/ adjective referring to a division; a divisional education officer.

division bell /dɪˈvɪʒən bel/ noun the bell which is rung to warn MPs that a vote is going to be taken.

division bell area /dɪˈvɪʒən bel ˈɛərɪə/ noun the area round the House of Commons which is near enough for MPs to come to vote after the division bell has rung. Eight minutes is allowed between the bell and the vote.

**She has a flat in the division bell area.**

division list /dɪˈvɪʒən list/ noun a list of MPs who voted for and against a motion, usually included in Hansard on the day after the vote.

division lobby /dɪˈvɪʒən ˈləbi/ noun one of two rooms in the House of Commons through which MPs pass to vote. Also called voting lobby (note: The Aye lobby is to the right of the Speaker's chair, behind the seats where the MPs who form the government sit, and the No lobby is to the left.)

division vote /dɪˈvɪʒən vɔʊt/ noun US a vote in the House of Representatives, where members stand up to be counted and the vote is not re-
contracts and wills are all legal documents of policy

...a good DLO will subcontract work to the private sector, if only to give itself a benchmark for performance measurement' [Local Government News]

DMK noun in Tamil Nadu, India, a political party advocating the promotion of Tamil society and culture. Full form Dravida Munnetra Kazhgam

DND/CF abbreviation Department of National Defense and the Canadian Forces

D-notice /dəˈnəʊtɪs/ noun a government statement, without legal force, containing official guidance to news editors that the publication of a specific piece of information is not advisable. should be DA-notice. Full form Defence Advisory notice

documentary /ˌdɒkjʊˈmɛntəri/ adjective in the form of documents. documentary evidence. documentary proof

documentation /ˌdɒkjʊˈmeɪnt/ noun all the documents referring to something. Please send me the complete documentation concerning this sale.

DOD abbreviation US Department of Defense

Dod’s Parliamentary Companion /ˈdɒdz ˌpærəˌmeɪnt/ noun a small book containing details of all MPs, their constituencies and government posts

DOE abbreviation US Department of Energy

dogma /ˈdɒgma/ noun a belief or set of beliefs of a political, religious or other group of people

dogmatic /ˈdɒɡmætɪk/ adjective relating to a religious, political, philosophical or moral dogma

DOI abbreviation US Department of the Interior

dollar diplomacy /ˈdɒlər dɪˈpləmaʊri/ noun the use of money to establish good relations with other countries. In the United States, a policy aimed at encouraging and protecting US interests abroad

domain /ˈdɑʊmən/ noun the territory ruled by a specific government or leader

Domesday Book /ˈdəʊmzdeɪ bʊk/ noun a record made for King William I in 1086, which recorded lands in England and their owners for tax purposes

domestic /ˈdəʊmɛstɪk/ adjective 1. referring to a family or home. 2. referring to the home country or to the country where a business has its head office. The remarks by the ambassador were regarded as interference in the country’s domestic affairs.

domestic consumption /ˈdəʊmɛstɪk kənˈsuməns/ noun the use of goods in a country, or the amount used

domestic production /ˈdəʊmɛstɪk prəˈdɛkʃən/ production of goods in a country

domestic rate /ˈdəʊmɛstɪk rɛt/ noun a local tax which is levied on houses and flats

domicile /ˈdɒməsɪl/ noun the country where someone is said to live permanently or where a company’s office is registered, especially for tax purposes. domicile of origin the domicile which a person has from birth, usually the domicile of the father. domicile of choice country where someone has chosen to live, which is not the domicile of origin. verb to live in a particular place. he is domiciled in Denmark. he lives in Denmark officially
dominant party /domɪnant pərti/ noun In a democracy, the way in which one political party tends to be stronger and more successful in winning elections than the others for a period of time. The dominant party in US politics after 1932 was the Democratic Party, but its dominance was probably at an end by the end of the century.

donATION /dəʊʃnəʃ(ə)n/ noun the money given to an organisation such as a political party or charity.

donkey vote /dɔŋki vɔʊt/ noun in the preferential voting system, a vote in which the preferences are just marked in the order that they appear on the ballot sheet. In Australia, where voting is compulsory, this is often a way of registering a protest vote or abstention.

doorsstep /dɔːstɪp/ verb to talk to people at their doors in order to persuade them to buy something, to vote for a candidate in an election, or to find out their opinions.

doorstep poll /dɔːstɪp pəl/ noun an opinion survey carried out by asking people questions at their front doors. A doorstep poll suggested that the sitting MP might lose her seat.

doors-to-doors /dɔː tə 'dɔː/ adjective going from one house to the next.

domino effect /ˈdɒmɪno ɛfɛkt/ noun the situation that happens when one event causes another which then causes another to happen. In the 1960s some Americans argued that if Vietnam became a communist country the rest of Southeast Asia would also become communist according to the domino effect.

domino theory /ˈdɒmɪno θəri/ noun a theory that political events are connected and that one event can start a chain of others. The theory was developed by US President Dwight D. Eisenhower to warn of the spread of Communism in Southeast Asia.

donate /dəʊnət/ verb to give money to an organisation, especially a political party or charity.

donation /dəʊnəʃ(ə)n/ noun the money given to an organisation such as a political party or charity.

dorothy Dixer /dɔːrəθi ˈdɪksə/ noun a question asked in parliament which allows a politician, especially a minister, to give a prepared answer.

double agent /ˈdʌblə ˈeɪdʒənt/ noun someone who spies for one government and also gives secret information about that government to the other.

double dissolution /ˈdʌblə dɪsəluˈʃ(ə)n/ noun in Australia, the dissolution of both houses of the federal parliament by the governor general when the upper house has repeatedly refused to pass legislation already passed by the lower house.

double taxation /ˈdʌblə ˌtækʃ(ə)n/ noun a system of taxing the same income twice, e.g. by a direct tax and an indirect tax, or by paying tax in two countries.

double tax treaty /ˈdʌblə ˌtæktrɪ/ noun an agreement between two countries so that citizens or businesses pay tax in one country only.

dove /dɔv/ noun a person who tries to achieve peace through discussion. Compare hawk.

doveish /ˈdɔvɪʃ, ˈdʌvɪʃ/ adjective favouring diplomatic solutions to foreign policy issues and preferring to avoid confrontation or war. He was accused of having doveish tendencies. Compare hawkish.

Downing Street /daʊnɪŋ strɪkt/ noun the street in London where the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer have their official houses. Also called No. 10 Downing Street.

(Note: The words 'Downing Street' are often used to mean 'the Prime...
doyen of the diplomatic corps 80

Minister’ or even ‘the British government’: a Downing Street spokesman revealed that the plan had still to be approved by the Treasury; Downing Street sources indicate that the Prime Minister has given the go-ahead for the change; Downing Street is angry at suggestions that the treaty will not be ratified.

DPP abbreviation Director of Public Prosecutions
draconian /draˈkɔnɪən/ adjective extremely severe ○ The government took draconian measures against the student protesters.
draft /dрастf/ noun a first rough plan or document which has not been finished ○ a draft of a contract or a draft contract ○ He drew up a draft agreement ○ The draft minutes were sent to the chairman for approval ○ The draft Bill is with the House of Commons lawyers. ○ The draft of the press release was passed by the Minister. ● verb to make a first rough plan of a document ○ to draft a contract or a document or a bill ○ The contract is still being drafted
draft bill /dрастf ‘bɪl/ noun a Bill that is examined by a departmental Select Committee before it is introduced in Parliament, allowing MPs who have special knowledge of the subject to make comments at an early stage
drafting /drafstŋ/ noun the act of preparing the first rough plan of a document ○ the drafting stage of a parliamentary Bill ○ The drafting of the contract took six weeks.
draftsman /drafstsmən/, draughtsman /drafstsmən/, draftsman, draughtsman, draughtswoman noun same as drafter
draw up /dɹə/ ‘ʌp/ verb to write a legal document ○ to draw up a contract or an agreement ○ to draw up a company’s articles of association
dRC abbreviation Disability Rights Commission
dream ticket /dri:tm ‘tɪktɪ/ noun a pair or team of candidates standing for associated political offices who seem to share between them all the qualities that will make them successful in an election
dSS abbreviation US Department of Social Services
DTI abbreviation Department of Trade and Industry
dual nationality /ˈdjuːəl ˈnæʃənəl/ noun the right to be a citizen of two countries
ducal /ˈduːkəl/ adjective referring to a person who holds the title of duke or duchess
duchess /ˈdʌʃəs/ noun the wife of a man who holds the title of duke
duchy /ˈdʌʃi/ noun the area once ruled by a person with the title of duke. ○ Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
duke /djuːk/ noun a person with the highest noble title
Duma /ˈdʊmə/ noun the Russian parliament
dummy /ˈdʌmɪ/ noun a paper with the titles of a Bill, presented in the House of Commons for the First Reading when the short title is read out by the clerk
dutiable /ˈdjuːtəb(ə)l/ adjective carrying a tax ○ dutiable goods, dutiable items goods on which a customs or excise duty has to be paid
duty /ˈdjuːtɪ/ noun 1. the responsibility for something that someone has ○ It is the duty of every citizen to serve on a jury if called. ○ The government has a duty to protect its citizens from criminals. 2. the official work which someone has to do in their job 3. the tax which is paid on goods ○ to take the duty off alcohol ○ to put a duty on cigarettes ○ goods which are liable to duty goods on which customs or excise tax has to be paid
**duty bound** /ˈdjuːti baʊnd/ adjective having to do something because it is your duty ○ Witnesses under oath are duty bound to tell the truth.

**duty of care** /ˈdjuːti əv ˈkeə/ noun the responsibility to be careful at work not to harm other people

**duumvir** /djuːˈmɪvər/ noun either of two people who share a position of authority equally between them

**DWP** abbreviation Department for Work and Pensions

**dyarchy** noun another spelling of diarchy

**dynast** /ˈdaɪnəst/ noun a ruler who is member of a powerful ruling family, especially a hereditary monarch

**dynastic** /ˈdaɪnæstɪk/ adjective referring to a family of rulers ○ the rules of dynastic succession

**dynasty** /ˈdaɪnəstɪ/ noun 1. a family of rulers, following one after the other ○ The Ming dynasty ruled China from 1368 to 1644. 2. a period of rule by members of the same family

**dystopia** /ˌdɪsˈtɔːpiə/ noun an imaginary place where everything is as bad as it possibly can be. Compare utopia
earl /ə:əl/ noun a lord of middle rank, below a marquess and above a viscount (NOTE: The wife of an earl is a countess.)

earldom /ə:dəm/ noun the title of earl

early day motion /ə:li/ det 'məuʃ(ə)n/ noun a motion proposed in the House of Commons for discussion 'at an early date'. Usually used to introduce the particular point of view of the MP proposing the motion, and seldom actually followed by a full debate.

earning power /'ɛ:nəriŋ, ˈpouə/ noun the amount of money someone should be able to earn

East Asia /'i:st ˈeɪʃə/ the area of China, Hong Kong, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Macau, Mongolia, parts of Russia, and Taiwan. Also called Far East

EC abbreviation European Community. Now called European Union

ECHR abbreviation European Court of Human Rights

ECJ abbreviation European Court of Justice

economic /ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk/ adjective 1. referring to a country's economy 2. The government's economic policy was shown to be working. 2. not needing much money to be spent 3. It would not be economic to open the advice office on Sundays.

economic migrant /ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk ˈmeɪgrant/ noun a worker who travels to an area or country where work or an easier life is available

economic planning /ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk ˈplænɪŋ/ noun the activity of planning the future financial state of a country for the government

economic sanctions /ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk ˈseŋkʃ(ə)ns/ plural noun restrictions place by one country on trade with another country in order to influence its political situation or in order to make its government change its policy 1. to impose sanctions on a country or to lift sanctions 2. The imposition of sanctions has had a marked effect on the country's economy.

economic trend /ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk ˈtrend/ noun the way in which a country's economy is growing or shrinking

economic union /ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪk ˈjuːnɪʒ(ə)n/ noun the economies of two or more countries merged to function as a unit that shares a common financial policy and currency

ecoterrorism /ˌiːkəˈtɛrərɪz(ə)m/ noun disruption of the activities of people or companies who are regarded as polluting or destroying the natural environment

economism /ˌiːkəˈnɒmɪz(ə)m/ noun 1. the belief that economics is the most important element to consider in a society 2. the belief that improvement of the living standards of its members is the chief goal of a political or trade union organisation

economy /ˈiːkənəmi/ noun 1. the financial state of a country or the way in which a country makes and uses its money 2. the careful use of waste money or materials

e-democracy /ˌiːdəˈmɔkræsi/ noun the use of electronic systems for people to use in order to vote or for the
government to consult people’s opinion
edict /ˈdɪkɪt/ noun an official order or announcement
Eduskunta noun the legislature in Finland
EEA abbreviation European Economic Area
EEC abbreviation European Economic Community. Now called European Community (EC)
Eerste Kamer noun the upper house of the legislature in the Netherlands. States-General
EEFT abbreviation European Free Trade Area
egalitarian /ɪɡəlɪtəriən/ adjective referring to egalitarianism. She holds egalitarian views.
egalitarianism /ɪɡəlɪtəriənzɪзən/ noun the political theory that all members of society have equal rights and should have equal treatment
EGM abbreviation Extraordinary General Meeting
e-government /ˈiː ɡəvərn(ə)mənt/ noun government services made available to the public by electronic means such as the Internet
Eire noun now called Republic of Ireland
Éireann, Seanad Éireann
Eisenhower /ˈezənhaʊər/, Dwight D. (1890–1969) supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe during World War II and 34th president of the United States
elect /ˈeɪlkt/ verb 1. to choose someone by a vote. a vote to elect the officers of an association. She was elected chair of the committee. He was first elected for this constituency in 1979. 2. to choose to do something. He elected to stand trial by jury.
-elect /-eɪlkt/ suffix the person who has been elected but has not yet started the term of office. She is the president-elect. (Note: The plural is presidents-elect.)
election /ˈeɪlktʃən/ noun 1. the act of electing a representative or representatives. general election, local election 2. the act of choosing his recent election as president of the society. The accused made his election for jury trial.
election agent /ˌeɪlktʃən ˈeɪdʒənt/ noun a person appointed by a party to organise its campaign in a constituency during an election. The ruling party lost votes in the general election or in the elections for local councils. The election results are shown on television.
election campaign /ˌeɪlktʃən kamˈpeɪn/ noun the period immediately before an election, when candidates try to gain support
Election Day /ˌeɪlktʃən ˈdeɪ/ noun in the United States, a day designated by law for the election of people to public office (Note: In the United States, Election Day for national elections is designated by law as the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in even-numbered years.)
electioneer /ˌeɪlktʃən ɪr/ verb (often as criticism) to get votes in an election, e.g. by visiting people and giving interviews to the media. Cutting taxes just before the election is pure electioneering.
election expenses /ˌeɪlktʃən ɪkˈspoʊsəz/ plural noun the money spent by a candidate or political party during an election campaign, which has to be publicly declared
elective /ˌeɪlktɪv/ adjective 1. relating to voting. 2. chosen by a vote, or held by someone who is chosen by a vote. elective office
elector /ˌeɪlktər/ noun a person who is qualified to vote in an election (Note: There is an important distinction to be made between electors, who are qualified to vote but may not choose to do so, and voters, who do actually vote)
electoral /ˌeɪlktərəl/ adjective relating to elections. the electoral process
electoral college /ɪˈlekt(ə)rəl/ 'kɒlɪdʒ/ noun a small group of people elected by the whole population to vote on their behalf in an election with two stages.

COMMENT: The President of the USA is elected by an electoral college made up of people elected by voters in each of the states of the USA. Each state elects the same number of electors to the electoral college as it has Congressmen, plus two. This guarantees that the college is broadly representative of voters across the country. The presidential candidate with an overall majority in the college is elected president.

Electoral Commission /ɪˈlekt(ə)rəl kə,mɪʃ(ə)n/ noun an independent body that reviews donations to political parties and the amount of money spent on election campaigns and examines electoral law and practice. It also tries to make people more aware of the process of electing people. (NOTE: It was established by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.)

electoral platform /ɪˈlekt(ə)rəl plətform/ noun the set of proposals for future policy set out by a candidate or party before an election which the candidate claims he or she will carry out if elected. The party is campaigning on a platform of lower taxes and less government interference in municipal affairs.

electoral quota /ɪˈlekt(ə)rəl kwəʊtə/ noun in Australia, the number of representatives of a state or territory that can be elected to the House of Representatives, in proportion to the population of the state or territory, i.e. approximately 1:70,000 inhabitants.

electoral reform /ɪˈlekt(ə)rəl rɪˈfɔrhm/ noun the process of changing the system of voting.

electoral register /ɪˈlekt(ə)rəl ˈredʒɪstr/; electoral roll /ɪˈlekt(ə)rəl ˈrəʊl/ noun a list of the names of all the people who are eligible to vote who have registered to do so. Also called electoral roll.
press release to say that information given to the media must not be made public before a specific date. to lift an embargo to allow trade to start again. The government has embargoed trade with the Eastern countries. the press release was embargoed until 1st January the information in the release could not be published until 1st January

embassy /ˈembrəsi/ noun 1. a building where an ambassador and other diplomats work in a foreign country. the American embassy. Each embassy is guarded by special police. 2. an ambassador and his staff, sent by a government to represent it in another country. Queen Elizabeth I sent an embassy to the Tsar Ivan the Terrible.

COMMENT: An embassy is the territory of the country which it represents. The police and armed forces of the country where the embassy is situated are not allowed to enter the embassy without official permission. People seeking asylum in a specific country can take refuge in its embassy, but it is not easy for them to leave, as to do so they have to step back into the country against which they are seeking protection.

emblem /ˈembliːm/ noun an object used as the symbol of a country, state or town. The leek and the red dragon are emblems of Wales.

emergency /ˈɪmʒərənsi/ noun a dangerous situation where decisions have to be taken quickly

emergency debate /ˈɪmʒərənsi ˈdeɪbi/ noun a special debate on a subject of great national importance, which takes place within 24 hours of being requested. (NOTE: Only one or two emergency debates are accepted each year.)

emergency planning department /ˈɪmʒərənsi ˈplənɪŋ ˈdɪˌpartmənt/ noun a department in a local council which plans for action to be taken in case of major accidents

emergency planning officer /ˈɪmʒərənsi ˈplənɪŋ ˈɒfɪsə/ noun a council official who prepares the actions needed to deal with dangerous situations such as major accidents

emergency powers /ˈɪmʒərənsi ˈpɔːrz/ plural noun the special powers granted to a government or to a minister to deal with a dangerous situation

emergency services /ˈɪmʒərənsi ˈsɜrvəsɪz/ plural noun the police, fire and ambulance services, which are ready for action if a dangerous situation happens

emergent /ˈɪmʒərənt/ adjective still in the process of developing

emigrant /ˈɪmʒərɪnt/ noun a person who leaves one country to live permanently in another

emigrate /ˈɪmʒɪgreɪt/ verb to go to another country to live permanently

emigration /ˈɪmʒɪɡreɪʃən/ noun the act of leaving a country to go to live permanently in another country

emissary /ˈɪmʒəsərɪ/ noun a person who carries a special message from one government to another

emoluments /ˈɛməljʊmənts/ plural noun the pay earned by someone for the work they have done. (NOTE: The US term is emolument.)

emperor /ˈɪmperor/ noun a man who rules a country or a group of countries. The Emperor of Japan or the Japanese Emperor

empress /ˈɪmprɛs/ noun a large group of countries ruled by one country. The British Empire came to an end after the Second World War, and was replaced by the Commonwealth.

employ /ɪmˈplɔː/ verb to give someone regular paid work. The council employs people with disabilities in its offices. She runs a department employing two hundred people.

employed /ɪmˈplɔːd/ adjective in regular paid work

employee /ɪmˈplɔːz/ noun a person paid to work for someone or for a
company  o Employees of the firm are eligible to join a profit-sharing scheme.  o Relations between management and employees have improved.  o The council has decided to stop taking on new employees.

employer /ɪmˈploʊər/ noun a person or company which has paid workers

employer’s contribution /ɪmˈploʊərˈkɒntrɪbjuʃən/ noun the money paid by an employer towards an employee’s pension

employment /ɪmˈploʊəmənt/ noun the state of being employed or paid to work for someone or for a company

employment programme /ɪmˈploʊəmənt ˈprəʊədʒərm/ noun a government plan to create more jobs

employment statistics /ɪmˈploʊəmənt ˈstætstɪstɪks/ plural noun government figures on the numbers of people who are working

empress /ˈemprɪs/ noun 1. a woman who rules an empire  o Queen Victoria was the Empress of India.  2. the wife of an emperor

enabling legislation /ɛnˈelɪbɪŋ ˈledʒɪʃən/ noun an Act of Parliament which gives a minister the power to put other legislation into effect

enact /ɪnˈe akt/ verb to make a proposal for legislation into a law

enacting clause /ɪnˈe aktɪŋ ˈklɔːzl/,
enacting words noun the first section of a bill, starting with the words ‘be it enacted that’ which gives the bill its official legal status when parliament has voted to accept it

enactment /ɪnˈe aktmənt/ noun 1. the act of making a proposal for legislation into a law  2. an Act of Parliament

enclave /ɪnˈkləv/ noun a region which belongs to one country or is independent but is completely surrounded by another country

endorse /ɪnˈdɔrs/ verb 1. to agree with or support something  o The council endorsed the action taken by the Chief Executive.  o Many MPs endorsed the efforts made the soldiers to gain compensation.  2. to formally approve or permit something  o These practices have not been endorsed by any official.  3. to make a note on a driving licence that the holder has been convicted of a traffic offence  4. to sign a receipt or cheque

endorsement /ɪnˈdɔrzmənt/ noun 1. an act of approving or permitting something  2. a signature on a document which approves or permits something  3. a note on a driving licence to show that the holder has been convicted of a traffic offence

enemy /ˈenəmi/ noun a person or country which is hostile to another  o His political enemies took the opportunity to oust him from the post.

enforce /ɪnˈfɔrs/ verb to make sure something is done or is obeyed  o to enforce the terms of a contract

enforceable /ɪnˈfɔrsəbəl/ adjective something which can be enforced  o In practice the bylaw was not easily enforceable.

enfranchise /ɪnˈfræntʃəz/ verb to give someone the right to vote  o franchise

enfranchisement /ɪnˈfræntʃɪzmənt/ noun the action of giving someone the right to vote

engage /ɪnˈgɛʒ/ adjective (of artists, writers, etc.) showing political involvement

engross /ɪnˈɡrɔs/ verb to draw up a legal document in its final form

engrossed Bill /ɪnˈɡrɔst bɪl/ noun US a Bill which has been passed by either the House of Representatives or Senate which is written out in its final form with all amendments to be sent to the other chamber for discussion

engrossment /ɪnˈɡrɔsmənt/ noun 1. the drawing up of a legal document in its final form  2. a legal document in its final form

enquire /ɪnˈkwɔr/ same as inquire

enquiry /ɪnˈkwɔri/ same as inquiry

enrolled bill /ɪnˈrəuld bɪl/ noun US the final copy of a bill which has been
equalitarian  making something the same in size, amount or importance for all the members of a group

egalitarian, equalitarianism, egalitarian

equality /ɪˈkwɔːlɪti/ noun the condition where all citizens are equal, have equal rights and are treated equally by the state

equality of opportunity /ɪˈkwɔːlətɪv ˌɒpəˈtjuːnɪtɪ/ noun a situation where each citizen has the same chance to get a job, be elected or have other opportunities

equal opportunities /ɪˈkwɔːl ˈɒpəˌtjuːnətiz/ noun a policy of avoiding discrimination against groups in society like women, disabled people and ethnic and religious groups (NOTE: The US term is affirmative action program.)

Equal Opportunities Commission /ɪˈkwɔːl ˈɒpəˌtjuːnətiz ˈkɒmɪʃn/ noun the official organisation set up in 1975 to make sure that men and women have equal chances of employment and to remove discrimination between the sexes (NOTE: From 2006 the Equal Opportunities Commission is to be merged with other similar bodies into the Commission for Equality and Human Rights)

equivalence /ɪˈkwɪvələns/ noun the same value as something else

equivalent /ɪˈkwɪvələnt/ adjective being of the same value as something else

Erskine May /ˈɜːskɪn ˈmeɪ/ noun the book which gives detailed information on how Parliament conducts its business

COMMENT: Erskine May’s ‘Treatise on the Law, Privileges, Proceedings and Usage of Parliament’ was originally published in 1844. The author, Sir Thomas Erskine May, was Clerk of the House of Commons. The book is updated frequently, and is the authority on questions of parliamentary procedure.

escalation /ɪˌskæləˈʃən/ noun an increase in something

espionage /ɛsˈpɪənɪdʒ/ noun the use of spies to get important secret information about another country or company.

counter-espionage

established post /ˈestəblɪʃt ˈpɔːst/ noun a permanent post in the civil service or similar organisation

establishment /ɪˈstæblɪʃmənt/ noun 1. an organisation or institution 2. the Establishment powerful and important people who run the country and its government

the Establishment and the old universities form the basis of the Establishment: great 3. the permanent staff of a government department or military force

establishment officer /ɪˈstæblɪʃmənt ˈɒfɪsə/ noun a civil servant in charge of personnel in a government department

estate /ɪˈstɛt/ noun any of three divisions of parliament or constitutional government, either the Lords Temporal, Lords Spiritual, and the Commons, or the Crown, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons.

The Scottish parliament before the Union was composed of the three estates of the high-ranking clergy, the barons, and the representatives of the royal burghs.

estate duty /ɪˈstɛt ˈdʒuːtɪ/ noun the tax paid on the property left by a dead person. Also called death duty

estimate noun/ˈɛstɪmeɪt/ an attempt to say what future costs or income will be. estimates of expenditure calculation of future expenditure prepared for each government department by the minister verb/ˈɛstɪmet/ to attempt to say what future costs or income will be. estimates 1. detailed statements of future expenditure for each government department (divided into Civil Estimates and Defence Estimates) presented to the House of Commons for approval 2. detailed statements of future expenditure for each department of a local authority

ethical /ˈɛθɪk(ə)l/ adjective morally correct
Each commissioner has responsibility for a Directorate-General or department with specific policy interests like transport or agriculture.

**European Commission**

Each commissioner has responsibility for a Directorate-General or department with specific policy interests like transport or agriculture.

**European Constitution**

A constitution that brings together the many treaties and agreements on which the European Union is based. It defines the powers of the EU, stating where it can and cannot act and in what cases the Member States have a right of veto, and also defines the role of the EU institutions. (NOTE: It was ratified in Brussels on 18 June 2004.)

**European Council**

A group formed of the heads of state or of government of the member states of the European Union, which meets at least twice a year under the chairmanship of the member state which holds the presidency, to discuss EU matters. The presidency of the council passes from country to country every six months.

**European Court of Human Rights**

The court which sits in Strasbourg considering the rights of citizens of states which have signed the European Convention of Human Rights.

**European Court of Justice**

The court which sits in Luxembourg and is responsible for judging cases under the law of the European Union and hearing appeals under European law from Member States of the EU.

**European Economic Area**

The area covered by the treaty signed between the European Union and some other European countries outside the EU which allows free trade with these countries. Abbreviation **EEA**

**Euro-MP**

A Member of the European Parliament.

**Euro-constituency**

An electoral district which elects an MEP to the European Parliament. Also called **Euro-seat**

**Euro-seat**

A Member of the European Parliament.

**Eurocrat**

A civil servant working in any of the European Union institutions (informal)

**Euro-centred**

Focusing on Europe, sometimes in a way that is dismissive of other parts of the world.

**ETLLD**

Abbreviation for Scotland Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department.

**EU**

European Union

**Euro-constituency**

An electoral district which elects an MEP to the European Parliament. Also called **Euro-seat**

**Euro-MP**

A Member of the European Parliament.

**European**

Referring to Europe.

**European Community**

An Union institutions.

**European Constitution**

A constitution that brings together the many treaties and agreements on which the European Union is based. It defines the powers of the EU, stating where it can and cannot act and in what cases the Member States have a right of veto, and also defines the role of the EU institutions. (NOTE: It was ratified in Brussels on 18 June 2004.)

**European Council**

A group formed of the heads of state or of government of the member states of the European Union, which meets at least twice a year under the chairmanship of the member state which holds the presidency, to discuss EU matters. The presidency of the council passes from country to country every six months.

**European Court of Human Rights**

The court which sits in Strasbourg considering the rights of citizens of states which have signed the European Convention of Human Rights.

**European Court of Justice**

The court which sits in Luxembourg and is responsible for judging cases under the law of the European Union and hearing appeals under European law from Member States of the EU.

**European Economic Area**

The area covered by the treaty signed between the European Union and some other European countries outside the EU which allows free trade with these countries. Abbreviation **EEA**

**European External Action Service**

A body of the European Union made up of commissioners nominated by the Member States. Also called **Commission of the European Community**

**Commission of the European Community**

The main executive body of the European Union. The commissioners are nominated by the Member States for a five-year term and their appointments are ratified by the European Parliament.

**Commission of the European Community**

The main executive body of the European Union. The commissioners are nominated by the Member States for a five-year term and their appointments are ratified by the European Parliament.
Europeanism /ˈjuərəpiзɪzm/ noun a provision of the European Constitution for a European diplomatic service

European Free Trade Association /ˈjuərəpi friː tɛːrɪd ə ˌsɔʊsɪ ˈɛl(ə)n/ noun a union of Western European countries established to eliminate trade tariffs among member states. The original members in 1960 were Austria, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. Current members are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Abbr EFTA

Europeanism /ˈjuərəpizɪzm/ noun its further development

European Parliament /ˈjuərəpi ˈpɑləmənt/ noun the parliament made up of people (MEPs or Euro-MPs) elected by the voters of each member state of the European Union

European Social Charter /ˈjuərəpi səʊʃəl ˈʃɑrtə/ noun a charter for workers drawn up by the European Union in 1989, setting out the rights for workers to fair treatment and pay

European Union /ˈjuərəpi ˈjuːniən/ noun the 25 European countries which have joined together to work for peace in Europe, economic growth and improvements in the living and working conditions of their citizens. Abbr EU

Europol /ˈjuərəpɔl/ abbreviation European Police

Eurosceptic /ˈjuərəsɛpsɪk/ adjective opposed to further growth of the powers of the European Union over its Member States

Euro-seat /ˈjuərəʊ sɪt/ noun same as Euro-constituency

evacuate /ɪˈvækjuət/ verb to make the people who live in a place move away from it because of the threat of disaster or invasion

evidence /ˈevɪdəns/ noun 1. a written or spoken statement of facts which helps to prove something at a trial 2. a spoken statement made to a committee of the House of Commons or House of Lords, which is then printed in the official record 3. a spoken or written statement made to a government or other inquiry. In evidence presented to the tribunal, the employees showed that their wages had not risen in line with the cost of living 4. verb to show something: the lack of good faith, as evidenced by the minister’s refusal to make a statement to the Commons

e-voting /ˈviːvɔtɪŋ/ noun same as electronic voting

e excellency /ˌɛksələnsi/ noun a His Excellency. Her Excellency the way of referring to an ambassador

exceptional needs payment /ɪkˈsepʃənl niːd ˈpeɪmənt/ noun a payment made by the social services to a person who has a particular urgent need, such as for clothes

excess vote /ˌɛkses ˈvɔut/ noun a vote to approve the spending of more money than was originally approved

exchangeable /ˌɛksəˈʃeɪʒəbl/ adjective possible to exchange

exchange controls /ˌɛksəˈʃeɪʒən kənz,ˌtræzəl/ plural noun government restrictions on changing local money into foreign money. The government imposed exchange controls to stop the rush to buy dollars.

Exchange Equalisation Account /ˌɛksəˈʃeɪʒən ɪˈkwɔːlɪzəʃən əˈkaʊnt/ noun an account with the Bank of England used by the government when buying or selling foreign money to influence the exchange rate for the pound

Exchequer /ˈɛksəkwɪhr/ noun the government department which deals with taxes and government spending. Also called Treasury 1. Chancellor of the Exchequer

excise /ˈɛksaɪz/ noun a government tax on some goods used, made or sold
Excise Department /ˈɛksaɪz dərɪŋ/ noun same as Customs and Excise
excise duty /ˈɛksaɪz dʒəst/ noun a tax on the sale of goods such as alcohol and petrol which are produced in the country or on some goods brought into the country
exclusion zone /ɪkˈskluːʒ(ə)n/ noun an area, usually of sea, near a country, which the military forces of other countries are ordered not to use
execute /ɪkˈskjuːdʒət/ verb to carry out a decision, plan or order
executive /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv/ adjective 1. putting decisions into action o executive session US a meeting of a congressional committee where only committee members, witnesses and other members of Congress may attend, and the public is excluded 2. referring to the branch of government which puts laws into effect o the Executive the section of a government which puts into effect the laws passed by Parliament (note: in the USA, this is the president.) '...the principles of a free constitution are lost when the legislative power is nominated by the executive' [Edward Gibbon]
executive agency /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv əˈdʒɛnsi/ noun a semi-independent organisation set up to carry out some of the responsibilities of government department
executive agreement /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv əˈɡɹɪmənt/ noun an agreement between a US president and a foreign head of state that has not been given approval by the Senate
Executive Branch /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv bɹɑnʃ/ noun the part of government which puts legislation into action (note: the other two branches are the judicial and the legislative.)
Executive Council /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv kəˈkaʊns(ə)l/ noun 1. in Australia and New Zealand, a body made up of the Governor-General or Governor and government ministers which meets to brief the Governor-General or Governor on policies and formally approve government appointments and legislation 2. in Canada, the cabinet of a provincial government
executive document /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv ˈdokmjʊmənt/ noun a document such as a treaty, sent by the President of the USA to the Senate for ratification
executive order /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv ˈɔrdr/ noun an order made by the President of the USA or by a state governor
executive power /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv ˈpəʊər/ noun the right to put decisions into action
executive privilege /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv ˈprɪvəlɪdʒ/ noun the right of the President of the USA not to reveal matters which are considered secret
executive session /ˈɛksɪkjuːtɪv ˈsɛʃ(ə)n/ noun US a meeting of a committee of Congress which only committee members, witnesses and other members of Congress may attend, and the public is not allowed to attend
exempt /ɪkˈzempt/ adjective not covered by a law, or not forced to obey a law o exempt from tax not required to pay tax, or not subject to tax o Food is exempt from sales tax. o verb to free something from having tax paid on it or from having to pay tax o Non profit-making organisations are exempted from tax. o The government exempted trusts from tax.
exempt information /ɪkˈzempt ɪnˈfɔrmeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun information which may be kept secret from the public, because if it were not it might be unfair to an individual or harmful to the council o The council resolved that the press and public be excluded for item 10 as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.
exemption /ɪkˈzemptʃ(ə)n/ noun the act of freeing something from a contract or from a tax
exemption clause

exemption clause /ɪk'sempʃ(ə)n klə/z/ noun a section in a contract freeing a party from specific liabilities

exempt supplies /ɪk'semp tə'plæz/ plural noun sales of goods or services on which tax does not have to be paid

exercise /ɪksə'saɪz/ noun 1. the use of a power ○ A court can give directions to a local authority as to the exercise of its powers in relation to children in care. 2. a test or trial to get experience or information ○ Getting the residents’ views on the new road will be a useful exercise. ○ The leaflets prepared by the department are just a public relations exercise.

experiential /ɪks'pɛriʃənl/ adjective ○ This phrase meaning of being sent to live in another country will help you to understand it better.

experiential note /ɪks'pɛriʃənl nət/ noun a short piece of text that explains something in more detail or helps you to understand it better.

expire /ɪk'spaɪər/ verb (of an official document) to stop being valid on a particular date ○ His passport or visa has expired. His passport or visa is no longer valid.

explanatory note /ɪk'splænət(ə)ri 'nəut/ noun a short piece of text that explains something in more detail or helps you to understand it better.

explanatory notes /ɪk'splænət(ə)ri nəts/ plural noun general information about a Bill, explaining its legal and political implications, written by the relevant Government Department.

export /ɪk'spɔrt/ verb to send goods to foreign countries for sale ○ We have exported more goods this month than ever before. ○ noun /ɪk'spɔrt/ 1. the sending of goods out of a country to be sold ○ The export of firearms is forbidden. 2. something sent out of the country for sale.

export restitution /ɪk'spɔrtɪstɪ'stɪʃən/ noun money paid by the European Union to subsidise European food exporters.

exports /ɪk'spɔrtz/ plural noun goods sent abroad for sale ○ Exports have fallen because the exchange rate is too high.

expropriate /ɪk'sprɒpriət/ verb to take private property for public use.

expropriation /ɪk'sprɒpriəʃən/ noun the action of the state in taking private property for public use, and paying compensation to foreign countries.
to the former owner (NOTE: The UK term is compulsory purchase.)

expunge /ɪkˈspændʒ/ verb to remove something from an official record. The Chairman ordered the remarks to be expunged from the record.

extension /ɪkˈstenʃən/ noun the act of increasing something.

the act of increasing something

extension of remarks /ɪkˈstenʃən əv rɪˈmɑrks/ noun US additional material which a member of Congress adds to the Congressional Record after a sitting.

external /ɪkˈstɜrn(ə)/ adjective involving relations with foreign countries.

e x t e r l or /ɪkˈstɜrəl/ noun (of diplomats) the fact of being outside the territory of a country and so not subject to its laws.

extra-territorial waters /ɪkˈstrə ˈtɜrəriəl ˈwɔrz/ plural noun international waters, outside the jurisdiction of a country.

extremism /ɪkˈstrɪzm(ə)m/ noun ideas and practices that support very strong action such as the use of violence to achieve change. The USA requested the extradition of the leader of the drug gang.

93 extremist /ekˈstrɪmɪst/ noun (as criticism) a person who supports very strong or sometimes violent methods to achieve change. The party has been taken over by left-wing extremists. The meeting was broken up by extremists from the right of the party.

extradition /ɪkˈstrædʒ(ə)n/ noun an agreement between two countries that a person arrested in one country can be sent to the other to stand trial for a crime committed there.

extraordinary general meeting /ɪkˌstrɔrdənəri/ plural noun a special meeting of members to discuss an important matter which cannot wait until the next annual general meeting.

extra-territorial /ɪkˈstrəˌterɪˈtorɪəl/ adjective 1. situated or coming from outside a country’s borders. 2. relating to exemption from the legal control of a country of residence.

Extraordinary general meeting /ɪkˌstrɔrdənəri ˈmɛtɪŋ/ noun a special meeting of members to discuss an important matter which cannot wait until the next Annual General Meeting.

French Polynesia
Fabian /ˈfabian/ adjective relating to the Fabian Society • noun a member or supporter of the Fabian Society

Fabianism /ˈfabianɪz(ə)m/ noun the beliefs of the Fabian Society

Fabian Society /ˈfabian ˌsə,riətɪ/ noun a political organisation founded in Britain in 1884 with the aim of developing socialism by gradual and lawful means rather than by revolution

facedown /ˈfɜːsdʌn/ noun a determined confrontation between two opposing people or groups

facie /ˈfɑːsi/ prima facie

facsimile /ˈfæksɪmɪl/, facsimile copy /ˈfæksɪmɪl ˈkɒpi/ noun an exact copy of a document

fact-finding /ˈfækt ˌfændɪŋ/ adjective looking for information • a fact-finding delegation a group of people who visit somewhere to get information about an issue

faction /ˈfækʃən/ noun a group of people within a larger organisation such as a political party, who have different views or special aims • Arguments broke out between different factions at the party conference.

factional /ˈfækʃən(ə)l/ adjective referring to factions • Factional infighting has weakened the party structure.

factionalise /ˈfækʃənlərɪz/ verb to split into factions, or cause a group to split into factions

factionalism /ˈfækʃən(ə)lɪz(ə)m/ noun the existence of or conflict between groups within a larger group

factor /ˈfækta/ noun a thing which is important or which influences something • The need to encourage tourism is a major factor in increased council spending on amenities.

The rise in unemployment is an important factor in the job market.

Factortame case noun a legal case in 1991 which showed clearly that British law, made by Parliament, had to give way to European Law (NOTE: The Spanish fishing company, Factortame, had been stopped from fishing according to the Merchant Shipping Act of 1988, but the law lords struck down this Act because, according to European law, Factortame had done nothing illegal. This seemed to some commentators to show that Parliament had given away its legal sovereignty to the European Union.)

Faculty of Advocates /ˈfækəlti ˌædvəkəts/ noun the legal body to which Scottish barristers belong

fair trade /ˈfɛə ˌtreɪd/ noun an international business system where countries agree not to charge duties on goods imported from their trading partners

fall /fɔːl/ verb to lose political power or be defeated (NOTE: falling – fell – fallen) • to fall outside not to be part of a list or not to be covered by a rule • the case falls outside the jurisdiction of the local planning authority • to fall within to become part of a list or to be covered by a rule • the newspaper report falls within the category of defamation • the case falls within the competence of the local authority • noun a loss of political power or control

FAO abbreviation Food and Agriculture Organization (of the UN)
fascism /ˈfæsɪz(ə)m/ noun extreme right-wing nationalist ideas, in favour of the power of the state, the army and the leader of the nation, violently opposed to Communism

the House of Lords.)

fascist /ˈfæsɪst/ adjective referring to fascism. a fascist dictatorship. The leader of the party has made speeches advocating fascist principles. noun a supporter of fascism

Fatah, Al noun. Al Fatah
Father of the House /ˈfæðəvəz ət hauz/ noun the MP who has been an MP for the longest time without a break. (Note: It is also sometimes used to refer to the oldest member of the House of Lords.)

fatwa /ˈfætwə/ noun an official order made by a Muslim religious leader

FBI /ˌɛf bɪˈɛf/ abbreviation Federal Bureau of Investigation

FCO abbreviation Foreign and Commonwealth Office

FCSD abbreviation Scotland Financial and Central Services Department

FDA abbreviation First Division Association

feasibility study /ˈfæzɪəˈbɪləti ˈstʌdi, ˈfæzɪəˈbɪləti riˈpɔst/ noun work done to see if something which has been planned is a good idea. The council asked the planning department to comment on the feasibility of the project. The department has produced a feasibility report on the development project.

feasibility test /ˈfæzɪəˈbɪləti ˈtest/ noun a test to see if something proposed is possible

fed. abbreviation 1. federal 2. federated 3. federation


federal /ˈfɛd(ə)rəl/ adjective 1. referring to a system of government in which a group of states are linked together in a federation. a federal constitution a constitution such as that in Germany which provides for a series of semi-autonomous states joined together in a national federation 2. referring especially to the central government of the United States a federal court. federal laws court or laws of the USA, as opposed to state courts or state laws

Federal Assembly /ˈfɛd(ə)rəl əˈsɛmbli/ noun the legislature in Russia

Federal Bureau of Investigation /ˈfɛd(ə)rəl ˈbaʊsərəv əv inˈvestɪɡətʃər/ noun a section of the US Department of Justice, which looks into crimes against federal law and subversive acts in the USA. Abbr FBI

Federal Chancellor /ˈfɛd(ə)rəl ˈfjuːənsələr/ noun the head of the executive in Germany

federal district /ˈfɛd(ə)rəl ˈdɪstrɪkt/ noun an area in which the seat of the national government of a federation such as the United States is located

federal government /ˈfɛd(ə)rəl ˈɡʌvərn(ə)mənt/ noun the central government of a federal state

dependant /ˈfɛd(ə)rəl ˈdɛpənt/ noun a supporter of a federal system of government

federalist /ˈfɛd(ə)rəlist/ noun a supporter of a federal system of government

Federal Reserve /ˈfɛdərəl ˈrez/ noun the system of banks in the United States

COMMENT: The Federal Reserve system is the central bank of the USA. The system is run by the Federal Reserve Board, under a chairman and seven committee members (or 'governors') who are all appointed by the President. The twelve Federal Reserve Banks act as lenders of last resort to local commercial banks. Although the board is appointed by the president, the whole system is relatively independent of the US government.
Federal Reserve Board /ˈfɛdərəl rɪzəv/ 'bɛsdʒ/ noun in the USA, the government organisation which runs the central banks and sets US interest rates

federate /ˈfɛdəreɪt/ verb to join together in a federation, or cause various bodies to join together in a federation

federation /ˈfɛdərəʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. a group of organisations which are linked together and have a central body which represents their interests ○ the American Federation of Labor 2. a group of semi-autonomous states which have a central government which represents them and looks after their common interests, in areas such as foreign policy and the armed forces

COMMENT: Many federations exist, though they are not often called such: the USA, Russia, Canada, Australia and Germany are all federations. Federations differ in how much independence the component regions or states have. A very loose form of federation is known as a confederation.

Federation Council /ˈfɛdəræʃ(ə)n kəˈsɜːn/ noun the upper house of the legislature in Russia. ○ Duma

federative /ˈfɛd(ə)rətɪv/ adjective relating to a federation

fellow traveller /ˈfɛləʊ ˈtrævələr/ noun someone who sympathises with the cause of a group, especially the Communist Party, without becoming an official member

feminism /ˈfɛmɪnɪz(ə)m/ noun a movement supporting equality of women with men

feminist /ˈfɛmɪnɪst/ adjective, noun referring to feminism ○ the feminist movement

feudalise /ˌfjuːdəlɪsaɪ/ verb to make a system similar to the feudal system

feudalism /ˌfjuːdəlɪz(ə)m/ noun the medieval system where land was granted by a king to his nobility, and by the nobility to the peasants, on condition that each performed a service for their superior

feudal society /ˌfjuːdəl əˈsaɪ/ noun a society where each class or level has a duty to serve the class above it

feudal system /ˌfjuːdəl ˈsɪstəm/ noun ● feudalism

Fianna Fáil noun the republican party, one of the two main political parties in the Republic of Ireland

fide, bona fide

fief /fiːf/ noun same as fiefdom

fiefdom /ˈfiːfdəm/ noun 1. the lands controlled by a feudal lord 2. something such as territory or a sphere of activity that is controlled or dominated by a specific person or group ○ The company has an ethical responsibility to the existing residents of the area since this is their community and not the personal fiefdom of the developer.

Fifth /fɪfθ/ noun same as Fifth Amendment

Fifth Amendment /ˈfɪfθ əˌmɛndmənt/ noun an amendment to the constitution of the USA, which says that no person can be forced to give evidence which might incriminate himself or herself

fifth column /ˌfɪfθ ˈkɒlməl/ noun a secret group that works to promote its own ends and undermines the efforts of others

figure /ˈfɪɡər/ noun 1. a particular number ○ By 1982 unemployment had reached a very high figure 2. a person ○ He was one of the more colourful figures to lead the party.

file /flaɪ/ noun a collection of papers stored away ○ The official files are usually opened after 50 years and the contents made public. ○ verb 1. to store away a collection of papers 2. to make an official request 3. to present something officially so it can be recorded ○ to file an application for a patent ○ to file a return to the tax office

filibuster /ˈfɪlbʌstər/ noun in a debate, a speech which carries on for a long time so that the debate cannot be closed and a vote taken ○ The Democrats organised a filibuster in the Senate. ○ talk out

COMMENT: Filibusters are possible in the US Senate, because the rules of...
the Senate allow unlimited debate. A filibuster may be ended by a closure motion which requires a three-fifths majority to pass. The filibuster is also used in the UK but in practice only for Private Members Bills, since government bills can be pushed through using the closure or guillotine.

filibustering /'filibəstərɪŋ/ noun the organisation or carrying out of a filibuster

finance /'fɪnəns/ noun public money used by a government or local authority o Where will the authority find the finance to pay the higher salaries? o He is the secretary of the local authority finance committee. • verb to pay for something o a government-funded programme of prison construction o The new building must be financed by the local authority.

Finance Act /'fɪnəns ək'tekt/ noun the annual Act of the British Parliament which gives the government power to raise taxes as proposed in the budget

Finance Minister /'fɪnəns 'mɪnɪstə/ noun the government minister responsible for finance, both taxation and spending. Also called Minister of Finance

Financial /'fɪnənʃəl/ adjective referring to finance o She has a financial interest in the company.

Financial and Central Services Department /'fɪnənʃəl ənd 'sɛntərəl 'səvərsəs ˈdeɪ,pər'tmənt/ noun a department of the Scottish Executive, responsible for collecting taxes and managing public revenue. Abbr FCSD

financial assistance /'fɪnənʃəl əˈsɪstəns/ noun help in the form of money

financial commitments /'fɪnənʃəl ˈkəmɪtəmənts/ plural noun money which is owed

financial institution /'fɪnənʃəl ɪnˈʃtɪtʃən/ noun a bank or investment company or insurance company whose work involves lending or investing money

Financial Secretary to the Treasury /'fɪnənʃəl ˈsekrətri tə ðə 'treʒəri/ noun the minister of state in the Treasury, responsible to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

findings /'fɪndɪŋz/ noun the decisions reached by an official group o the findings of a commission of inquiry the conclusions of the commission

Fine Gael noun one of the two main political parties in the Republic of Ireland, considered more moderate than Fianna Fail

finlandisation, finlandization noun a policy of neutrality, similar to that formerly adopted by Finland because of its geographical position between the West and the USSR

fire regulations /'faɪər ˈreglətʃənz/ plural noun the local or national laws which owners of buildings used by the public have to obey in order to be given a fire certificate

First Amendment /'fɜːst əˈmen(ə)mənt/ noun the first amendment to the Constitution of the USA, which protects freedom of speech and religion

First Division Association /ˈfɜːst ˈdɪvənʃə səˈpɜːrviʃən ˈdɪvənʃəs 'æsəˈsoʊʃən/ noun same as Association of First Division Civil Servants

first estate /ˈfɜːst ɪˈstɛt/ noun the social and political class that consists of senior members of the clergy

first lady /ˈfɜːst ˈlɛdi/ noun the wife or woman partner of a high government official, especially of a country’s leader

First Lord of the Treasury /ˈfɜːst ˈlɔːrd əv ðə 'treʒəri/ noun a former British government post, now combined with that of Prime Minister

First Minister /ˈfɜːst ˈmɪnɪstə/ noun the leader of the National Assembly of Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales

first-past-the-post /ˈfɜːst ˈpɑːst ðə 'pɔust/ noun an electoral system such as that used in the UK, where the
candidate with most votes wins the election even if he or she does not have more than half of all votes. Also called Single Member Plurality System

First Reading /ˈfɜːrst ˈrɪdɪŋ/ noun the formal introduction of a Bill into the House of Commons, after which it is printed

First World /ˈfɜːrst wɜːld/ noun the principal industrialised countries of the world, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the nations of western Europe, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand

fiscal /ˈfɪsəkl/ adjective referring to tax or to government money or the government’s fiscal policies

fiscal measures /ˈfɪsəkl ˈmeʒəz/ plural noun tax changes made by a government

fiscal year /ˈfɪsəkl ˈjaɪəl/ noun the twelve-month period on which taxes are calculated (NOTE: In the UK it is April 6th to April 5th; in the USA it is from July 1st to June 30th.)

Five-Year Plan /ˈfəʊv jəʊ ˈplæn/ noun a set of proposals for running a country’s economy over a five-year period

fixture /ˈfɪkstʃər/ noun a permanently arranged meeting or The council meeting is a fixture on the third Wednesday of every month.

flag /flæɡ/ - to fly a flag 1. to attach a flag in an obvious position to show that your ship belongs to a certain country or a ship flying the British flag 2. to act in a way that shows that you are proud of belonging to a certain country or working for a certain company or The Trade Minister has gone to the World Fair to fly the flag.

flag conservative /ˈflæɡ kən ˈsərvətɪv/ noun a neoconservative who believes that the United States’ role is to engage in global policing in order to secure the national interest, national security, and the security of US allies

flag of convenience /ˈflæɡ əv kən ˈviːniəns/ noun the flag of a country which may have no ships of its own but allows ships of other countries to be registered in its ports and fly its flag

flag of truce /ˈflæɡ əv ˈtruːs/ noun a white flag used to end a conflict temporarily, to allow negotiations to take place. Also called white flag

flag-waving /ˈflæɡ ˈweɪvɪŋ/ noun activities showing obvious and emotional patriotism

floating vote /ˈfləʊtɪŋ ˈvəʊt/ noun the votes of floating voters or The Opposition is trying to capture the bulk of the floating vote.

floating voter /ˈfləʊtɪŋ ˈvəʊtər/ noun 1. a voter who has not decided how to vote 2. a voter who does not always vote for the same party, but changes from election to election (NOTE: The US term is swing voter.)

floor /flɔː/ noun the floor of the House the main part of the House of Commons, House of Lords or Congress where business is conducted or Debates on the floor of the House are often lively.

floor leader /flɔː ˈlɪdər/ noun a member of an American legislative body chosen by fellow party members to organise their activities and strategy on the floor of the legislature

floor manager /flɔː ˈmeɪndʒər/ noun a member, usually the chairman, of the reporting committee in the House of Commons who is responsible for trying to get agreement on a bill

floor spokesman /ˈflɔːr ˈspauksmən/ noun in the US Senate, the spokesperson for a particular party or The Senate majority leader is the floor spokesman for his party in the Senate.

FO abbreviation Foreign Office

focus group /ˈfɔːskəs ɡrʊp/ noun a small group of representative people who are questioned about their opinions as part of political or market research

Foggy Bottom /ˈfɒgi ˈbotəm/ noun US the State Department (informal) (NOTE: Foggy Bottom is an
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Secretary</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈsɛkrətri/ noun the British government department dealing with relations with other countries. Abbr FO. Also called Foreign and Commonwealth Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈɛksondʒ/ noun the system of changing the money of one country for that of another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange dealing</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ɪtʃɪnɪnɡ ˈdɪlɪŋ/ noun the activity of buying and selling foreign money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange reserves</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ɪzˈɛnzd riˌzɛrvz/ noun the foreign money held by a government to support its own currency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign goods</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈɡʊdz/ plural noun things produced in other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign investments</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ɪnˈvestmənts/ plural noun money invested in other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign minister</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈmɪnɪstr/ noun in many countries, a minister in a government who is responsible for relations with other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign ministry</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈmɪnɪstri/ noun in many countries, the department of government responsible for relations with other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign mission</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈmɪʃən/ noun a group of diplomats who represent their country abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Office</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈɒfɪs/ noun the British government department dealing with relations with other countries. Abbr FO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign policy</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈpɒləsi/ noun the policy followed by a country when dealing with other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foreign exchange dealing</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ɪtʃɪnɪnɡ ˈdɪlɪŋ/ noun the activity of buying and selling foreign money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foreign exchange reserves</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ɪzˈɛnzd riˌzɛrvz/ noun the foreign money held by a government to support its own currency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foreign goods</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈɡʊdz/ plural noun things produced in other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign investments</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ɪnˈvestmənts/ plural noun money invested in other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign minister</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈmɪnɪstr/ noun in many countries, a minister in a government who is responsible for relations with other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign ministry</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈmɪnɪstri/ noun in many countries, the department of government responsible for relations with other countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign mission</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈmɪʃən/ noun a group of diplomats who represent their country abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Office</td>
<td>/ˌfɔːrɪn ˈɒfɪs/ noun the British government department dealing with relations with other countries. Abbr FO. Also called Foreign and Commonwealth Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMENT: In most countries, the government department dealing with relations with other countries is called the Foreign Ministry, with the Foreign Minister in charge. In the UK, they are called the Foreign Office and Foreign Secretary. In the USA, they are called the State Department and the Secretary of State.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foreign Service

100

government minister in charge of relations with other countries

Foreign Service /ˈfɔːrn ˈsɔːrvɪs/ noun the government department responsible for a country's relations with other countries

foreign trade /ˈfɔːrn ˈtrɛd/ noun trade with other countries

formal /ˈfɔːrm(ə)l/ adjective according to correct and suitable methods ○ to make a formal application ○ to send a formal order

formality /ˈfɔːrməlɪti/ noun a thing which has to be done to obey the law or because it is the custom ○ The chairman dispensed with the formality of reading the minutes.

formation /fɔːrməˈʃən/ noun the act of organizing ○ The formation of the new splinter group has altered the voting pattern in the assembly.

formulate /fɔːrˈmjuːleɪt/ verb to write down or state clearly ○ The government's proposals are formulated in a White Paper.

forty-ninth parallel /ˈfɔːtnti ˈnɛrθəl/ noun the border between the United States and Canada, that runs at 49° latitude along most of its length

forum /ˈfɔːrəm/ noun a place or opportunity for matters to be discussed ○ The debate should be carried out in the forum of the council chamber, not on the pages of the local newspaper.

founder /ˈfaʊndər/ noun a person who establishes a party, institution or company

founder member /ˌfaʊndər ˈmembər/ noun a member of a party or organisation who has been a member from the beginning

fourth estate /ˈfaʊrθ ˈɛstet/ noun journalists, the press, or the media in general

Fourth World /ˈfaʊθ ˈwɜːld/ noun the poorest countries of the world

franchise /ˈfræntʃɪz/ noun 1. a right given to someone to do something, especially the right to vote in local or general elections ○ enfranchise, universal franchise 2. a right given by a company to someone to trade in the company's name in a particular area ○ She has bought a printing franchise or a hot dog franchise. ○ verb to sell the right to trade in a company's name in a particular area ○ Her sandwich bar was so successful that she decided to franchise it.

frank /frend/ noun the right of sending official post free of charge, used by members of Congress

free circulation of goods /ˈfriː ˈsɜːkjələrɪˈeɪʃən/ noun the movement of goods from one country to another without legal restrictions

free collective bargaining /ˈfriː, ˈkəlɛktɪv ˈbɛrgɪŋ/ noun negotiations over pay and working conditions between the management and the workers' representatives without government interference

free competition /ˈfriː ˈkɒmpəˈtɪʃən/ noun being free to compete without government interference

free currency /ˈfriː ˈkʌrənsi/ noun a currency which is allowed by the government to be bought and sold without restriction

freedom /ˈfriːdəm/ noun 1. the state of being free or not being held in prison or as a slave ○ The president gave the accused man his freedom. 2. the state of being free to do something without restriction 3. ○ freedom of the city the highest honour given to a person by a town or city ○ In a ceremony at the Town Hall yesterday, Lord Smith was given the Freedom of the City.

Freedom Charter /ˈfriːdəm ˈtʃɑːrə/ noun a document setting out the basic rights of all South Africans, composed in 1955 in opposition to the Nationalist government and constituting the manifesto of the African National Congress

freedom fighter /ˈfriːdəm ˈfɪtə/ noun a guerrilla fighting against an oppressive government or to free the country from foreign control

freedom of assembly /ˈfriːdəm əv əˈsɛmblɪ/ noun the right to hold a
meeting or a peaceful demonstration without being afraid of prosecution. Also called freedom of meeting.

freedom of association

The right to join together with other people in a group, such as a church or trade union, without being afraid of prosecution.

freedom of information

The right of government information being available to ordinary people, or of official records about private people being available to each person concerned.

Freedom of Information Act

The Act of Parliament (2000) which allows people to gain access to government documents (Note: The UK Freedom of Information Act is a weaker measure than most people had hoped for, and gives British citizens less access to information than similar measures in the USA and other countries do.)

freedom of meeting

Same as freedom of assembly.

freedom of speech

The right to say, write or publish what you want without being afraid of prosecution.

freedom of the press

The right to write and publish in a newspaper what you wish without being afraid of prosecution.

free elections

Elections which are honest and not rigged by one of the parties or by the government to hold free elections.

free enterprise

The economic system where business is free from government interference and the economy is largely in private hands rather than under state control.

freelance

Some one, especially a politician, who is not committed to any group and takes action or forms alliances independently.

freeman

A person who has received the honour of freedom of the city.

free market economy

The economic system where the government does not interfere in business activity and where the economy is largely in private hands rather than under state control.

free movement of capital

The ability to transfer capital from one country to another without any restrictions.

free trade

The economic system where goods can go from one country to another without any restrictions.

free trade area

A group of countries practising free trade.

free trader

A person who supports free trade.

free vote

An occasion in a parliament when members are allowed to decide how to vote according to their consciences and personal opinions rather than as instructed by their party leaders.

free world

The countries of the world with democratic governments, as opposed to those with totalitarian or communist governments.

French Community

An association linking France and several former French colonies.

French Revolution

The violent overthrow of the French king by the people of France in 1789.
the members of a group or organisation whose views are not representative of the group as a whole.

front /frænt/ noun a political group, usually an alliance of several smaller groups, formed to resist a threat.

front bench noun the rows of seats in the chamber a Member of Parliament who sits on the front rows of seats in the chamber and who is a government minister or a member of the Opposition shadow cabinet. Also called frontbench MP.

front benches plural noun two rows of seats in the House of Commons, facing each other with a table between them, where Government ministers or members of the Opposition Shadow Cabinet sit the Government front bench the seats where the members of the Government sit facing the Opposition. Also called Treasury bench.

frontier /frʌntɪər/ noun the boundary of a country.

frontline /frʌntˈleɪn/ adjective relating to countries that have a border with another country in which fighting is taking place.

frontline state /frʌntˈleɪn stet/ noun a nation situated on the border of an area where fighting is happening or is likely to happen.

front organisation /frʌnt,ɔːɡənəˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun an organisation which pretends to be neutral, but in fact supports a political party or other interest group.

full title /fulˈtɪtl/ noun the summary of an Act of Parliament, printed at the beginning of the Act. Also called long title.
G8 noun the group of the eight most industrialised nations in the world, i.e. Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Representatives from these countries meet regularly for discussions, especially on global economic policies. Full form Group of Eight

Gaeltacht noun the parts of Ireland or Scotland where Gaelic is spoken by a large part of the population

gag /gæg/ verb to try to stop someone talking or writing. The government was accused of using the Official Secrets Act as a means of gagging the press.

gag rule /gæg rʊl/ noun a rule in the House of Representatives which limits the time for debate. Also called closed rule

gain /ɡeɪn/ noun 1. an increase 2. an increase in a share of the vote. The latest poll shows a socialist gain of 2%. 3. a seat won in an election. The Conservatives had 20 gains and 10 losses in the local elections. verb 1. to get or to obtain something. 2. to win a seat in an election. The Socialists gained six seats on the council at the expense of the Tories.

gainful /ɡeɪnfəl/ adjective gainful employment employment which pays money

gainfully employed /ɡeɪnflɪ əmˈplɔrd/ adverb paid for the work carried out

gallery /ˈgæləri/ noun the seats above the House of Commons and House of Lords, where the public and journalists sit. The Speaker ordered the galleries to be cleared.

Gallup poll /ˈɡæləp ˈpɔl/ noun a survey in which a group of people taken as a representative sample of a larger group are asked their opinions on a specific subject

gaming licence /ˈɡeɪmɪŋ ˈlaɪns/ a document which allows someone to run a gambling club

gangway /ˈɡæŋweɪ/ noun the space between the benches running down the middle of the House of Commons.

garda /ˈɡɑrdə/ police officer in the Republic of Ireland

gardaí plural of garda

GATT abbreviation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Gaullism /ɡɔːlɪz(ə)m/ noun the nationalist and conservative policies of General Charles de Gaulle, leader of France after World War II, and his followers

gavel /ˈɡeɪvl/ noun a small wooden hammer used by the chairman of a meeting to call the meeting to order. The chairman banged his gavel on the table and shouted to the councillors to be quiet.

COMMENT: In the American Senate, a ceremonial gavel is placed on the Vice-President's desk when the Senate is in session.

GCHQ abbreviation Government Communications Headquarters

GDP abbreviation gross domestic product
general amnesty

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade /ˈdʒenərəl əˈɡrɪmənt ən 'tɛrɪfs ən 'tɛriəl ˈnjuːn/ the international treaty which aimed to try to reduce restrictions in trade between countries. Abbr GATT (NOTE: Replaced on 1st January 1995 by the World Trade Organization (WTO).)

general amnesty /ˈdʒenərəl 'ɛmənəstɪ/ ˈnjuːn/ a pardon granted to all prisoners or unconvicted criminals

General Assembly /ˈdʒenərəl əˈsæmbli/ ˈnjuːn/ the meeting of all the members of the United Nations, where each country is represented and each has a vote

General Assembly of the United Nations /ˈdʒenərəl əˈsæmbli ə'njuːtən əˌnjuːtən/ ˈnjuːn/ the meeting of all the members of the United Nations to discuss international problems, where each member state has one vote

general election /ˈdʒenərəl əˈlekʃən/ ˈnjuːn/ choosing a legislature or executive by all the voters in a country

COMMENT: In Britain, a Parliament can only last for a maximum of five years, and a dissolution is usually called by the Prime Minister before the end of that period. The Lord Chancellor then issues a writ for the election of MPs. All British subjects (including Commonwealth and Irish citizens), are eligible to vote in British elections provided they are on the electoral register, are over 18 years of age, are sane, are not members of the House of Lords and are not serving prison sentences for serious crime. In the USA, members of the House of Representatives are elected for a two-year period. Senators are elected for six-year terms, one third of the Senate being elected every two years. The President of the USA is elected by an electoral college made up of people elected by voters in each of the states of the USA. Each state elects the same number of electors to the electoral college as it has Congressmen, plus two. This guarantees that the college is broadly representative of voters across the country. The presidential candidate with an overall majority in the college is elected president. A presidential term of office is four years, and a president can stand for re-election once.

general instrument /ˈdʒenərəl ˈɪnstrəmənt/ ˈnjuːn/ a form of Statutory Instrument which does not need approval by both Houses of Parliament

Generalitat noun the parliament in Catalonia

General Purposes Committee /ˈdʒenərəl pəˈjuːpuːs ˈkɑːmɪtɪ/ noun a local council committee which deals with matters which do not come under any other committee

general strike /ˈdʒenərəl ˈstrʌɪk/ ˈnjuːn/ a strike involving all or most workers in a country

Geneva Convention /ˈdʒɛvnə ˌkɔnˈvenʃən/ noun the international treaty governing the behaviour of countries relating to behaviour in time of war

Geneva Protocol /ˈdʒɛvnə ˈprəʊtəkl/ ˈnjuːn/ the international agreement to limit the use of chemical and biological weapons

genocide /ˈdʒenəˌsaʊd/ ˈnjuːn/ the killing of an entire ethnic group

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod /ˈdʒentəlmən əˈʃɜːr əv ˈblæk ˈrod/ ˈnjuːn/ same as Black Rod

geopolitical /ˌdʒiːəʊˈpɒlətɪkəl/ ˈædʒɪktɪv/ relating to political relations between different countries and groups of countries

geopolitics /ˌdʒiːəʊˌpɑːlɪtɪks/ ˈnjuːn/ the political relations between different countries and groups of countries

geosynthesis /ˌdʒiːəˈsɛsθɪˌnɪsθ/ ˈnjuːn/ a system of government in which older people are chosen as rulers

government /ˌdʒɛvəˈmɛnt/ ˈvɜːb/ to change the boundaries of an electoral area in order to gain an unfair political advantage in an election
the reorganisation of parliamentary constituencies or electoral districts to get an advantage in the next election.

get out /get 'aut/ verb to produce something o The Royal Commission got out the report in time for the meeting. o The party was late in getting out its election manifesto.

get round /get 'raʊnd/ verb 1. to find the time to do something o hadn't got round to reading the report 2. to avoid o We tried to get round the embargo by shipping from Canada. o Can you advise me how we can get round the quota system?

GG abbreviation Governor General

ghetto /getˈau/ noun the area of a town where many people of the same ethnic group or background live, separately from the rest of the population.

ginger group /ˈdʒɜndʒər ɡruːp/ noun a group of people within a political party or organisation who try to make the organisation more radical.

give away /ˈgɪv əˈweɪ/ verb 1. to give something as a free present 2. to reveal a secret.

give rise to /ˈgɪv ˈraɪz ə ti/ verb to be the cause of something o The decisions of the planning committee have given rise to complaints from applicants.

give up /ˈgɪv əˈp/ verb to agree that someone else should have something that was once yours o gave up their claim to the land o give up sovereignty.

give way /ˈgɪv ˈweɪ/ verb to allow someone else to speak (NOTE: used frequently in the House of Commons when a Member wants to say something when someone else is speaking: Will the hon. Gentleman give way? No, I will not give way or I will give way shortly).


glasnost /ˈɡleɪznəst/ noun openness in government or freedom of information (NOTE: The term was first used by president Gorbachev to describe the system he developed in Russia after the fall of communism.)

global /ˈɡloʊb(ə)l/ adjective referring to the whole world o global conflict a world war.

globalism /ˈɡloʊbəlɪz(ə)m/ noun the belief that political policies should consider national concerns in the context of international situations and issues.

gloss /ɡlʌs/ verb words in a document used to explain it more fully or to explain specific words.

GNP abbreviation gross national product.

go-ahead /ˈɡoʊ əˈhed/ noun permission to begin to do something.

go back on /ˈɡoʊ ˈbæk ən/ verb not to do what has been promised o Two months later they went back on the agreement.

God Save the Queen /ɡɔd ˈseɪv əˈkwɪn/ the title of the British national anthem.

go into /ˈɡoʊ ˈɪntu/ verb 1. to enter 2. to examine carefully o The bank wants to go into the details of the council’s loans to the club. o The fraud squad is going into the facts behind the property deals.

good cause /ˈɡud ˈkoʊz/ noun 1. a group or charity which deserves to be helped o The money collected by the Mayor’s Christmas Fund will go to good causes in the borough. 2. a reason which is accepted in law o The court asked the accused to show good cause why she should not be sent to prison.

good faith /ˈɡud ˈfeθ/ noun general honesty.

good neighbour /ˈɡud ˈnɪəbə/ noun a country which has good relations with other countries near it.

good neighbourliness /ˈɡud ˈnɪəbərˌlɪniz/ noun good relations be-
3. with the rising crime rate. governments have been unable to deal with the governance of the fire.

People want democratic government. The country has been governed by a group of military leaders. The Chief Minister governs in the name of the Federal Government.

The foreign office has only a report in a government ban on the import of arms. Government officials prevented him from the government or referring to the government bill. Government officials prevented him from the government or referring to the law of Britain. The Chairman went on speaking in spite of the fire. The chairman went on speaking for two hours.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Granta</strong> /ˈgræntə/ <strong>Green Line</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>grantor</strong> /ˈgræntər/ <strong>noun</strong> a person who makes a grant of money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant-Related Expenditure Assessment</strong> /ˈɡreɪnt rɪˌlɛkt ɪk sˈpɛndɪt/ <strong>noun</strong> the government calculation of what each local authority needs to spend each year. <strong>Abbr GREA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>grass roots</strong> /ˈɡræst rʊts/ <strong>noun</strong> the ordinary members of a political party or of society in general. <strong>What is the grass-roots reaction to the constitutional changes?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The party has considerable support at grass-roots level.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Chairman has no grass-root support.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>grata</strong> /ˈgrætə/ <strong>person</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GREA</strong> /ˈɡreɪt ə/ <strong>abbreviation</strong> Grant-Related Expenditure Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>great</strong> /ɡreɪt/ <strong>noun</strong> the great and the good important public figures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Great Hural</strong> /ˈɡreɪt hʊrəl/ <strong>noun</strong> the legislative body in Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Great Power</strong> /ˈɡreɪt ˈpauəl/ <strong>noun</strong> a nation that has international political, social, economic, and usually military influence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Great Seal</strong> /ˈɡreɪt ˈsiːl/ <strong>noun</strong> the ceremonial seal, kept originally by the Lord Chancellor, used for authenticating important public documents on behalf of the Queen (NOTE: The use of a seal to authenticate public documents dates back hundreds of years, but is now only used for reasons of tradition and ceremony.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>green</strong> /grɪn/ <strong>adjective</strong> supporting or promoting the protection of the environment. <strong>noun</strong> a supporter or advocate of protecting the environment, especially a member of a political party concerned with environmental issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>green card</strong> /ˈɡrɪn ˈkɑːd/ <strong>noun</strong> a work permit needed by a foreigner in the USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>greenie</strong> /ˈɡrɪni/ <strong>noun</strong> a conservationist or environmentalist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Green Line</strong> /ˈɡreɪn ˈlɪn/ <strong>noun</strong> in the state of Israel, the pre-1967 border along the West Bank and the Gaza Strip</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

person in charge of a prison ○ a **prison governor** ○ The prisoners applied to the **governor for parole.** 4, a member of a group responsible for controlling a public institution such as a hospital or school

**Governor-General** /ˈgəʊvərnədʒ(ə)nl/ **noun** a person representing the United Kingdom in a Commonwealth country which still has the British Queen as head of state. ○ **Lieutenant-Governor**

**govt** **abbreviation** government

**graft** /ɡraɪft/ **noun** bribery of officials ○ He was accused of graft when it was learnt that he had tried to bribe the Planning Officer.

**Grand National Assembly** /ˈgreɪnd ˌneɪʃ(ə)nəl əˌsɛmbli/ **noun** the legislature in Turkey

**grant** /ɡrænt/ **noun** 1. the act of giving something to someone, permanently or temporarily, by a written document ○ She made a **grant of land to her son.** 2. money given by the government or local authority or other organisation to help pay for something ○ The institute has a government grant to cover the cost of the development programme. ○ The local authority has allocated grants towards the costs of the scheme. ○ Many charities give grants for educational projects. ○ verb to agree to give someone something or to agree to allow someone to do something ○ to grant someone permission to build a house or to leave the country ○ The local authority granted the company an interest-free loan to start up the new factory. ○ She was granted leave to appeal. ○ The government granted an amnesty to all political prisoners.

**grant-aided** /ˈɡræntɪd/ **adjective** supported by funds from the government ○ a **grant-aided scheme**

**grantee** /ɡræntɪzi/ **noun** a person who receives money as a grant

**grant-in-aid** /ɡrænt in ˈeɪd/ **noun** money given by central government to local government to help pay for a project
Green Paper

Green Paper /ˈɡriːn ˈpɛrɪp/ noun in the United Kingdom or Canada, a discussion document from the government on possible proposals for a new law. Compare White Paper (NOTE: A Green Paper is issued when plans for legislation are at quite an early stage and the government is open to further suggestions. A White Paper is issued generally when plans are more fully developed and it may be very close to the final Bill.)

Green Party /ˈɡriːn ˈpɑrti/, the Greens /ˈɡriːnz/ noun the political party existing in several countries, which is concerned mainly with environmental and health issues

greymail /ˈɡreɪmɛl/ noun a threat used by the defence in a spy trial to reveal national secrets unless the government drops the case against the defendant

grey vote /ˈgriː vɔt/ noun older people considered as a group that can be influenced to vote in a specific way. "The healthcare issue will affect the grey vote."

Grit /ˈgrɪt/ noun, adjective in Canada, a Liberal (informal)

gross domestic product /ˈɡrəʊs ˈdəʊmɛstɪk ˈprɒdʌkt/ noun the annual value of goods sold and services paid for inside a country. Abbreviation GDP

gross national product /ˈɡrəʊs ˈnɛʃənl ˈprɒdʌkt/ noun the annual value of goods and services in a country including income from other countries. Abbreviation GNP

grounds /ˈɡraʊndz/ noun the basic reasons for believing something or for doing something. "She retired on medical grounds. " Does he have good grounds for complaint?" "There are no grounds for thinking any misconduct has occurred.

Group of Eight /ˈgruːp æv ˈɛst/ noun full form of G8

groupuscule /ˈgruːpəskjuːl/ noun a very small and extreme political group

gubernatorial /ˌɡuːbənərəˈtɪərɪəl/ adjective relating to a governor, especially a governor of a US state

guerrilla /ɡəˈrɪlə, ˈɡʊərɪlə/ noun a person or small group fighting an enemy often in a civil war, but not a member of an official army. "After the defeat of the army, guerrilla groups sprang up all over the country. " Guerrillas have attacked government outposts in many parts of the North.

guest country /ˈɡест ˈkæntri/ noun a country invited to an international meeting, without the right to vote

guidelines /ˈɡaʊdlænz/ plural noun instructions or suggestions as to how something should be done. "The government has issued guidelines on increases in wages and prices. " The National Union of Teachers has issued guidelines to its members on dealing with claims. " The Secretary of State can issue guidelines for expenditure. " The minister said he was not laying down guidelines for the spending of money which was not earmarked for special projects.

guillotine /ˈɡɪlətɪn/ noun 1. a motion in the House of Commons to end a debate on a clause of a Bill at an agreed time and generally without allowing a full debate. 2. the machine formerly used in France for executing criminals by cutting off their heads. Verb 1. in the House of Commons, to end a debate at an agreed time, and generally without allowing a full debate to take place 2. to execute someone by cutting his or her head off with a guillotine

gulag /ˈɡʊlæɡ/ noun the network of political prisons and labour camps in the former Soviet Union

Gulf States /ɡɔːf ˈstɛts/ noun 1. the countries that border the Persian Gulf and are producers of oil, i.e., Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. 2. the states of the southern United States that border the Gulf of Mexico, i.e., Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas
gun amnesty /ˈɡʌn əˈməristi/ noun an arrangement where any person having a gun illegally can hand the gun in to the police without being prosecuted for it

gunboat diplomacy /ˈɡʌnboʊt diˈpləʊməsi/ noun the attempt to solve international problems by force or by threatening to use force.

gunpowder Plot /ˈɡʌnˈpauðər plɒt/ noun a conspiracy by a group of Roman Catholics, including Guy Fawkes, to blow up Parliament in 1605

gynaecocracy /ˌɡaɪnəˈkærəsi/ noun political control by women, or a political system that gives power to women

gynarchy /ˈɡɪnərki/ noun same as gynaecocracy

gynocracy /ˈɡaɪnəkrəsi/ noun same as gynaecocracy
**H**

**hack /hæk/ noun** 1. a journalist or writer, especially one who does routine work or work that is not very good 2. a political party member who works for the party uncritically in a routine job

**Hail to the Chief /hɛl tə də 'tʃif/ noun** the piece of military music played to greet the President of the United States

**Hamas /'hæməs/ noun** a fundamentalist Islamic Palestinian organisation engaged in resistance to Israel in the Israeli-occupied territories

**hamlet /'hæmlət/ noun** a small village

**hammer and sickle /ˈhæmər ənd ˈsɪkl/ noun** a symbol of Soviet Communism representing industrial and agricultural workers, used on the flag of the former Soviet Union

**hand down /ˈhænd ˈdʌn/ verb** 1. to pass something from one generation to another. The house has been handed down from father to son since the nineteenth century. 2. to deliver a judgment or decision

**hand over /ˈhænd ˈəʊvə/ verb** to pass something to someone. She handed over the documents to the lawyer.

**Hansard /ˈhænsərd/ noun** the official report of everything that is said and done in the House of Commons and the House of Lords

COMMENT: These reports were first published by Luke Hansard in 1774 and are now published daily by the Stationery Office. Each page is divided into two numbered columns, so a reference to a particular speech in Hansard could read: Vol.120, No.24, 22 July 1987, Col. 370.
top part or first part.  Write the name of the company at the head of the list.  4. a person.  Allow £10 per head for expenses.  Factory inspectors cost on average £25,000 per head per annum.

verb to be the manager or to be the most important person.  to head a department.  She is heading a government delegation to China.

adjective having a name and address printed at the top of a piece of paper

verb to look for suitable people and offer them jobs in other companies

the title printed at the beginning of a section of a document

the leader of a country’s government.

noun an official in an embassy who is concerned with relations with the government of the country where the embassy is and with other embassies

the official leader of a country, who in some cases is also the head of the government, e.g. a king, queen or president

A head of state may not have much political power and may be restricted to ceremonial duties such as meeting ambassadors, laying wreaths at national memorials, opening parliament, etc. The head of government is usually the effective ruler of the country, except in countries where the President is the executive ruler, and the head of government is in charge of the administration. In the United Kingdom, the Queen is head of state, and the Prime Minister is head of government. In the United States, the President is both head of state and head of government.

noun the main office of an organisation. Abbr HQ

noun a draft agreement containing the most important points but not all the details

noun the Act of Parliament which regulates what employers must do to make sure that their workers are kept healthy and safe at work

the Canadian government department that is responsible for protecting the health and safety of the people of Canada

the officials who investigate complaints from the public about the National Health Service

words used in a meeting to show that you agree with the person speaking

1. a case which is being heard by a committee, tribunal or court of law.  The hearing about the planning application lasted ten days.  2. the opportunity of speaking to an official body about something.  He asked to be given a hearing by the full council so that he could state his case.

noun 1. a central area of a country or region that has special economic, political, military or sentimental significance.  2. an area of a country where a particular activity or opinion is common.

verb to shout remarks, insults or questions in order to upset someone who is making a speech

noun the leadership by one strong state over a group of other states, usually in the same area

noun an heir whose inheritance cannot be altered by the birth of another heir
heir presumptive noun

heir presumptive /,eə prɪ'semptɪv/ noun an heir whose inheritance will pass to another heir if one is born whose entitlement is greater

helotism /hɪlə'tɪz(ə)m/ noun a political or social system in which one group, class or country is systematically oppressed by another

hemicircle /'hemi,særk(ə)l/ noun a meeting room with seats in the form of a semicircle o MEPs meet in the hemicycle.

henceforth /'hens,tɔrə/ adverb from this time on o Henceforth it will be more difficult to avoid customs examinations.

henchman /'henʧmæn/ noun someone, especially a man, who is a close supporter or associate of someone in an important position, often using strong methods to carry out their wishes

henchwoman /'henʧwʊmən/ noun a woman who is a close supporter or associate of someone in an important position, often using strong methods to carry out their wishes

heptarchy /'heptərɔki/ noun one of the seven rulers in a heptarchy

heptarchy /'heptərɔki/ noun 1. government by seven rulers or leaders 2. a state governed by seven rulers, or a state divided into seven parts, each ruled by a different leader

here- /'hɪər-/ prefix this time or this point

hereafter /'hɪər'ɑːftə/ adverb from this time or point on

hereby /'hɪər'beɪ/ adverb in this way or by this letter o We hereby revoke the agreement of January 1st 1982.

hereditament /'hɛrɪˈdɪtəmənt/ noun property which can be passed from parents to their children

hereditary /'hɛrɪdəˈrɛti/ adjective passed from one member of a family to another

hereditary office /'hɛrɪdəˈrɛti/ noun an official position which is passed from one member of a family to another

herein /,hɪərˈɪn/ adverb in this document o the conditions stated herein o See the reference herein above.

hereinafter /,hɪərˈɪnəfərt/ adverb stated later in this document o the conditions hereinafter listed

hereof /,hɪərˈɔv/ adverb of this

hereto /,hɪərˈtʊ/ adverb to this o According to the schedule of payments attached hereto o As witness hereto as a witness of this fact

hereunder /,hɪərˈanda/ adverb below this point in a document o See the documents listed hereunder.

Her Majesty's government /,hɪr ˈmeɪdʒɪstiz ˈɡɑv(ə)nmənt/ noun the official title of the government of the United Kingdom

Her Majesty's pleasure /,hɪr ˈmeɪdʒɪstiz ˈpleizə/ noun detention or during Her Majesty's pleasure detention for an indefinite period, until the Home Secretary decides that a prisoner can be released

Her Majesty's Stationary Office noun the government department which prints documents for all government departments and also publishes and sells books for the government. Abbr HMSO. Also called The Stationery Office

heteronomous /ˌhɛtəˈnɔrnəpəs/ adjective subject to laws and rules imposed by other people or institutions. Compare autonomous

hierarchy /'hɪərəræki/ noun the arrangement of an organisation in various ranks, with fewer and fewer people in the higher ranks o He started as a local official and rapidly rose through the ranks of the party hierarchy.

hierocracy /,hɪərəˈrɒkrəsi/ noun 1. government by clergy 2. a body of clergy that rules a place or country

High Commission /ˌhɑɪ kəˈmɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. in a Commonwealth country, an embassy o the British High Commission in Ottawa or the
Highways Agency /ˈhaɪweɪz ˈeɪdʒənsi/ noun an executive agency of the Department of Transport that operates, maintains and improves the main roads in Britain

highways committee /ˈhaɪweɪz ˈkeɪmɪtə/ noun the committee of a local council with deals with roads and paths

Highways Department /ˈhaɪweɪz ˈdʒɪpzmənt/ noun the part of a local council that looks after the main roads

Hilary /ˈhɪləri/ noun one of the four law terms in a year

historic /ˈhɪstrɪk/ adjective 1. old or having a long history 2. important and likely to be remembered

The council is trying to redevelop the historic centre of the city. 2. The building is preserved as a historic monument.

Historic occasion.

HK abbreviation House of Keys

HL /ˈeɪtʃ el/ abbreviation House of Lords

HMG abbreviation 1. Her Majesty’s Government 2. His Majesty’s Government

HMS /ˈeɪtʃ em ˈes/ abbreviation 1. Her Majesty’s Service 2. His Majesty’s Service

HMSO abbreviation Her Majesty’s Stationery Office

Hobbes, Thomas /ˈhɒbz/ noun the English philosopher (1588–1679) whose Leviathan defended the right of a ruler to use absolute power in order to keep peace (Note: Hobbes said that without government, life for people in a state of nature or anarchy would be ‘nasty, solitary, brutish and short’.)

Hoc, ad hoc

Hold /hoʊld/ verb to hold a seat (of a party or candidate) to have a member elected for a constituency of the same party as the previous member

Labour held the seat with an increased majority.
where they live and have a sense of be-

country where someone was born or

to promotion.

not be more than 5%

ment hopes that wage increases will

to 5%

high level

2.

meeting.

item 4 was held over until the next

hold up

rebels are holding out in the govern-

been held up at the customs.

homeland

ny is based

origin, or the country where a compa-

home

holiday

holiday

hold over

rebels are holding out in the govern-

been held up at the customs.

homeland

homeland

hold over

hold out

control strictly or to keep in check o

administration at the Pentagon agen-

dation that has come under different

one who remains in a job or other po-

position, while being attacked o The chair-

man held out the possibility of rapid

promotion. 2. to remain in a place or

position, while being attacked o The

rebels are holding out in the govern-

ment radio station.

hold over

verb to put back to a later date o Discussion of item 4 was held over until the next

meeting.

holdover

noun someone who remains in a job or other po-

position that has come under different control o A holdover from the previous

administration at the Pentagon agency ordered the destruction of classified documents.

hold to

verb to keep or limit o the government hopes to hold

wage increases to 5% the government

hopes that wage increases will not be more than 5%

hold up

verb 1. to show or display o The agreement was held up as an example of good manage-

ment-worker relations. 2. to stay at a high level o Share prices have held up well. o Sales held up during the tourist

season. 3. to delay o The shipment has been held up at the customs. o Payment will be held up until the contract

has been signed.

holiday

noun a period away from work. o bank holiday

home

noun 1. a place where a person lives 2. someone’s country of origin, or the country where a compa-

ny is based

homeland

noun 1. the country where someone was born or where they live and have a sense of be-

longing to 2. in South Africa under the

apartheid system, a partly self-governing

region set aside for the Black popula-

tion

homeland security

noun US safety and protection from terrorist attack of a coun-

try (NOTE: Following the terrorist at-

tack of 11 September 2001, President Bush created a new executive department, the Department of Homeland Security.)

Home Office

noun the UK government ministry dealing with crime, the police and prisons

COMMENT: In most countries the gov-

ernment department dealing with the in-

ternal order of the country is called the Ministry of the Interior, with a Min-

ister of the Interior in charge.

home rule

noun the right of an area of a country to rule it-

self after being governed by another country

COMMENT: Home Rule was the aim of

Irish Nationalists between 1870 and 1920 when they were trying to achieve independence for Ireland.

Home Secretary

noun the minister of the UK government in charge of the Home Office, dealing with law and or-

der, the police and prisons. Also called

Secretary of State for Home Affairs

hon.

abbreviation honourable

honest broker

noun a person, group or country that helps two sides to come together in a dispute

honorarty

noun not paid a salary

honoratory consul

noun a person who repre-

sents one country in a different country but is not paid a salary, and is not a professional diplomat

honourable

noun the title used when one MP addresses another in the House of Commons o The hon. Member for London East

would do well to remember the condi-

tions in her constituency. o Will my hon.

Friend give way? o The hon.
Gentleman is perfectly entitled to ask that question. 

COMMENT: Various conventions are attached to the use of the word in Parliament. In general, MPs can refer to each other as ‘the hon. Member for...’; the Speaker will refer to all MPs as ‘the hon. Members’. To distinguish MPs of one’s own party from those on the other side of the House, an MP will say ‘my hon. Friend’. To distinguish between women and men MPs, you can say ‘the hon. Lady’ or ‘the hon. Gentleman’. Lawyers may be addressed as ‘the hon. and learned.’

Honours List /ˈhɒnz lɪst/ noun a list of the people who have been or are to be awarded honours such as a peerage or membership of a chivalric order by the British monarch

hopper /ˈhɒpə/ noun US a box where bills are put after being introduced in the House of Representatives

horse-trading /ˈhɔstrɪdɪŋ/ noun the negotiations between political parties or politicians or members of a committee to obtain a general agreement for something. After a period of horse-trading, the committee agreed on the election of a member of one of the smaller parties as Chairman.

hostile /ˈhɒstɪl/ adjective not friendly, or aggressive. The proposal was given a hostile reception by the main committee.

hostile act /ˈhɒstɪl ækt/ noun an unfriendly action which suggests that the country committing it is an enemy. We consider the violation of our air space a hostile act.

hostilities /ˈhɒstɪlɪtɪz/ plural noun armed fighting. The president is trying to negotiate an end to hostilities in the region.

hostility /ˈhɒstɪlɪtɪ/ noun an unfriendly attitude towards someone. Her proposal was greeted by the rest of the committee with hostility. Members of the public showed their hostility by throwing eggs.

hot button /ˈhɒt ˈbʌt(ə)n/ noun something that is known to be likely to provoke a strong response, especially among voters or consumers.

hot pursuit /ˈhɒt pəˈʃɜːrtʃ/ noun in international law, the right which is sometimes claimed to chase a ship into international waters or to chase suspected criminals across an international border into another country.

House /ˈhɑʊs/ noun 1. one of the two chambers of a legislature, usually the lower chamber. 2. also House one of the two parts of the UK Parliament, either the House of Commons or the House of Lords. 3. one of the two chambers of the United States Congress. The bill was passed by both houses and sent to the President for signature.

household /ˈhɔushəʊld/ noun the people living together in a house

householder /ˈhɔushəʊldər/ noun person who occupies a private house

House leader /ˈhɑʊzlɪdə/ noun 1. (in the UK) the Leader of the House, a government minister and member of the cabinet, who is responsible for the administration of legislation in the House of Commons or House of Lords, and is the main government spokesman in the House. 2. (in the USA) the chief of one of the political parties in the House of Representatives.

House of Assembly /ˈhɑʊz əv ˈæsəmbli/ noun the legislative body in Barbados, Dominica, Tasmania and Zimbabwe

House of Chiefs /ˈhɑʊz əv ˈtʃifs/ noun the upper consultative council in Botswana

House of Commons /ˈhɑʊz əv ˈkɒmənz/ noun 1. the lower house of the British Parliament, made up of 659 elected members. 2. the lower house of a legislature with two parts such as that in Canada.

COMMENT: Members of the House of Commons (called MPs) are elected for five years, which is the maximum length of a Parliament. Bills can be presented in either the House of Commons or House of Lords, and sent to
House of Councillors /ˈhaus əv ˈkɒnsələz/ noun the upper house of the legislature in Japan
House of Keys /ˈhaus əv ˈkɪzz/ noun the lower house of the legislature of the Isle of Man
House of Lords /ˈhaus əv ˈlɔːdz/ noun the non-elected upper house of Parliament in the United Kingdom, made up of life peers, some hereditary peers and some bishops

COMMENT: The composition of the House of Lords was changed by the House of Lords act 1999: hereditary peers no longer sit there by right, although 92 remain, elected by their own party or crossbench (non-party) groups, or as Deputy Speakers, Committee Chairs, or to fill two hereditary royal appointments, the Earl Marshal and the Lord Great Chamberlain. The House of Lords was for centuries the highest court of appeal; now the only appeal from the House of Lords is to the European Court of Justice. Proposals for reform introduced in 2003–4 will remove the ‘law lords’ from the House of Lords and create a new Supreme Court. This is being done to make it quite clear that the judiciary is independent from the other two branches of government.

House of Representatives /ˈhaus əv ˈreprɪzentətɪvz/ noun 1. the lower house of the Congress of the United States of America, made up of 435 elected members 2. the legislative body in many countries, including Antigua, Australia, Colombia, Cyprus, the Gambia, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, Yemen

COMMENT: The members of the House of Representatives (called Congressmen or Congresswomen) are elected for two years. All bills relating to revenue must originate in the House of Representatives; otherwise bills can be proposed in either the House or the Senate and sent to the other chamber for discussion and amendment.

House of the People /ˈhaus əv ˈpɜːpl/ noun same as Lok Sabha

House Republican Leader /ˌhauz ˈrɛplɪˈpærənt/ noun the head of the Republican Party in the House of Representatives

Houses of Parliament /ˈhausəz əv ˈpærliˌmɛnt/ 1. the building where the British Parliament meets, containing the chambers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords 2. the British Parliament

housing /ˈhauzɪŋ/ noun the supply of houses or flats for people to live in 1. The council provides low-cost housing for families in the borough. 2. The family lives in council housing.

housing association /ˈhauzɪŋ əˌsəʊʃən/ noun an organisation subsidised by government, which provides cheap housing for people

housing department /ˈhauzɪŋ ˈdɪˌpɑːrtmənt/ noun the department of a local authority which deals with council houses and flats

housing list /ˈhauzɪŋ ˈlɪst/ noun the list of people waiting to be placed in council housing 1. They have been on the housing list for three years.

Howard /ˈhauəd/ John (b. 1939) Australian prime minister (1996–)

Howard /ˈhauəd/ Michael (b. 1941) Elected as a Conservative to Parliament in 1982, he was Home Secretary from 1993 to 1997 and became leader of the Opposition in 2003

HP abbreviation Houses of Parliament

HQ abbreviation headquarters 1. The party HQ was surrounded by demonstrators

HR abbreviation House of Representatives

HSE abbreviation Health and Safety Executive

HUD /ˈhjuːd/ abbreviation US Department of Housing and Urban Development

humanitarian aid /ˈhjuːmənɪtərɪən eɪd/ noun help in the form of essential basic food and medicines sent to countries suffering from famine or other disasters
humanitarian space /ˈhjuːˌmɛnt ˈtɛərɪən spɛs/ noun a neutral zone occupied by international aid agencies in a region which is at war
human rights /ˈhjuːmən ˈrʌts/ plural noun the rights of individual men and women to basic freedoms such as freedom of speech and freedom of association
humble address /ˈhʌmbəl əˈdres/ noun a formal communication from one or both Houses of Parliament to the Queen
Hundred Days /ˈhʌndrəd ˈdeɪz/ plural noun the first 100 days of a new administration in the USA, seen as a test of that administration's ability
COMMENT: It was originally applied to the first 100 days of President Roosevelt's administration in 1933, and is now applied to all new administrations.
hung /hæŋ/ adjective with no majority hung council, hung parliament a council or parliament in which no single party has enough votes to form a government
hunger march /ˈhʌŋɡər ˈmɑːtʃ/ noun a march organised by unemployed people to draw attention to their problems
hunger strike /ˈhʌŋɡər straɪk/ noun a refusal to eat over a period of time as a form of protest, especially by a prisoner
Hural /ˈhʊral/ noun the legislative body in Mongolia
hustings /ˈhʌstɪŋz/ noun a at the hustings at a parliamentary election
COMMENT: The hustings were formerly the booths where votes were taken, or the platform on which candidates stood to speak, but now the phrase is used simply to mean 'at an election'.
Hutton Enquiry /ˈhʌtən ɪŋˌkwɔːtəri/ noun a judicial enquiry headed by Lord Justice Hutton in 2003 into the events surrounding the suicide of a senior government scientist with expertise on weapons of mass destruction in connection with the war with Iraq (NOTE: Lord Hutton found that the BBC had misreported government actions over the war with Iraq and, to most people's surprise, made very few criticisms of the government.)
Hybrid Bill /ˈhaɪbrɪd bɪl/ noun a parliamentary bill with some provisions affecting the public domain and others affecting private interests
ICC abbreviation International Criminal Court
ICM /ɪk'sem/ abbreviation Intergovernmental Committee for Migrations
ID abbreviation identity or identification
ID card /ɪdɪd/ noun same as identity card
idem /ɪdɛm/ pronoun the same thing or the same person
identical /aɪ'dentɪkəl/ adjective referring to diplomatic notes sent, or diplomatic action taken, by two or more governments in exactly the same form
identity /aɪ'dentɪti/ noun who someone is
identity card /aɪ'dentɪtɪ kɑːd/ noun a card carried by citizens of a country or members of a group to prove who they are
identity theft /aɪ'dentɪtɪ θeft/ noun the stealing of personal information that makes it possible to use someone’s bank account, credit card etc.
ideological /aɪ'dɪəlɔdʒɪk(ə)/ adjective referring to ideology ○ The two sections of the party have important ideological differences.
ideologist, ideologue noun a person who follows a particular ideology (often disapproving)
ideology /aɪ'dɪələdʒi/ noun a set of basic ideas about life and society, such as religious or political opinions ○ Most political parties are based on ideologies. ○ Marxist ideology states that a classless society will be established.
IGC abbreviation Intergovernmental Conference
ignore /aɪɡəra/ verb to reject a bill of indictment because there is not enough evidence
illegal immigrant /ɪlɪgəl ɪmˈɡrænt/ noun a person who enters a country to live permanently without having the permission of the government to do so
ILO abbreviation International Labour Organisation
immigrant /ɪmˈɡrænt/ noun a person who moves into a country to live permanently
immigrate /ɪmˈɡræt/ verb to move into a country to live permanently
immigration /ɪmˈɡreʃən/ noun moving into a country to live permanently
Immigration Laws /ɪmˈɡreʃən lɔrz/ plural noun the legislation controlling the movement of people into a country to live there
immunity /ɪmˈjunɪti/ noun protection against arrest or prosecution ○ the protection of members of Congress against being sued for libel or slander for statements made on the floor of the House (NOTE: The UK term is privilege.)
COMMENT: Immunity from prosecution is granted to magistrates, counsel and witnesses as regards their statements in judicial proceedings. Families and servants of diplomats may be covered by diplomatic immunity.
impartial /ɪmˈpɑːʃəl/ adjective not biased towards one group or political party or one side in a dispute or competition ○ to give someone a fair and impartial hearing ○ A judgment must be impartial.
**Impartiality** /imˌpərəˈʃələt/ noun the state of being impartial ○ The newspapers doubted the impartiality of the Ombudsman.

**Impartially** /imˌpərəˈʃələli/ adverb not showing any bias towards one group or political party or one side in a dispute or competition ○ ACAS has to act impartially towards the two parties in the dispute.

**Impeach** /ɪmˈpiːtʃ/ verb to charge a head of state, minister or judge with treason, bribery or with serious crimes

**Impeachment** /ɪmˈpiːtʃmənt/ noun the charge of treason, bribery or serious crimes brought against a head of state, judge or minister (NOTE: Impeachments ended in Britain in the late 18th century, but have continued to be used occasionally under the Constitution of USA. In 1999 impeachment proceedings against President Clinton failed to gain sufficient support in the Senate.)

**Impending** /ɪmˈpɛndɪŋ/ adjective about to happen soon ○ The newspapers carried stories about the impending general election.

**Imperial** /ɪmˈpɪrɪəl/ adjective referring to an empire ○ the power of imperial Rome

**Imperialism** /ɪmˌpɪrɪəˈlɪz(ə)m/ noun (disapproving) 1. the idea or practice of having an empire formed of colonies 2. the practice of controlling other countries as if they were part of an empire

**Imperialist** /ɪmˌpɪrɪəˈlist/ adjective referring to imperialism ○ noun a person who is in favour of empires and imperialism

**Imperialistic** /ɪmˌpɪrɪəˈlistɪk/ adjective referring to imperialism

**Implicate** /ɪmplɪˈkeɪt/ verb to suggest or show that someone is involved in something ○ Several ministers were implicated in the arms-selling scandal.

**Import** /ɪmˈpɔrt/ noun 1. the bringing of foreign goods into a country to be sold ○ The import of firearms is forbidden. ○ verb /ɪmˈpɔrt/ to bring foreign goods into a country

**Import duty** /ɪmˈpɔrt ˈdjuːti/ noun a tax on foreign goods brought into a country. Also called customs duty

**Import levy** /ɪmˈpɔrt lev/ noun a tax on foreign goods brought into a country, e.g. in the European Union a tax on imports of farm produce from outside the EU

**Import quota** /ɪmˈpɔrt kwəʊtə/ noun a fixed quantity of a particular type of foreign goods which the government allows to be brought into the country ○ The government has imposed a quota on the import of cars. ○ The quota on imported cars has been lifted.

**Imports** /ɪmˈpɔrtz/ plural noun foreign goods brought into a country ○ All imports must be declared to the customs.

**Impose** /ɪmˈpəʊz/ verb to ask someone to pay a fine ○ to impose a tax on bicycles ○ The court imposed a fine of £100. ○ They tried to impose a ban on smoking. ○ The government imposed a special duty on oil. ○ The customs have imposed a 10% tax increase on electrical items.

**Imposition** /ɪmpəˈzɪʃ(ə)m/ noun 1. the act of putting a tax on goods or services ○ Council officials consider having to attending all-night sittings to be an imposition. 2. an unreasonable request

**Impound** /ɪmˈpaʊnd/ verb to take something and keep it, usually because something illegal has been done ○ The lorries were impounded by customs.

**Impunity** /ɪmˈpjuːniˈti/ noun freedom from threat of punishment
in abeyance /ɪn əˈbeɪəns/ noun
being out of operation or use for a period ○ this law is in abeyance this law in not being enforced at the present time

in absentia /ˌɪn əˈbɛnsiə/ adverb
while someone is not present ○ The former President was tried and sentenced to death in absentia.

inalienable /ɪnˈɛliənəb(ə)l/ adjective
which cannot be taken away or given away or sold

inaugurate /ɪnˈnɔːɡjʊreɪt/ verb
to mark the start of someone’s period of office with a formal ceremony

inauguration /ɪnˈnɔːɡjʊreɪʃ(ə)n/ noun
the formal act of confirming someone in an official position, especially the President of the United States, or a ceremony held for this purpose

incamra /ɪn ˈkæm(ə)rə/ adverb
in private or with no members of the public present ○ The case was heard in camera.

incitement /ɪnˈsaɪtrəmənt/ noun
the crime of encouraging, persuading or advising someone to commit a crime ○ incitement to racial hatred the offence of encouraging people to attack others because of their race, by words, actions or writing

inclusive /ɪnˈklʌsɪv/ adjective
not excluding any group or section of society ○ inclusive of tax or not inclusive of VAT ○ the party conference runs from the 12th to the 16th inclusive it starts on the morning of the 12th and ends on the evening of the 16th

inclusive language /ɪnˌklʌsɪv ˈlɛŋwɪdʒ/ noun
language that avoids careless discrimination against some people because of gender, class, ethnic group, etc. in the words and descriptions used

incomes policy /ɪnˌkæmz ′polisi/ noun
an economic policy that plans to control inflation by keeping control of wage levels

income tax /ɪnˈkæm taks/ noun
a tax, mainly on what someone is paid

incoming /ˈɪnkæmɪŋ/ adjective
recently elected or appointed ○ the incoming government, the incoming Minister the new government or the Minister who has just been appointed and is about to start working ○ The chairman welcomed the incoming committee ○ The incoming cabinet was sworn in at the Presidential palace.

incompetency /ɪnˈkɒmpətns/ noun
the state of not being legally able to do something

incompetent /ɪnˈkɒmpətn/ adjective
1. unable to work well or to perform some duty ○ The Finance Minister is quite incompetent, but he is the President’s brother-in-law. ○ The company has an incompetent sales director. 2. not legally able to do something ○ She is incompetent to sign the contract.

incorporate /ɪnˈkɒspərət/ verb
1. to bring something in to form part of a main group or to make a document part of another document ○ Income from the 1994 acquisition is incorporated into the accounts. ○ The list of markets is incorporated into the main contract. 2. to form a registered company ○ a company incorporated in the USA ○ an incorporated company ○ J. Doe Incorporated 3. to give legal status and the right to have a council to a town

incorporation /ɪnˌkɔːprəˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ noun
act of incorporating something

incumbency /ɪnˈkʌmbənsi/ noun
the situation of being the holder of an elected position

incumbency effect /ɪnˈkʌmbənsi ɪnˈfekt/ noun
the way in which people who have already been elected to an office tend to be re-elected for a further term

incumbent /ɪnˈkʌmbənt/ adjective
holding an official position ○ the incumbent President ○ a person who holds an official position ○ There will be no changes in the governor’s staff while the present incumbent is still in office.
incursion /ɪnkəˈʒɜːrn/ noun 1. a raid or limited military attack on another country 2. entry into an area where someone or something should not be

indefeasible right /ˌɪndɪfɛˈzlə b(ə)l/ ‘rəʊt/ noun a right which cannot be taken or given away

indemnification /ɪnˈdɛmɪfɪkeɪʃən/ noun a promise of payment for loss or damage

independence /ˌɪndɪˈpendəns/ noun 1. freedom from rule or control or influence of others ○ The colony struggled to achieve independence. ○ Britain granted her colonies independence in the years after the Second World War. ○ An independence movement grew in the colony. 2. the time when a country became independent from another country ○ The ten years since independence have seen many changes.

Independence Day /ˌɪndɪˈpendənsi dɪˈeɪ/ noun the day when a country celebrates its independence, e.g. July 4th in the USA

independent /ˌɪndɪˈpendənt/ adjective not controlled by anyone ○ The council has asked an independent consultant to report on the housing department. ○ The country has been independent since 1956.

Indian National Congress /ˈɪndɪən ˈnɛʃ(ə)nəl ˈkɒŋgres/ noun an Indian political party that led the struggle for independence from the British Empire and has dominated the post-independence government

Indian Subcontinent /ˈɪndɪən ˈsəbˌkɒntɪnənt/ noun India, Pakistan and Bangladesh

individual /ˌɪndɪˈvjuːəl/ noun a single person ○ He was approached by two individuals on a constituency matter. ○ adjective referring to a single person or thing ○ The records are kept in individual files.

individualism /ˌɪndɪˈvjuːəlɪzəm/ noun the political theory which places most importance on the rights of each person and tries to free each person from too much social control and restriction

industrial /ɪnˈdʌstrɪəl/ adjective relating to work

industrial development /ɪnˈdʌstrɪəl dɪˈvɜːləmpənt/ noun the planning and building of new industries in special areas

industrial processes /ɪnˈdʌstrɪəl prəˈseszɪz/ plural noun the methods and systems involved in making products in factories

Industrial Revolution /ɪnˈdʌstrɪəl rɪˈvjuːluːʒ(ə)n/ noun the period in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when industry began to develop

infiltrate /ɪnˈfɪltrət/ verb to enter an organisation secretly, without the officials knowing ○ The club has been infiltrated by right-wing agitators.

inflation /ɪnˈflɪʃn/ noun the situation where prices rise to keep up with increased money available to buy goods

influence /ɪnˈflʌns/ noun the effect on someone or something ○ They said the president was acting under the influence of the Ambassador. ○ The decision of the court was not influenced by the speech of the Prime Minister. ○ We are suffering from the influence of a high exchange rate. ○ verb to have an effect on someone or something ○ The House was influenced in its decision by the gravity of the financial crisis. ○ The price of oil has influenced the price of industrial goods. ○ He was accused of trying to influence the Select Committee.

influence peddling /ɪnˈflʌns ˌpɛdliŋ/ noun offering to use your influence, especially political power, for payment, to help a person or group achieve something

influential /ɪnˈflʌnʃ(ə)l/ noun having the power to influence someone or something ○ He is the chairman of the influential Foreign Affairs Committee.

informal vote /ɪnˈfɔrməl ˈvɔut/ noun a ballot paper which is not filled...
the rebel leader to come for a meeting.

someone can answer questions from the public

British government dealing with tax

part of the country to another

charges for carrying goods from one person who lives in a building or town or country o Spain has 39 million inhabitants.

initiative /'infəsɪv/ noun 1. a decision to start doing something o The president took the initiative in asking the rebel leader to come for a meeting.

the minister has proposed several initiatives to try to restart the deadlock negotiations. 2. (in Switzerland and the USA) a move by a group of citizens to propose that something should be decided by a referendum

injunction /'ɪn.dʒəkʃən/ noun a court order telling someone to stop doing something or not to do something o He got an injunction preventing the company from selling his car. o The council applied for an injunction to stop the developer from continuing with the demolition.

injustice /'ɪn.dʒəstɪs/ noun a lack of justice o She complained about the injustice of the system.

Inkatha noun a Zulu political party that was founded in South Africa in 1975

INLA abbreviation Irish National Liberation Army

inland /'ɪn.land/ adjective inside a country o inland freight charges charges for carrying goods from one part of the country to another

Inland Revenue /'ɪn.land 'rɪvnədʒu:/ noun the department of the British government dealing with tax o to make a declaration to the Inland Revenue

Inland Revenue Department /'ɪn.land 'rɪvnədʒu: dɪ'pɑːtmtnt/

in New Zealand, the government department responsible for the collection and administration of taxes. Abbr IRD

inner cabinet /'ɪnɔə 'kebɪnət/ noun an informal group of the most important members of the Cabinet, who under some Prime Ministers may meet with the Prime Minister and decide policy away from the rest of the Cabinet

inner city /'ɪnə 'sɪti/ noun the central part of a large urban area, often an area of poverty, poor housing and other social problems

input tax /'input tɛks/ noun VAT paid on goods or services bought

inquire /'ɪn.kwɔəri/, enquire /'ɪn.kwɔəri/ verb to ask questions about something o He inquired if anything was wrong. o She inquired about the rate of inflation in other European countries. o The commission is inquiring into corruption in the customs service.

inquiry /'ɪn.kwɔəri/, enquiry /'ɪn.kwɔəri/ noun an official investigation o There has been a government inquiry into the loss of the secret documents.

inquorate /'ɪn.kwɔrət/ adjective without the required number of people to hold or carry on a meeting o The meeting was declared inquorate and had to be abandoned.

in-service training /'ɪn .sɜːvɪs 'trenɪŋ/ noun training offered by an employer to his or her staff o The report suggested increasing in-service training facilities in the department. Abbr INSET

inspector /'ɪn.spɛktər/ noun 1. an official whose job is to check that a particular activity or situation is follows approved standards o inspector of taxes, tax inspector an official of the Inland Revenue who examines tax returns and decides how much tax each person should pay.

inspectorate /'ɪn.spɛktərət/ noun a group of inspectors with the same
area of responsibility ○ the school inspectorate all local or national inspectors of schools

institute /ɪnˈstɪtjʊt/ noun 1. an official organisation 2. the title of a professional organisation ○ The Royal Institute of British Architects. ♦ verb to institute a particular purpose ○ to institute proceedings against someone

institution /ɪnˈstɪʃn/ noun 1. an organisation or society set up for a particular purpose 2. a building for a special purpose

institutionalised /ɪnˌstɪʃ(ə)nəlɪzaɪd/ institutionalized adjective 1. unable to live independently after having been in prison, hospital or other institution for a long time 2. happening so often that it is considered to be normal even though wrong or harmful ○ The office of US President has become institutionalised.

instrument /ɪnˈstrəmənt/ noun 1. a tool or piece of equipment 2. a legal document

instrumentality /ɪnˈstrəməntəlɪtɪ/ noun in the United States, a subsidiary branch of a department or agency

insular /ˈɪnʒʊlər/ adjective 1. referring to islands 2. not interested in anything outside one's immediate surroundings

insularity /ɪnˈʒʊlərɪtɪ/ noun indifference to anything outside one’s immediate surroundings

insurable /ɪnˈʃʊərəbl/ adjective possible to insure

insurance /ɪnˈʃʊərəns/ noun the business of insuring

insurgency /ɪnˈsɜːdʒənsi/ noun a state where many groups fight to try to bring down a government over a long period of time

insurgent /ɪnˈsɜːdʒənt/ noun a person who fights to bring down a government by force ○ The army tried to capture the leaders of the insurgents.

insurrection /ɪnˈsɜːrəkʃn/ noun an armed attempt to overthrow a government ○ The insurrection lasted two weeks.

insurrectionist /ˌɪnsəˈrekʃnɪst/ noun a person who takes part in an armed attempt to overthrow a government

integrationist /ˌɪntɪˈgreɪʃnɪst/ noun someone who works to promote or maintain integration ○ adjective promoting or maintaining integration

intelligence /ɪnˈtelɪdʒəns/ noun secret information

intelligence service /ɪnˈtelɪdʒənsi sərvis/ noun the government department which tries to discover other countries' secrets

inter- /ɪntər/ prefix between

inter alia /ɪntər əˈliːə/ Latin phrase meaning 'among other things'

intercameral /ɪntərˈkæmərəl/ adjective between the two chambers of a bicameral legislature

intercontinental /ɪntərˈkɒntɪnənl/ adjective between continents

interdependent /ɪntərdɪˈpendənt/ adjective dependent on each other ○ Great Britain and the EU are economically interdependent.

interest /ˈɪntrəst/ noun 1. special attention ○ The managing director takes no interest in the staff club. ○ The government has shown a lot of interest in the scheme. 2. the payment made by a borrower for the use of money, calculated as a percentage of the capital borrowed ○ The bank pays 10% interest on deposits. 3. money paid as income on investments or loans ○ to receive interest at 5% ○ the loan pays 5% interest ○ deposit which yields or gives or produces or bears 5% interest ○ account which earns interest at 10% or which earns 10% interest 4. the percentage to be paid for borrowing 5. the right or title to a property or money invested in a company or financial share in, and part control over, a company

interest group /ˈɪntrəst gruː/ noun a group of people who work together for a specific reason, often by putting pressure on the government
interfere /ˌɪntəˈfɪr/ verb to get involved or to try to change something which is not your concern

intergovernmental /ˌɪntəˌɡɑːvənmənt/ adjective between governments or intergovernmental communications messages passed from one government to another

Intergovernmental Conference /ˌɪntəˌɡɑːvərmənt/əl ˈkɒnfrəns/ noun 1, a meeting for discussion in which many countries take part. A special meeting of all the heads of the governments of the European Union, held every few years to make important decisions on the future development of the EU. Abbr IPCC

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change /ˌɪntəˌɡɑːvərmənt/əl ˈpæn(ə)l ən ˈklaɪmət tʃəndʒ/ noun an international body set up in 1988 to assess information relating to climate change caused by human activities. Abbr IPCC

interim /ˌɪntəˈrɪm/ adjective serving temporarily until a permanent replacement can be elected or appointed

Interior /ˈɪntərɪər/ adjective relating to the internal affairs of a country, especially as opposed to its foreign relations

internal /ˈɪntərnl/ adjective referring to the inside of an internal memo a memo from one department in an organisation to another internal affairs of a country the way in which a country deals with its own citizens. It is not usual for one country to criticise the internal affairs of another.

Internal Revenue Service /ˈɪntəˌrɛvn juːˌsævəs/ noun the department of the US government dealing with income tax. Abbr IRS (note: The UK equivalent is the Inland Revenue.)

international /ˌɪntəˈrɪʃənl/ adjective involving two or more countries

International /ˌɪntəˈrɪʃənl/ noun any of four international Socialist, Communist, or Anarchist organisations formed in 1864, 1889, 1919, and 1938 respectively

International Court of Justice /ˌɪntəˈnɛʃənl/ kərt əv ˈdʒاستɪs/ noun the court of the United Nations, which is in The Hague, Netherlands

International Criminal Court /ˌɪntəˈnɛʃənl/ kərt/ noun the court set up by the United Nations to deal with war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by political leaders and those engaged in warfare. Abbr ICC

International Development Association /ˌɪntəˌnɛʃənl əˈdɛvərənt/ noun a specialised agency of the United Nations that provides credit to nations on less strict terms than the World Bank. Abbr IDA

International Finance Corporation /ˌɪntəˌnɛʃənl ˌfɪnəns/ ˌkɔːrpəˈrɛʃən/ noun a specialised agency of the United Nations that is affiliated with the World Bank and promotes private enterprise in developing nations by providing risk capital. Abbr IFC

internationalise /ˌɪntəˌnɛʃəlnai/ verb to place something under the protection or control of several countries instead of one country

internationalism /ˌɪntəˌnɛʃəlnizəm/ noun the idea that different countries should try to work together more closely

internationalist /ˌɪntəˌnɛʃəlnɪst/ noun someone who supports greater cooperation between countries international organisation /ˌɪntəˌnɛʃənl/ ˈɔːrɡənɪzaʃən/ noun the organisation set up by the United Nations which tries to improve working conditions and workers' pay in member countries. Abbr ILO
international law /ˌɪntəˈnæʃ(ə)nəl/ the laws governing relations between countries

International Monetary Fund /ˌɪntəˈnæʃ(ə)nəl ˈmənɪʃ(ə)n/ an organisation of the United Nations, which is a type of bank that helps member states in financial difficulties, gives financial advice to members, and encourages world trade. Abbr IMF

international politics /ˌɪntəˈnæʃ(ə)nəl ˌpələtɪks/ noun the diplomatic and political interaction between the governments of different countries

international relations /ˌɪntəˈnæʃ(ə)nəl rɪˈlɛʃ(ə)nəlz/ plural noun political activities undertaken between two or more countries

International Telecommunication Union noun a specialised agency of the United Nations that promotes international cooperation in telecommunications and allots radio frequencies for various purposes. Abbr ITU

internuncio /ˌɪntəˈnænsiəl/ adjective relating to an internuncio of the Roman Catholic Church

internuncio /ˌɪntəˈnænsiəl/ noun a diplomatic representative of the pope of a rank below a nuncio

interpellate /ɪntəˈpɛlət/ verb to interrupt a parliamentary debate by asking a question on an aspect of government policy

Interpol /ˌɪntəˈpɔl/ noun an international police organisation through which the member countries co-operate in solving crimes

interpret /ɪnˈtəprɪt/ verb 1. to say what you think something such as a document, law or decision means

interpretation /ˌɪnˌtəprɪˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. what someone thinks is the meaning of something such as a document, law or decision

2. a translation of what has been said in one language into another

Interpretation Act /ˌɪnˌtəprɪˈteɪʃ(ə)n ək/ noun an Act of Parliament which rules how words used in other Acts of Parliament are to be understood

interpreter /ɪnˈtəprɪtər/ noun a person who translates what someone has said into another language

interpretation /ˌɪnˌtəprɪˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. what someone thinks is the meaning of something such as a document, law or decision

2. a translation of what has been said in one language into another

interpretation Act /ˌɪnˌtəprɪˈteɪʃ(ə)n ək/ noun an Act of Parliament which rules how words used in other Acts of Parliament are to be understood

interrupt /ɪnˈtərɪpʊt/ verb to try to speak or to shout when someone else is talking

interregnum /ˌɪntəˈrɛŋjuːm/ noun the period between the end of the reign of one king or ruler and the beginning of the next

intervener /ˌɪntrəˈvɛnər/ noun a person who gets involved in an action to which he or she was not originally a party

intervention /ˌɪntrəˈvɛnʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. acting to make a change in the government’s intervention in the foreign exchange markets

2. to translate what someone has said into another language

interventionism /ˌɪntrəˈvɛnʃənɪz(ə)m/ noun political inter-
intitule 126

ference or military involvement by one country in the affairs of another
intitle verb to give a title to an Act of Parliament
intolerant /ɪntələrənt/ adjective refusing to accept that other people can have different opinions or ways of doing things ○ Extremist political parties tend to be very intolerant.

intranational /ɪntrəˈnæʃənl/ adjective existing or occurring within the boundaries of a single nation
intransigent /ɪntrænɪsɪdʒənt/ adjective refusing to change or discuss compromise

intra vires /ɪntrəˈvɪərɪs/ Latin phrase meaning ‘within the legal powers’ ○ The minister’s action was ruled to be intra vires. Compare ultra vires

introduce /ɪntrəˈdʒuːs/ verb to present something or to put something forward ○ He is introducing a Bill in Parliament to prevent the sale of drugs. ○ The department has introduced some new evidence to the Committee. ○ The education department has decided to introduce vegetarian meals in schools.

introduction /ɪntrəˈdʒɔːʃən/ noun an act of presenting something or putting something forward ○ the introduction of new evidence into the case ○ introduction of a Bill putting forward a Bill for discussion in Parliament

invade /ɪnˈvæd/ verb 1. to attack and enter another country 2. to enter somewhere in large numbers or in a way that causes problems ○ Corruption had invaded every area of public life. ○ to invade someone’s privacy to prevent someone from doing what they want to do without being watched or interrupted by someone else ○ The press even invaded their privacy on family holidays.

invalidate /ɪnˈvældər/ verb 1. to make something legally or officially unacceptable ○ Because the company has been taken over, the contract has been invalidated. 2. to show that something previously said or done is wrong ○ The recent findings invalidate the earlier study.

invalidation /ɪnˈvældəʃən/ noun an act of making something legally or officially unacceptable

invalidity /ɪnˈvældɪti/ noun 1. the fact of being legally or officially unacceptable ○ the invalidity of the contract 2. the condition of being ill and unable to work

invasion /ɪnˈvəʒən/ noun an act of attacking and entering the territory of another country

ipso facto /ˌɪpsəʊˈfæktoʊ/ Latin phrase meaning ‘by this very fact’ or ‘the fact itself shows’ ○ The writing of the letter was ipso facto an admission that the Minister knew of the case. ○ He was chairman of the committee at the time of the investigation and ipso facto was seen to be under suspicion.

IRA /ɪərə/ noun an organisation of Irish nationalists who originally fought for an independent Ireland and who still want to achieve the unity of the island of Ireland. Full form Irish Republican Army

IRD abbreviation Inland Revenue Department

Irish Republican Army /ˈaɪrɪʃ ˈreɪ.əblət ˈɑr.mɪ/ full form of IRA

IRO abbreviation 1. International Refugee Organization 2. International relief organization

Iron Curtain /ˈaɪərn ˈkaːrtən/ noun the imaginary barrier created by the policy of isolation which prevented freedom of travel and communication between Western and Eastern Europe during the Cold War

iron triangle /ˈaɪərn ˈtraɪəntəŋɡəl/ noun US the close connection between interest groups, executive departments and Congressional committees in making policy

irredenta /ɪrɪˈdɛntə/ noun a territory that was formerly part of one country but is now ruled by another and is subject to claims that it should be returned to its former country
irredentism /ɪrɪˈdɛntɪz(ə)m/ noun the policy of trying to get back a region which has been lost to another country, or trying to take over a region which is felt to belong to the country because of similar language or culture

irredentist /ɪrɪˈdɛntɪst/ noun a supporter of irredentism ○ The meeting was disrupted by Albanian irredentists.

irregularity /ɪrɪˈdʒʊlərɪtɪ/ noun something which does not conform to the rules

irresponsibility /ɪrɪˈrɛspənsəˈbɪləti/ noun a failure to act in a responsible way

IRS abbreviation Internal Revenue Service

Islamic Jihad /ɪsləˈmɪk dʒəˈheɪd/ noun an Islamic fundamentalist organisation that wants to create an Islamic Palestinian state by armed opposition to Israel and opposes pro-Western Arab governments

isolation /ɪsəˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the situation of a country which is not allied to other countries 2. the situation of being alone or kept apart from other people ○ The meeting was disrupted by Albanian irredentists. ○ The council was forced to issue a denial. ○ The government issued a report on London's traffic. ○ The Secretary of State issued guidelines for expenditure. ○ The Minister issued writs for libel in connection with allegations made in a Sunday newspaper.

item /ˈaɪtəm/ noun 1. something for sale 2. a piece of information 3. a matter for discussion ○ we will now take item four on the agenda we will now discuss the fourth subject listed on the agenda
Janata Dal noun an Indian political party founded in India

Jefferson, Thomas  /dʒəfəsən/ noun the American politician and writer (1743–1826) who wrote the Declaration of Independence and had a considerable influence on the American Constitution (NOTE: Jefferson was a democrat who wanted an educated population and believed that government ought to be limited by a system of checks and balances.)

Jerga  /dʒɜːɡə/ Loya Jerga

Jim Crow  /dʒɪm k्रɔː/ noun discrimination against Black people, especially by public segregation

jingoism  /dʒɪnəʊɪz(ə)m/ noun extreme patriotism

Job Centre  /dʒɒb, sɛntə/ noun the government office which lists and helps to fill jobs

job creation scheme  /dʒɒb krɪˈeɪʃən/ noun a government-backed plan to encourage new work for the unemployed

John Birch Society  /dʒɔn bɪtʃ/ noun a right-wing political organisation formed in the United States to fight Communism

joint  /dʒɔɪnt/ verb 1. to put things together o The appendix is joined to the report. 2. to become part of something o They joined the Labour Party.

joint  /dʒɔɪnt/ adjective 1. with two or more organisations or people linked together 2. one of two or more people who work together or who are linked o joint managing director o joint owner o joint signatory

joint and several  /dʒɔɪnt ənd ˈsɛv(ə)rəl/ adjective as a group together and also separately

joint commission of inquiry  /dʒɔɪnt ˈkɔmɪʃən əv ˈɪnkwərɪ/ noun a committee set up to look into something with representatives of various organisations on it

joint committee  /dʒɔɪnt ˈkəmɪtɪ/ noun 1. a committee formed of equal numbers of members of the House of Commons and House of Lords 2. US a committee with members of both House of Representatives and Senate, usually set up to investigate a serious problem

joint resolution  /dʒɔɪnt ˌreʒəˈluːʃən/ noun US a motion passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate

journal  /dʒʊərənl/ noun 1. a diary or record of something which happens each day o The chairman kept a journal during the negotiations. 2. an official record of the proceedings of a legislature such as the House of Commons, House of Lords, House of Representatives or Senate o the Official Journal of the European Union

journalist  /dʒʊərəˈnalɪst/ noun someone who writes articles for a newspaper, or reports for TV or radio o The council chairman asked the journalists to leave the committee room.

JP abbreviation Justice of the Peace (NOTE: The plural is JPs.)

judge  /dʒuːdʒ/ noun an official of the judicial branch who presides over a law court, and in civil cases decides which party is in the right o a County Court judge o a judge in the Divorce Court o The judge sent him to prison for embezzlement.
COMMENT: At present the appointment of judges is the work of the Lord Chancellor and Prime Minister. Under reforms announced in 2003–4, all judges will be appointed by an Independent Judicial Appointments Commission. The minimum requirement is that one should be a barrister or solicitor of ten years' standing. The majority of judges are barristers, but they cannot practise as barristers. The appointment of judges is not a political appointment, and judges remain in office unless they are found guilty of gross misconduct. In the USA, state judges can be appointed by the state governor or can be elected; in the Federal courts and the Supreme Court, judges are appointed by the President, but the appointment has to be approved by Congress.

Judge Advocate-General

a lawyer employed by the state to advise on all legal matters concerning the Army

Judge Advocate of the Fleet

a lawyer employed by the state to advise on all legal matters concerning the Royal Navy

judgement

1. the ability to make a good decision • The officer was criticize for showing lack of judgement. • The Minister's judgement is at fault.

2. a legal decision or an official decision of a court

Judges' Rules

plural noun an informal set of rules governing how the police may question someone suspected of a crime

judicature

noun judges and the justice system as a whole

judice, sub judice

adjective relating to judges and the justice system

Judicial Branch

noun same as judiciary

Judicial Committee of the House of Lords

the highest appeal court in England and Wales (NOTE: Reforms introduced in 2003–4 are likely replace the law lords with a Supreme Court)

Judicial Committee of the Privy Council

the appeal court for appeals from some Commonwealth countries and colonies

judicial review

an examination of a case a second time by a higher court because a lower court has acted wrongly • an examination by a court of administrative or legislative decisions taken by an authority or government

judiciary

the branch of government concerned with the system of justice. Also called judicial branch (NOTE: The other two branches are the executive and the legislative)

junior minister

noun in a government or department, the Under-Secretary of State or Minister of State

junta

noun a ruling group which has taken power in a country by force • The junta came to power six years ago and is formed of representatives of each of the armed forces. (NOTE: The term is used mainly of military governments, and usually in South America; the word is correctly pronounced as /'hantəl but this pronunciation is not often used in English.)

jurisdiction

noun legal power over someone or something

jury

noun a group of twelve people who decide whether someone is guilty or not guilty on the basis of the evidence they hear in court

jury service

noun the duty which each person has of serving on a jury if asked to do so (NOTE: The US term is jury duty.)

just

adjective fair or right •

just war

war which is considered to be morally right
justice

justice /dʒəstɪs/ noun 1. the legal process of dealing with someone accused of a crime in court 2. a judge or magistrate 3. the title given to a High Court judge ○ Mr Justice Adams (NOTE: It is sometimes written as J after the judge's name: Adams J)

Justice Department /dʒəstɪs dɪpərtmənt/ noun 1. a department of the Scottish Executive, responsible for all aspects of the legal system and the police 2. US same as Department of Justice

justice of the peace /dʒəstɪs av ˈpɛs/ noun a person without legal training who works as a judge in a local court. Abbr JP

justice system /dʒəstɪs ˈsɪstəm/ noun the legal process of judging people and giving punishments in court

justiciary /dʒəstɪˈʃəri/ noun the system of justice or legal system ○ High Court of Justiciary the highest criminal court in Scotland
Kakistocracy
noun government by the most unscrupulous or unsuitable people, or a state governed by such people
Kamer Eerste Kamer, Tweede Kamer
Kangaroo
noun the system used when discussing a Bill, where some clauses are not discussed at all, but simply voted on, with the discussion then moving on to the next clause
Keep down verb to control or oppress. The generals have managed to keep down the country districts by stationing troops in the area.
Keeper of the Great Seal Keeper of the Seal
noun same as Lord Chancellor (NOTE: Reforms introduced in 2003–4 are likely to abolish the office of Lord Chancellor)
Kenesh Uluk Kenesh
Kennedy John F. (1917–63) 35th president of the United States, assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on 22 November 1963
Keynesianism noun the theory that government must compensate for insufficient business investment in times of recession by spending on its own projects
Keynote
verb 1. to deliver the most important speech at a conference or meeting 2. to outline an important policy in a speech or report
Keynote address keynote speech
noun the main speech at a conference by an important speaker who sums up the main areas to be discussed
Kill verb to stop discussion of a proposal. The veto in the Security Council killed the resolution.
King
noun the man who rules in a monarchy (NOTE: often used with a name as a title: King Juan Carlos)
Kingdom
noun a country ruled by a king or queen. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Kingly adjective suitable for a king or like a king (NOTE: Kingly shows approval, as opposed to royal which does not imply approval or condensation)
Kingmaker
noun someone with sufficient power to have an influence on who is appointed to important positions, usually within a government
Kingship
noun the rule of a king
King's Messenger
noun same as Queen's Messenger
Kitchen cabinet
noun a private, unofficial committee of ministers, advisers and friends who advise some Prime Ministers or Presidents (NOTE: The term was first used to describe the advisors of the President of the USA, Andrew Jackson, who used to meet literally in the kitchen of the White House.)
Knesset noun the legislature in Israel

knight /nāt/ noun a man who has received a title of honour from the king or queen • verb to make someone into a knight • He was knighted in the Birthday honours list.

knighthood /nəthəd/ noun the position of being a knight

knock-on effect /nək ɒn ɪfekt/ noun an indirect effect, following on from something • The political unrest had a knock-on effect on the tourist industry. • The coup had a knock-on effect on the governments of neighbouring states.

Kremlin /kreml/ noun a series of buildings surrounded by a high wall in the centre of Moscow, where the offices of the main ministers of the Russian Federation are situated (NOTE: often used to mean 'the Russian Government': a Kremlin spokesman said the letter was helpful)

Kremlinologist, Kremlin-watcher noun a non-Russian who specialises in studying the actions of the Russian political leadership and tries to guess what is really going on in Russia
Lab. abbreviation Labour
Labor /ˈleɪbər/ noun the Australian Labor Party • adjective relating to the Australian Labor Party
Laborite /ˈleɪbərɪt/ noun a member or supporter of the Australian Labor Party
Labor union /ˈleɪboʊn ˈjuːnɪʃən/ noun US an organisation which represents workers who are its members in discussions about pay and conditions of work (NOTE: The UK term is trade union.)
Labour /ˈleɪbrə/ noun 1. heavy work (NOTE: The US spelling is labor.) 2. skilled labour workers who have special knowledge or qualifications 3. labour law, labour laws, labour legislation laws relating to the employment of workers (NOTE: The US spelling is labor.)
Labour, the Labour Party adjective relating to the Labour Party in the United Kingdom or New Zealand
Labour force /ˈleɪbrə fɔːs/ noun all the people who are available to work
Labour-intensive /ˈleɪbrər ɪnˈtensɪv/ adjective a type of work that needs many people to do it
Labourism /ˈleɪbrəzɪzəm/ noun a political or social movement that works to ensure the rights of workers, or support for such a movement
Labourist /ˈleɪbrərɪst/ noun a supporter of the rights of workers
Labourite /ˈleɪbərɪt/ noun a member or supporter of the Labour Party in the United Kingdom or New Zealand
Labour mobility /ˈleɪboʊ maʊˈbɪləti/ noun the ability of people to move easily from one job to another, or from one place to another to find work
Labour movement /ˈleɪboʊ ˈmjuːvmennt/ noun the organisations working for the improvement of working conditions for workers
Labour Party /ˈleɪboʊ ˈpɑrti/ noun a political party, one of the main parties in Britain which is on the left of the political spectrum. Also called Labour

COMMENT: The British Labour Party was founded in 1906 as a fusion of the Independent Labour Party and other workers' groups, including representatives from the Trades Union Congress. The Labour Party has been closely allied to the Trades Union Congress in the past. Members of trade unions pay a political levy to support the Party, and some Labour MPs are sponsored by trade unions.

Ladys' gallery /ˈlɛdiz ˈɡæləri/ noun an area of the public gallery of the UK House of Commons that is kept for women only
Lady /ˈlɛidi/ noun a title given to the wife of a knight or baronet or baron or earl

COMMENT: In most case, the title is used before the family name without the Christian name. Where the title is used to indicate the daughter of a nobleman, the Christian name is used. So the wife of Sir Edwin Smith is Lady Smith; the daughter of the Duke of Northumberland is Lady Jane Percy.

Lady Mayoress /ˈlɛdɪ ˌmeʊərɪs/ noun the wife of a Lord Mayor
Laissez-faire, laisser-faire noun the political theory that a government should do nothing to control the economy. Laissez-faire resulted in increased economic activity, but contributed to a rise in imports.
lame duck /lem ‘dak/ noun a company or administration which is in difficulties and which needs support ○ The government has promised a rescue package for lame duck companies.

lame duck administration or presidency /lem dək ədˌmi-niˈstrəʃən/ noun a US administration towards the end of a President’s second term, when there is very little incentive to do much

lame duck president /lem dək ‘prezədənt/ noun a US president in the last part of the term of office, who cannot stand for re-election, and so lacks political force

LAMSAC abbreviation Local Authorities Management Services and Computer Committee

land /lænd/ noun 1. an area of earth 2. a nation or country ○ The President welcomed the official delegation from the land of his ancestors. 3. Land one of the regions which make up the federal republic of Germany and also Austria (NOTE: The plural is Länder.)

COMMENT: Under English law, the ownership of all land is vested in the Crown, although individuals or other legal persons may hold estates in land, the most important of which are freehold estates, which amount to absolute ownership, and leasehold estates, which last for a fixed period of time. Ownership of land usually confers ownership of everything above and below the land. The process of buying and selling land is conveyancing. Any contract transferring land or any interest in land must be in writing. Interests in land can be disposed of by a will.

Landlord and Tenant Act /lændˈlɔrd ən ‘tenant ək’tən/ noun the Act of Parliament which regulates the letting of property

landmark /lændˈmɑrk/ noun 1. a famous building or natural feature ○ The Houses of Parliament and Westminster are well-known London landmarks. 2. an important event or decision ○ The opening of the new bridge is a landmark in the town’s history.

landmark decision /lændˈmɑrk ˈdɪˈsɪʒən/ noun an important legal or political decision

land office /lænd ˈɔfɪs/ noun a government office that administers and records sales and transfers of public land

land reform /lænd rɪˈfɔrm/ noun the policy of changing the ownership of agricultural land by government law, so that those owning no land receive some

Land Registry /lænd ˌredʒistəri/ noun the British government office where land is registered

landslide /lændslai/ noun a very large majority obtained in an election ○ The Socialists won in a landslide, ○ a landslide victory or win an election success with a very large majority

Lands Tribunal /lændz ˈtraɪbənul/ noun a court which deals with compensation claims relating to land

Landtag /lændˈtaɪŋ/ noun the legislative assembly of a German or Austrian state

land tax /lænd ˈtæks/ noun a tax on the value of land owned

laodicean adjective lacking in religious or political commitment ○ someone who has no strong commitment to religion or politics

lapse /læps/ noun the ending of a right, contract or offer ○ verb to stop being valid or to stop being active ○ The insurance policy lapsed because the premiums had not been paid. ○ lapsed passport a passport which is out of date

late-night /ˈleɪt nət/ adjective happening late at night ○ The House of Commons had a late-night sitting. ○ Their late-night negotiations ended in an agreement signed at 3 a.m.

law /laʊ/ noun 1. a rule by which a country is governed and by which the activities of people and organisations are controlled ○ A law has to be passed by Parliament. ○ The government has proposed a new law to regulate the sale of goods on Sundays. 2. all the
statutes of a country taken together a inside the law, within the law obeying the laws of a country a against the law, outside the law not according to the laws of a country o Dismissing an employee without reason is against the law. o The agents were operating outside the law. o in law according to the law. o What are the duties in law of a guardian? o to break the law to do something which is not allowed by law. o He is breaking the law by selling goods on Sunday. o You will be breaking the law if you try to take the goods out of the country without an export licence. 3. a general rule

law and order /ˈleɪənd ˈɔːrdər/ noun a situation in which the laws of a country are being obeyed by most people. o There was a breakdown of law and order following the assassination of the president.

Law Centre /ˈlaː sɛntə/ noun a local office with full-time staff who advise and represent people free of charge

Law Commission /ˈlaː kəmɪʃən/ noun a permanent committee which reviews English law and recommends changes to it

law court /ˈlaː kɔːt/ noun a place where a trial is held or where a judge listens to cases

law enforcement /ˈlaː ɪnˈfɔrməns/ in force noun the official activity of making sure that a law is obeyed

Law Lords /ˈlaː lɔːdz/ plural noun the members of the House of Lords who are judges, including the Lord Chancellor and the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary (NOTE: Reforms proposed in 2003–4 are likely to remove these law lords from the House of Lords and set up a separate Supreme Court)

lawmaker /ˈlaːmɛrkɔːr/ noun a person who makes or passes laws, e.g. an MP or a Congressman

law-making /ˈlaː mɛkɪŋ/ noun the making of laws. o Parliament is the law-making body in Great Britain.

Law Officers /ˈlaː ˈɒfɪsərz/ plural noun the posts of Attorney-General and Solicitor-General (in England and Wales) and Lord Advocate and Solicitor-General (in Scotland)

law reform /ˈlaː ˈrɛfɔrm/ noun the continuing process of revising laws to make them better suited to the needs of society

Law Reports /ˈlaː ˈrɛpɔːts/ plural noun the collection of reports of cases of special interest and importance, which may set legal precedents

lay /leɪ/ verb to put or present something o The report of the planning committee was laid before the council. o to lay an embargo on trade with a country to forbid trade with a country o to lay a proposal before the House to introduce a new Bill before Parliament. o adjective not belonging to a profession or not trained to a professional standard in a subject o The Committee has a chairman and several lay advisers.

lay down /ˈleɪ dən/ verb to state clearly. o The conditions are laid down in the document. o The guidelines lay down rules for dealing with traffic offences. (NOTE: laying – laid – has laid)

LC abbreviation Lord Chancellor

lead /liːd/ verb 1. to be the first or to be in front o The company leads the world in waste disposal. 2. to be the main person in a group o The Parliamentary delegation is led by J.M. Jones, MP. 3. to start to do something, especially to start to present a motion for debate o The Home Secretary will lead for the Government in the emergency debate.

leader /ˈliːdər/ noun 1. someone who is responsible for organising or controlling a group of people o our political and military leaders o a meeting of world leaders o She was appointed leader of the delegation. 2. someone such as a person, company, country or something such as a product that is the most successful of its type o a world leader in biomedical research o indus-
Leader of the Council 136

try leaders in electronic surveillance systems

Leader of the Council /ˈliːdər/ noun same as council leader. Leader of the Council, stated that the report would be examined at the next meeting.

Leader of the House /ˈliːdər əv ˈhauz/ noun the senior government minister and member of the Cabinet, who is responsible for the administration of legislation in the House of Commons or House of Lords, and is the main government spokesman in the House (NOTE: Both people can be referred to as Leader of the House and more specific terms are Leader of the Commons and Leader of the Lords.)

Leader of the Opposition /ˈliːdər əv ˈəʊpər əv ðə ˈhauz/ noun the head of the largest party opposing the government

leadership /ˈliːdəʃɪp/ noun 1. the quality of being a good leader 2. leadership led to a big argument between the management and the union. 3. the few people who are the most important members of a party or group. None of the party leadership appeared at the meeting.

leading /ˈliːdɪŋ/ adjective most important 1. He was the leading figure in the movement to increase pensions.

lead to /ˈliːd tə/ lead up to /ˈliːd ˈlep tu/ verb to be the cause of. The discussions led to a big argument between the management and the union. We received a series of approaches leading up to the takeover bid.

leaflet /ˈliːfliːt/ noun a sheet of paper advertising something, usually a single sheet perhaps folded in two. Party workers distributed leaflets to all the householders in the constituency. to verb to give leaflets to people in an area. They leafleted all the houses in the electoral ward early on the morning of the election.

leaflet /ˈliːfliːt/ noun the activity of giving out leaflets

league /ˈliːg/ noun a group of people or states with similar aims, who come together to form a group and take action to further their aims

League of Nations /ˈliːg əv ˈneɪʃənz/ noun the group of states which joined between the First and Second World Wars in a group similar to the present United Nations

leak /ˈliːk/ noun the unofficial passing of secret information or information which has not yet been published to newspapers or television stations. to verb to pass information unofficially to newspapers or television stations. The details of the plan have been leaked to the press to test public reaction. Information about the government plans has been leaked to the Sunday papers.

leakage /ˈliːkɪdʒ/ noun the unofficial release of secret information, usually to the media

leakproof /ˈliːkprufl/ adjective not allowing secret information to be made public unofficially. No committee is leakproof.

leaky /ˈliːki/ adjective allowing secret information to be made public unofficially

leave /ˈliːv/ noun 1. permission to do something. The representative of the construction company asked leave of the council to show a detailed plan of the proposed development. 2. Leave of absence permission to be absent from work or, in the case of an MP, to be away from the House of Commons

left /ˈliːt/ Left noun 1. the political parties which hold ideas in favour of change and furthering the interests of the working class and the poor. 2. The political ideas which support change, especially in the interests of the working class and the poor. a swing to the left a movement of support towards socialist principles.

NOTE: Both people can be referred to as Leader of the House and more specific terms are Leader of the Commons and Leader of the Lords.)
views that are more strongly progressive and less conservative. She's always been on the left of the Tory party.

COMMENT: The division of political parties and political ideas into left, right and centre dates from the French Revolution when deputies in the National Assembly sat on the left or right of the chamber according to their views. It was easiest to apply these labels when socialists (left) parties faced conservative (right) parties in the 1870s and 1880s. Some commentators say the old divisions of left and right are less and less relevant in the modern world, but they continue to be used.

leftist /'leftiz(ə)tm/ noun belief in a policy of liberal, socialist or communist political and social change or reform

leftist /'leftist/ adjective (usually disapproving) supporting the views of the left. The minister is showing left-wing tendencies. • noun a person with left-wing ideas

left-of-centre /'lef v.'sentə adjective relating to political views that are slightly left-wing

left wing /'left wɪŋ/ noun the people who are more strongly socialist than others of their party. The left wing of the Labour Party.

left-wing /'left wɪŋ/ adjective strongly favouring the left. She was criticised for abandoning her left-wing principles. • The party caucus has been infiltrated by left-wing activists.

left-winger /'left wɪŋər/ noun a person with left-wing political ideas

legal /'legəl/ adjective 1. according to the law or allowed by the law. The company's action was completely legal. 2. referring to the law. • legal advice

Legal Aid scheme /'legəl 'eɪd skɪm/ noun the British government scheme where a person with very little money can have legal advice paid for by the state

legalisation /'legəlaɪzəʃ(ə)n/, legalisation noun the process of making something legal that was previously not legal

legalise /ˈlɛɡəlaɪz, ˈlɛɡəlaɪz/ verb to make something legal. A proposal to legalise certain drugs

legality /ˈlegəlɪtɪ/ noun the fact of something being legal. They questioned the legality of the police action.

legally /ˈlɛɡəli/ adverb according to the law. In Australia, you are legally obliged to vote.

legally binding enforced by law. • signed a legally binding agreement

legal system /ˈlɛɡəl ˈsɪstəm/ noun the way in which the laws of a particular country are used to judge people in court

legate /ˈleɡət/ noun an official representative of a government, especially a diplomat

legation /ˈleɡəʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. a group of diplomats representing their country in another country at a lower level than an embassy. 2. a building in which a group of diplomats below the rank of ambassador works

Legis. · corpus legis

legislate /ˈlɛɡəsleɪt/ verb to make a law. Parliament has legislated against the sale of drugs or to prevent the sale of drugs.

legislation /ˈlɛɡəʃ(ə)n/ noun laws or written rules which are passed by a parliament and implemented by the courts

...the greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation. [Jeremy Bentham]

legislative /ˈlɛɡəsətɪv/ adjective relating to laws and the process or function of making new laws. • the legislative processes. Parliament has a legislative function.

Legislative Assembly /ˈlɛɡəsətɪv əˈsembli/ noun the lower house of the legislature in Australian states, Canadian provinces, Costa Rica, Panama and El Salvador.

Legislative Branch /ˈlɛɡəsətɪv ˈbrʌntʃ/ noun same as legislature

Legislative Council /ˈlɛɡəsətɪv ˈkɒnsəl/ noun the upper house of
legislative day

the legislature in some Commonwealth countries, e.g. in most South Asian and Australian states

legislative day /lɛdɪˈsəʊlətɪv/ noun US the time from the start of a meeting of one of the Houses of Congress to its adjournment. The House of Representatives usually adjourns at the end of each day, but the Senate may not, so that the Senate’s legislative day can last several calendar days.

legislative veto /lɛdɪˈsəʊlətɪv ˈvɪtə/ noun in the USA, a clause written into legislation which gives powers to government agencies stating that Congress may override a decision taken by the agency using of these powers

legislator /lɛdɪˈsəʊlətər/ noun a person who makes or passes laws, e.g. an MP or a Congressman

legislature /lɛdɪˈsəʊlətər/ noun 1. a body such as a parliament which makes laws ○ Members of the legislature voted against the proposal. Also called Legislative Branch (NOTE: The other two branches are the executive and the judicial.) 2. the building where a parliament meets ○ The protesters marched towards the State Legislature.

legitimation /lɪˈdʒɪtɪˌmeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the way in which a political system or part of a political system is given the respect of the people so that it can do its work with authority (NOTE: One of the functions of parliament is said to be legitimation because laws made by parliament are the work of elected representatives of the people.)

legitimise /lɪˈdʒɪtɪˌmaɪz/ verb to make something legitimate and give it authority ○ The support of the Prime Minister has legitimised attacks on the party activists.

legitimist /lɪˈdʒɪtɪˌmɪst/ noun a person who supports the return to the throne of the rightful king or the rightful descendant of the last king

Leninism /ˈlenɪzm(ə)m/ noun Communist ideas put forward by the Russian follower of Marx, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870 – 1924) who ruled Russia after the Revolution of 1917 (NOTE: Lenin believed that Marxism could be applied successfully only if the proletariat was led by an intellectual group which formed the main leadership of a governing and authoritarian party.)

Leninist /ˈlenɪnɪst/ adjective referring to Leninism ○ noun a person who supports and believes in Leninism

lese majesty /ˈlɛz ′meʒəstɪ/ noun a criminal offence against a ruler or head of state

letters patent /ˈlɛtərs ˈpɛntənt/ plural noun an official document from the Crown, which gives someone the exclusive right to do something, especially making and selling an invention

leveller /ˈlevələr/ noun somebody who wants everyone in society to be equal

levy /ˈlevi/ noun a tax or extra payment placed on goods or services ○ verb to collect a tax or an extra payment ○ to levy a duty on the import of computer parts ○ The government has decided to levy a tax on imported cars.

liability /ˈlɪzəbɪləti/ noun the state of being legally responsible for paying for damage or loss ○ The council has admitted liability but the amount of damages has not yet been agreed.

liable /ˈlaɪəblə/ adjective being legally responsible for paying for damage or loss

Lib. abbreviation Liberal

Lib Dem /ˈlɪb ˈdem/ abbreviation Liberal Democrat

liberal /ˈlɪbəral/ adjective 1. allowing freedom to people or not controlling people ○ The government has adopted a very liberal attitude towards tax reform. (NOTE: To show the difference between the different meanings of the adjective, people sometimes say ‘liberal with a small l’ when not referring to political ideas.) 2. generous ○ He has given a liberal donation to party funds. ○ noun a per-
son who believes in individual freedom and the improvement of society

**Liberal /ˈlɪbrəl/ adjective** relating to the Liberal Party in the United Kingdom, Canada, or Australia

- *noun* a member or supporter of the Liberal Party, e.g. in the United Kingdom, Canada, or Australia

**liberal democracy /ˈlɪbrəl ˌdɛməkrəsi/ noun** a political system that has free elections, many political parties, political decisions made by independent judges, and law enforcement by the state

- *Liberal Democrat /ˈlɪbrəl ˈdɛməkrət/ noun* a member of the British Liberal and Social Democratic Party

- *Liberal Democratic Party /ˈlɪbrəl ˌdeməkrətɪk ˈpərti/ noun* a British political party formed in 1988 from the existing Liberal Party and some members of the Social Democratic Party (NOTE: often called the Lib Dems)

**liberalism /ˈlɪbrəlɪzəm/ noun** the ideals and beliefs of liberals

- *Liberal Party /ˈlɪbrəl ˈpərti/ noun* a political party which supports some social change, some involvement of the state in industry and welfare, but opposes the centralisation of government and has no fixed connections with either workers or employers (NOTE: The British Liberal Party developed from the Whig Party of the 17th and 18th centuries. The name Liberal was applied from the middle of the 19th century onwards.)

- *Liberal Party of Australia /ˈlɪbrəl ˈpərti ɔv əustrəliə/ noun* a conservative Australian political party which has almost always been in coalition with the National Party

**liberation /ˈlɪbrəʃən/ noun** the process of being set free from an oppressive regime

- *liberation theology /ˌlɪbrəˈteɪʃən ˌθiərəloʊdʒi/ noun* the religious theory developed in Latin America, which involves the church in finding solutions to social problems

**libertarian /ˈlɪbrəˈtɛriən/ noun** someone who believes that people should have complete freedom to think and act as they wish

- *liberty /ˈlɪbətɪ/ noun* freedom □ liberty of the individual the freedom for each person to act within the law □ liberty of the press the freedom of newspapers to publish what they want within the law without censorship □ liberty of the subject the right of a citizen to be free unless convicted of a crime which is punishable by imprisonment □ at liberty 1. free or not in prison □ They are still at liberty while waiting for charges to be brought. 2. free to do something □ You are at liberty to complain if you are not satisfied with the service of the department.

‘…liberty is the right to do everything which the laws allow’ [Montesquieu]

- *licence /ˈlɪsns/ noun* 1. official permission to do something or to use something □ He granted his neighbour a licence to use his field. (NOTE: The US spelling is license.) 2. an official document showing that someone has permission to do something (NOTE: The US spelling is license.) □ import licence, export licence a document that allows goods to be imported or exported □ licence to sell liquor, liquor licence a document given by a Magistrates’ Court allowing someone to sell alcohol

- *license /ˈlɪsns/ noun* 1. law a permission □ She is licensed to drive a bus. □ She is licensed to run an employment agency. □ noun US spelling of licence

- *lie upon the table /lai əˈpʌn ˈteərə/ verb (of a petition) to have been put before the House of Commons (NOTE: After a petition has been presented by an MP it is said to ‘lie upon the table’.)

**lieutenant /ˈleɪtənənt/ noun** a US police or fire department officer of a
lieutenant governor noun  
rank above sergeant ○ The party leader’s main lieutenant has decided to quit Parliament.

life peer /ˈliːf ˈpiːr/ noun a member of the House of Lords who is appointed for life, and whose title is not inherited when he or she dies

life peers /ˈliːf ˈpiːz/ noun a woman who is a life peer

limitrophe adjective on the border between countries or areas (French)

Lincoln /ˈlɪŋkən, əbrəhəm/ (1809–65) 16th president of the United States, 16th president of the United States, he led the North to victory in the US Civil War, and announced the emancipation of slaves in the southern states (1863). His Gettysburg Address, delivered on 19 November 1863, became one of the great texts of US history. He was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth while attending a performance at Ford’s Theatre in Washington, DC.

Line of Control /ˈlaɪn əv kənˈʃroʊl/ noun the line separating the areas of the disputed territory of Kashmir controlled by India and Pakistan, established in 1972

lingua franca /ˈlɪŋɡwə ˈfræŋkə/ noun a language which serves as the language of communication between different countries or different regions

linkage /ˈlɪŋkɑːdʒ/ noun progress towards an objective which depends on concessions made by the various parties on other related issues

list system /ˈlɪst ˌsɪstəm/ noun ○ party list system

living standards /ˈlɪvɪŋ ˈstændədz/ plural noun ○ standard of living

Lloyd George /ˈlɔɪd ˈdʒɔːzdʒ/ David, 1st Earl of Dwyfor (1863–1945) the last Liberal prime minister of the United Kingdom (1916–22)

Lloyd’s Register /ˈlɔɪdz ˈreɪdʒɪstə/ noun a list showing details of all the ships in the world

lobby /ˈloʊbi/ noun 1. ○ division lobby ○ a group of people which tries to influence MPs or the passage of legislation ○ the car lobby people who try to persuade MPs that cars should be encouraged and not restricted ○ the environmentalist lobby group who try to persuade MPs that the environment must be protected, pollution stopped, etc. 3. the group of journalists attached to the House of Commons, who are given information in regular official meetings by senior ministers or their assistants ○ verb to ask someone such as an MP or local official to do something on your behalf ○ A group of local businessmen has gone to London to lobby their MPs on the problems of unemployment in the area.

lobby correspondent /ˈloʊbi kərɪˌspɒndənt/ noun a journalist who is one of those attached to the House of Commons who receive information from ministers in regular official meetings

lobby fodder /ˈloʊbi ˈfɔdər/ noun ○ ordinary MPs who vote as their party tells them without thinking ○ lobbyist /ˈloʊbiʃt/ noun a person who is paid to represent a pressure group

lobby system /ˈloʊbi ˈsɪstəm/ noun ○ the system of employing professional lobbyists to attempt to influence political policy

local authority /ˈloʊkərl əˈthɔːrəti/ noun a section of elected government which runs an area, e.g. a district council
Local Commissioner /ˈləʊkəmɪʃən/ noun an official who investigates complaints against local authorities
local council /ˈləʊkəl kənsəl/ noun same as council noun
local election /ˈləʊkəl ɪˈlektʃən/ noun the elections to choose representatives for local government or for a town, city or county council. Also called municipal elections
local government /ˈləʊkəl ˈɡʌvərnənt/ noun administration and politics at the level below national government, e.g. county and borough councils

**COMMENT:** Local government in England and Wales is a two-tier system: county councils, with non-metropolitan district councils under them, and metropolitan district councils which are self-governing large urban areas. In Scotland there are nine large Regional Councils instead of county councils.

Local Government Ombudsman /ˈləʊkəl ˈɡʌvərnənt ˈəʊmbruːdzmən/ noun same as Local Commissioner

**Locke, John** /lɒk/ noun the English philosopher (1632–1704) who justified the overthrow of royal power in England and the creation of a system based on the power of parliament (NOTE: Locke believed that the power of a government was based on a contract between the government and the people, and that if the government broke their side of the contract the people did not have to obey it.)

**Lodge** /lɒdʒ/ noun the official residence of the Australian prime minister in Canberra

**logroll** /ˈlɒɡrəʊl/ verb to agree with political colleagues that each will support the other’s piece of legislation

logrolling /ˈlɒɡrəʊlɪŋ/ noun an understanding between colleagues in a legislature that each will support the other’s piece of legislation

**Lok Sabha** noun the lower house of Parliament in India (NOTE: The upper house is the Rajya Sabha.)

**London Mayor** /ˈlʌndən meɪ/ noun the directly elected mayor of Greater London, a job first created in 2000 (NOTE: Ken Livingstone was elected first mayor of London in 2000 as an independent candidate, having failed to secure the nomination of the Labour Party. He was re-elected, this time as a Labour candidate, in 2004.)

**loophole** /ˈluːfoʊl/ noun a mistake in a law or contract which allows people to avoid their obligations (The measure was largely introduced to close a loophole in the law.)

**lord** /lɔrd/ noun 1. a member of the House of Lords 2. Lord a title given to barons and to the sons of dukes or marquesses

**Lord Advocate** /lɔrd əˈdvəkət/ noun a member of the government who is one of the two Law Officers in Scotland

**Lord Chamberlain** /lɔrd ˈʃɛmbərˌleɪn/ noun a hereditary peer with various ceremonial duties especially for the sovereign (NOTE: Under the changes to the House of Lords, the Lord Chamberlain remains a member of the House despite being an hereditary peer.)

**Lord Chancellor** /lɔrd ˈʃænɔsəl/ noun a member of the government and cabinet who presides over the debates in the House of Lords, is responsible for the administration of justice, plays an important role in appointing judges, and who is the most important judge in England (NOTE: In 2003 the government announced plans to abolish the office of Lord Chancellor, which was thought to be incompati-
Lord Chief Justice

Lord Chief Justice / lɔrd 'kriːf ʃɛstɪs/ noun the chief judge of the Queen’s Bench Division of the High Court, and second most important judge after the Lord Chancellor.

Lord Justice / lɔrd 'dʒəstɪs/ noun the title given to a judge who is a member of the House of Lords (NOTE: It is sometimes written as LJ after the name: Smith LJ)

Lord Justice Clerk / lɔrd 'dʒəstɪs 'klərk/ noun the second most important judge in the Scottish High Court of Justiciary (NOTE: It is sometimes written as LJ after the name: Smith LJ)

Lord Justice General / lɔrd 'dʒəstɪs 'dʒenərəl/ noun the most important judge in the Scottish High Court of Justiciary

Lord Lieutenant / lɔrd leɪˈtɛnt/ noun a person who is a representative of the Crown in a county

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ noun in the United Kingdom except Scotland, the mayor of a large city such as London or Dublin, elected for a year by other councillors.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.

Lord Mayor / lɔrd 'meər/ plural noun the House of Lords as a whole, or the members of the House of Lords.

Lord Privy Seal / lɔrd prɪvı 'sɪvı/l noun a senior member of the government, often a member of Cabinet, with duties given by the Prime Minister.

Lord Protector / lɔrd prəˈtekta/l noun the title taken by Oliver Cromwell during the Protectorate.

Lord Provost / lɔrd 'prəʊvəst/ noun in Scotland, the chairperson of the city councils of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee, elected by the other councillors.
lou\(\text{dspeaker van} /\text{laʊd\text{\'spɪk\text{\'}eɪn/ noun a vehicle with a loud-
\text{speaker so that political or other mes-
\text{sages can be delivered to people in the
\text{streets and adjacent houses}}\quad\text{(NOTE: The US term is sound truck.)}\)
lower chamber /\text{\text{'l}\text{\'ə wash\text{'emba/},
lower house noun one of the two
\text{parts of a parliament that has two
\text{chambers, e.g. the British House of
\text{Commons or the American House of
\text{Representatives.}}\quad\text{(NOTE: In practice the House of Com-
\text{mons is now far more important than
\text{the House of Lords, although it is still
called the lower house. The Senate
\text{and House of Representatives in the
\text{USA are considered 'co-equal', but
the Senate is still the upper house
\text{there.})}}\)
Loya Jerga /\text{\text{'lo\text{\'}ə \text{\'dʒə\text{'gə/ noun the
\text{Grand Council in Afghanistan, which
\text{is a type of parliament}}\)
loyal /\text{\text{'lo\text{\'}əl/ adjective continuing to
\text{support somebody or something}}\quad\text{He
\text{has been loyal to the party, even
\text{though the leader criticised him in
\text{public.}}\)
loyalist /\text{\text{'lo\text{\'}əl\text{\'}st/ noun a person
\text{who continues to support something,
\text{especially a king or political party}}\)
Loyalist /\text{\text{'lo\text{\'}əl\text{\'}st/ noun a Northern
\text{Ireland Protestant who supports the
\text{continuation of Northern Ireland's po-
\text{litical union with Britain}}\)
loyally /\text{\text{'lo\text{\'}əli adverb in a way that
\text{supported something even in difficult
\text{situations}}\quad\text{She has served the council
\text{loyally for ten years.}}\)
loyalty /\text{\text{'lo\text{\'}əlti/ noun support given
\text{out of a sense of duty and respect}}\quad\text{All
\text{the members of the government have
\text{sworn an oath of loyalty to the Presi-
\text{dent.}}\)
Lumpenproletariat noun in the
\text{philosophy of Marxism, the ordinary
\text{workers who are not strongly interest-
ed in Marxism}}\)
Maastricht Treaty /ˈmaːstrɪk/ noun the treaty of 1st November 1993 by which the member states of the European Community established the European Union. It significantly extended the scope of the previous treaties, preparing the way for the adoption of the single European currency, adopting a Social Chapter which gave rights to workers, strengthening European institutions and suggesting further scope for development in the fields of education, justice, defence and foreign policy. The British Prime Minister at the time, John Major, signed the treaty with the exclusion of the Single Currency and the Social Chapter. In trying to have the treaty ratified by Parliament, Major’s Conservative government almost fell from power. Also called Treaty of Maastricht (NOTE: Maastricht is a town in the southeastern part of the Netherlands.)

MacDonald /məkˈdɒnɔld/, Ramsay (1866–1937) a founder member of the Labour Party and the United Kingdom’s first Labour prime minister (1924, 1929–35)

mace /mɛs/ noun a large ornamental stick, made of gold or silver, which is ceremonially placed on the table in the House of Commons or House of Lords, or in some local council chambers to show that business can begin when the House goes into Committee. In the House of Lords, the mace is placed on the Woolsack. Local authorities usually also have maces which are carried in front of the mayor on ceremonial occasions by the mace-bearer, and often placed on the table at full council meetings. In the US House of Representatives, the mace is placed beside the Speaker’s chair when the House is in session. There is no mace in the Senate, but a ceremonial gavel is placed on the vice-president’s desk when the Senate is in session.

mace-bearer /ˌmɛsˌbɛər/ noun the official who carries a mace in procession

Machiavellian /ˌmɑːkiəˈvɛliən/ adjective using trickery and dishonesty to achieve what you want. Compare Byzantine

COMMENT: The Italian writer, Niccolo Machiavelli (1469–1527) published a book The Prince in 1516. In it Machiavelli encouraged rulers to ignore all the rules of morality in the pursuit of power, but to try at the same time to appear to be acting morally.

machine /ˈmæʃən/ noun 1. a complicated mechanical tool which can do difficult, heavy and repetitive jobs better than an individual person 2. the people and system used to achieve or control something 3. to get the party machine geared up for the next election 4. the Allied war machine 5. an effective propaganda machine

machinery /ˈmæʃənəri/ noun an established organisation or system for achieving something 1. the local government machinery 2. the machinery of local government 3. the machinery for awarding government contracts 4. The council’s administrative machin-
cery seems to have broken down in this case.


Madam /ˈmeɪdəm/ noun a formal way of addressing a woman, especially one whom you do not know, sometimes used in front of the title of a post □ Madam Chairman a formal way of addressing the chair of a committee who is a woman □ Madam Speaker the correct way to address a woman Speaker in the Commons

Magna Carta /ˌmæɡnə ˈkɑːtə/ noun the Great Charter, granted by King John in 1215, which gave his subjects political and personal freedoms

COMMENT: The Magna Carta is supposed to be the first step towards democratic rule, since it gave political power to the aristocracy and reduced the power of the King to override the law. It did not give power to the ordinary people, but confirmed the rights of the individual to own property and receive impartial justice.

maiden speech /ˈmeɪd(ə)n ˈspɪtʃ/ noun the first speech by a new MP in the House of Commons

mailbag /meɪlˈbæɡ/ noun US same as postbag

mainstream /ˈmeɪnstreɪm/ noun the opinions held by a majority of people □ He is in the mainstream of Conservative politics. □ Environmentally-friendly policies quickly entered the mainstream

majesty /ˈmeɪdʒəstɪ/ noun an impressive or royal quality, or appearance □ the majesty of the State Opening of Parliament

Majesty /ˈmeɪdʒəstɪ/ noun a title given to a King or Queen □ His Majesty, the King □ Their Majesties, the King and Queen □ ‘Your Majesty, the Ambassador has arrived’ □ on Her Majesty’s Service words printed on official letters from government departments. Abbr OHMS. □ Her Majesty’s Stationery Office

majeure /ˈmeɪʒər/ noun the correct way to address a woman, especially one whom you do not know, sometimes used in front of the title of a post

majority /ˈmeɪdʒərɪti/ noun 1. a larger group than any other □ a majority of members more than 50% of MPs or councillors □ the cabinet accepted the proposal by a majority of ten to seven ten members of the cabinet voted to accept and seven voted against 2. the age at which someone becomes responsible for his or her actions and can be given the rights and responsibilities of an adult

COMMENT: The age of majority in the UK and US is eighteen.

majority decision /ˈmeɪdʒərɪti ˈdɪʃən/ noun a decision made after a vote according to the wishes of the larger group

majority leader /ˈmeɪdʒərɪti ˈliːdər/ noun US the spokesman for the majority party in the House of Representatives or the Senate, elected by other members of the party

majority rule /ˈmeɪdʒərɪti ˈruːl/ noun control of a group of people according to the decision of the majority of its members

majority system /ˈmeɪdʒərɪti ˈsɪstəm/ noun the system of voting where half the votes plus one more must be cast for a proposal for it to be accepted

majority vote /ˈmeɪdʒərɪti ˈvɔʊt/ noun a vote for or against a proposal of more than half of the people voting
majority whip /ˈmɔːdʒərɪt/ noun US one of the assistants to majority leaders in the House of Representatives or the Senate, whose responsibility is to make sure the members of their party vote
maladministration /ˌmælədˌmɪniˈstreɪʃən/ noun managing a business or a government organisation in a bad or dishonest way. The ombudsman found the council guilty of maladministration.
malcontent /ˈmælkəntent/ noun someone who is unhappy or not satisfied with a particular system
manage /ˈmændʒ/ verb 1. to direct or to be in charge of a business or organisation. 2. to manage a department. 3. to succeed in doing something. 4. to manage a busi-
management /ˈmænɪdʒmənt/ noun 1. the activity of directing or running a business. 2. to study management. 3. good management or efficient management. 4. a group of managers or directors
manager /ˈmændʒər/ noun 1. the head of a department. 2. a person in charge of a branch or shop. 3. a politician who helps in the detailed business of running a political party or a legislative body. 4. US a member of the House of Representatives or Senate, elected to represent the chamber in a conference to discuss differences of opinion over a bill
mandarin /ˈmændərɪn/ noun a British civil servant (informal)
mandate /ˈmændət/ noun the authority given to a person or group to do something for somebody else. The government has a mandate from the people to carry out the plans put forward in its manifesto. (Note: In the case of a democratic government the mandate is given by the electorate.) 2. to seek a new mandate to try to be re-elected to a position. 3. verb 1. to give a government the authority to carry out policies. 2. The government has been mandated to revise the tax system. 2. to give a person authority to vote for a group. The delegates were mandated to vote on behalf of their membership.
mandatory /ˈmændərər/ adjective required by law. 2. a mandatory pension provision
mandatory meeting /ˈmændərərə miˈtiŋ/ noun a meeting which must be held, or a meeting which all members have to attend
manhood suffrage /ˈmænhʊd ˈsʌfri/ noun the right to vote given to all adult men
Manifest Destiny /ˈmænɪfɛst ˈdestənɪ/ noun a belief held in the 19th century that the United States had the God-given right to expand into and control the whole North American continent
manifesto /ˌmænɪfəˈstreɪʃən/ noun a written public statement of the aims and policies of a group or party. The Labour Party manifesto was published at the beginning of the election campaign. 2. Will the government implement all its manifesto promises?
Mansion House /ˈmænʃən hauz/ noun the official residence of the Lord Mayor of London
manual /ˈmænjuəl/ noun 1. a book which explains how a piece of equipment works. 2. US a book which explains the organisation and procedures of the Houses of Congress
Maoism /ˌmɑːzɪzəm/ noun the communist ideas developed by Mao Zedong

COMMENT: Maoism is different from Marxism, because it is based on the wisdom of the people as a whole. Party officials and technical experts can be criticised if they do not follow the people’s wishes. Maoists also believe that Communist principles may be adapted to different circumstances in different countries, though the basic aim of imposing Communism is most important and is to be achieved by force if necessary.
Maoist /ˈmɑːzoʊst/ adjective referring to Maoism. 2. noun a person who follows the ideas taught by Mao Zedong
Mao Zedong /maʊ zətˈdɒŋ/ noun a dictator (1893–1976) who was chairman of the People’s Republic of China from 1949 until his death and head of the Chinese Communist Party. He developed Marx’s ideas of communism into Maoism. Also called Chairman Mao

March /mɑːtʃ/ noun a political protest in the form of an organised walk through the streets by a group of people in support of a cause

Marchioness /ˈmɑːtʃənɪs/ noun the wife or widow of a marquess

Marginal /ˈmɑːdʒɪnəl/ adjective not very large. The rate increases had only a marginal effect on the council’s loan repayments. • noun also marginal constituency or marginal seat a constituency where the sitting MP has a small majority. The swing in several crucial marginals showed that the government was going to lose the election. • MPs representing marginal seats are worried about the government’s poor showing in the opinion polls.

Market /ˈmɑːkɪt/ noun 1. a place where goods are sold, often in the open air. 2, a place where a product might be sold or a group of people who might buy a product. • the home market. • overseas markets. • We want to increase our activity in the European Market. 3, the trade or business in a particular type of goods. • the property market. • the job market. 4, the economic system of buying and selling goods. • We need to let prices find their market level.

Market forces /ˈmɑːkɪt fɔːrs/ plural noun economic pressure caused by free trade and not governed by the action of the government. The government decided to stop paying subsidies to the farmers and to leave food supply to market forces.

Mark up /mɑːk ʌp/ verb to mark up a bill US to make changes to a bill as it goes through committee.

Marquess /ˈmɑːkws/ noun a member of the nobility, the rank below a duke (NOTE: The wife of a marquess is a marchioness.)

Marshal /ˈmɑːʃəl/ noun 1, in some US cities, the head of the fire or police service. 2, in some US cities, a law enforcement officer

Martial /ˈmɑːtʃəl/ adjective relating to war, fighting or military forces. • martial music.

Martial law /ˈmɑːtʃəl lɔː/ noun the rule of a country or part of a country by the army on the orders of the main government, the ordinary law having been suspended. • The president imposed or declared martial law in two provinces. • The government lifted martial law.

Martin, Paul - Paul (b. 1938) Canadian prime minister (2003–)

Marx, Karl /mɑːks/ noun the German philosopher (1818–83) who lived most of his life in London and whose ideas were the inspiration for communism (NOTE: Marx believed that people all over the world would eventually live in a state of perfect liberation, free from government, social class and misleading ideas. Lenin, Stalin and Mao changed Marx’s ideas in order to maintain themselves as dictators.)

Marxism /ˈmɑːksɪzəm/ noun the communist ideas of Karl Marx

Marxism-Leninism /mɑːksɪzəm ˈlɛnɪzm/ noun Marxism adapted by the inclusion of Lenin’s ideas that imperialism is the final stage of capitalism and that the focus of class struggle should shift from industrialised to nonindustrialised societies.

Marxist /ˈmɑːkstɪst/ adjective referring to Marxism. • a Marxist analysis of economic history. • The book is an account of Marxist ideology. • noun a person who supports the ideas of Karl Marx.

Master of the Rolls /ˈmɑːstə rəlz/ noun the judge who presides over the Court of Appeal.

Matter /ˈmætə/ noun a problem or issue to be discussed. • the most im-
matters arising

important matter on the agenda • We shall consider first the matter of last month’s fall in prices. • matter of concern an issue which causes concern • verb to be important • Does it matter if the staff are paid a day late?

matters arising /ˈmeɪtəz əˈraɪzɪŋ/ plural noun a section in a meeting, where problems or questions which refer to items in the minutes of the previous meeting can be discussed

mayor /ˈmeɪər/ noun 1. a person who is elected by the public as the official in control of a city, as in London or New York (note: ‘Mayor’ is also used in English to apply to persons holding similar positions in other countries: the Mayor of Berlin; the Mayor of Paris; the Mayor of New York) 2. an honorary title held for a year by a town councillor who has been elected to the position by the other councillors. The Mayor may act as chair of the council and has a role in civic, social and charitable activities in the town. • Lord Mayor

COMMENT: Previously, a mayor was the head of the elected government of a town and the head of the majority party. The mayor’s responsibilities have now been taken over by the Council Leader, and the office of mayor is largely ceremonial. It is an honor often given to a long-serving or distinguished councillor. In Scotland, a mayor is called a Provost. In the USA, mayors are elected by popular vote, and appoint their team to run the various departments in a city. In 1999 Londoners voted in a referendum to have a directly-elected mayor with limited powers over transport and police. Other towns and cities have also been given the power to have such an official, but only one in three have chosen to do so after referendums have been held.

mayoral /ˈmeɪər(ə)l/ noun referring to a mayor • mayoral duties

mayorality /ˈmeɪər(ə)lɪti/ noun the position of a mayor

mayoress /ˈmeɪərɛs/ noun the wife of a mayor, or another woman chosen by the mayor as an official partner for the term of office

mayor-making /ˈmeɪər ˈmeɪtɪŋ/ noun a ceremony which takes place at a council’s Annual Meeting, when the new mayor is invested with the chain of office

Mbeki /ˈbektʃi/, Thabo (b. 1942) president of South Africa (1999–)

McCarthyism /ˈmeɪkətʃaɪz(ə)m/ noun the policy of searching for Communists or Communist sympathisers in the USA in the 1950s (note: Senator Joseph McCarthy was the leading figure on the committee which questioned Americans, among them prominent figures from the world of films and entertainment, about their political beliefs, and ruined their careers if they showed communist sympathies. McCarthyism was strongly opposed in the 1950s by many people in America and thoroughly discredited by the 1960s.)

means of production /ˌmiːnz əv prəˈdækʃən/ plural noun in Marxism, the raw materials, machinery and other things needed to manufacture goods

means test /ˈmiːnz ˈtest/ noun a test to see if someone is entitled to government financial assistance because they have a low income

measure /ˈmeʒər/ noun 1. a way of calculating size or quantity 2. an action taken to deal with a problem, e.g. a law passed by Parliament • a government measure to reduce crime in the inner cities • This is one of a series of measures to be introduced in the next session of Parliament. • as a precautionary measure to prevent something taking place • verb 1. to find out the size or quantity of something 2. to measure the government’s or the company’s performance to judge how well the government or the company is doing

media /ˈmiːdiə/ noun the newspapers, radio and television • The main way that people learn about politics today is through the media

mediate /ˈmiːdiət/ verb to try to make the two sides in an argument come to an agreement • to mediate between...
tween the manager and staff o to mediate in a dispute
mediation /mi'deɪʃən/ noun an attempt by a third party to make the two sides in an argument agree o The employers refused an offer of government mediation.
mediatise /mi'diətɪz/ verb to take control of another country while allowing its ruler to have some part in governing it
mediator /mi'diətər/ noun a person who attempts to make the two sides in an argument agree
megalomania /ˌmɛɡələˈmɛniə/ noun extreme pleasure in someone’s own power or importance
megalomaniac /ˌmɛɡələˈmæniək/ adjective, noun a person who takes extreme pleasure in their own power and importance
member /ˈmembər/ noun 1. a person who belongs to a group or a society 2. a Member of Parliament, or a member of Congress 3. a person elected to a local council 4. an organisation or country which belongs to a group o the members asked for a report from the planning officer. o Members must carry out the wishes of members.
Member of Congress /ˈmembər əv ˈkɒŋgres/ noun someone who is elected to the US Congress, especially to the House of Representatives
Member of Parliament /ˈmembər əv ˈparləmant/ noun a person elected to represent the people of an area of the United Kingdom in parliament. Abbr MP
COMMENT: Any British subject over 21 is eligible for election as an MP, but the following are disqualified: peers, ministers of the Church of Scotland, persons holding a paid job granted them by the monarch, judges, civil servants, bankrupts, people who are insane, and some categories of prisoners.
Member of the European Parliament /ˈmembər əv dʒuərəpjoʊniən ˈparləment/ noun a person elected to represent the people of an area of Europe in the European Parliament. Abbr MEP
Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly /ˈmembər əv dɪ ˈnɔɭɚɪənd/ noun a person elected to represent the people of an area of Northern Ireland in the devolved representative body. Abbr MNI A
Member of the Scottish Parliament /ˈmembər əv dɪ ˈskɔtʃ ˈparləment/ noun a person elected to represent the people of an area of Scotland in the devolved assembly. Abbr MWA
Members’ Gallery /ˈmembəz ˈɡæləri/ noun the seats in the House of Commons for visitors invited by Members of Parliament
membership /ˈmembəʃɪp/ noun 1. the fact of belonging to a group o membership qualifications o conditions of membership o to pay your membership or your membership fees o Is Iceland going to apply for membership of the European Union? 2. all the members of a group o The membership was asked to vote for the new president.
Member State /ˈmembə stɛt/ noun one of the countries that is part of the European Union
memo /ˈmɛməʊ/ noun a short note
memorandum /ˌmɛməˈrændəm/, memo /ˈmɛməʊ/ noun 1. a short written statement about a subject from officials to other officials o a memorandum to all the Chief Officers about the new arrangements 2. a written communication circulated among diplomats, especially one that summarises
memorial /ˈmɛməriəl/ noun 1. a written statement of facts presented by a group of citizens, asking a legislature such as a parliament or town council to perform some action 2. a ceremony which is performed in order to create to remember something or somebody

Memorial Day /ˈmɛməriəl deɪ/ noun a public holiday in the USA to remember those who died in wars, celebrated at the end of May

memorialise /ˈmɛməriəlaɪz/ verb to present a memorial accompanying a petition to a person or group in power

memorialist /ˈmɛməriəlist/ noun someone who writes, supports or presents a memorial accompanying a petition

MEP abbreviation Member of the European Parliament (NOTE: The plural is MEPs.)

mercenary /ˈmɜrsənəri/ noun a soldier who fights for a foreign country for money

meritocracy /ˌmɛrɪtəˈkɒrəsi/ noun a society where people of ability have higher status than people of inherited wealth and good birth

merit system /ˈmɜrɪt ˈsɪstəm/ noun in the USA, the way in which the majority of civil servants and appointments to the federal bureaucracy are permanent specialists who win their jobs by a competitive selection process (NOTE: Most of the important figures in the federal bureaucracy are appointed by the spoils system, which means they are temporary appointments made by the incoming President.)

mesocracy /ˈmezəkrəsi/ noun a society governed by the middle class

met /meɪt/ abbreviation Metropolitan Police

metropolitan /ˈmeɪtrəpəlɪtən/ adjective referring to a large city

metropolitan county /ˈmeɪtrəpəlɪtən ˈkəʊnti/ noun in England, any of the six large urban administrative units that existed in the system of local government in force between 1974 and 1986

metropolitan district /ˈmeɪtrəpəlɪtən ˈdɪstrɪkt/ noun in England, any of the principal units of local government that used to be metropolitan counties, each with an elected council

metropolitan district council /ˌmeɪtrəpəlɪtən ˈdɪstrɪkt ˈkəʊnsəl/ noun in England and Wales, a large administrative area covering an urban area

Metropolitan Police /ˌmeɪtrəpəlɪtən ˈpɒliʃ/ noun the police force of Greater London

COMMENT: The higher ranks in the Metropolitan Police are Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, and Commissioner.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner /ˌmeɪtrəpəlɪtən ˈpɒliʃ ˈkɒmɪʃənər/ noun the head of the Metropolitan Police

MFA abbreviation most-favoured nation

MHA abbreviation Member of the House of Assembly

MI5, MI6 noun the British government intelligence agencies (NOTE: The US equivalent is the Central Intelligence Agency.)

COMMENT: MI5 (or the Security Service) is concerned with national security, in particular counter-terrorism and counter-espionage. MI6 (or the Secret Intelligence Service) is concerned with obtaining information about other countries which may be of use to the government’s defence, security, economic and foreign services.

Middle America /ˈmiːdə(ə)l ˈmɛrɪkə/ noun a section of the middle class in the United States regarded as politically conservative with traditional social and moral values
Middle East /ˈmɪd(ə)l ˈɪst/ noun countries to the east of Egypt and west of Pakistan
Middle England /ˈmɪd(ə)l ˈɪŋglənd/ noun a section of the middle class in England regarded as politically conservative with traditional social and moral values
middle-of-the-road /ˈmɪd(ə)l ˈɔːrd/ adjective not extreme (informal) or middle-of-the-road political opinions
midterm /ˈmɪd(ə)l ˈtɜːrn/ adjective relating to the middle of a term of office
militant /ˈmɪlɪtənt/ adjective, noun very actively supporting and working for a cause. The speaker was shouted down by militant environmental campaigners.
Militant Tendency /ˈmɪlɪtənt ˈtɛndənsi/ noun a former Trotskyite faction of the Labour Party, active in the 1970s and 1980s
militarise /ˈmɪlɪtəraɪz/ verb to greatly strengthen a country’s armed forces
militarism /ˈmɪlɪtərɪz(ə)m/ noun 1. strong influence or control by military leaders on the government or policies of a country or state 2. a government policy of greatly strengthening a country’s armed forces
military /ˈmɪlɪtəri/ adjective referring to the armed services a period of military rule government by the army. The country was ruled by a military government for nine years. The military dictatorship has agreed to return to civilian rule next year. noun the Military the Army
military attaché /ˈmɪlɪtəri ə ˈtæʃə/ noun an army officer who works in an embassy and reports on military affairs to his or her home government
Mill, John Stuart /ˈmɪl/ noun the British philosopher (1806–73) whose best known work of political philosophy is On Liberty (Note: Mill argued that people should be free to do anything they liked as long as it did not harm others.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>151</th>
<th>Minister-President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Min. abbreviation 1. Minister 2. Ministry
minibudget /ˈmɪnɪbʌdʒɪt/ noun a statement of the government’s financial position and plans made at some point before the main annual budget
minimum wage /ˈmɪnɪməm ˈweɪdʒ/ noun the lowest hourly wage which a company can legally pay its workers, set at a rate decided by the government
minister /ˈmɪnɪstər/ noun a senior diplomat below the rank of ambassador
Minister, Minister of the Crown noun a member of a government who is in charge of a department a government minister the Minister of Information or the Information Minister the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Foreign Minister the Minister of Justice or the Justice Minister

COMMENT: In the USA, heads of government departments have the title of secretary; the Secretary for Commerce; in the UK, ministers in charge of government departments have the title of Secretary of State: the Secretary of State for Defence.

Minister for the Civil Service /ˈmɪnɪstər ˈfɔr ˈsɪv(ə)l ˈsɜːvɪs/ noun a former British government post, now combined with that of Prime Minister
ministerial /ˈmɪnɪstəriəl/ adjective referring to a minister or ministerial responsibilities. The ministerial car was waiting at the airport.
ministerial tribunal /ˌmɪnɪstəriəl ˈtraɪbəl/ noun a sort of court set up by a government minister to hear appeals from local courts of a similar sort
Minister of State /ˈmɪnɪstər ˈstoʊ ˈstɛt/ noun a member of a government who is in charge of a section of a government department. Also called junior minister, Under-Secretary of State

Minister-President /ˈmɪnɪstər ˈprɛzɪdənt/ noun in Germany, the title of the premier in a Land
Minister without Portfolio

Minister without Portfolio /ˌminɪstə wɪˈlɔːtə pɔːtəl/ noun a minister who does not have responsibility for any particular department.

Ministry /ˈmiːnɪstrɪ/ noun 1. a department of state in the government: a ministry official or an official from the ministry. She works in the Ministry of Finance or the Finance Ministry. 2. He is in charge of the Ministry of Information or of the Information Ministry. (NOTE: In Britain and the USA, important ministries are called departments: the Department of Trade, the Commerce Department.) 3. Two of the members of the Royal Commission disagreed with the others and submitted a minority report.

Minor /ˈmɪnər/ noun 1. a number or quantity which is less than half of the total. A minority of council members opposed the chairman. 2. Only a small minority of football supporters get involved in violence. In the minority: being fewer than half of the small parties are in the minority. 3. The members of their party vote against the majority. 4. a person less than eighteen years old. A person is not liable for debts contracted during minority.

Minority government /ˈmiːnərɪtɪ ˈɡoʊvmənt/ noun a government which does not have majority over all other groups in the House of Commons.

Minority leader /ˈmiːnərɪti ˈliːdər/ noun US the person who speaks for the minority party in the House or Senate, elected by other members of the party.

Minority report /ˈmiːnərɪti ˈrɪpɔrt/ noun a statement of their views made by a small number of people who hold an opposing view from the rest of the group asked to consider something. Two of the members of the Royal Commission disagreed with the others and submitted a minority report.

Minority whip /ˈmiːnərɪti ˈwɪp/ noun US one of the assistants to minority leaders in the House or Senate, whose responsibility is to make sure the members of their party vote.

Minute /ˈmɪnɪt/ noun 1. a note or document about a subject. Have you read his minute about the report? I have asked the Chief Education Officer to prepare a minute about the discussions. 2. verb to put something into the record of a meeting. The chairman’s remarks about the auditors were minuted.

Minutebook /ˈmɪnɪtˌbʊk/ noun a book in which the minutes of a meeting are kept.

Miscellaneous /ˈmɪskəlɪnɪs/ adjective not all of the same sort. Miscellaneous items: a box of miscellaneous pieces of equipment. Miscellaneous expenditure.

Miscount /ˈmɪskɔʊnt/ verb a mistake in counting. The votes were miscounted, so the ballot had to be taken again.

Misgovern /ˈmɪzɡərn/ verb to govern badly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>misgovernment</th>
<th>moderation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/mɪsˈgʌv(ə)nmənt/</td>
<td>noun bad government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misinterpret</td>
<td>/mɪsnɪˈtɜːprɪt/ verb to understand something wrongly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misinterpretation</td>
<td>/ˌmɪsnɪˈtɜːprɪtəˈʃɛn/ noun a wrong understanding of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mislead</td>
<td>/mɪsˈled/ verb to make someone understand something wrongly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misrepresent</td>
<td>/mɪstrɪˈprɛzənt/ verb to report facts or statements or opinions wrongly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misrule</td>
<td>/mɪsˈruːl/ noun bad government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mission</td>
<td>/ˈmɪʃən/ noun 1. a special purpose for which someone is sent somewhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>misunderstanding</td>
<td>/ˌmɪsnəˈstændɪŋ/ noun a mistake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was a misunderstanding over the date of the next meeting.

MLA | abbreviation | Member of the Legislative Assembly |
MMP | abbreviation | Mixed Member Proportional |
MNA | abbreviation | Member of the National Assembly (of Quebec) |
MNIA | abbreviation | Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly |

mob | /ˈmɒb/ noun 1. a large violent crowd | 2. a place where a mob has political control |

mob rule | /ˈmɒb ˈruːl/ | noun 1. the rule of a town or country by an angry crowd or by the lower classes |

MoD | abbreviation | Ministry of Defence |

moderate | /ˈmɒdərət/ adjective not extreme or not very large |

moderation | /ˌmɒdərəˈʃɛn/ noun 1. the avoidance of extremes or becoming less extreme | 2. a reduction in the speed of political change |
Modernisation Committee 154

Modernisation Committee /mɔdənəˈziːʃ(ə)n/ noun a Select Committee of the House of Commons set up 1997 to recommend changes in the practices and procedures of the House to meet modern standards

modus vivendi /ˌmɔdəs vɪˈvɛndɪ/ noun [pl. viˈvɛndi] Latin phrase meaning ‘way of living’, an informal agreement between parties to exist peacefully together. After years of confrontation, they finally have achieved a modus vivendi.

mole /məʊl/ noun someone who anonymously reveals sensitive information about the organisation they work for

monarch /ˈmɒnək/ noun a royal ruler of a country, e.g. a king, queen or emperor

monarchic /məˈnɑːtʃɪk(ə)l/ adjective referring to or in favour of a monarchy

monarchism /ˈmɒnəkɪz(ə)m/ noun 1. the belief in monarchy as a system of government 2. the system of government in which a monarch has power

monarchist /ˈmɒnəkɪst/ noun a person who supports or believes in rule by a monarch

monarchy /ˈmɒnəkɪ/ noun 1. rule by a king or queen. The monarchy was overthrown in the revolution, and the king replaced by a president. 2. a country ruled by a king or queen. Belgium, Sweden and Britain are monarchies.

Monday Club /ˈmʌndi klʌb/ noun a club for right-wing members and supporters of the Conservative Party in Britain (Note: Their first meetings were held at luncheon on Mondays.)

money /ˈmʌni/ noun coins or bank notes

Money Bill /ˈmʌni bɪl/ noun 1. a Bill which authorises expenditure from the Exchequer. 2. a Bill which authorises the levy of taxes

money market /ˈmʌni ˈmækt/ noun the business of lending and borrowing money carried on by the banks and other financial institutions

money supply /ˈmʌni ˈsə,plɔɪ/ noun the amount of money which exists in a country

monocracy /məˈnɒkrəsi/ noun a form of government in which one person rules alone

Monopolies Commission, Monopolies and Mergers Commission noun the British body which examines takeovers of one company by another, and mergers between companies to make sure that a monopoly is not being created

monopolisation /məˌnɔpələˈzeɪʃ(ə)n, -ˈzɒlə-/ noun complete control of the trade in particular goods or services

monopoly /ˈmʌnpəli/ noun a situation where one person or company has the complete control of trade in particular goods or the supply of a particular service to have the monopoly of alcohol sales or to have the alcohol monopoly. The company has the absolute monopoly of imports of French wine. (Note: A more common US term is trust.)

Monroe doctrine /ˈmʌnəˌrəʊ,ˌdɜːnə trɪˈn/ noun US the principle that the USA has an interest in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of American states, especially from Europe. (Note: So called because it was first proposed by President Monroe in 1823.)

moral majority /ˈmɔːrəl ˈmɑːtəri/ noun in the USA, a group of people with conservative Christian beliefs and political opinions

moratorium /ˌmɔrəˈtɔriəm/ noun a temporary stop to an activity, especially by official agreement. The Conference called for a moratorium on killing seals. (Note: The plural is moratoria.)

morning hour /ˈmɔrɪŋ həʊ/ noun US the period at the beginning of each day’s sitting of Congress, when members can make a short speech on any topic they choose
most-favoured nation /ˌmoʊst ˈfeɪvərd nəˈʃn/ noun a country which is given the best trade terms by another country. Abbr MFN /ˈmɪst fəvərd nəˈʃn/.

motion /ˈməʊʃən/ noun 1. a proposal which will be put to a meeting for that meeting to vote on, e.g. a proposal to the House of Commons or Congress to propose or to move a motion to speak against or for a motion. 2. The meeting voted on the motion.

Motion of Parliament /ˈmɔtən vəl/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

Motion 1. a proposal which will be put to a meeting for that meeting to vote on, e.g. a proposal to the House of Commons or Congress to propose or to move a motion to speak against or for a motion. 2. The meeting voted on the motion.

Motion of Parliament /ˈmɔtən vəl/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

mother of Parliaments /ˈmɔðər ov pərˈliːəmənts/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

Mother of Parliaments /ˈmɔðər ov pərˈliːəmənts/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

motion /ˈməʊʃən/ noun 1. a proposal which will be put to a meeting for that meeting to vote on, e.g. a proposal to the House of Commons or Congress to propose or to move a motion to speak against or for a motion. 2. The motion was approved or not approved.

Motion of Parliament /ˈmɔtən vəl/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

Motion of Parliament /ˈmɔtən vəl/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

motion /ˈməʊʃən/ noun 1. a proposal which will be put to a meeting for that meeting to vote on, e.g. a proposal to the House of Commons or Congress to propose or to move a motion to speak against or for a motion. 2. The motion was approved or not approved.

Motion of Parliament /ˈmɔtən vəl/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

Motion of Parliament /ˈmɔtən vəl/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

motion /ˈməʊʃən/ noun 1. a proposal which will be put to a meeting for that meeting to vote on, e.g. a proposal to the House of Commons or Congress to propose or to move a motion to speak against or for a motion. 2. The motion was approved or not approved.

Motion of Parliament /ˈmɔtən vəl/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

Motion of Parliament /ˈmɔtən vəl/ noun the British Parliament at Westminster.

motion /ˈməʊʃən/ noun 1. a proposal which will be put to a meeting for that meeting to vote on, e.g. a proposal to the House of Commons or Congress to propose or to move a motion to speak against or for a motion. 2. The motion was approved or not approved.
Multiple voting will be held next year.

**Multiple voting** /ˈmʌltɪvʊtɪŋ/ noun the illegal practice of voting in more than one constituency in an election.

**Multiracialism** /ˌmʌltərɪˈʃɛrəlɪzəm/ noun the practice of fully including people of various ethnic groups in all aspects of a society.

**Municipal** /ˈmjʊnɪspəl/ adjective referring to a town which has its own local government. The finance department supervises the collection of municipal taxes. She works in the municipal offices.

**Municipal bond** /ˈmjʊnɪspəl bɔnd/ noun a financial investment offered by a city or other local government to the general public, usually to pay for improvements to public facilities.

**Municipalise** /ˈmjʊnɪspəlaɪz/ verb 1. to bring something such as a public service or area of land under the control of a city or other locally governed area 2. to give a city or other area responsibility for government in local matters.

**Municipality** /ˈmjʊnɪsəlɪti/ noun a town or city with its own local government.

**Municipal law** /ˈmjʊnɪsəpəl lo:/ noun law which is in operation within a state. Compare international law.

**Mutineer** /ˌmjuːtɪnɪər/ noun a person who takes part in a mutiny.

**Mutinous** /ˈmjʊtənəs/ adjective likely to disobey orders or mutinous backbenchers.

**Mutiny** /ˈmjʊtɪnɪ/ noun the refusal to obey the orders of somebody in a position of authority such as the officers in the army or navy. Verb to refuse to obey the orders of somebody in authority.

**MWA** abbreviation Member of the Welsh Assembly (NOTE: The plural is MWAs.)
NAFTA /ˈnɑːftə/ abbreviation North American Free Trade Agreement
NALGO abbreviation National Association of Local Government Officers
name /neɪm/ verb to refer formally by name to a Member of Parliament who has behaved in a way regarded as unsuitable, which leads to that MP being unable to enter the House of Commons for a period as a punishment. The Secretary of State was named in the divorce case.
nanny state /ˈnæni stɛt/ noun a system of government which provides everything for the citizens and tells the citizens how they should behave
Nat /næt/ noun a member of the National Party in Australia or New Zealand, or of the former National Party in South Africa, or a member of parliament belonging to the National Party
nation /ˈneʃ(ə)n/ noun a country and the people living in it. nation state
national /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl/ adjective referring to a particular country. national accounts /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl əˈkɑʊntɪz/ plural noun the record of a country's finances.
National Anthem /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl ˈænthəm/ noun a piece of music, usually with words which are sung to it, which is used to represent the nation officially and is played at official ceremonies.
National Assembly /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl əˈsembli/ noun the lower body of the legislature in many countries, including Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Guyana, Hungary, Kenya, South Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Quebec, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo and Vietnam
National Assembly for Wales /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl əˈsembli fəˈwelz/ noun the devolved government for Wales, made up of elected members, with the power to introduce secondary legislation in areas such as health and education in Wales
National Audit Office /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl əˈdɪt əˈfɪs/ noun an independent body, headed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, which examines the accounts of government departments
National Congress /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl ˈkɒŋgrəs/ noun the legislature in Ecuador and Venezuela
National Council /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl ˈkɒnsəl/ noun the upper house of the legislature in Namibia, Nepal and Slovakia
National Front /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl frɑːnt/ noun a right-wing political group with racist opinions
National Guard /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl ɡɜːrd/ noun in the USA, the state militia or volunteer army which can be called on to act on the orders of the federal government
National Guardsman /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl ɡɜːdzmən/ noun US in the USA, a member of the National Guard
National Health Service /ˈneʃ(ə)nəl ˈhelθ ˈsəːvɪs/ noun a British organisation which provides medi-
National Institutes of Health

National Institutes of Health /ˌnæʃ(ə)nal ɪnˈstɪtʃuəs əv ˈhealθ/ noun an agency of the US federal government that conducts and supports medical research and programmes designed to improve people’s health. Abbr NIH

National Insurance /ˌnæʃ(ə)nal ɪnˈʃʊrəns/ noun a British tax on income which pays for medical care, hospitals and unemployment benefits

National Insurance contributions /ˌnæʃ(ə)nal ɪnˈʃʊrəns ˌkɒntrɪbjuʃənz, ‘kɒntrɪbjuʃənz/ plural noun money paid by both an employee and an employer to the National Insurance system

nationalisation /ˌnæʃ(ə)naləˈzeɪʃən, ˌnæʃ(ə)nalɪˈzeɪʃən/ noun the act of taking control of a private industry by the state

nationalise /ˌnæʃ(ə)naləˈzaɪz/ verb to put a private industry under state ownership and control

nationalised industry /ˌnæʃ(ə)nalɪˈzaɪd ˈɪndəstrɪ/ noun a company which was once privately owned, but now belongs to the state

nationalism /ˌnæʃ(ə)nlɪzəm/ noun 1. the desire for political independence by people who have the same culture ▪ Basque nationalism 2. the feeling of great pride in one’s country

nationalist /ˌnæʃ(ə)nlɪst/ noun 1. a person who wants his or her ethnic group or country to be politically independent ▪ a Welsh nationalist ▪ the Scottish Nationalist Party 2. a person who is very proud of his or her country or feels it is better than other countries

nationality /ˌnæʃ(ə)nləˈteɪti/ noun the legal state of being the citizen of a country ▪ he is of United Kingdom nationality he is a citizen of the United Kingdom ▪ he has dual nationality he is a citizen of two countries at the same time

National Party /ˌnæʃ(ə)nl ˈpɑːtɪ/ noun a political party representing the interests of the nation

National Party of Australia /ˌnæʃ(ə)nl ˈpɑːtɪ əv ˈɒstrətiə/ noun in Australia, a conservative political party that has usually formed a coalition with the Liberal Party of Australia

National People’s Congress /ˌnæʃ(ə)nl ˈpiːpəlz ‘kɒŋɡrɛs/ noun the legislature in China

Nationalrat /ˌnæʃ(ə)rə’tət/ noun 1. the lower house of the legislature in Austria 2. the lower house of the federal legislature in Switzerland

National Security Council /ˌnæʃ(ə)nl ˈseknərəti kə‘nuːns/ noun in the United States, a council that decides on policies designed to maintain national security, consisting of the president, the secretary of state, the national security adviser, and senior military and intelligence officers. Abbr NSC

national socialism /ˌnæʃ(ə)nl ˈsəʊʃəlɪzəm/ noun the ideology of the German Nazi Party, including national expansion, totalitarian government and racial purity

National Socialist Party /ˌnæʃ(ə)nl ˈsəʊʃəlɪst ˈpɑːtɪ/ noun a political party founded in Germany in 1919 and led by Adolf Hitler. Also called Nazi Party

National State Assembly /ˌnæʃ(ə)nl stət əˈsemblɪ/ noun the legislature in Sri Lanka

National Union of Civil and Public Servants /ˌnæʃ(ə)nl ˈjuːnən əv ˈpʌblɪk/ noun a trade union representing civil servants replaced by the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union. Abbr NUCPS

Nation of Islam /ˌnæʃ(ə)n əv ɪˈzaːliəm/ noun a movement of African Americans who follow Islam and believe that Black Americans have Islamic origins. Abbr NOI

nation state /ˌnæʃ(ə)n stət/ noun a country which is an independent political unit, usually formed of people
with the same language and traditions

- The 19th century saw the rise of many European nation states.

**nationwide** /'næʃ(ə)nəzd/ adjective, adverb across the whole of a country. A nationwide opinion poll suggested that the Opposition is losing support in marginal constituencies. They're gaining ground nationwide.

**native** /'neɪtv/ noun 1. a person who comes originally from a place or was born there. She lives in London, but she is a native of Denmark. 2. an original inhabitant of a colony (offensive). The colonists captured the natives and sold them into slavery. 3. to go native to cease to represent the interests of the United Kingdom, and instead to start to believe in the policies of the country where you are working (of officials).

**native land** /'neɪtv lænd/ noun the country where someone was born.

**nativism** /'nætɪvɪz(ə)m/ noun 1. a policy, especially in the United States, of favouring the interests of native citizens of a country over those of immigrants. 2. a policy of protecting traditional and local cultures.

**NATO** /'neɪtuː/ abbreviation North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

**natural-born subject** /'næʃ(ə)rəl bəzən ˈsæbdʒɪkt/ noun formerly, a person born in the UK or a Commonwealth country who was a British citizen by birth.

**naturalisation** /'næʃ(ə)rəlɪzaʃ(ə)n/ naturalization noun the granting of the citizenship of a state to someone who has come into the country from abroad. She has applied for naturalisation. You must fill in the naturalisation papers.

**naturalise** /'næʃ(ə)rəlایz/ naturalize verb to make someone a citizen of another country.

**naturalised** /'næʃ(ə)rəlایzd/ naturalized adjective having become a citizen of another country. He is a naturalised American citizen.

**natural right** /'næʃ(ə)rəlt/ noun a freedom which people ought to enjoy to have something or do something, and which is thought to be theirs simply because they are human beings.

**Nazi** /'nætsi/ noun a person who was a member of the Nazi Party.

**Nazi Party** /'nætsi 'pæti/ noun same as National Socialist Party.

**Nazism** /'nætsɪzɪzm/ noun the belief in racist and nationalist ideas and support for authoritarian government.

**NDPB** abbreviation non-departmental public body.

**Near East** /'nəər ɛst/ noun the countries at the eastern end of the Mediterranean (NOTE: Now often called the Middle East.)

**negative instrument** /'negətɪv 'ɪnstrəmant/ noun a form of Statutory Instrument which can be overruled by either House of Parliament.

**negotiate** /ˈnɛɡəʃɪt/ verb to negotiate with someone to discuss a problem formally with someone, so as to reach an agreement. The management refused to negotiate with the union.

**negotiating committee** /ˈnɛɡəʃɪtɪŋ ˈkəmi/ noun a group of representatives of management who discuss pay and hours of work with representatives of the workers.

**negotiation** /ˈnɛɡəʃɪteɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a discussion between two people or two groups who disagree, intended to reach an agreement between them. To enter into negotiations, to start negotiations, to conduct negotiations.

**negotiator** /ˈnɛɡəʃɪteɪtər/ noun a person who tries to reach an agreement with someone.

**neighbour** /ˈnɪbəʊ/ noun a country which is next to another, sharing a common border.
nemine contradicente 160

(Note: The US spelling is neighbor or neighboring state.)

nemine contradicente /ˌnɛmɪnə kənˈtraɪdɪˌsɛnt/ , nem con /ˌnɛm ˈkon/ Latin phrase meaning 'with no one speaking against something': a phrase used to show that no one spoke against the proposal, although some may have abstained in the vote. ○ The motion was adopted nem con. Compare unanimous.

neo- /niːʊə/ prefix meaning 'new' or 'in a new form' ○ a neo-fascist movement ○ a neo-Nazi organisation.

neocolonialism /ˌniːəkɒˈləʊnɪəlɪzəm/ noun a policy by which a strong country tries to influence or control weaker countries which are independent.

neocon /ˈniːəkɒn/ noun US same as neocervative.

neocervative /ˌniːəkərˈɛvərətɪv/ noun someone who began to support conservative policies in the mid-1980s as a reaction to the social changes of the 1960s-70s.

neofascism /ˌniːəfæsɪzəm/ noun 1. modern support for Fascist beliefs ○ the beliefs of white groups or movements that hold racist views, especially those involved in violence towards non-white people.

neofascist /ˌniːəfæsɪst/ adjective relating to neofascism ○ someone who has Fascist or white racist opinions.

neo-Nazi /ˌniːənætsi/ noun 1. someone who supports Nazi beliefs ○ a white person who has racist views, especially one involved in violence towards non-white people.

net gain /ˈnet ˈgɛrn/ noun the total number of seats gained in an election after subtracting the number of seats lost ○ The government lost twenty seats and gained thirty one, making a net gain of eleven.

neutral /ˈnjuːtrəl/ adjective 1. not taking sides in a dispute ○ The conference agreed to refer the dispute to a neutral power ○ The UN sent in neutral observers to observe the elections.

2. referring to a country which refuses to take part in wars or which does not join in a war ○ During the Second World War, Switzerland and Sweden remained neutral. ○ The navy was accused of having attacked neutral shipping. ○ Neutral states in the area have tried to bring an end to the war. ○ a country which is neutral.

neutralism /ˈnjuːtrəlɪzəm/ noun a policy of being neutral.

neutrality /ˈnjuːtrələti/ noun being neutral.

neverendum /ˌnɪvəˌrɛndəm/ noun 1. the practice of holding of referendums on the same subject on many occasions 2. a referendum on a subject on which there have been referendums before.

New Democratic Party /ˈnjuː ˈdɛməˈkrætɪk ˈpærty/ noun one of the main political parties in Canada, representing the interests of the working class.

New Labour /ˈnjuː ˈlɜːbər/ noun the British Labour Party as it has developed since 1995, abandoning the principle of state ownership and moving towards a greater acceptance of a free-market economy.

New Left /ˈnjuː ˈliːft/ noun a political movement, mainly among students and intellectuals in the United States and Europe during the 1960s and 1970s, that wanted radical social and economic change.

New National Party /ˈnjuː ˈneɪʃənl ˈpærty/ noun in South Africa, a political party formed in 1998 when the National Party changed its name to distance itself from its apartheid policies in the past.

New Right /ˈnjuː ˈrɛft/ noun a conservative political movement that developed in the United States during the late 1960s, with a commitment to established religion, patriotism, and less control from government.

news agency /ˈnjuːz əˈdʒɛnsi/ noun an office which distributes news to newspapers and television companies.
newspeak  /ˈnjuːspɪk/ noun language that is designed to conceal the truth, especially when used by bureaucrats and politicians
NF  abbreviation National Front
NGO  abbreviation non-governmental organization
NIC  /ˌnɪsɪ/ abbreviation National Insurance contributions
nihilism  /nəˈhɪlɪz(ə)m/ noun 1. the general rejection of accepted social practices and beliefs 2. the belief that all authority is corrupt and must be rejected in order to establish a just society
Nimbyism  /ˈnɪmbaɪz(ə)m/ noun the practice of objecting to something such as a road, airport or housing being developed near where someone lives (NOTE: Nimby stands for ‘not in my backyard’.)
NIO  abbreviation Northern Ireland Office
NLF  abbreviation National Liberation Front
no  /nəʊ/ noun in the House of Commons, a vote against a motion  The proposal received a resounding ‘No’ vote.  a the No lobby, the Noes lobby the room in the House of Commons which MPs pass through when they vote against a motion  the Noes have had the announcement that a motion has been defeated
No. 10 Downing Street, No. 10, Number 10
No. 11 Downing Street, No. 11, Number 11
nobility  /ˈnəʊb(ə)lɪtɪ/ noun all noble families, taken as a group
noble  /ˈnəʊb(ə)l/ noun a person from a family which has been given a title such as lord
nobleman  /ˈnəʊb(ə)lmən/, noblewoman  /ˈnəʊb(ə)wʊmən/ noun a person who has a title such as lord or duchess
nod  /nɒd/ verb to move the head forwards to show agreement  When the chairman asked her if she would head the subcommittee, the treasurer nodded.

the proposal went through on the nod the motion was carried without any discussion and no formal vote a to nod through to agree that an MP’s vote is recorded, even if he or she has not personally gone through the voting lobby, e.g. when an MP is present in the Houses of Parliament but is too ill to go into the chamber
no-fly zone  /ˈnəʊˈflaiˌζən/ noun an area of sky which the military forces of other countries are ordered not to use. a exclusion zone
NoI  abbreviation Nation of Islam
Nolan Committee  /ˈnəʊlən kəˈmɪtʃuː/ noun same as Committee on Standards in Public Life
nomenklatura  noun 1. in Communist governments, the class consisting of the people holding positions of authority in the bureaucracy 2. in Communist countries, the system for appointing people to senior positions in the bureaucracy, controlled by committees in the Communist Party
nominate  /ˈnɒmiːnət/ verb to suggest someone or name someone for a job  She was nominated as Labour candidate. a to nominate someone to a post to appoint someone to a post without an election  a to nominate someone as proxy to name someone to act for you, especially in a vote
nomination  /ˌnɒməˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. the act of suggesting or naming someone for a job  He was proposed for nomination as Labour candidate. a nominations close at 10.00 a.m. the last time for nominating someone is 10.00 a.m. 2. a person who has been nominated  There were a number of nominations for the post of Deputy Leader
nominative  /ˈnɒmɪnətɪv/ adjective appointed or suggested for election to an office or position. Abbrev nom.
nominee  /ˌnɒmɪˈniː/ noun a person who has been nominated  She is the Party leader’s nominee for the post.

Comment: In the UK, a person who is nominated as a candidate for local or national elections, has to have the signatures of local residents as his or her
non-aggression noun a policy of not using force against another country. A non-aggression treaty is a treaty between two countries who agree not to attack each other.

non-aligned adjective not formally associated with any major world power.

non-cooperation noun the practice of refusing to pay taxes or obey other laws as a protest.

non-departmental public body noun an organisation set up to carry out a specific role within government responsibilities, but which is not a government department or part of one. Abbr NDPB.

non-governmental organisation noun a pressure group or charity which is not fully funded by a government and which may work with the government on a local, national or international level. Abbr NGO.

non-intervention noun a policy of not becoming involved in the internal affairs of another country. The USA has followed a policy of non-intervention.

non-proliferation treaty noun an agreement to prevent the use of nuclear weapons spreading to countries which do not have them.

non-resident noun a person who does not live in a place. He has a non-resident account with a French bank.

non-state actor noun a person or group whose actions are not controlled by a state or government, e.g., an international terrorist group.

non-voter noun somebody who does not vote or is not eligible to vote.

North noun 1. the North 1. the north of a country 2. the developed countries of the world 2. the North-South divide.

North American Free Trade Association noun the trade agreement between Canada, Mexico and the United States which allows goods to be taken from one country to another free of taxes. Abbr NAFTA.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation noun the alliance set up in 1949 to link various countries in a common political and military alliance to provide mutual defence in the case of attack by Communist countries. The members in 2004 were expanded by the inclusion of a number of the former Communist countries of the Warsaw Pact. The members are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the UK, and the USA. Abbr NATO.

Northern Alliance noun a loose grouping of Afghan military forces that ended Taliban rule in Afghanistan in 2001.

Northern Ireland Assembly noun the legislative body of Northern Ireland.
nullification

nullification

nullification

nullification
nullify

**nullify** /nəˈlɪfə/ *verb* to make something of no value or force

**Number 10** /ˈnʌmbər ˈtɛn/ *noun* No 10, Downing Street, the official home of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (NOTE: It is used informally to refer to the Prime Minister) → he is hoping to move into Number Ten after the election he is expecting to be elected Prime Minister

**Number 11** /ˈnʌmbər ɪˈlevæn/ *noun* No 11, Downing Street, the official home of the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom (NOTE: It is used informally to refer to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.) → he’s set his sights on Number 11 he would like to become Chancellor of the Exchequer

**numerical order** /ˈnjuː.əˈrɪskəl/ *noun* the arrangement of records in order of their numbers → The documents are filed in numerical order

**nuncio** /ˈnʌnsɪdəʊ/ *noun* an ambassador of the Pope
OAS  abbreviation  Organization of American States  
oath of allegiance  /ˈəʊθ əv əˈlɪʒəns/  noun 1. a promise to be loyal or to obey the orders of a country or ruler 2. an oath sworn by all MPs before they can take their seats in the House of Commons, unless they affirm instead.  
affirm  v  to take the oath  
swear allegiance to the Queen before taking the oath, the new MP signs the test roll  
obedience  /əˈbɪdəns/  noun  the practice of doing what someone asks you to do  
Every citizen should show obedience to the laws of the state.

object  /əbˈdʒekt/  noun  a statement of opposition to something  
objector  /əbˈdʒektə/  noun  a person who opposes something.  
conscientious objector

observer  /əbˈzɜːvə/  noun 1. someone who is appointed to act as a witness to an important event such as an election, sometimes in another country, to see that it has been carried out fairly  
United Nations observers were stationed on the ceasefire line.  
2. someone who attends a meeting to listen but not to take part  
Two official observers attended the meeting.  
International observers were present during the general elections.

obstruct  /əbˈstrʌkt/  verb  to get in the way or to stop something progressing  
MPs attempted to obstruct the passage of the Bill.

obstruction  /əbˈstrʌkʃən/  noun  an act of preventing some actions from being taken  
The MPs were successful in their obstruction of the Bill.

obstructive  /əbˈstrʌktɪv/  adjective  trying to prevent something deliberately  
MPs complained of the obstructive behaviour of some right-wingers.

obtain  /əbˈteɪn/  verb  to be a rule or to have a legal status  
a rule obtaining in international law.

occupation  /əˈkʌpəʃən/  noun  an invasion of a country or place by an army, which then stays there to keep control  
amy of occupation  an army which invades a country and then stays there to keep control.

occupy  /əˈkʌpɪ/  verb  to invade a place or building or country and stay there  
The protesters occupied the radio station.

Ofcom  /əˈfɒkɒm/  noun  a regulatory body for the telecommunications and broadcasting industries

office  /ˈɒfɪs/  noun 1. a British government department  
the Home Office  the ministry dealing with the internal affairs of the country, including the police and the prisons  
2. a post or position  
She holds or performs the office of treasurer.

high office  an important position or job  
the high offices of state  the most important ministerial posts in the British government (the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Home Secretary)
office holder 166

works or where business is done 4, a room where someone works and does business

office holder /ˈɔfɪʃ(ə)l/ noun an official in a government position

Office of Fair Trading /ˌɒfɪs əˈtreɪdɪŋ/ noun the British government department which protects consumers against unfair or illegal business

office /ˈɒfɪs/ noun 1. a person who has an official position, e.g. a person working in a local government department 2. done or approved by a director or by a person in authority 3. This must be an official order – it is written on the department’s notepaper 4. the strike was made official the local strike was approved by the main trade union office 5. a person working in a central or local government department 6. Airport officials inspected the shipment 7. Government officials stopped the import licence 8. The council members met with officials to discuss the implementation of the new policy.

(Note: In the UK, a distinction is made between an official, who is an appointed employee of the government, and elected representatives. In US English, even the President is an official.) 9. high official an important person in a government department 10. minor official a person in a low position in a government department

officialdom /ˈɒfɪs(ə)dəm/ noun (usually disapproving) officials working together in a set way 11. The whole plan has been obstructed by officialdom.

officialise /ˌɔfɪsˈɪzl/ noun the language used in government documents, often regarded as difficult to understand

Official Journal /ˌɔfɪs(ə)l/ 166 noun in the European Union, the published record of all the regulations and directives that have been produced

officially /ˈɔfɪs(ə)li/ adverb in an official way 12. Officially he knows nothing about the problem, but unofficially he has given us a lot of advice about it.

official mediator /ˌɔfɪs(ə)l/ noun the government official who tries to make the two sides in an industrial dispute agree

Official Receiver /ˌɔfɪs(ə)r/ noun the government official whose job is to deal with bankrupt companies

Official Report /ˌɔfɪs(ə)l/ noun the exact record of what is said and done in the House of Commons and House of Lords.

official secret /ˈɒfɪs(ə)l/ noun a piece of information which is important to the state and which it is a crime for an official to tell someone who has no right to know about it

Official Secrets Act /ˌɔfɪs(ə)l/ noun the Act of Parliament which makes it a crime for anyone to make public secret information relating to the state

Official Unionist Party /ˌɔfɪs(ə)l/ noun the same as Ulster Unionist Party

officio /ˈɔfɪʃ(ə)l/ ex officio

off licence /ˈɒflɪs(ə)ns/ noun a licence to sell alcohol to be drunk away from the place where it is bought

off-message /ˈɒfmɛsɪdʒ/ adjective not following the official policy of a political party or other organisation
one-party state

OFSTED  /'ɒfsted/ noun the government department that monitors educational standards in schools and colleges in England and Wales. Full form Office for Standards in Education

OHMS abbreviation On Her Majesty’s Service

000 a statement saying how much income you have to the tax office

Oireachtas noun the national parliament of Ireland, consisting of the president and two chambers; the lower is the Dáil Eireann and the upper, the Seanad Eireann

Old Commonwealth /'ɔld ˈkɒmənwelθ/ noun the oldest members of the Commonwealth, e.g. Canada and Australia

Old Labour /'ɔld ˈleibə/ noun the British Labour Party, as it existed during most of the 20th century, supporting traditional socialist principles such as state ownership and opposition to a free market economy. Compare New Labour

oligarch /ˈɒlɪɡɑːk/ noun a member of an oligarchy

oligarchical /ˌɒlɪˈɡærɪkl/ oligarchic /ˌɒlɪˈɡærɪk/ adjective referring to an oligarchy

oligarchy /ˈɒlɪɡərki/ noun 1. government by a small group of people 2. a small ruling group 3. The country is ruled by an oligarchy called the ‘fifteen families’. 3. a state ruled by a small group

ombudsman /ˈɒm britjəmsn/ noun an official who investigates complaints by the public against government departments or other large organisations

COMMENT: There are in fact several ombudsmen: the main one is the Parliamentary Commissioner, who investigates complaints against the Health Service, and the Local Commissioners or Local Government Ombudsmen who investigate complaints against local authorities. Although ombudsmen will make their recommendations to the department concerned, and may make their recommenda-

167 one-party state
one party is allowed to exist, although voters generally have a choice of candidates all from the same party.

on-message / ˌɒnˈmɛsɪdʒ/ adjective following the official policy of a political party or other organisation.

OPEC /ˈoʊpɛk/ n an organisation of oil-producing countries. Full form Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (NOTE: The members are Algeria, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.)

open door policy /ˈəʊpən dɔr ˈpɒlɪsi/ noun a trading policy by which a country allows free trade with all other countries.

open-ended /ˈəʊpən ˈɛnˌdəd/ adjective with no fixed limit or restrictions to what has been agreed.

open government /ˈəʊpən ˈɡɑːvənmənt/ noun a system in which most decisions by government and most government records are available for any citizen to read.

open hearing /ˈəʊpən ˈhɪərɪŋ/ noun a court case or meeting which is open to the public and to journalists.

opening /ˈəʊp(ə)ˈnɪŋ/ noun 1. a ceremony to celebrate the start of a public event.

open society /ˈəʊpən saˈʃəti/ noun a society in which people can say what they think freely and openly.

opinion /ˈɒpənʃən/ noun a belief or set of beliefs held by people about an issue.

opinion poll /ˈɒpənʃən pɔʊl/ noun a study of the opinions of a small carefully chosen group of people, so as to guess the opinion of the whole population.

note of the opinion polls in the run-up to a general election.

opinion research /ˌɔpən rɪˈzɜːr v/ noun the study of the changing opinions of a population based on interviewing small representative groups.

opponent /ˈɒpənənt/ noun a person who is against you or who votes against what you propose.

The opposition nuclear group tried to discredit their opponents in the debate.

oppose /əˈpəʊz/ verb to try to stop something happening.

A minority of committee members opposed the motion.

We are all opposed to the government’s plan.

The Speaker opposed the opposition’s application for an adjournment.

opposed business /əˈpəʊzd/ ‘biznis/ noun matters for discussion in the House of Commons which an MP objects to.

opposition /ˌɒpəˈzɪʃən/ noun 1. the action of trying to stop something or of not agreeing to something.

There was considerable opposition to the plan for reorganising the local boundaries.

The voters showed their opposition to the government by voting against the proposal in the referendum.

2. Opposition the largest political party which opposes the government.

The Opposition tried to propose a vote of censure on the Prime Minister.

The spokesman for the Opposition or the Opposition spokesman answered the Minister’s allegations.

Leader of the Opposition, Opposition Leader the head of the largest political party opposing the government.

Opposition Day /ˌɒpəˈzɪʃən daɪ/ noun a day on which a debate is held on a subject chosen by the Opposition.

Opposition front bench /ˌɒpəˈzɪʃən frʌnt ˈbenʃ/ noun 1. the seats for the Opposition Shadow Cabinet.

2. the members of the Opposition Shadow Cabinet.

An Opposition front bench spokesman asked why the...
Government had been so slow in investigating the affair.

**oppress** /əˈpres/ **verb** to rule cruelly and unfairly, especially by limiting the personal freedom of the citizens. The dictator has stayed in power by using the army and police force to oppress the people.

**oppression** /ˈɒprɪʃən/ **noun** cruel and unfair methods of government. The demonstrators demanded the army and police force to oppress the people.

**oppressive** /əˈpresɪv/ **adjective** using cruel and unfair methods of government. Under the dictator’s oppressive regime, the ordinary citizens were afraid to speak out against the system.

**oppressor** /ɪˈpresər/ **noun** a ruler who governs in a cruel or unjust way. The people rose in revolution to overthrow their oppressors.

**opt out** /ˈaʊt/ **verb** to decide not to take part in a group, activity or agreement, or to stop taking part. Under John Major the UK opted out of an agreement, or to stop taking part in something.

**Orange Order** /ˈɔrɪndʒ ɔrdə/ **noun** a Protestant organisation that strongly supports Protestantism in Ireland, especially Northern Ireland.

**order** /ˈɔrdə/ **noun** 1. a general state of calm, where everything is working as planned. 2. **law and order** an official statement asking someone to do something on the orders of someone else. 3. the arrangement of records such as filing cards or invocations filed in date or alphabetical order. 4. the arrangement of business in the House of Commons.

**order of business** the arrangement of things or people according to their importance. The item on finance takes precedence over all other items on the agenda.

**order of the day** a matter which the House of Commons has decided will be discussed on an agreed day.

**order paper** /ˈɔrɪdər ˈpepər/ **noun** a piece of paper showing the timetable to be followed that day in the House of Commons. As the Prime Minister rose to speak his supporters waved their order papers in great excitement.

**orders** /ˈɔrdərz/ **plural noun** secondary legislation made by ministers, un-
ordinance /ɔˈdɪnəns/ noun 1. a law or rule made by an authority 2. US a rule made by a town council which is effective only within the town

ordinarily /ɔˈdɪnəlri/ adverb or ordinarily resident usually resident in some country

ordinary resolution /ɔˈdɪnərri riˌzlən/ noun a matter or decision which can be agreed by a simple majority of those voting

organ /ˈɔɡən/ noun 1. an organisation that is responsible on behalf of a larger institution for a particular job 2. the newspaper, magazine or other regular publication of a particular organisation, which gives official information about an organisation

Organization of African Unity /ɔˈfrikən ˈjuːnit(ə)/ noun an organisation of African states, replaced in 2002 by the African Union

Országggyűlés noun the legislature in Hungary

OSCE abbreviation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

OSD abbreviation Office of the Secretary of Defense

outcome /ˈautkəm/ noun the result

outcry /ˈautkraʊ/ noun a strong public protest

Outer House /ˈaut houz/ noun a part of the Scottish Court of Session, formed of five judges

outgoing /ˈautˈɡoʊŋ/ adjective a person or group that is about to leave office or the outgoing president

outlaw /ˈautˈlɔː/ verb to say that something is not allowed by law or The government has proposed a bill to outlaw drinking in public. ■ noun former-ly, a person who was excluded from society as a punishment

outline planning permission /əutˈplænɪŋ ˈpərmɪʃ(ə)n/ noun general permission to build a property on a piece of land, but not final because there are no details

outpoll /əutˈpʊl/ verb to receive more votes than an opponent in an election

outreach /əutriːtʃ/ noun services or advice for members of the public who find travel difficult, provided outside a hospital or government offices in the places where people live

outvote /əutˈvɔt/ verb to defeat someone in a vote or He was outvoted 3 to 1.

Oval Office /ˈɔvəl ˈoʊfɪs/ noun the room in the White House which is the personal office of the President of the United States (Note: It is also used to mean the President in person: The Oval Office was not pleased by the attitude of the Senate.)

overall /əˈvɔrəl/ adjective covering everything or The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for running the council’s affairs.

overall majority /əˈvɔrəl məˈdʒərəti/ noun a majority of votes or seats, which is more than all the votes and seats of the opposition taken together or The government had an overall majority of two. or After the election, the ruling coalition lost its overall majority. Also called straight majority

overclass /əˈvɔrklaʊs/ noun the governing or ruling class of a country

over-populated /əˈvɔpəˈpljʊətɪd/ adjective having too many people

overrepresent /əˈvɔrərɛpərˈzent/ verb to give more representation to a group than is reasonable based on its size or The present system tends to overrepresent the majority party. or Males are overrepresented in the House of Commons.

overriding interest /əˈvɔrədɪŋ ˈɪntrəst/ noun a more important con-
National security is the overriding interest in this case.

**overthrow** verb /ˌəʊvərˈθruː/ to remove a government or leader suddenly from power. *The regime was overthrown in a military coup.*

**noun** /ˌəʊvərˈθruː/ the sudden removal of a government or leader. *The army was involved in the overthrow of the president.*

**OVP** abbreviation Office of the Vice President
pacifism /ˈpæsɪfrɪz(ə)m/ noun the belief that war is wrong
pacifist /ˈpæsɪfɪst/ noun a person who believes that war is wrong ■ adjective believing that war is wrong
pacify /ˈpæsfəɪ/ verb 1. to make someone who is angry or upset feel happier ○ The announcement was clearly intended to pacify angry residents. 2. to end war or fighting in a place and establish peaceful conditions
pack /pæk/ verb to fill a committee or other group with members who are sympathetic to your views ○ The left-wing group packed the general purposes committee with activists.
packaging /ˈpækɪdʒɪŋ/ noun a way of introducing someone or something to the public in order to create a favourable impression
pact /pækt/ noun an agreement between two parties or countries ○ The countries in the region signed a non-aggression pact. ○ The two minority parties made an electoral pact not to oppose each other in agreed constituencies.
page /ˈpeɪdʒ/ verb to send an electronic message to someone on a pager ■ noun in the US Congress, a High School student employed to support members and get work experience
pager /ˈpeɪdʒər/ noun, noun a small electronic device for receiving messages when a person cannot be contacted by phone, e.g. when they are in a meeting or in Parliament ○ received a pager message (NOTE: Pagers are a useful way of getting messages to people in the House of Commons and House of Lords discreetly and without making a noise.)
paid-up member /ˈpeɪd ʌ pˈmembər/ noun a person who has paid to be a member of a political party or other organisation
pair /peə/ noun an agreement between two MPs from opposite sides of the House of Commons not to vote on a motion, so allowing one of them to be away from the House during a vote if necessary ○ He was paired with John Smith.

Palace of Westminster /ˈpeɪsləs əv ˈwestmɪnstrə/ noun the Houses of Parliament, together with the area round them

COMMENT: The Palace was the main home of the kings of England from the middle of the 11th century until 1512, by which time most governing and judicial functions took place there. After private chapels were abolished in 1547, the Royal Chapel of St Stephen within the Palace of Westminster was handed over to the Commons as a meeting place, until 1834 when most of the Palace was burned down. The present Houses of Parliament were built during the next 30 years. The chamber of the House of Commons was destroyed in a German air attack in 1941 and rebuilt after the Second World War.
palace revolution /ˈpaːlɪs ˌrɛvəˈluːʃ(ə)n/ noun a change of leader or ruler achieved by those who are already part of the ruling group
pamphlet /ˈpæmflət/ noun a small book, often about a political issue
pan-/pæn/ prefix covering all □ Pan-African, pan-American covering all Africa or all America
Pan-African /pæn ˌæfrɪkən/ adjective relating to all the nations of Africa
pantisocracy /ˌpæntɪsəˈkræsi/ noun a community in which everyone shares power and is equal
Papal Nuncio /ˈpæp(ə)l ˈnʌnsiəʊ/ noun an ambassador sent by the Pope to a country
paper /ˈpeɪpər/ noun 1. a written report or proposal □ The Treasurer asked his deputy to write a paper on new funding.
2. a newspaper □ a newspaper 3. an official document
paper tiger /ˈpeɪpər ˈtaɪɡə/ noun a person, organisation or country which appears to be strong and powerful but is in fact weak
parastatal /ˈpærəsˈteɪt(ə)l/ adjective performing a function usually associated with a government under indirect government control □ a parastatal utility company
Paris /ˈpærɪs/ Treaty of Paris
parish council /ˈpærɪʃ ˈkɑːnsəl/ noun the smallest unit of local government, representing a group of at least 200 people in a village or small town
parish meeting /ˈpærɪʃ ˈmiːtɪŋ/ noun a meeting which must be held once a year in a parish and which all electors in the parish may attend
parish pump politics /ˈpærɪʃ ˈpʌmp ˈpolɪtɪks/ noun local politics, concerning only minor local issues
Parl. abbreviation 1. Parliament 2. parliamentary
parliament /ˈpærəlɪmənt/ noun 1. the elected group of representatives who form the legislative body which makes the laws of a country □ the Dáil or Irish parliament □ Mother of Parliament □ the British Parliament at Westminster 2. Parliament in the UK, the body formed of the House of Commons and House of Lords. □ Act of Parliament, Houses of Parliament □ to open Parliament to start a new session of Parliament □ the Queen opened the new Parliament yesterday.
Parliament Act /ˈpærəlɪmənt ˈækt/ noun an Act passed in 1911 that prevented the House of Lords from having the power to veto the financial proposals of the Commons and from holding up other legislation for more than two years. It also made the maximum length of a parliament five years.
parliamentarian /ˌpærəlɪˈmɛntəriən/ 1. a member of one of the Houses of Parliament □ A delegation of British parliamentarians was invited to visit Canada. 2. one of two officials of the US Congress who attend all debates and advise on procedure: the House Parliamentarian and the Parliamentarian of the Senate
parliamentarianism /ˌpærəlɪˈmɛntəriənɪz(ə)m/ noun government of a country by a parliament
parliamentary /ˌpærəlɪˈmɛntərɪ/ adjective referring to parliament
parliamentary agent /ˌpærəlɪˈmɛntərɪ ˈeʤent/ noun an expert, usually a lawyer, who advises people who are not MPs on how to get a Bill through Parliament
parliamentary calendar /ˌpærəlɪˈmɛntərɪ ˈkeɪləndər/ noun a timetable of events in Parliament, with dates for discussion of each Bill
Parliamentary Commissioner /ˌpærəlɪˈmɛntərɪ ˈkɒmɪʃ(ə)n/, Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration /ˌpærəlɪˈmɛntərɪ ˌkɒmɪʃ(ə)n fər ədˌmɪnɪˈstreɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the official who investigates complaints by the public against government departments. Also called Ombudsman
Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards /ˌpærəlɪˈmɛntərɪ ˌkɒmɪʃ(ə)n fər ˈstændərdz/
parliamentary counsel /parləmənt(ə)rɪ 'kounsl/ noun an official whose job is to supervise the Register of Members’ Interests and to advise the Committee on Standards and Privileges about issues relating to the MPs’ code of conduct. Also called Ombudsman

parliamentary council /parləmənt(ə)rɪ 'kaʊnsəl/, parliamentary draftsman /'paʊlərə 'drɑːftsmən/ noun a lawyer who is responsible for drawing up parliamentary Bills. Also called parliamentary draftsman

parliamentary diary /pəˈlɑːmətəri 'draɪəri/ noun the list of days of the week, showing what business is to take place in Parliament on each day

parliamentary draftsman /pəˈlɑːmətəri 'draɪəstsmən/ noun same as parliamentary counsel

parliamentary etiquette /pəˈlɑːmətəri 'ɛtikət/ noun the formal rules of behaviour in Parliament

Parliamentary Labour Party /parləmənt(ə)rɪ 'leɪbr 'pɑːtri/ noun the group formed of all Labour Party members elected to Parliament. Abbr PLP

parliamentary party /pəˈlɑːmətəri 'pɑːtri/ noun the members of a political party who are also Members of Parliament

Parliamentary Private Secretary /parləmənt(ə)rɪ 'prəvət 'sekrətri/ noun the most junior rank of minister, acting as a general helper to a particular Cabinet minister. Abbr PPS

Parliamentary privilege /parləmənt(ə)rɪ 'prɪvəlɪdʒ/ noun the right of a Member of Parliament or Member of the House of Lords to speak freely to the House without the possibility of being sued for slander

Parliamentary Secretary /pəˈlɑːmətəri 'sekrətri, Parliamentary Under-Secretary /pəˈlɑːmətəri 'sekrətri, 'pærəlməntəri ˈʌndər-ˌsɛkrətri/ noun a government member such as an MP or a member of the House of Lords who works in a department headed by a Secretary of State or Minister of State (NOTE: To avoid confusion, they are called Parliamentary Under-Secretaries in departments where the head of the department is a Secretary of State.)

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury /'paʊləment(ə)rɪ 'sekrətri tə ˈdɛr ˈtɛrisi/ noun in the House of Commons, the Government Chief Whip. Captain of the Honorable Corps of Gentleman-at-Arms

parliamentary sketch /pəˈlɑːmətəri 'skɛtʃ/ noun a short humorous article in a newspaper on events that have recently taken place in Parliament

Parliamentary Under-Secretary /pəˈlɑːment(ə)rɪ ˈændə 'sekrətri, 'parəlməntəri ˈʌndər-ˌsɛkrətri of State noun + Parliamentary Secretary

parliamentary year /pəˈlɑːment(ə)rɪ 'jɪəri/ noun the year of a session of Parliament, running from the Opening of Parliament, usually in the autumn, until the recess usually in the following summer

participation /pɑːtɪsə'pɛʃn/ noun the way in which people become involved in the political process by voting, campaigning, joining political parties and generally playing an active part in politics (NOTE: The low turnout in recent local and general elections has led people to express concerns about the level of participation in British politics.)

particularism /pə'tɪkjʊlərɪzəm/ noun the policy of allowing political divisions within a country or federation to be self-governing, without regard to what effect this may have on the larger body

partisan /ˈpɑːtɪzn, ˈpærɪtɪzn/ noun 1. a person who supports a policy or political party strongly. She’s a partisan of the campaign for more women Members of Parliament. 2. an armed supporter of a political group
which is fighting against the ruling government

**partisan alignment** /ˈpɔːtɪsən əˈləʊnmənt/ noun the long-term connection between a person and a particular political party for which they regularly vote (NOTE: Partisan alignment seems to be in decline in most modern democracies.)

**partisan dealignment** /ˈpɔːtɪsən əˈdinəlmənt/ noun the way in which in recent years people have been less willing to vote regularly for a particular political party

**partition** /ˈpɑːtʃən/ noun the act of dividing up a country

**party** /ˈpɑːti/ noun a political group which joins together to gain representation and political power and which is united by common goals and ideas. a) the party line the official policy of a political party, which must be followed by its members and supporters. b) to toe the party line to say what the party expects you to say or not to have a different view from the official party policy. c) He was expelled from the party for refusing to toe the party line.

**party headquarters** /ˈpɑːti ˈhɛdərz/ noun the central office of a political party. a) The leader called a meeting of the national committee at the party headquarters.

**party leader** /ˈpɑːti ˈlɪdər/ noun the head of a political party, who usually becomes head of government if the party wins power.

**party list system** /ˈpɑːti ˈlɪst ˈsɪstəm/ noun an electoral system used for constituencies which have more than one representative, in which a voter votes for a list of candidates belonging to a particular party rather than for an individual candidate. Seats are then given to each party according to their share of the vote in that constituency and to each candidate according to the position they have been given by their party on the list. The next candidate on a party’s list fills any vacancy that occurs in mid-term. Also called list system (NOTE: This system has been used for British elections to the European Parliament since 1999.)

**party man** /ˈpɑːti ˈmɛn/ noun a man who is a loyal member or supporter of a political party.

**party person** /ˈpɑːti ˈpɜːsən/ noun a loyal member or supporter of a political party.

**party political broadcast** /ˈpɑːti ˈpɑːtɪpəlɪˈbrəʊdkaʊst/ noun a short television or radio programme in which a political party talks about political issues, especially during an election.

**party politics** /ˈpɑːti ˈpɔːltɪks/ noun the situation where decisions are made or actions taken in line with the policies of a particular party, rather than independently or in the general interest.

**party woman** /ˈpɑːti ˈwʊmən/ noun a woman who is a loyal member or supporter of a political party.

**pass** /pɑːs/ noun a piece of paper allowing someone to go into a building or area. a) You need a pass to enter the Ministry offices. b) All members of staff must show a pass.  

**verb 1.** to vote to
passable

make a law ○ Parliament passed the Bill which has now become law. ○ The Congress passed the bill over the president’s veto. 2. to approve something ○ The Director of Finance has to pass an invoice before it is paid. ○ The loan has been passed by the council. 3. to be successful in an exam or test

passage /ˈpæsɪdʒ/ noun 1. the process of passing through a system ○ They tried to obstruct the Bill’s passage through the House of Commons. 2. a piece of writing ○ The censor removed several passages from the newspaper report.

patent /ˈpætənt, ˈpætənt/ noun official permission to be the only person to have the right to produce something which you have invented • verb to receive a patent

patented /ˈpætəntɪd, ˈpætəntɪd/ adjective protected by a patent

patentee /ˈpætənti/ noun a person who has received a patent

Patent Office /ˈpæt(ə)n/ noun the government office which issues patents

paternalism /ˌpætərəˈnalɪzəm/ noun a style of government or management which limits individual choice and personal responsibility

patrial /ˈpætriəl/ adjective referring to a patriarchy

department of government ○ The government office which issues patents

patriarchy /ˌpætriərki/ noun ruled or controlled by men

patriate /ˈpætriət/ verb to transfer control to the home country ○ The Canadian constitution was formally patriated in 1982.

patriot /ˈpætriət/ noun a person who proudly supports his or her country

patriotic /ˈpætriətɪk/ adjective referring to patriotism ○ It is every citizen’s patriotic duty to learn the words of the National Anthem.

patriotism /ˌpætriətɪzəm/ noun the feeling of great pride and support for your country. Compare chauvinism

patronage /ˈpætrəniz/ noun the right to give government posts or honours to people ○ The Prime Minister has considerable patronage.

patronage secretary /ˌpætrənizɛri/ verb to refer to the Prime Minister’s staff who deals with giving people honours and government jobs

PAU abbreviation Pan American Union

pax /ˈpæks/ noun a period of peace and stability under the influence of a particular powerful country or empire ○ pax Britannica

Paymaster-General /ˈpeɪ,meɪstər/ˈdʒɪn(ə)rrəl/ noun the government minister who heads the office that acts as paying agent for government departments

PC /ˈpiː/ abbreviation 1. personal computer 2. police constable 3. politically correct 4. privy council

PCP /ˈpiː siː/ abbreviation Progressive Conservative Party
peace, the country is now at peace.

tween people who have been at war
peace by a process of negotiation be-
or rank as another

peace process /ˈpiːs ˈprəʊses/ noun the gradual establishment of peace by a process of negotiation between people who have been at war

Peel /ˈpiːl/ Sir Robert (1788–1850) prime minister of Great Britain (1834–35 and 1841–46) and, as Home Secretary (1822–27 and 1828–30), the person who created the London police force, later known as ‘bobbies’ or ‘peelers’. He founded the modern police department

Peelers He founded the modern police force, later known as ‘bobbies’ or ‘peelers’. He founded the modern police department

Peerages Act A British Act passed in 1963 that allowed hereditary peers to refuse their title for life. It also admitted female hereditary peers to the House of Lords and allowed the admittance of all Scottish Peers.

peaceful coexistence /ˈpiːs(ə)l ˈkoʊərəns/ noun a situation where countries may be in complete disagreement, but exist together without threatening war

peaceful coexistence /ˈpiːs(ə)l ˈkoʊərəns/ noun a situation where countries may be in complete disagreement, but exist together without threatening war

Peers /ˈpiːr/ plural noun 1. human beings seen as a group

People /ˈpiːp(ə)l/ plural noun 1. human beings seen as a group

People /ˈpiːp(ə)l/ plural noun 1. human beings seen as a group

peace /ˈpiːz/ noun 1. the state of not being at war © After six years of civil war, the country is now at peace. © The peace treaty was signed yesterday. © Both sides claimed the other side broke the peace agreement. 2. the state of being quiet or calm

...there never was a good war or a bad peace’ [Benjamin Franklin]

Peace Corps /ˈpiːs ˈkɔːrəs/ noun a US government organisation that trains volunteers to work in developing countries on educational and agricultural projects

peaceful coexistence /ˈpiːs(ə)l ˈkoʊərəns/ noun a situation where countries may be in complete disagreement, but exist together without threatening war

peaceful coexistence /ˈpiːs(ə)l ˈkoʊərəns/ noun a situation where countries may be in complete disagreement, but exist together without threatening war

peace process /ˈpiːs ˈprəʊses/ noun the gradual establishment of peace by a process of negotiation between people who have been at war

peace process /ˈpiːs ˈprəʊses/ noun the gradual establishment of peace by a process of negotiation between people who have been at war

Peerages Act /ˈpiːrɪdʒz əkt/ noun an Act passed in 1963 that allowed hereditary peers to refuse their title for life. It also admitted female hereditary peers to the House of Lords and allowed the admittance of all Scottish Peers.

COMMENT: The Act was introduced because Tony Benn, a Labour MP, wanted to continue to be an MP after he inherited the title of Viscount Stansgate. At the time this status automatically disqualified him from continuing to be an MP although he was entitled to become a Member of the House of Lords.

Peeress /ˈpiːrəs/ noun a female member of the House of Lords

Penal /ˈpiːn(ə)l/ adjective referring to punishment © penal code a set of laws governing crime and its punishment

penal /ˈpiːn(ə)l/ adjective referring to punishment © penal code a set of laws governing crime and its punishment

Penal institution /ˈpiːn(ə)l ɪnˈstɪtʃ(ə)n/ noun a place where criminals are kept, e.g. a prison

Penal institution /ˈpiːn(ə)l ɪnˈstɪtʃ(ə)n/ noun a place where criminals are kept, e.g. a prison

Penalise /ˈpiːnəlaɪz/ penalize verb to punish someone for breaking a rule or law © The government penalised councils for overspending. © The contractors were penalised for late delivery

Penalise /ˈpiːnəlaɪz/ penalize verb to punish someone for breaking a rule or law © The government penalised councils for overspending. © The contractors were penalised for late delivery

Pending /ˈpɛndɪŋ/ adverb while waiting for © Pending the council’s decision, rates should be paid in the usual way. © Pending advice from our lawyers, we sent a simple letter of acknowledgement

Pending /ˈpɛndɪŋ/ adverb while waiting for © Pending the council’s decision, rates should be paid in the usual way. © Pending advice from our lawyers, we sent a simple letter of acknowledgement

Pentagon /ˈpentəɡən/ noun the building used by Department of Defense in Washington (NOTE: The building has five sides, hence the name, which is also used to mean the Defense Department itself. Pentagon officials stated that the supply of arms was illegal. Sources close to the Pentagon refused to comment on the story.)

Pentagon /ˈpentəɡən/ noun the building used by Department of Defense in Washington (NOTE: The building has five sides, hence the name, which is also used to mean the Defense Department itself. Pentagon officials stated that the supply of arms was illegal. Sources close to the Pentagon refused to comment on the story.)

Peers /ˈpiːr/ plural noun 1. a member of the House of Lords (NOTE: A peer is disqualified from standing for election to the House of Commons, but can renounce the peerage in order to be able to stand for election as an MP) 2. a person who is in the same group or rank as another © a teacher well respected by her peers

Peers /ˈpiːr/ plural noun 1. a member of the House of Lords (NOTE: A peer is disqualified from standing for election to the House of Commons, but can renounce the peerage in order to be able to stand for election as an MP) 2. a person who is in the same group or rank as another © a teacher well respected by her peers

Pending the council’s de-

People /ˈpiːp(ə)l/ plural noun 1. human beings seen as a group © young people © old people © Thousands of people lined the streets to watch the procession. © Most people voted for
People’s Assembly 178

the new constitution. 2. all the members of a nation the government of the people, by the people, for the people: The President promised to serve the people. (NOTE: The plural peoples means ‘members of several nations: the peoples of southern Africa.) a man or woman of the people a leader or politician who understands what is important to ordinary people: noun someone’s business assistants and advisers: Ask your people to contact me next week.

People’s Assembly /piˈpælz/ a ‘sembl/ noun the legislature in Egypt
People’s Bureau /piˈpælz ‘boʊərəʊ/ noun the embassy of the Libyan Republic
People’s Council /piˈpælz ‘kɒnsəl/ noun the legislature in Syria
People’s Party /piˈpælz ‘pæti/ noun the name given to some political parties, e.g. in Austria
people’s republic /piˈpælz ˈrɛplɪk/ noun a Socialist or Communist republic

civil servant in a government department or ministry (NOTE: The Canada term is Deputy Minister.)

COMMENT: Permanent Secretaries are appointed by the Prime Minister but are responsible to the Secretary of State in charge of the relevant department.

permit /ˈpɜrmɪt/ noun an official document which allows someone to do something: export permit, import permit an official document which allows goods to be exported or imported

per procurationem /ˈpɜr ˈprɔkjʊrəʃəm/ Latin phrase meaning ‘with the authority of.’ Abbr: p.p.

per se /ˈpɜr ˈsi/ Latin phrase meaning ‘on its own’ or ‘by itself.’ Fixing the rates is not per se a matter for the Housing Committee, though they may wish to offer an opinion.

persecute /ˈpɜrˌsɛktʃuʃ/ verb to treat someone cruelly or unfairly on political, religious or racial grounds

persecution /ˈpɜrˌsɛktʃuʃn/ noun cruel or unfair treatment of someone on political, religious or racial grounds

person /ˈpɜrsn/ noun a human being

persona /ˈpɜrsnə/ Latin word meaning person: persona grata a person who is acceptable to a government, used especially of foreign diplomats: persona non grata a person who is not acceptable to a government, used especially of foreign diplomats: The Military Attaché was declared persona non grata and asked to leave the country.

personal allowances /ˈpɜrsnl əˈlaʊnsəz/ plural noun the part of a person’s income which is not taxed: allowances against tax or tax allowances

Personal Bill /ˈpɜrsnl ˈbɪl/ noun a private bill introduced into Parliament which refers to a single person and is the only way in which the person concerned can get justice, usually in matters of property
personal income /ˈpɜːsənl ˈɪnkwən/ noun the income received by an individual person before tax is paid

personality cult /ˈpɜːsəˌnæləti kælt/ noun intense popular feeling built around the character of a politician, usually a dictator

personal statement /ˈpɜːsənl ˈstɛmənt/ noun a statement made by an MP after Question Time, when he or she apologises to the House for something. Also called personal explanation

persuadable /ˈpɜːsəˈweɪdləb/ adjective able to get people to do or believe what you want by using clever arguments. He made a very persuasive speech against restoring the death penalty.

pertain /ˈpɜːtən/ verb to apply or exist in a particular situation

petition /ˈpɛtʃən/ noun 1. a written request signed by the people supporting it, asking those with power to do something. They presented a petition with a million signatures to Parliament, asking for the law to be repealed. 2. a written request made to a court to make an official request. He petitioned the government for a special pension.

comment: Petitions to the House of Commons are written by hand, and have a set form of words. After a petition is presented in the House of Commons at the beginning of the day’s business, it is said to ‘lie upon the table’ and is placed in a bag behind the Speaker’s Chair.

petitioner /ˈpɛtʃər/ noun a person who puts forward a petition

petty bourgeoisie /ˈpeti ˈbʊʒwɔrəzi/ noun the lower middle class of small shopkeepers and minor civil servants. (NOTE: The word bourgeoisie is used in radical or communist circles to refer to anyone who is a capitalist, or even to anyone who is not a communist.)

PFI noun a government scheme to encourage private companies to fund public capital projects such as the building of hospitals and schools. Full form: Private Finance Initiative

photo opportunity /ˌfoʊtəˌɒpəˈtuːniθ/ noun a planned opportunity for the media to photograph a politician or other public figure doing something, especially to produce favourable publicity

pink /pɪŋk/ adjective relating to political views that are slightly left-wing

Pitt /pɪt/ William, 1st Earl of Chatham (1708–78) As secretary of state (1756–61), he was the most powerful politician in Great Britain and effectivelyprime minister. He headed a new government from 1766 to 1768.

Pitt, William (1759–1806) Great Britain’s youngest prime minister, at the age of 24. Great Britain’s youngest prime minister, at the age of 24 (1783–1801), and returning for a second term (1804–06), during which period the Act of Union (1800(1783–1801)) incorporated Ireland into the United Kingdom.

place /plɛs/ noun the other place or another place (in the House of Commons) the House of Lords

placeman /ˈpleɪsman/ noun someone who receives a public office as a reward for services to a political party and uses it for personal greed or ambition
Plaid Cymru

The political party which supports independence for Wales (NOTE: The name means ‘Party of Wales’ in the Welsh language)

plank /plæŋk/ noun a main item of policy, or an important aspect of something ○ A proposal to raise taxes is the central plank of the party’s platform.

planned /plænd/ adjective done according to a plan

planned economy /plænd'dɛməni/ noun a system where the government plans all business activity

planner /plænər/ noun a person who makes plans

planning /plænɪŋ/ noun 1. the activity of organising how something should be done 2. the activity of organising how land and buildings are to be used

planning authority /plænɪŋ ɔ'θɔrəti/ noun the section of local government which gives permission for changes to be made to existing buildings or for new use of land

planning department /plænɪŋ dɪ'pɑrtnənt/ noun the section of a local government office which deals with requests for planning permission

planning inquiry /plænɪŋ ɪ'nɔrɪ/ noun a hearing before a government inspector relating to a decision of a local authority in planning matters

planning permission /plænɪŋ pə'ʃɜən/ noun the official document allowing someone to build new structures on empty land or to alter existing buildings

platform /plætfɔrm/ noun a set of policy proposals put forward by a candidate in an election

Plato /pleɪtoʊ/ noun an Ancient Greek philosopher (c. 428–347 BC) whose ‘Republic’ is considered the greatest work of political philosophy (NOTE: Plato argued that the best form of government would be one where philosophers were rulers and where everyone learnt to accept their position in life.)

pleasure /ˈpleʒər/ noun voltage ○ Her Majesty's pleasure

plebiscite /ˈplebɪsɪt/ noun a type of vote to decide an important issue, involving the eligible population of a town, region or country ○ The province decided by plebiscite to lower the voting age to eighteen.

COMMENT: There is no agreement on the difference between a referendum and a plebiscite, and the words seem to be largely interchangeable. Referendum is the more modern term, and the word plebiscite carries bad overtones of its use in the days of Fascism.

pledge /plɛdʒ/ noun a promise ○ The voters were impressed by the opposition’s pledge to reduce taxes. ○ To fulfill an election pledge to do what was promised before an election a verb to promise to do something ○ the government has pledged not to raise taxes. ○ He pledged his support to the party leader.

plenary session /ˈpliənəri ˈʃɛsn/ noun a meeting of all the members of a group ○ The European Parliament met in plenary session.

plenipotentiary /ˌplɛniˈpɒtəntri/ noun a person given full power to act on behalf of a government in discussions with another country ○ The treaty was signed by plenipotentiaries on behalf of the three governments.

plenum /ˈpliːnəm/ noun a meeting at which all members of a group are present

PLO abbreviation Palestine Liberation Organization

PLP abbreviation Parliamentary Labour Party

pluralism /ˈplʊəralɪzm/ noun a social system which has different political, ethnic or religious groups co-existing within it

pluralist state /ˈplʊəralɪst ˈsteɪt/ noun a state which has different political, ethnic or religious groups co-existing within it and exerting influence over the government
plurality /ˈplʊərəlɪti/ noun 1. the number of votes which a candidate receives more than those for another candidate (NOTE: [all senses] Plurality is more commonly used in US English.)

plural voting /ˈplɔːrəl ˈvɔːtɪŋ/ noun formerly, a system of voting that allowed some people to vote more than once in an election or to vote in different constituencies

plutocracy /ˈpluːtɔrəkrəsi/ noun a system of rule by rich people

plutocrat /ˈpluːtɔkræt/ noun a person who is a member of a plutocracy

PM abbreviation Prime Minister

pocket /ˈpɒkɪt/ verb (of a US president) to retain a bill without signing it in order to stop it becoming approved by Congress

pocket borough /ˈpɒkɪt ˈbɑːrə/ noun in Great Britain before the Reform Act of 1832, a political constituency whose representative in Parliament was chosen by one landowner or landowning family

pocket veto /ˈpɒkɪt ˈvəʊtə/ noun US the refusal by the President of the USA to sign a bill passed by Congress, which the President may use if the bill is given to him within ten days of the time when Congress adjourns and which Congress cannot override

COMMENT: The President’s ‘ordinary’ veto gives the power to refuse to sign a bill into law. He must return his reasons for the veto within ten days. If Congress does not give him sufficient time to do this, that is if Congress gives the bill less than ten days before the end of a session, the President can simply ignore the bill. This is called the pocket veto. While the ‘ordinary’ veto can be overturned by a two-thirds majority in both houses, the pocket veto cannot be overturned at all by Congress.

pogrom /ˈpɔɡrɒm/ noun a planned campaign of persecution or extermination of an ethnic group supported by a government (NOTE: The term was first used of the campaigns against the Jews in tsarist Russia.)

point /pɔɪnt/ noun a question or statement relating to a matter (NOTE: [all senses] Point is more commonly used in US English.)

point of order /ˈpɔɪnt əv ˈɔrɛdə/ noun a question by one of the people taking part in a formal debate or meeting that relates to the way in which a meeting is conducted, in particular whether rules are being properly observed (NOTE: to raise a point of order, someone may say: ‘On a point of order, Mr. Chairman’, and the Chairman should stop the discussion to hear what the person raising the point wishes to say.)

polemic /ˈpɒləmɪk/ noun a strong, often controversial argument against or, less often, in favour of something

polemics /ˈpɒləmɪks/ noun the practice of arguing strongly for or against something

police /ˈpɒlɪs/ noun the official group of people who keep law and order in a country (NOTE: The police have cordoned off the town centre.)

1. verb, to keep law and order in a place (NOTE: The President used the National Guard to police the capital.)

2. to make sure that regulations or guidelines are carried out (NOTE: The department is carefully policing the way the guidelines are being followed.)
police authority

COMMENT: Under English law, the police are organised by area, each area functioning independently with its own police force. London, and the area round London, is policed by the Metropolitan Police Force under the direct supervision of the Home Secretary. Outside London, each police force is answerable to a local police authority, although day-to-day control of operations is vested entirely in the Chief Constable.

police authority /pəˈliːs əˈɒbrəti/ noun the local committee which supervises the police force of an area

Police Commissioner /pəˈliːs ˈkɒrɪmənərɪ/ noun the highest rank in a police force

Police Complaints Board /pəˈliːs kəˈmɪpləntz, bɔːd/ noun a group which investigates complaints made by members of the public against the police

police constable /pəˈliːs kənˈstæbl/ noun in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, a police officer of the lowest rank. Abbr PC

police force /pəˈliːs fɔːs/ noun a group of policemen organised in an area. The members of several local police forces have collaborated in the hunt for the terrorists. The London police force is looking for more recruits.

police headquarters /pəˈliːs hɛdˌkwɔːtərz/ noun the main offices of a police force

police inspector /pəˈliːs ɪnˈspektər/ noun the rank in the police force above sergeant and below chief inspector

policeman /pəˈliːsmən/ noun a man who is a member of a police force

police officer /pəˈliːs ˈɔfɪsər/ noun a member of a police force

COMMENT: Under English law, a police officer is primarily an ordinary citizen who has certain powers under common law and by statute.

police precinct /pəˈliːs ˈprɪsɪntʃɪkt/ noun US a section of a town with its own police station

police protection /pəˈliːs ˈprətekʃən/ noun the services of the police to protect someone who might be harmed

police sergeant /pəˈliːs ˈsərʤənt/ noun the rank in the police force above constable and below inspector

police state /pəˈliːs stɛt/ noun a country or system in which the government uses the police or army to control the people. After the coup, the generals were accused of operating a police state.

police station /pəˈliːs ˈsteɪʃən/ noun the local office of a police force

policewoman /pəˈliːswʊmən/ noun a woman member of a police force

policing /pəˈliːsnɪŋ/ noun the activity of keeping law and order in a place, using the police force. The council is debating the Chief Constable’s policing methods.

policy /pəˈliːsi/ noun a detailed plan of how something will be done. Government policy on wages or government wages policy. The government’s prices policy. The country’s economic policy. Our policy is to submit all contracts to the legal department. It is not the policy of the council to give grants for more than three years. The government made a policy statement or made a statement of policy. The government declared in public what its plans were.

policy committee /pəˈliːsi kəˈmiːtɪ/ noun a small group which discusses plans for the way in which something will be done

policy community /pəˈliːsi kəˈmiːnəti/ noun the close relationship between government departments, pressure groups, local authorities, academics, think tanks and a wide variety of influences involved in developing policy

Politburo /pəˈlɪtbʊroʊ/ noun the Central Committee of a Communist Party. (NOTE: In North Korea the Politburo is the governing group in the country.)
politics, body politic
political /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l/ adjective relating to the state, government, political parties or elections. They are hoping for a political rather than a military solution to the crisis.
political correctness /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l kəˈrektɪzn/ noun the attempt to speak, write or act in a way that will avoid giving offence to groups such as people with disabilities, ethnic groups or women, who have often been referred to or treated in inappropriate ways in the past (disapproving) Abbr PC: inclusive
political crime /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l kraɪm/ noun a crime committed for a political reason, e.g. assassination
political economy /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l əˈkɒnəmɪ/ the study of ways in which economics and government policies affect each other
political editor /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ɪˈdɪtər/ noun the chief journalist on a newspaper, or television or radio station who deals with political stories
political fund /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l fʌnd/ noun the money which a trade union collects from its members to give to a political party
political levy /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ˈlevi/ noun the part of the subscription of a member of a trade union which the union then pays to support a political party
political life /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l laɪf/ noun activities and work associated with especially national or international politics
‘Never lose your temper with the press or the public is a major rule of political life’ [Christabel Pankhurst]
politically correct /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ˈkɑːrɪkt/ adjective avoiding giving offence to groups such as people with disabilities, ethnic groups or women. Abbr PC
political officer /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ˈɒfɪsəl/ noun a diplomat in a colony who is concerned mainly with the relations between his government at home and the administration in the colony or with the governments of the countries near the colony
political party /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ˈpɑːti/ noun a group of people who try to achieve political power and who are united by common beliefs about how the country should be run
political prisoner /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ˈprɪzn(ə)ər/ noun a person kept in prison because he or she is an opponent of the political party in power. Also called prisoner of state
political refugee /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ˈrefjʊdʒi/ noun a person who leaves a country because he or she is afraid of persecution for their political beliefs
political economy /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l əˈkɒnəmɪ/ the study of ways in which economics and government policies affect each other
political editor /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ɪˈdɪtər/ noun the chief journalist on a newspaper, or television or radio station who deals with political stories
political fund /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l fʌnd/ noun the money which a trade union collects from its members to give to a political party
political levy /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ˈlevi/ noun the part of the subscription of a member of a trade union which the union then pays to support a political party
political life /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l laɪf/ noun activities and work associated with especially national or international politics
‘Never lose your temper with the press or the public is a major rule of political life’ [Christabel Pankhurst]
politically correct /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ˈkɑːrɪkt/ adjective avoiding giving offence to groups such as people with disabilities, ethnic groups or women. Abbr PC
political officer /ˈpɒlɪtɪk(ə)l ˈɒfɪsəl/ noun a diplomat in a colony who is concerned mainly with the relations between his government at home and the administration in the
poll /pɔːl/ noun 1. the process of a political election. 2. exit poll, opinion poll, straw poll. a to go to the polls to vote to choose a Member of Parliament or a local councillor. b the polls opened an hour ago. the voting started officially an hour ago. c the polls close at 10 o’clock. the voting ends at 10 o’clock.

opinion polls designing, holding and understanding community charge

day of an election library or school where people of the community charge 2.
poll tax a tax paid at the same rate by each adult in an election.

polling day /pɔːlɪŋ deɪ/ noun the day of an election

polling station /pɔːlɪŋ ,steɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a central public place such as a library or school where people of the surrounding area go to vote

pollster /pɔːlstə/ noun an expert in designing, holding and understanding opinion polls

poll tax /pɔːl tæks/ noun 1. a tax paid at the same rate by each adult member of the population. Also called community charge 2. same as community charge

community charge

COMMENT: Nicknamed the poll tax after the hated 14th-century Poll Tax, which had been a major cause of the Peasants’ Revolt, the community charge was first introduced in Scotland and later in England and Wales as a replacement for the former system of ‘rates’, a tax on the size of owned property. It was so unpopular that in 1990 there were violent protests and demonstrations against it, a large non-payment campaign, and large anti-government votes in local elections and by-elections. It had a big influence in Margaret Thatcher losing the leadership of the Conservative party and was later abolished.

polyarchy /ˈpɒliəkri/ noun rule by many people

population /ˈpɒpjjuələri/ noun the ordinary people in an area or country. The government has hidden its plans from the populace.

popular /ˈpɒpjjuələr/ adjective 1. liked by many people. This is our most popular model. 2. referring to people in general. a popular misconception about local government. The policy has wide popular appeal. 3. suitable for most people who have no special or technical knowledge. a popular account of the cloning issue

Popular Front /ˈpɒpjjuələ frʌnt/ noun 1. a group of Socialist and Communist parties, formed in 1935 to fight fascism. 2. a left-wing organisation formed to fight a ruling government or colonial power

Popular Party /ˈpɒpjjuələ ,pɑːti/ noun a political party which claims to represent a large number of ordinary people

popular sovereignty /ˈpɒpjjuələ svəˈraʊnti/ noun in the United States, the doctrine that a government is subject to the will of the people

popular vote /ˈpɒpjjuələ vəʊt/ noun a vote of the majority of the people in a country. a the president is elected by popular vote. the president is elected by a majority of all the voters in the country, as opposed to being elected by parliament.

COMMENT: The President of the USA is elected by an electoral college, not by popular vote.

populated /ˈpɒpjjuələtɪd/ adjective where people live. a heavily populated area or a densely populated area

population /ˈpɒpjjuələtʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. all the people who live in a place. Less than half the population bothered to vote in the last election. 2. the number of people living in a place. a city with a population of two million or with a 2 million population. The population of Britain has fallen over the last few years.
populism /ˈpɒλɪtɪkz(ə)m/ noun politics that considers the interests of ordinary people, as opposed to those of a privileged elite.

populist /ˈpɒpjʊlist/ adjective designed to appeal to what most people are thought to want. populist policies a noun a politician who appeals to people by playing on their emotions and fears.

populous /ˈpɒpjʊləs/ adjective where many people live. The most populous area of the country is round the capital.

pork /pɔːrk/ noun government money and jobs awarded to politicians to their supporters or constituents to win their favour, especially when the strategy has failed.

portcullis /ˈpɔːrkəlɪs/ noun the emblem of both UK Houses of Parliament, in the form of a portcullis with a crown above it. (NOTE: A portcullis is a heavy iron grid that was raised and lowered to protect the gateway of a castle.)

portfolio /ˈpɔːrfləʊtəʊ/ noun the particular job of a government minister. He was offered the Defence portfolio.

position paper /pəˈzɪʃ(ə)n ˈpɪpəʊ/ noun a detailed report on a subject giving the official opinion and recommendations of a government or organisation.

positive discrimination /ˈpɒzətɪv ˈdɪskrɪmɪnəʃ(ə)n/ noun the policy of giving more favourable treatment to members of groups who have often suffered from unfair treatment. The council’s policy of positive discrimination has ensured that more women are appointed to senior posts.

positive vetting /ˈpɒzətɪv ˈvetɪŋ/ noun the close investigation of a person who applies for a civil service job working with secret information.

possession /ˈpɒzəʃ(ə)n/ noun the situation of having something. how did the information come into his possession? how did he acquire the information?

power broker noun the Committee was not in full possession of the facts the Committee did not know everything about the matter. an MP in possession of the House an MP who is speaking to the House of Commons, and so cannot be interrupted or stopped.

postal ballot /ˈpɒʊstəl ˈbɔːlt/ noun an election where the voters send their voting papers by post.

postal vote /ˈpɒʊstəl ˈvɔːt/ noun a vote made by sending in a voting paper by post.

postbag /ˈpɒstbæg/ noun the letters received by a well-known person, MP, newspaper, or TV or radio programme. The postbag was full of complaints about the proposals for the new airport. (NOTE: The US term is mailbag.)

posteriori, a posteriori noun POTUS /ˈpɔːtəs/ noun full form President of the United States (used in memos and internal documents by White House staff).

power /ˈpaʊər/ noun 1. the strength or ability to do something. 2. the authority or legal right to do things or to make people do things. the powers of a local authority in relation to children in care. the powers and duties conferred on the tribunal by the statutory code. The treasurer has no power to vary the order. The President was granted wide powers under the new constitution.

(POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY.) [Lord Acton]

power base /ˈpaʊər ˈbeɪs/ noun a group of voters or supporters providing the core of someone’s political power or influence. he has built up a power base in the unions.

power bloc /ˈpaʊər ˈblɒk/ noun a group of countries linked together as a powerful group.

power broker /ˈpaʊər ˈbrəʊkər/ noun a person or country that is able
powerful /ˈpaʊərfl/ adjective having the power to influence or control what people do or think o a powerful argument against military intervention in the area o The party has a powerful publicity department.

powerless /ˈpaʊəlsəs/ adjective having no power o The government was powerless in the face of the campaign.

power play /ˈpɑːr plɛɪ/ noun the use of influence or threats to achieve something

power politics /ˈpaʊər ˈpɒlɪtɪks/ noun the threat to use economic or military force by one powerful country to try to get other countries to do what it wants

p.p. on behalf of, or with the authority of (used before a signature when signing a letter for someone else) Full form per procurationem

PPP /piˈpiː/ abbreviation public private partnership

PPS abbreviation Parliamentary Private Secretary

PR abbreviation 1. proportional representation 2. public relations

Præsidium, Presidium noun the main committee of a governing Communist Party

pragmatic sanction /ˈpræɡmætɪk ˈsæŋkʃən/ noun a decree issued by a sovereign that has the force of law

pray /preɪ/ verb to ask someone to do something o Members pray that action may be taken.

prayer /preɪər/ noun 1. a request to the House of Commons to do something or not to do something 2. a motion in the House of Commons asking the Crown to annul a statutory instrument 3. a request to God

prayers /preɪəz/ plural noun an address to God, which begins each sitting of the Houses of Parliament

preamble /ˈprɛmbəl/ noun the first words in an official document such as a Bill before Parliament or contract, introducing the document and setting out the main points in it

precautions /priˈkeɪʃənz/ plural noun steps taken to prevent something unpleasant o The company did not take proper fire precautions. o Staff must take precautions against theft.

precedence /ˈpreʃəns/ noun the right to be first, because of being the most important

precedent /ˈpreʃənt/ noun something such as a judgment which has happened earlier, and which can show what should be done in the present case

precept /ˈpriːsɛpt/ noun an order for rates to be paid o the Metropolitan Police precept part of the council tax paid in London which pays for the Metropolitan Police Force

precinct /ˈpriːsɪŋkt/ noun 1. an open area in a town around which there are shops or other buildings 2. US an administrative district in a town (NOTE: The UK equivalent is ward.)

preclude /ˈprɪklʊd/ verb to forbid or to prevent o The High Court is precluded by statute from reviewing such a decision. o This agreement does not preclude a further agreement between the parties in the future.

predecessor /ˈpriːdɪsər/ noun a person who has held a job before the present person o He had to accept the treaty which his predecessor had signed.

pre-empt /ˈpriː ɛmpt/ verb to act before someone else can act o The President pre-empted the call for more democracy by suddenly announcing a general election.

pre-emption /ˈpriː ɛmptʃən/ noun the right of first refusal to buy something before it is sold to someone else

preference /ˈprefərəns/ noun something which is liked or wanted more than other things o to have or show or express a preference for to like something better than something else o We have a clear preference for a diplomatic solution. o in order of preference arranged with your first
of liking or wanting something that is different for different people. The choice of car is not just a matter of personal preference – there are environmental consequences to take into account.

**preferential duty** /ˈprefərəntʃəl ˈdʒuːtɪ/, **preferential tariff** noun a special low rate of tax

**preferential treatment** /ˈprefərəntʃəl ˈtrɛtmanaɪnt/ noun better treatment given to one person or group than to another without reasonable cause. No-one should get preferential treatment on the housing list just because they are related to a councillor.

**preferential voting** /ˈprefərəntʃəl ˈvʊtɪŋ/ noun an electoral system used in some countries such as Australia, in which voters indicate their chosen candidates in order of preference.

**preferment** /ˈpriːfrɛmənt/ noun the process of giving someone an important job or a better job than they had before.

**prejudge** /ˈprɪdʒuːdʒ/ verb to form an opinion about something or someone without having all the information.

**prejudice** /ˈprɛdʒudɪs/ noun 1. an unreasonable opinion about someone based on false ideas about their religion, race, gender or class. 2. harm done to someone by something that is done to harm someone or something. The reports appeared to prejudice his chances of getting the appointment.

**prejudiced** /ˈprɛdʒudɪst/ adjective based on prejudice. The speakers were clearly prejudiced against foreigners.

**pre-legislative scrutiny** /ˈpriːledʒɪslətɪv ˈskrjuːtənɪ/ noun the process of allowing MPs who have special knowledge of the subject of a Bill to make comments at an early stage, in a departmental Select Committee, before a bill is introduced into Parliament.

**prerogative order** /ˈprɪrəɡətɪv ˈɔrədər/ noun a special right which someone has to do something.

**prerogative of mercy** /ˈprɪrəɡətɪv əv ˈmərsi/ noun a power used by the Home Secretary to reduce a sentence imposed by the courts on a criminal.
prerogative powers /prɪˈrɒɡətɪv/ noun the special powers used by a government, acting in the name of the King or Queen, to do something such as declare war, nominate ministers, without needing to ask Parliament to approve the decision.

presence /ˈprez(ə)ns/ noun being present or being at a place when something happens. 1. The present address of the company? 2. being there when something happens. 3. The will was signed in the presence of two witnesses. 4. The will was signed in the presence of two witnesses.

The present international situation means that police have been put on the alert.

present /ˈprez(ə)nt/ adjective. 1. happening now. 2. The present international situation means that police have been put on the alert. 2. What is the present address of the company? 3. being there when something happens. 4. Only four Opposition MPs were present when the vote was put. 5. to give someone something. 6. The mayor presented certificates to members of the public who had helped in the rescue operations. 7. She was present with a watch on completing twenty-five years’ service with the council. 8. to bring, send or show a document. 9. to present a petition to bring a petition before a meeting for discussion. 10. Councillor Smith presented a petition requesting improvements to the hospital bus service.

presentation /ˈprez(ə)ntʃən/ noun 1. the process or a ceremony of giving something to someone. 2. They made him a presentation of a watch after twenty-five years’ service. 3. At a presentation ceremony in the White House, the President awarded the Medal of Honor to three people. 4. a talk, demonstration or exhibition to explain something. 5. The developers made a presentation of the proposed new civic centre. 6. We have asked two PR firms to make presentations of advertising campaigns aimed at tourists.

preservation order /ˈprez(ə)rv(ə)ʃən/ noun a court order which prevents a building from being knocked down or a tree from being cut down.

preside /prɪˈzɑːd/ verb 1. to be chairman of a meeting. 2. to preside over a meeting. 3. The meeting was held in the committee room. 4. Mr Smith presided. 5. to be in control when something happens. 6. The generals presided over a period of economic decline. 7. The finance minister presided over a run-down of the country’s gold reserves.

presidency /ˈprezɪdənsi/ noun 1. the position of president. 2. The presidency of the European Union passes from country to country every six months. 3. the period when a president is governing. 4. during Kennedy’s presidency. 5. during the Kennedy presidency.

president /ˈprezɪdənt/ noun 1. the head of a department, company or court. 2. He was elected president of the sports club. 3. A.B. Smith has been appointed president of the company. 4. the head of a republic. 5. the President of the United States (NOTE: As a title used with a surname: President Ford, President Wilson. 6. In the United States, it is also often as a term of address with Mr in front: Mr President.)

The present international situation means that police have been put on the alert. The present international situation means that police have been put on the alert. During Kennedy’s presidency, the Kennedy presidency, the Kennedy presidency, the Kennedy presidency. 

The present international situation means that police have been put on the alert. 

COMMENT: A president is the head of state of a republic. It may be a ceremonial title, with some executive powers while the real power resides in the Prime Minister, as in India. In other states such as the USA, the President is both head of state and head of government. The President of the USA is elected by an electoral college, and holds the executive power under the United States constitution. The legislative power lies with Congress, and the President cannot force Congress to enact legislation, but can veto legislation which has been passed by Congress.

president-elect /ˈprezɪdənt(ə)lɛkt/ noun an elected or appointed president who has not yet officially started work in that role.

presidential /ˈprezɪdənjəl/ adjective referring to a president of a country. 1. The US presidential elections. 2. Three presidential candidates have appeared on television. 3. The National Guard has surrounded the Presidential Palace.
government: a type of government where the head of the executive is a president
presidential-style: adjective working in a similar way to the United States presidency
presidential-style government: a type of government similar to that of the United States, where the President is not a member of the elected legislature
presidential-style campaign: an election campaign which concentrates on the person of the leader of the party, and not on the party's policies
President of the Board of Trade: a title sometimes given to the minister in charge of the British Department of Trade, equivalent to a Minister of Commerce
President of the European Commission: the chief executive of the European Union and head of the European Commission, elected for a five-year period
President of the Senate: the person who chairs debates in the US Senate and has a casting vote, nominated by the Vice-President of the USA, but usually a deputy, except when a casting vote is likely to be used
president pro tempore: a senator who takes the place of the Vice-President as chair of the Senate, or who appoints deputies to do so, when the Vice-President is not present
press: newspapers and magazines in the press in or mentioned by news publications
pressure group: a group of people with similar interests, who try to influence government policies

- The national press: newspapers which are sold in all parts of the country
- She pressed the Minister for a reply.
- The Opposition pressed for a debate.
- The Prime Minister was accused of running a presidential-style government or a presidential-style election campaign.
- The Prime Minister was accused of being influenced by newspapers and attempts to get newspapers to report the news in a responsible way
- Press Council: a body which hears complaints from the public about newspapers and attempts to get newspapers to report the news in a responsible way
- Press conference: a meeting where reporters from the news media are given news by politicians, the police or others, who answer the reporters' questions
- Press coverage: reports about something by newspapers
- Press gallery: a part of the House of Commons, House of Lords or other council chamber, where journalists sit to report on debates
- Pressing: adjective urgent
- There is a mass of pressing business for the committee to consider.
- Press release: a report about something which is sent to newspapers, television and radio stations by people involved so that they can get publicity for it
- Press secretary: a person employed by an organisation to spread favourable news stories about the organisation
- The information was communicated by the President's Press Secretary.
- Pressure: a force or strong influence to make someone change his or her opinions or course of action
- The army exerts strong political pressure on the President.
- The Prime Minister gave in to pressure from the backbenchers.
- The Whips applied pressure on the rebel MPs to vote with the government.
pressure politics /ˌpreʃəˈpolɪtɪks/ noun the activity of attempting to change a government’s policies by political discussion and influence

previous question /ˈprɪvɪəs ˈkwɛstʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. in the House of Commons, a motion to stop a question being debated, so that a vote cannot be held on it 2. in the House of Lords and US legislative bodies, a motion to put a question that will end a debate so that a vote on a bill can be taken immediately

price controls /ˈpraɪz ˈkənˌtreʊlz/ noun legal measures to prevent prices rising too fast

prima facie /ˈpraɪmə ˈfɛsʃi/ Latin phrase meaning ‘on the face of it or as things seem at first’

primary /ˈprɪməri/ adjective 1. in the first place • of primary importance extremely important, the most important of all • The question is of primary importance to the security of the country. 2. the first of several stages • noun US a local election in which members of a political party choose candidates for an election (NOTE: In the USA, primaries are held in some states to choose a candidate for the presidency in advance of the nominating conventions.)

COMMENT: In the USA, primaries are held in some states to choose a candidate for the presidency in advance of the nominating conventions.

Prime Minister /ˌprɑːm ˈmɪnɪstər/ noun the head of a government • the Australian Prime Minister or the Prime Minister of Australia

COMMENT: The title Prime Minister is used in most countries to indicate the head of the government, except in countries, such as the USA, where the President is head of government as well as the head of state. The British Prime Minister is not the head of state, but the head of government. The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the party which has the majority of the seats in the House of Commons, and forms a cabinet of executive ministers who are either MPs or members of the House of Lords.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>daughter of a king or queen (NOTE: spelt with a capital letter as a title: Princess Anne; the Princess of Wales)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>principal /ˈprɪnsɪp(ə)l/ noun 1. a person who is responsible for something, especially person who is in charge of a company or person who commits a crime 2. a person or company which is represented by an agent 3. money invested or borrowed on which interest is paid 4. to repay principal and interest</td>
<td>principal /ˈprɪnsɪp(ə)l/ noun 1. a person who is responsible for something, especially person who is in charge of a company or person who commits a crime 2. a person or company which is represented by an agent 3. money invested or borrowed on which interest is paid 4. to repay principal and interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>principality /ˌprɪnˈsɪpəlɪti/ noun a country ruled by a prince; the Principality of Monaco; co-principality (NOTE: The state of Andorra is in fact a co-principality, as it is governed by two princes; in Britain, ‘the Principality’ is the name given to Wales.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>principle /ˈprɪnsɪp(ə)l/ noun a basic point or general rule</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prioritise /prəˈraɪtɪs/ verb 1. to put some things that need to be done first and do them before others 2. to put the things you have to do in an order of importance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>priority /prəˈraɪtʃi/ noun something which is more important than other things 1. order of priority an order in which things are arranged, where the most important comes first 2. let us deal with the points on the agenda in order of priority 3. the government has got its priorities wrong the government is giving importance to things that are not regarded as important</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>priority area /prəˈraɪtʃɪr ˈeərɪə/ noun a part of the country to which government must give extra money because of its needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prisoner of conscience /ˈprɪzən əv ˈkɒnˌsɛns/ noun a person who has been put in prison because of his or her beliefs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prisoner of state /ˈprɪzən əv stət/ noun same as political prisoner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prisoner of war /ˈprɪzən əv wər/ noun a member of the armed forces captured by the enemy in time of war. Abbr POW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prison visitor /ˈprɪzən ˈvɪzɪtə/ noun a member of a board of visitors appointed by the Home Secretary to visit, inspect and report on conditions in prisons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>private /ˈprɑːvət/ adjective 1. belonging to a single person, not a company or the state 2. not public, limited to a small group 3. The discussions between the minister and his civil servants must remain private if they are to be of any value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Bill /ˈprɑːvət bɪl, Private Act noun a Bill or Act of Parliament relating to a particular person or institution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Calendar /ˈprɑːvət ˈkeɪləndər noun US the list of Private Bills to be discussed in the House of Representatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Finance Initiative /ˈprɑːvət ˈfaɪnəns ɪˌnɪʃətɪv/ noun full form of PFI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>private member /ˈprɑːvət ˈmembər noun an ordinary backbench MP who is not a member of the Government or on the Opposition front bench</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Member’s Bill /ˈprɑːvət ˈmembər ˌbɪl noun a Bill which is drawn up and introduced to Parliament by an ordinary Member of Parliament, not by a government minister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Secretary /ˈprɑːvət ˈsɛkrətri/ noun a civil servant attached personally to a Secretary of State or Prime Minister, who acts as the link between the minister and the department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>private sector /ˈprɑːvət ˌsektər noun all companies and businesses which are owned by shareholders or individuals, not by the state. Compare public sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Certain terms are not included in this list due to potential sensitivity.
private sitting 192

**private sitting** /ˈpraɪvət ˈsɪtɪŋ/ noun an occasion when Parliament meets without any members of the public being present and without written records or recordings being made. Private sittings occur rarely.

**privatisation** /ˈpraɪvətəˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ noun the action of privatising a state-owned industry

**privatise** /ˈpraɪvətaɪz/ verb to sell a state-owned industry to private shareholders, usually to members of the public

**privilege** /ˈpraɪvɪldʒ/ noun 1. a special advantage attached to a position or office. 2. The office of Mayor carries privileges, such as the use of the mayoral car and driver. 3. One of the privileges of the job is being able to use the company helicopter.

**privatise** /ˈpraɪvətaɪz/ verb to sell a state-owned industry to private shareholders, usually to members of the public

**privileged** /ˈpraɪvɪldʒd/ adjective protected by privilege

**privileged communication** /ˈpraɪvɪldʒd ˈkɔːmjuːnɪkəʃ(ə)n/ noun a letter which could be libellous but which is protected by privilege, e.g. a letter from a client to his lawyer

**privileged meeting** /ˈpraɪvɪldʒd ˈmɪtɪŋ/ noun a meeting where what is said will not be repeated to other people

**privileged questions** /ˈpraɪvɪldʒd ˈkwɛstʃ(ə)nz/ plural noun US the order of priority of motions to be discussed

**Privy Council** /ˈprɪvi ˈkaʊnsəl/ noun a body of senior advisers who advise the Queen on some matters, mainly formed of members of the cabinet and former members of the cabinet. It never meets as a group, but three Privy Councilors need to be present when the Queen signs Orders in Council.

**Privy Councillor** /ˈprɪvi ˈkaʊnsələr/ noun a member of the Privy Council

**Privy Purse** /ˈprɪvi ˈpaʊs/ noun 1. the official who manages the personal finances of the British monarch 2. the allowance from public funds given to the British monarch to cover personal expenses

**Privy Seal** /ˈprɪvi sɛl/ noun 1. a seal that used to be attached to documents authorised by the British king or queen 2. same as Lord Privy Seal

**PRO** abbreviation Public Record Office

**pro-** /prəʊ/ prefix meaning in favour of 1. a pro-abortion lobby 2. the presidency is very pro-British 3. Public opinion is not pro-European.

**proactive** /prəʊˈæktɪv/ adjective prepared to take the initiative in doing things, rather than reacting to events as they happen 1. The Leader of the Opposition said that the government minister should have been far more proactive in his approach to the problem.

**procedural** /prəʊˈsɪdʒər(ə)l/ adjective referring to procedure or procedural problem, procedural question an issue or difficulty relating to correct procedure 1. The debate lasted two hours because councillors argued over procedural problems.

**procedural motion** /prəʊˈsɪdʒər(ə)l ˈməʊʃ(ə)n/ noun a proposal to allow something to happen under the rules of procedure 1. The chairman moved a procedural motion so that the committee could discuss the next business.

**procedure** /prəʊˈsɪdʒər/ noun the way in which something is usually done 1. to follow the proper procedure

**proceedings** /prəʊˈsɪdɪŋz/ plural noun 1. using a court to settle a legal dispute 2. an event
proceeds /ˈprɔusidz/ plural noun the money which results from selling something

process /ˈprɔsɪs/ noun a series of things which are done in order to achieve something • verb to deal officially with a document or request

processing /ˈprɔsesɪŋ/ noun 1. the sorting of information • processing of information or of figures 2. moving slowly in a procession

proclamation /ˈprɔkləmeɪʃən/ noun an official public statement • the proclamation of a state of emergency

proconsul /ˈprɔskʌnsl/ noun 1. a governor or administrator of a colony or other dependency 2. a senior administrator in a country under the control of an invader's armed forces, whose job is to restore essential services, establish a new government and restore normal life for the population as quickly as possible

Procurator Fiscal /ˈprɔkjuərətʃəl/ noun (in Scotland) the law officer who decides whether a criminal should be prosecuted

prodemocracy /ˌprɔdəməkrəsɪ/ adjective supporting a democratic system of government

profit /ˈprɔfɪt/ noun the money which results from a successful business

profiteer /ˈprɔfɪtɪər/ noun a person who makes too much profit, especially when goods are in short supply

profititis /ˌprɔfɪtɪtɪərɪŋ/ noun making too much profit

progovernment /ˈprɔgəvərnənt/ adjective 1. supporting a government currently in power 2. supporting a strong government influence on society

programme /ˈprɔʊɡræm/; US /ˈprɔʊɡræm/ noun a plan of action, especially a party's plan of political or legislative action (NOTE: The US spelling is program) • the government's legislative programme the bills which the government plans to put before the House

progress noun /ˈprɔgres/ movement forwards • the motion to report progress a motion to adjourn a meeting of the House of Commons sitting as a committee until a later date, similar to the motion for adjournment of the debate • verb /prəˈgres/ to move forwards • The government is progressing towards the completion of its legislative programme.

progressive /prəˈgresɪv/ adjective in favour of new, usually left-wing ideas

Progressive /prəˈgresɪv/ adjective belonging to or associated with a progressive political party • noun a member of a progressive political party

Progressive Conservative Party /prəˈgresɪv kənˈsərvətɪv/ party/ noun one of the main political parties in Canada

Progressive Democrats /prəˈgresɪv ˈdɛməkrəts/ plural noun a political party in the Republic of Ireland

Progressive Party /prəˈgresɪv pɜrti/ noun a South African national political party that merged with part of the United Party in 1977 to form the Progressive Federal Party

progressive tax /prəˈgresɪv tæks/ noun a tax which becomes higher as someone’s salary increases, e.g. income tax

progress report /ˈprɔʊgres riˈpɔːt/ noun a document which describes what progress has been made

proletarian /prəˈlɛtərɪən/ adjective referring to the working class • a proletarian movement for government reform • the proletarian revolution in Marxist theory, the stage when the proletariat overthrows a capitalist society

proletariat /prəˈlɛtərɪət/ noun the working class, especially manual and industrial workers and their families • the urban proletariat working people who live in towns • dictatorship of the proletariat in Marxist theory, the period after a revolution when
propaganda. This is used to promote an idea or belief, commonly to get people to not believe in something.

The government's campaign to promote increased prosperity in urban centres.

A proportion of the vote of thanks, but who is seconding him? Compare seconder.

A person who introduces a new Bill into Parliament.

Propaganda radio broadcasts aimed at changing people's political ideas.

Propaganda war.

A fight between two parties or governments, using radio or television or newspapers, to publicise their ideas and to try to persuade people to believe them.

Propagandist.

A person who issues propaganda.

A part of a total. A proportion of the pretax profit is set aside for contingencies.

A system of electing representatives where each political party is given the number of places which is directly related to the number of votes cast for the party. Abbreviation PR.

A suggestion, thing suggested. To make a proposal or to put forward a proposal.

To lay a proposal before the House to introduce a new Bill before Parliament for discussion.

To suggest that something should be done. The Bill proposes that any party to the proceedings may appeal. Compare second.

To propose a motion to ask a meeting to vote for a motion and explain the reasons for this.

A person who introduces a motion or suggests that something should be done. Each candidate needs a proposer and seconder. Mr Smith is the proposer of the vote of thanks, but who is seconding him? Compare seconder.

A proposal that can be discussed or formally debated.

A suggested law or change to a law that is defended by another, more powerful, country.

To ban.

To suggest.

To prohibit.

A political party which has been banned.

A trade union representing engineers and scientists. It was formed in 2001 by the merger of IIPMS (The Institute of Professional, Managers and Specialists) and EMA (the Engineers and Managers Association).

A person who may be chosen as candidate for a constituency.

An independent country which is defended by another, more powerful, country.

An agreement by which an independent country

Promote 194
one country agrees to defend another smaller country

**protector** /praˈtekta/ *noun* a person or country which defends others

**protectorate** /praˈtektorət/ *noun* 1. a country which is being protected or governed by another more powerful country ○ a British protectorate 2. the Protectorate period from 1653 – 1658 when Oliver Cromwell was Lord Protector

**pro tempore** Latin phrase meaning for a time ○ president pro tempore

**protest** *noun* /ˈprəʊtest/ a statement or action to show that you do not approve of something ○ to make a protest against high prices ○ in protest at showing that you do not approve of something ○ the staff occupied the offices in protest at the low pay offer ○ verb /ˈprəʊtest/ to protest against something to say that you do not approve of something ○ the retailers are protesting against the ban on imported goods

**protester** /prəˈtestər/ *noun* a person who protests ○ Protesters marched to Downing Street.

**protest march** /ˈprəʊtest mɑtʃ/ *noun* a demonstration where protesters walk as a group through the streets

**protest strike** /ˈprəʊtest straɪk/ *noun* a refusal to work in protest at a particular grievance

**protocol** /ˈprəʊtəskəl/ *noun* 1. a first version of what has been agreed in negotiations between countries ○ The negotiators signed the protocol of the treaty. 2. a list of things which have been agreed 3. the correct behaviour between ambassadors and the officials of different governments, or in any other formal proceedings

**provide** /prəˈvaɪd/ *verb* 1. to give or supply something 2. to allow that something will happen

**provided that** /prəˈvaɪdId ðæt/, **providing** /prəˈvaɪdɪŋ/ *conjunction* on condition that ○ The committee will decide on the planning application next week provided (that) or providing the architect’s report is received in time. (Note: In legal documents, the form provided always that is often used.)

**province** /ˈprəʊvɪns/ *noun* 1. a large administrative division of a country ○ the ten provinces of Canada ○ The premier of the Province of Alberta. 2. an area of a country away from the capital city ○ in the provinces in the country outside London. 3. the Province Northern Ireland

**provincial** /prəˈvɪnjəl/ *adjective* referring to a province ○ a provincial governor ○ The company is based in the provincial capital. ○ *noun* a person from the country, not the capital

**provincial police** /prəˈvɪnjəl pəˈlis/ *noun* a Canadian police force that operates within a province but not in urban areas, which have their own police forces

**provision** /prəˈvɪʒən/ *noun* 1. a legal condition ○ the provisions of a Bill conditions listed in a Bill before Parliament ○ money put aside in accounts in case it is needed in the future ○ The council has made a £2m provision for bad debts.

**provisional** /prəˈvɪʒənəl/ *adjective* temporary, not final or permanent ○ provisional budget ○ They wrote to give their provisional acceptance of the contract.

**Provisional** /prəˈvɪʒənəl/ *noun* a member of an unofficial group in the Irish Republican Army

**provisionally** /prəˈvɪʒənəli/ *adverb* not finally ○ The contract has been accepted provisionally ○ He was provisionally appointed director.

**proviso** /prəˈvaɪzəʊ/ *noun* a condition in a contract ○ We are signing the contract with the proviso that the terms can be discussed again in six months’ time. (Note: The proviso usually begins with the phrase ‘provided always that’)

**provocateur** /prəʊvəˈkɔːtər/ *noun* an agent

**provost** /prəˈvɔːst/ *noun* the leading elected official in a Scottish town, with a position similar to that of a mayor in England
spurious /spjʊrəs/ adjective supporting war in general, a specific war, or the policy of going to war in a specific situation

proxy /ˈprɒksi/ noun 1. a document which gives someone the power to act on behalf of someone else or to sign by proxy 2. a person who acts for someone else, especially by voting as they instruct, e.g. at a meeting or in an election or to act as proxy for someone

proxy vote /ˈprɒksi vɔːt/ noun a vote made by proxy

PS /piː/ abbreviation 1. Permanent Secretary 2. private secretary

PSBR abbreviation Public Sector Borrowing Requirement

psephologist noun a person who makes a study of elections and voting patterns

psephology noun the study of elections and voting patterns

PSNI abbreviation Police Service of Northern Ireland

PTA abbreviation Passenger Transport Authority or Parent Teacher Association

PTC abbreviation Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union

public /ˈpʌblɪk/ adjective 1. referring to all the people in general, referring to the government or the state, taking place in front of many people, as opposed to in private or a public appearance by a member of the Royal Family: the public opening of the new park in public in a way that allows many people hear or see something: He never comments on these matters in public. ■ noun = the public, the general public the people in general: public administration 1. means by which government policy is carried out 2. people responsible for carrying out government policy

Public Accounts Committee /ˈpʌblɪk ækaʊnts kəˌmɛntɪ/ noun a select committee of the House of Commons which examines the spending of each department, including such matters as whether the department was entitled to spend the money in question, and whether the spending was a waste of money

public affairs /ˈpʌblɪk əˈfeɪrzn/ plural noun political issues that affect people generally

Public and Commercial Services Union /ˈpʌblɪk ən kəˌmɜːrʃəl ˈjuːzn/ a trade union representing employees of government departments and agencies, with over 250,000 members. It was formed in 1998 with the merger of the PCS (Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union) and the IRSF (Inland Revenue Staff Federation). Abbrev PCS

Public Bill /ˌpʌblɪk ˈbɪl/ noun a Bill referring to a matter applying to the public in general which is introduced in Parliament by a government minister

public corporation /ˈpʌblɪk ˈkɒrəpərəʃən/ noun in the United Kingdom, an organisation set up by the government to run a state-owned enterprise such as the BBC, and whose chairman and governors are appointed by a government minister

public domain /ˈpʌblɪk ˈdouˈmein/ noun in the public domain referring to information which is available to the public

public enquiry /ˈpʌblɪk ɪnˈkwɛri/ noun another spelling of public inquiry

public expenditure /ˌpʌblɪk ɪnˈskɛnʃənz/ noun the money spent by local or central government

public eye /ɪn τhe public eye well-known because of appearing frequently in the media or out of the public eye not seen in the media as much as before

public figure /ˌpʌblɪk ˈfɪgə/ noun a person who is well-known, often through the media, especially a politician

public finance /ˌpʌblɪk ˈfeɪnəns/ noun the raising of money by governments through taxes or borrowing and the spending of it
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>public funds</td>
<td>plural noun the government money available for spending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public gallery</td>
<td>plural noun an area where members of the public can sit to listen to debates in a council chamber or the House of Commons or House of Lords</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public health</td>
<td>noun the general health of a community and the measures taken to protect it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public image</td>
<td>noun the way in which someone or an organisation is regarded by the public, even if this is not a true picture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public inquiry</td>
<td>noun an official investigation to find out exactly what went wrong in a particular situation, led by a judge or other experienced person appointed by the government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public interest</td>
<td>noun 1. the right of the public to know about something which affects them. 2. general interest in something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public life</td>
<td>noun the kind of work and activities in politics, education, religion and business that lead to someone being well-known. After his wife’s accident, he decided to retire from public life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public monopoly</td>
<td>noun a situation where the state is the only supplier of a product or service. Also called state monopoly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public order</td>
<td>noun a situation where the general public is calm and well behaved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public ownership</td>
<td>noun a situation in which an industry or business is owned by the state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public policy</td>
<td>noun political plans affecting the general good of all the people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public private partnership</td>
<td>noun a partnership between government and private companies to provide services and infrastructure traditionally provided by the public sector. Abbr PPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public prosecutor</td>
<td>noun a government official who brings charges against criminals. In the UK this is the Director of Public Prosecutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Record Office</td>
<td>noun a UK institution which stores official documents after they are made available to the public, usually 30 years after they were created. Abbr PRO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public relations</td>
<td>noun keeping good links between an organisation or a group and the public so that people know what the group is doing and approve of it. Abbr PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public relations department</td>
<td>noun the section of an organisation which deals with relations with the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public relations officer</td>
<td>noun an official who deals with relations with the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>public sector</td>
<td>noun industries and services which are owned by the state. A report on wage rises in the public sector or on public sector wage settlements. Compare private sector</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Sector Borrowing Requirement** (Abbr PSBR)
projects such as road or
public servant noun the amount of
money which a government has to
borrow.

public servant noun someone who works for the gov-
ernment or a government organisa-
tion, or someone holding an elected
position in government

public service noun 1. work in a government job or
in an organisation controlled by gov-
ernment 2. a long career in public
service 3. an essential service that is
provided by government such as edu-
cation or healthcare, or a service that
benefits the public in general such as
transport

Public Services, Tax and Com-
merce Union noun a British trade
union representing civil servants.

Abbr PTC

public spending noun the money spent by
the government and government or-

public transport noun transport such as
buses, trains which is used by any
member of the public

public utility noun a company that provides gas,
electricity or water

public works noun projects such as road or
school building or the renewal of sew-
ers that are undertaken by government
for the community

pure democracy noun a form of democracy
in which the people exercise direct
dower instead of through representa-
tives they have elected to govern on
their behalf

purge verb to remove oppo-
nents or unacceptable people from a
group or from their jobs

The activists have purged the party of moder-
ates or have purged the moderates
from the party. The new regime
purged the senior military officers
within a few days of taking control.

pursuit noun the process of trying to achieve something
's...all men...are endowed by their Cre-
tor with certain unalienable rights; that
among these are life, liberty, and the pur-
suit of “happiness”' [US Declaration of Independence]

purview noun within the
limits that a law, organisation or per-
son is responsible for or deals with

It is within the purview of the Finance
Committee to review the council’s ex-
penditure.

put verb 1. to arrange for
stop or crush a rebellion
2. to suggest that a motion
should be debated in a meeting
3. to write something in an account book
4. to put a proposal to the
vote to ask a meeting to vote for or
against a proposal
5. to move that the
question be put to ask that a meeting
should vote immediately on a propos-
al without further discussion

put down verb 1. to
stop or crush a rebellion
2. to suggest that a motion
should be debated in a meeting
3. to write something in an account book
4. to put a proposal to
the vote to ask a meeting to vote for or
against a proposal
5. to move that the
question be put to ask that a meeting
should vote immediately on a propos-
al without further discussion

put forward verb to propose or suggest that something
should be done

Mr John Smith’s
name has been put forward as a can-
didate for Treasurer.

The government has put forward ten pieces of legis-
lation for the next session.

He put
forward the suggestion that council
meetings should be held on Saturdays.

put in verb to place inside

put off verb to arrange for
something to take place later than
planned

The hearing was put off for
two weeks. ● He asked if we could put the visit off until tomorrow.

put on /ˌpʊt ˈʌn/ verb to place on ● to put an item on the agenda to list an item for discussion at a meeting ● to put an embargo on trade to forbid trade

put out /ˌpʊt ˈaʊt/ verb to send out ● to put work out to freelance workers ● We put all our typing out to a bureau.

putsch /ˈpʊtsʃ/ noun an armed attack on a government by people trying to overthrow it

PW abbreviation Policewoman
QMV abbreviation qualified majority voting
qua /kwə:/ conjunction as, or acting as a decision of the Lord Chancellor qua head of the judiciary
Quai d’Orsay /kwɛi dɔʁsɛ̃/ noun the street by the river Seine in Paris, where the French Foreign Ministry has its offices (NOTE: often used to refer to the Foreign Ministry itself, or to its policies)
qualification /kwəlɪfɪkeɪʃn/ noun a limitation or exception to what has been said or written
qualified majority vote /kwɒlɪfɪd ˈmeɪdʒərɪt vɔʊt/ noun the voting system used in most cases on the Council of Ministers of the European Union by which more than a simple majority of votes is required to reach agreement (NOTE: The effect of using the qualified majority vote is to remove the national veto on change but not to make change as easy to achieve as it would be if a simple majority were required.)
quality /kwɒlɪtɪ/ verb 1. to achieve the examination result or the skills needed to do a job 2. to limit in some way 3. to change or to amend
quango /kwæŋɡoʊ/ noun a group of people appointed by a government with powers to deal with problems, but largely independent of government control. Full form quasi-autonomous non-governmental organization (NOTE: The plural is quangos.)
quarter /ˈkwɔːtə/ noun 1. a period of three months 2. a section of a town
Quartet /ˈkwɔːtət/ noun an international group of representatives from the United States, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United Nations that meets regularly to encourage a peace process between Israel and the Palestinian Authority
quash /kwɑʃ/ verb to overturn a decision, or to make something not exist
Queen /ˈkwɪn/ noun 1. a female ruler 2. the wife of a king (NOTE: [all senses] written with a capital letter when used as a title: Queen Elizabeth II)
Queen Mother /ˈkwɪn maˈðə/ noun a woman who is the mother of a King or Queen
Queen’s Messenger /ˈkwɪnz ˈmesɪndʒə/ noun a diplomat who carries messages from Britain to British embassies. Also called King’s Messenger
Queen’s Speech /ˈkwɪnz ˈspiʃ/ noun a speech written by the government and delivered by the Queen at
the opening of a session of Parliament which outlines the government’s plans for the next year.

**Quell** /kwel/ verb to keep under control, or to suppress or subdue: The police were called in to quell the riots.

**Query** /ˈkwɪəri/ noun question: The Chief Secretary to the Treasury had to answer a mass of queries from MPs.

verb to ask a question about something or to suggest that something may be wrong: The opposition spokesman queried the statements made by the Cabinet Office officials.

**Question** /ˈkwɛʃn/ noun 1. words which need an answer: MPs asked the minister questions about the Swiss bank accounts. She said she wished to put three questions to the Permanent Secretary. The managing director refused to answer questions about redundancies.

verb 1. to ask questions: The market research team prepared a series of questions to test the public’s attitude to the government’s record on law and order.

2. written question 2. a problem: He raised the question of the cost of the lawsuit.

3. a matter or motion to be discussed by Parliament: to put the question: MPs debated whether the council's investment policy was the right one.

question negated 1. a motion not carried or agreed to in a meeting: MPs questioned the Minister’s staff for four hours.

2. to ask or to suggest that something may be wrong: MPs questioned the reliability of the confidential report.

**Question of personal privilege** /ˈkwɛʃn əv ˈprɪvɪlɪdʒ/ noun US a matter referring to a member of Congress, which is usually given priority over other matters.

**Question of privilege** /ˈkwɛʃn əv ˈprɪvɪlɪdʒ/ noun a matter which refers to the House or a member of it.

**Question Time** /ˈkwɛʃn taim/ noun the period in the House of Commons and the European Parliament when members can put questions to ministers about the work of their departments.

**Quid pro quo** /kwɪd prəʊəʊ/ Latin phrase meaning ‘one thing for another’: action done in return for something done or promised.

**Quirinal** noun one of the seven hills of Rome, where the Italian government has its offices (note: used as a term for the Italian government).

**Quisling** /kwɪzəlɪŋ/ noun a person who gives their support to the enemy of their country (note: From the name of the Norwegian collaborator with the Nazis, Vidkun Quisling).

**Quorate** /kwəˈrət/ adjective having enough people present at a meeting to make it valid: The resolution was invalid because the quorum was not quorate.

**Quorum** /ˈkwɔrəm/ noun the smallest number of people who have to be present at a meeting to make it valid: A quorum of members must be present, that is, 51 in the Senate and 218 in the House of Representatives.

**Quota** /kwəʊtə/ noun a fixed amount of something which is allowed to be sold or bought or obtained.

**Quota system** /kwəʊtə ˈsɪstəm/ noun a plan which limits the number of people or of goods or of money which can be used or bought into a country or taken out of a country.

**Quotation** /kwəʊˈteɪʃn/ noun words taken out of a speech or a book

q.v., quod vide Latin phrase meaning ‘which see’ used to refer to another document: A similar case appears in the agenda for the Social Services Committee (q.v.).
rable /'reb(ə)l/ noun the ordinary people regarded as inferior
rabblerous /'reb(ə)l ,raʊzl/ noun a politician who encourages an angry crowd to take violent action
rabblerousing /'reb(ə)l ,raʊzɪŋ/ adjective encouraging people to take violent action o a rabble-rousing speech
race /reɪs/ noun 1. a competition or test to see who is the best at doing something o The race is on for the Democratic presidential nomination. 2. a group of people who share the same language, history or culture, or who are different from other groups in terms of their physical appearance
race relations /,reɪs rɪ'leɪf(ə)nz/ plural noun the relations between people of different racial groups
racial /'reɪʃ(ə)l/ adjective referring to different ethnic groups
racial discrimination /,reɪʃ(ə)l dɪs,kriːmən/ noun unfair treatment of someone because of their ethnic background
racial prejudice /,reɪʃ(ə)l ˈprɛdʒʊdɪs/ noun feelings of dislike for someone because of their ethnic background o They investigated the claims of racial prejudice against the Housing Committee chairman.
racial profiling /,reɪʃ(ə)l prə'faɪlɪŋ/ noun the practice by some police of stopping and questioning members of specific ethnic groups more often than others without reasonable cause
racial segregation /,reɪʃ(ə)l ,ˌsɛɡrəˈɡɛf(ə)nz/ noun the practice of keeping different races apart

racism /'reɪsɪz(ə)m/, racialism /'reɪʃ(ə)lɪz(ə)m/ noun a belief in racist ideas o The minority groups have accused the council of racism in their allocation of council houses.
racist, racialist (usually as criticism) actions based on racist ideas o adjective /ˈreɪʃɪst/; /'reɪʃ(ə)lɪst/ believing that people from other ethnic groups are different and should receive different and usually worse treatment o noun /'reɪʃɪst/; /'reɪʃ(ə)lɪst/ a person with racist ideas
radical /'rædɪk(ə)l/ adjective 1. extreme or involving great change o The problem of overcrowding is so great, that only a radical solution can solve it. o The new leader has started a radical rethink of the party’s policies. 2. Radical a member or supporter of a Radical Party
radicalise /'rædɪkəlaɪz/ verb to adopt politically radical views, or encourage someone to do this
radicalism /'rædɪkəlɪz(ə)m/ noun the political ideas of radicals
Radical Party /'rædɪk(ə)l pɑrti/ noun a political party in favour of great or rapid change in society
raise /reɪz/ verb 1. to increase or to make higher o The government has raised the penalties for drug smuggling. o The company raised its dividend by 10%. 2. to ask a meeting to discuss a question or to raise a question or a point at a meeting o in answer to the point of order raised by Mr
Smith is to raise an objection to say that you object to something. The opposition members of the Committee raised a series of objections to the wording of the statement. 3. to obtain money. The council is trying to raise the capital to fund its housing programme. The government hopes to raise the money by extra taxation. Where will she raise the money from to start up her business? noun US an increase in salary. He asked the boss for a raise. (NOTE: The UK term is rise.)

raison d'état /rezn də'te/ noun a strong reason that is believed to justify political or diplomatic action that might otherwise be rejected (NOTE: Raison d'état is open to criticism because it can be used to justify acts such as the abolition of individual rights if the general good of the people seems to require it at the time.)

raison d'âge /rezn də'te/ noun the reason for a political action, which says that an action is right because it is for the common good.

COMMENT: Raison d'âge is open to criticism because it can be used to justify acts such as the abolition of individual rights, if the general good of the people may seem to require it at the time.

Raj /rʌdʒ/ noun the period of British government of India

Rajya Sabha noun the upper house of Parliament in India. Compare Lok Sabha

rally /'ræli/ noun a mass political meeting

ram /raʊm/ verb to force the passage of a bill, usually against strong objections.

rank /rank/ noun a level or grade in an army or other organisation. In the Foreign Service, the rank of secretary is lower than that of ambassador. He was promoted to the rank of Chief Superintendent. verb to be level with.

rapprochement /ræprə'ʃmənt/ French word meaning 'coming closer', a situation where two states become friendly after a period of un-

friendliness. Political commentators have noted the rapprochement which has been taking place since the old president died.

rate /reɪt/ noun 1. a measurement of something. 2. the cost of something. verb 1. to estimate the size or value of something. 2. to be worthy of something.

rate of inflation /rætɪfɪ'neɪʃən/ noun a percentage increase in prices over a period of one year. Also called inflation rate

rates /reɪts/ plural noun until 1980 in Scotland and 1990 in England and Wales, local taxes on the size of owned property

ratification /rætɪfaɪ'neɪʃən/ noun official approval of something which has already been agreed. The Chair of Finance asked the committee for ratification of his decision.

ratify /'rætɪfai/ verb to approve officially something which has already been agreed. The treaty was ratified by Congress. The ceasefire agreement has to be ratified by all the parties involved. Although the directors had acted without due authority, the company ratified their actions.

re /ri/ preposition about or concerning or referring to re your inquiry of May 29th. re: Smith's memorandum of yesterday. re: the agenda for the AGM. in re: concerning in the case of. in re Jones & Co. Ltd

reaction /rɪ'ækʃən/ noun 1. an action taken in reply to or as a result of something else. The reaction of the minister has been to attack the Opposition parties. 2. extreme conservatism or opposition to any reform. The slogan of the Socialists was 'Defeat the Forces of Reaction'.

reactionary /rɪ'ækʃən(ə)ri/ adjective, noun holding extreme conservative views, being opposed to all reform. The newspaper is becoming more and more reactionary. As he grew older, the President's policies became reactionary.
reading /ˈridɪŋ/ noun one of the three stages of discussion of a Bill in Parliament

COMMENT: First Reading is the formal presentation of the Bill when the title is read out; Second Reading is the stage when printed copies of the Bill are available and it is explained by the Minister proposing it, there is a debate and a vote is taken; the Bill is then discussed in Committee and at the Report Stage; Third Reading is the final discussion of the Bill in the whole House of Commons or House of Lords.

read out /ˈrid aʊt/ verb to remove someone formally from membership of a political party or other group

Reagan /ˈrɛɡən/, Ronald (1911–2004) 40th president of the United States (1981–89), during which period relations with the former Soviet Union greatly improved

Reaganomics /ˌrɛɡənəˈnaɪmɪks/ noun the free-market economic approach of US president Ronald Reagan, involving cuts in taxes and social spending together with removal of controls on domestic markets

realign /riːˈælɪŋ/ verb to form new alliances or associations, or cause people or groups to do this

realignment /ˌriːˈælɪmənt/ noun 1. a change in the relationship between political parties or between countries in an alliance 2. a basic realignment of parties on the left 3. a realignment of Caribbean states 4. The General Election of 1997 produced an important realignment in British politics, when the long period of Conservative dominance which had lasted since 1979 was brought to an end by a Labour landslide victory. 2. the process of making a change in a system, so that different parts are in a different relationship to each other 3. a currency realignment a change in the international exchange rates

realm /rɛlm/ noun 1. an area ruled by a king or queen 2. a particular area of interest or activity 3. the political realm

Realpolitik /ˌrɛlˈɒpəˌlɪkt/ German word meaning politics based on real and practical considerations and not on theoretical or moral principles

rebate /ˈrɪbɛt/ noun an amount of money which is officially returned to someone, reducing the amount that has to be paid 1. a tax rebate

rebels /ˈreblz/ plural noun a person who fights against the government or against people in authority 2. Anti-government rebels have taken six towns. 3. Rebel ratepayers have occupied the town hall. 4. verb to fight against authority (NOTE: rebelling – rebelled)

rebellion /ˈrebəljan/ noun a fight against the government or against those in authority 1. The army has crushed the rebellion in the southern province.

rebellious /ˌrɛblɪˈəs/ adjective fighting against authority

rebut /rɪˈbʌt/ verb to reply to a point made by someone in a debate or argument 1. She attempted to rebut the assertions made by the Opposition spokesman.

rebuttal /rɪˈbʌtl(ə)/ noun the act of rebutting something

recall /rɛkˈɔːl/ noun 1. asking someone to come back 2. MPs are asking for the recall of Parliament to debate the crisis. 3. After his recall, the Ambassador was interviewed at the airport. 2. US the system of ending the period in office of an elected official early, following a popular vote 3. verb 1. to ask someone to come back 2. MPs are asking for Parliament to be recalled to debate the financial crisis. 4. The witness was recalled to the committee room. 5. to recall an ambassador to ask an ambassador to return to his or her country, usually as a way of breaking off diplomatic relations 2. to remember 3. The witness could not recall having seen the papers.

receipt /rɪˈsɪpt/ noun a document showing that someone has paid for something or that someone has taken delivery of something 1. verb to stamp or to sign a document to show that it
to accept that a union can act on behalf of staff. Although all the staff had joined the union, the management refused to recognise it.

**recommendation** /ˌrekəˈmen(d)/ noun 1. A suggestion that something should be done. 2. The government is acting on the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

**receiver of wrecks** /ˈrekəς/ noun The official of the Department of Trade and Industry who deals with legal problems of wrecked ships.

**recess** /ˈre:sı̂s/ noun 1. The period when Parliament or another body is not sitting. 2. (in Congress) The period when the chamber does not meet, but is not adjourned.

**recommend** /ˌrekəˈmend/ verb US To send a bill back to the committee which reported it, for further discussion.

**record** /ˈrekər/dd/ noun 1. A report of something which has happened, especially an official report of a court action. 2. The chairman signed the minutes as a true record of the last meeting.

**recognition** /ˌrekəˈɡən(t)ı̂z/ noun The formal acceptance by one country of the independent and legal status of another.

**recommittal** /ˌrekəˈmɪt(ə)l/ noun A decision to send a bill back to a committee for further discussion.

**recommit** /ˌrekəˈmɪt/ verb To meet again. The committee has adjourned, and will reconvene tomorrow morning.

**reciprocal** /ˈrɛskərəkl/ adjective Involving two countries or people or organisations in an agreement to give equal amounts of help to each other.

**reciprocate** /ˈrɛskərəkət/ verb To do the same thing to someone as he or she has just done to you. The President offered to free political prisoners if the rebels would reciprocate by freeing their hostages.

**reciprocity** /ˌrɛskərəˈprısətɪ/ noun An arrangement which applies when two people, countries or organisations give an equal amount of help to one another.

**recognise** /ˌrekəˈɡən(t)ı̂z/ verb To approve something as being legal. To recognise a government is to say that a government which has taken power in a foreign country is the legal government of that country.

**recognise a trade union** To accept that a union can act on behalf of staff.
record-breaking

losses verb to note or to report. The company has recorded another year of increased sales. Your complaint has been recorded and will be investigated. The Government recorded another defeat over the Opposition.

record-breaking /rɪˈkɔːdbrɪŋ/ adjective much better or worse than any others before

recorded vote /rɪˈkɔːdɪd/ noun US a vote in Congress, where each member’s vote is counted and listed

records /rɪˈkɔːdz/ plural noun documents which give information. The names of customers are kept in the company’s records. We find from our records that our invoice number 1234 has not been paid.

recount noun /rɪˈkaʊnt/ a second count of the votes cast in an election, usually done because there was a very close result when they were first counted. The vote was very close, so the loser asked for a recount. After three recounts, Edward Jones was declared the winner by eleven votes.

recount verb /rɪˈkaʊnt/ to count again

recurrent /rɪˈkərənt/ adjective happening again and again. recurrent items of expenditure

red /rɛd/ noun the colour used to represent Socialist or Communist Parties. plural noun: the Reds (usually as criticism). Communists: adjective Communist, referring to a Communist Party

red box /rɛd ‘bɒks/ noun same as despatch box

redemption /rɛdɪpˈmɛnt/ noun the process of using staff or equipment in other places

Red Flag /rɛd ‘flæg/ noun 1. the symbol of international Communism

2. a song sung by communists and socialists

redistribute /rɪdɪstribjuːt/ verb to share out again. In some forms of proportional representation, the votes cast for the losing candidates at the first count are redistributed among the main candidates to ensure an election.

redistribution /rɪdɪstribjuʃən/ noun 1. the process of sharing something out in a different way. 2. redistribution of wealth the process of taxing people with more money to make improvements in the lives of poorer people.

red line /rɛd ‘lain/ noun an essential component or concession in a series of negotiations, especially negotiations on the European Constitution. set out red line issues, relating to tax, foreign policy and defence policy. We have well-established red lines and we are succeeding in maintaining them.

red tape /rɛd ‘teɪp/ noun the rules which slow down administrative work. The application was held up for several months by red tape.

reduced /rɪˈdʒʌst/ adjective lower. New businesses pay a reduced rate of tax.

redundant /rɪˈdʌndənt/ adjective no longer used or employed

re-elect /rɪˈɪlkənt/ verb to elect again. The sitting member was re-elected with an increased majority.

re-election /rɪˈɪlekJən/ noun electing someone again. The committee has opposed the automatic re-election of the chairman.

referee /rɪˈrefəri/ noun 1. a person who can give a report on someone’s character or ability or speed of work. to give someone’s name as referee. She gave the name of her boss as a ref-
ere. When applying please give the names of three referees.

passing a problem to a committee or expert for an opinion, mentioning or dealing with, with reference to your letter of May 25th. The minister made no reference to the new agreement with the United States. The numbers or letters which make it possible to find a document which has been filed are our reference: PC/MS 1234. Thank you for your letter (reference 1234). Please quote this reference in all correspondence. When replying please quote reference 1234.

a written report on someone’s character or ability to write someone a reference or to give someone a reference to ask applicants to supply references. a person who reports on someone’s character or ability to give someone’s name as reference. Please use me as a reference if you wish.

a type of vote, where a whole population is asked to vote on a single question or a number of related questions. The government decided to hold a referendum on the abolition of capital punishment. Compare plebiscite (note: the plural is referenda or referendums.)

the act of passing a topic or problem on to someone else to decide, the referral of the complaint to the subcommittee, the referral of a bill to the relevant committee.

mention or to deal with or to write about something, referring to the count order dated June 4th. We refer to your letter of May 26th. He referred to an article which he had seen in ‘The Times’. To pass a problem on to someone else to decide, to refer a question to a committee. The report stands referred to the Finance Committee. We have referred your complaint to the tribunal. ‘refer to drawer’ words written on a cheque which a bank refuses to pay.

verb to change the place of registration of a ship, so that she flies a different flag.

a change made to something to make it better, the need for reform of the benefit system. The reform in the legislation was intended to make the tribunal procedure more straightforward. electoral reform: verb to change something to make it better. The group is pressing for the health service to be reformed.

noun a person who tries to change society or an organisation to make it better, a reformer.

noun a person who has left a country because of war, or political or religious persecution.

money paid back to pay back money to refund the cost of postage. Travelling expenses will be refunded to witnesses giving evidence to the tribunal. All money will be refunded if the goods are not satisfactory.

someone who refuses to cooperate with something, especially because of the principles they hold.

adjective 1. like a king or queen, suitable for a king or queen.

noun the period of government by a regent. The Regency the period between 1811 and 1820 when Britain was ruled by the Prince of Wales in place of his father, King George III, who was insane.

noun a person who governs in place of a king or queen, usually when the king or queen is a child or is ill.

noun 1. the killing of a king or queen, a person who has killed a king or queen.
regime

regime /ˈreɪdʒɪm/ noun 1. a government, especially a strict or cruel government. 2. the eventual overthrow of a government. 3. a system or style of government. 4. Under a military regime, civil liberties may be severely curtailed. 5. a system of rules for doing something. 6. changes in the tax regime.

regime change /ˈreɪdʒɪm ʃeɪndʒ/ noun 1. a change in a country’s government made by force by another power. 2. a change in leadership, e.g. of a country or political party.

regimen /ˈreɪdʒɪmən/ noun a government or style of government.

region /ˈrɪdʒən/ noun a large area of a country. 1. a mountainous region. 2. the Highland regions of Scotland.

regional /ˈrɪdʒənl/ adjective referring to a region.

Regional Council /ˈrɪdʒənl ˈkəʊnsəl/ noun a unit of local government in Scotland, covering a very large area of the country.

Regional Development Plan /ˈrɪdʒənl dɪˈveləpmənt plæn/ noun a government scheme to bring industry and jobs to a poor area.

Regional government /ˈrɪdʒənl ˈɡʌvərnənt/ noun a form of local government which covers a wide area and groups together smaller units of administration (NOTE: In 2002 the Labour government announced that it would develop regional government in England in those areas which support its introduction.)

regionalise /ˈrɪdʒənl ɪˈzɪs/ verb 1. to divide an area into administrative regions. 2. to transfer something to a regional administration. 3. plans to regionalise the fire service.

regionalism noun the policy of dividing a political territory into areas with separate administrations.

register of electors /ˈreɡɪstr əv ɪˈlektəz/ noun same as electoral register.

Registrar Office /ˈreɡɪstrə əv ˈnɜːfs/ noun an office where records of births, marriages and deaths are kept and where civil marriages are performed.

Register of Members’ Interests /ˈreɡɪstr əv ˈmɛmbərz ɪntrəstz/ noun the book showing the special interests, sponsorship and employment of MPs.

Registrar /ˈreɡɪstrə/ noun a person responsible for keeping an official list of names.

Registrar-General /ˈreɡɪstrəˌdʒenəl/ noun an official who is responsible for register offices and the registering of births, marriages and deaths.

Registrar of Births Marriages and Deaths noun a local government official who registers births, marriages and deaths in an area.

Registrar of Companies /ˌreɡɪstrəˌkæmpəriəz/ noun an official who keeps a record of companies, the details of their directors and their financial state.

registration /ˌreɡɪstrəʃən/ noun the process of drawing up an official list of names.

Registrar Officer /ˌreɡɪstrəˈɔfɪsər/ noun an official who draws up the register of electors in each constituency.

regnant /ˌreɡnənt/ adjective ruling or reigning.

regulate /ˈreɡjuˌleɪt/ verb 1. to change something so that it works well or is correct. 2. to use rules or laws to ensure that a particular industry or activity works well. 3. government-regulated price a price which is imposed by the government.

regulation /ˌreɡjuˈleɪʃən/ noun the act of making sure that something will work well by using laws or rules. 1. rules made by organisations, clubs or councils, which have to be followed by their members. 2. According to council regulations, the outgoing chairman cannot stand for re-election. 3. The manufacturer had not applied the new government regu-
Regulatory having powers to control an industry and to ensure that it operates fairly and safely. The independent radio and television companies are supervised by a regulatory body. Complaints are referred to several regulatory bodies.

Regulation noun 1. a connection or link with something or someone else 2. What is the relationship between inflation and the cost-of-living? There is no relationship between the two decisions. 2. the way in which two or more people act towards each other. The relationship between the two councillors had been difficult for some time.

Release noun 1. setting someone free or allowing someone to leave prison 2. to allow goods from customs to be released goods from customs. The president released the opposition leader from prison. The customs released the goods against payment of a fine. 2. to make something public. Cabinet papers are released after thirty years. The company released information about the new mine in Australia. The government has refused to release figures for the number of unemployed women.

Remembrance noun remembering

Remembrance Day noun 11th November or the nearest Sunday, when the people killed in war are remembered

Remembrancer noun 1. a British official of the Exchequer who collects debts owed to the Crown. Also called Queen's Remembrancer, King's Remembrancer

Remittance noun 1. money which is sent. Please send remittances to the treasurer. 2. The family lives on a weekly remittance from their father in the USA.
rent controls

rent controls /rɛnt kantrəulz/ plural noun the government regulation of rent

reopen /riəˈpəʊn/ verb to start discussions again or to start investigating a case again. The government has decided to reopen negotiations with the rebels. The hearing reopened on Monday afternoon.

Rep. abbreviation 1. Representative 2. Republican

repatriate /riəˈpærətrɪt/ verb to send someone away from the country or country of birth, sometimes by force. If terrorism increases, the government may be forced to repatriate foreigners living in the area.

repatriation /riəˈpærətrəʃən/ noun sending someone back to his or her country of birth. The repatriation of the refugees will take months.

repeal /riəˈpɛl/ noun passing a law to abolish or do away with an earlier law or custom so that it is no longer in force. MPs are pressing for the repeal of the Immigration Act.

reply /riˈplaɪ/ noun 1. an answer in reply to your letter of the 24th. The company’s reply to the takeover bid. There was no reply to my letter or to my phone call. 2. an opposing view given in a discussion or debate. The company has replied to the takeover bid by offering the shareholders higher dividends. 2. to give an opposing view in a discussion or debate. The Foreign Secretary opened for the Government and the shadow Foreign Secretary replied for the Opposition.

right of reply 1. the right of someone to answer claims made by an opponent. He demanded the right of reply to the newspaper allegations. 2. the right of the mover of a motion to reply to the arguments of someone who has attacked the motion.

report /rɛpt/ noun 1. a statement describing what has happened or describing what the present situation is. To make a report or to present a report or to send in a report. The court heard a report from the probation officer. The chairman has received a report from the insurance company. 2. an official document from a committee set up by the government to investigate something. The committee has issued a report on the problems of inner city violence. The Director of Social Services has prepared a report on children in care.

reporting restrictions /rɛpərɪŋ rɪstrɪkʃən/ plural noun limits on the information about a case which can be made public in newspapers or on radio or television.

Report Stage /rɛpərt stɛɪdʒ/ noun the stage in the discussion of a Bill in the House of Commons, where the amendments to the bill proposed at Committee Stage are debated by the whole House of Commons.

represent /rɛpərɪnt/ verb 1. to be the elected representative of an area in Parliament or on a council. He represents one of the northern industrial constituencies. 2. to act on behalf of
The defendant is represented by her solicitor. 3. to describe or to show: He was represented as a man of great honour.

representation  /ˌreprɪzən/ 'rep-ə-zən noun 1. a statement, especially a statement made to persuade someone to enter into a contract 2. being represented by a lawyer 3. a system where the people of a country elect representatives to a parliament which governs the country

Representation of the People Act  /ˌreprɪzɛntətʃ(ə)n əv ˈrep-ə-piə/ an Act of Parliament which states how elections must be organised

representative  /ˌreprɪzɛntətɪv/ noun 1. a person elected to represent a group of people 2. The legislature is made up of representatives elected by secret ballot 3. US a member of the lower house of Congress 4. House of Representatives lower house of the American Congress 5. a diplomat who acts on behalf of a government 6. The British representative in the area 7. a person who represents another person or group of people 8. The court heard the representative of the insurance company.

repress  /rɪˈpres/ verb to rule in a dictatorial way by preventing opposition through limiting basic freedoms 2. Dictators try to repress opposition to their regimes.

repression  /rɪˈpresʃ(ə)n/ noun dictatorial rule involving the restriction of free speech and of political opposition 2. The country is recovering from twenty years of repression.

repressive  /rɪˈpresɪv/ adjective using repression 2. The civil rights demonstrators complained about the government’s repressive methods.

reprisal  /rɪˈprɪzəl/ noun the taking of property or people by force from another country as a punishment

Repub. abbreviation 1. Republic 2. Republican

republic  /rɪˈpʌblɪk/ noun a state which is not a monarchy, but which is governed by elected representatives headed by a President 2. Singapore was declared a republic in 1965 3. Most republics have Presidents as head of state.

republican  /rɪˈpʌblɪkən/ adjective 1. referring to a republic 2. believing in the idea of a republic 3. Some members of the Opposition have republican sympathies.

Republican /rɪˈpʌblɪkən/ noun 1. a member or supporter of a Republican Party, especially in the USA 2. a person who believes in a republic as the best form of government

republicanise  /rɪˈpʌblɪkənaɪz/ verb to make a country into a republic

republicanism  /rɪˈpʌblɪkənɪzəm/ noun 1. the belief that an electorate should have the power in a country 2. the theory and principles of republican government

Republicanism  /rɪˈpʌblɪkənɪzəm/ noun 1. support for the Republican Party in the United States 2. support for the idea of uniting Northern Ireland politically with the Republic of Ireland

Republican Party  /rɪˈpʌblɪkən ˈpæti/ noun one of the two main political parties in the USA, which supports business and freedom, and opposes liberalism

requisition /rɪˈkwɪzʃ(ə)n/ verb 1. to demand or request formally 2. A special meeting was requisitioned by six members 3. to take private property into the temporary ownership of the state for the state to use 4. The army requisitioned all the trucks to carry supplies.

rescind /rɪˈsɪnd/ verb to annul or to cancel officially a law or contract 2. to rescind a contract or an agreement 3. The committee rescinded its earlier resolution on the use of council premises.

rescission /rɪˈsɪʒ(ə)n/ noun 1. the cancellation of a contract or law 2. US a section of an appropriation bill which cancels money previously appropriated but not spent
reserve /ˈrezər/ noun money or other things which are set aside for future use. A country’s foreign currency reserves, gold reserves a country’s reserves in currencies of other countries or in gold. Verb to put aside for future use.

resend /ˈreʃəl/ noun the changing of positions, especially those of Cabinet ministers. In the reshuffle, the Secretary of State for Education was moved to the Home Office.

rename /ˈrezaɪn/ verb to change the positions of Cabinet ministers. The President is expected to reshuffle his Cabinet soon.

residence /ˈrezidəns/ noun 1. the place where someone lives. The crowd gathered outside the Governor’s residence. She has a country residence where she spends her weekends. The Prime Minister has two official residences: Number 10, Downing Street in London, and Chequers in the country. 2. the act of living or operating officially in a country.

residency /ˈrezɪdənsi/ noun 1. the place where someone lives. The crowd gathered outside the Governor’s residence. She has a country residence where she spends her weekends. The Prime Minister has two official residences: Number 10, Downing Street in London, and Chequers in the country. 2. the act of living or operating officially in a country.

residence permit /ˈrezidəns pəˈmɪt/ noun an official document allowing a foreigner to live in a country. She was granted a residence permit for one year.

Residency /ˈrezɪdɑnsi/ noun the house where a colonial governor lives.

resident /ˈrezidənt/ noun 1. a person or company living or operating in a place. Fire broke out in the council flats and the residents were brought out as quickly as possible. The warden of the hostel looks after the residents. British residents in the country are advised to leave as soon as possible. 2. the title of a diplomat of lower rank than an ambassador, living in a foreign country. 3. the title of a diplomat of a country. Adjective living or based in a country. The company is resident in France for tax purposes. Person ordinarily resident in the UK. A person who normally lives in the UK.

resident commissioner /ˈrezidənt ˈkɒmɪʃənər/ noun in the United States, a representative from a dependency who is allowed to speak but not vote in the House of Representatives.

residuary /ˈrezɪdʒʊəri/ adjective remaining.

residuary body /ˈrezɪdʒʊəri ˈbɒdi/ noun a body set up to administer the ending of a local authority, when it has been abolished, and to manage those of its functions which have not been given over to other authorities.

resign /ˈrezɪn/ verb to leave a job. He resigned from his post as treasurer. He has resigned with effect from July 1st.

resignation /ˌrezɪznˈeɪʃən/ noun the act of giving up a job. The newspaper published the Minister’s letter of resignation and the Prime Minister’s reply. He wrote his letter of resignation to the chairman.

resilience /ˈrezɪlsiəns/ noun the ability of government to respond to a difficult situation in a way that prevents it from becoming a crisis.

resist /ˈrezɪst/ verb to fight against something or not to give in to something. Parents are resisting the local authority’s attempt to close the school. The party moderates were unable to resist the takeover by the extremists. The President’s bodyguard resisted the attempted coup.

resistance /ˈrezɪstəns/ noun 1. an action which shows that people are opposed to something. There was a lot of resistance from the local residents to the new plan. The Home Secretary’s proposal was met with strong resistance from the probation service. After the coup, there were still pockets of resistance in some parts of the country. 2. a group which fights secretly against an enemy occupying a
**retract** /rɪˈtrækt/ verb to withdraw a statement because it was wrong

**restitution** /ˌrestɪˈʃjən(ə)n/ noun 1. the return of property which has been illegally obtained. 2. payment for damage or loss to the people who have suffered as the result of an action for which you are responsible.

**restrictive practices** /ˌstrɪktɪv ˈprɛktɪsiz/ plural noun attempts by workers to prevent employers from making them work in such a way as to deprive other workers of jobs.

**result** /rɪˈzʌlt/ verb to happen because of something else.

**résumé** /rəˈzuːmɛ/ noun 1. the summary of a piece of writing. A summary of the debate was published in yesterday’s paper. 2. US the summary of a person’s life story showing important details of education and work experience. (NOTE: The UK term is *curriculum vitae* or CV.)

**retail** /rɪˈteɪl/ noun US, & Scottish same as *retirement*.

**retire** /rɪˈtaɪər/ verb 1. to stop work and take a pension. She retired with a £6,000 pension. 2. The chairman of the company retired at the age of 65. 3. The shop is owned by a retired police officer. 4. Two retiring directors offer themselves for re-election. The chairman retired after six years. The treasurer retires after six years. Two retiring directors offer themselves for re-election.

**retirement** /rɪˈtɛrəmənt/ noun the act of retiring from work.

**retirement age** /rɪˈtɛrəmənt eɪdʒ/ noun the age at which people stop work. In the UK this is usually 65.

**retirement pension** /rɪˈtɛrəmənt ˌpenʃən/ noun a regular payment which someone receives when they reach the age to stop work.

**retract** /rɪˈtræk/ verb to withdraw a statement because it was wrong.

**res publica** /ˌreɪz ˈpʌblɪkə/ noun the state as a concept.
retroactive adj taking effect from a particular time in the past, rather than from the present. They received a pay rise retroactive to last January.

retrospective adj taking effect from a past period. The return to say or do something similar to what was done before.

return v going back or going forward. She helped me with my work and I was later able to return the favour.

return v sending something back. The visitor returned our greeting and bowed slightly.

return v sending something back, or going back. 3. to elect a member to a constituency. She was returned with an increased majority.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favour.

return v to send something back, or go back. to say or do something similar to something that has been said to you or done for you. She helped me with my report and I was later able to return the favourable. 3. to elect an MP for a constituency. She was returned with an increased majority.

returning officer n an official, usually a High Sheriff or mayor, who superintends a parliamentary election in a constituency and announces the nominations of candidates and announces the result of the vote. Comment: When a writ for an election is issued, the returning officer for each constituency must give notice of the election and candidates may be nominated up to eight days after the writs are issued.
revocation /ˌrevəˈkeɪʃən/ noun the cancelling of a permission, right, agreement or offer

revoke /rɪˈvɔʊk/ verb to cancel a permission, right, agreement or offer ○ to revoke a clause in an agreement ○ The treaty on fishing rights has been revoked.

revolt /rɪˈvɔlt/ noun an act of opposition or rebellion against authority ○ The whips are trying to quell the revolt in the party. ○ The revolt in the army was put down by the President’s bodyguard. ○ in revolt against rebelling against ○ the farmers were in revolt against the tax collectors ■ verb to rebel against or oppose an authority ○ Seventy MPs revolted and voted against the Government. ○ The President’s bodyguard revolted and the revolt spread to other parts of the army.

revolution /ˌrevəˈluːʃən/ noun 1. an armed rising against a government or state or the entire social system ○ The government was overthrown by a revolution led by the head of the army. 2. a period of social change, where the previous way of life changes radically revolutionary /ˌrevəˈluːʃənær/ adjective 1. referring to a revolution ○ Revolutionary troops surrounded the President’s Palace. 2. very new and different ○ The minister has proposed a revolutionary new system of collecting tax. ■ noun a person who takes part in a revolution ○ The palace was surrounded by revolutionaries.

Revolutionary War /ˌrevəˈluːʃənær ˈwɔː/ noun the American War of Independence

revolutionise /ˌrevəˈluːʃənɪsaɪ/ verb 1. to introduce revolutionary ideas to people 2. to bring about a revolution in a country 3. to completely change the way something is considered or done ○ The Internet revolutionised public access to information.

rider /ˈraɪdər/ noun 1. an additional clause to a contract or report 2. US a clause attached to a bill, which may have nothing to do with the subject of the bill, but which the proposer hopes to get passed into law more easily in this way

riding /ˈraɪdɪŋ/ noun 1. (in Yorkshire) an administrative section of the county of Yorkshire, now no longer used 2. (in Canada) a constituency or area of the country represented by an MP

rig /rɪg/ verb to arrange an election dishonestly so that a particular candidate wins ○ The Opposition claimed that the election had been rigged. ○ ballot-rigging

right /rʌt/ noun 1. something that a person is legally or morally allowed to have or do ○ the right to life ○ The Minister has the right to be heard by the House. ○ She has a right to the property. ○ The staff have a right to know what the company is doing. 2. people who are political conservatives or whose ideas and beliefs are conservative ○ The right have opposed the increases in government spending. ○ Members on the right of the party oppose the new manifesto. ○ a move to the right a move to support more conservative policies ○ the centre party has shown a noticeable move to the right in recent years

COMMENT: The division of political parties and political ideas into left, right and centre dates from the French Revolution when deputies in the National Assembly sat on the left or right of the chamber according to their views. It was easiest to apply these labels when socialist (left) parties faced conservative (right) parties in the middle years of the twentieth century. Some commentators say the old divisions of left and right are less and less relevant in the modern world, but they continue to be used.

rightful /ˈrʌft(ə)l/ adjective legally or morally correct

Right Honourable /ˌrʌt ˈhɒnə(r)eɪbl/ noun a title given to members of the Privy Council (NOTE: usually written Hon.; the Hon. Member: the Rt. Hon. William Smith, M.P.)

rightist /ˈrʌtɪst/ adjective right-wing ■ noun a person with right-wing views
right of abode 216

right of abode rəv əˈbɔd/ noun the right to live in a country
right-of-centre rəv əˈsɛntə/ adjective relating to political views that are slightly right-wing
right of establishment rəv əˈstæblʃmənt/ noun the right of a citizen of a Member State of the European Union to live and work in any EU country
right of petition rəv pəˈtɛnʃən noun the right of any citizen of the European Union to forward an official complaint to the European Parliament. Any citizen of a Member State of the EU can present a petition, either personally or as the representative of a group.
right to strike rət təˈstreɪk/ noun the general right of workers to stop working as a means of protest
right wing rət ˈwɪŋ/ noun the part of a country, party or group which is more conservative than the rest o the right wing of the Conservative Party
right-wing rət ˈwɪŋ/ adjective favouring the right or conservative policies o a right-wing newspaper o Right-wing politicians have plotted to bring down the government.
right-winger rət ˈwɪŋər/ noun a person who supports a conservative point of view
Riigikogu noun the legislature in Estonia
Riksdag noun the legislature in Sweden
ringleader rɪˈglaɪdər/ noun a person who organises something dishonest or illegal
riot rəˈrɑːt noun violent actions by large numbers of people in public o Riots broke out when the government tried to increase the price of bread. o verb to take part in a riot o The street was blocked by rioting students.
rioter rəˈrɑːtər noun a person who takes part in a riot
rioting rəˈrɑːtɪŋ noun the activity of being involved in a riot o Rioting broke out when the price rises were announced.
riottoʊs rəˈrɑːtəʊs adjective disorderly, as in a riot o The crowd engaged in riotous behaviour
riot police rəˈrɑːt pəˈlɪs noun a police force with special equipment to deal with riots
ripple effect rɪˈpɪl əˈfɛkt/ noun a series of effects or consequences that result from a single event
rise rəˈzɑː noun 1. an increase or growth in height o a rise in the crime rate or in inflation or in interest rates 2. an increase in salary (NOTE: The US term is raise.) o verb 1. to move upwards or to become higher o Prices are rising faster than inflation. o The rate of companies going into receivership has risen by 15%. 2. to stop sitting o The House rose at 12.15 a.m. o The court will rise at 5 p.m. 3. to rebel against authority o The southern states rose against the government.
rising rəˈzɪŋ noun a small rebellion o The government acted swiftly to put down the rising in the university town.
uprising
robocall rəˈbɔʊkəl noun a telephone call made using a recorded voice, used in election campaigning and marketing
rod rəd/ noun a stick that indicates someone’s official office or authority. o Black Rod
roll rəʊl/ noun a list of names (NOTE: From the fact that they used to be written on a long sheet which was stored rolled up.)
rollcall rəʊlkəl noun reading out a list of names to see if everyone is present o yeo-and-may rollcall US a vote in Congress, where names are read out and each member says how he or she is voting
Rome ˈrəʊm/ Treaty of Rome
Roosevelt rəˈruːzvəl(t)/, Franklin D. (1882–1945) the 32nd president of the United States, he served longer than any other president (1933–45)
rostrum rəˈstrɒm/ noun a high desk where a member stands to speak
to an assembly or meeting. *The representative of one of the Civil Service unions was at the rostrum when the interruption occurred.* (NOTE: The plural is *rostra.*)

**rotten borough** /ˌrot(ə)n /ˈbaʊrə/ noun a political constituency with few electors but the same right to elect a representative as a constituency with many more people, especially in England before 1832.

**round** /rəʊnd/ noun a series of discussions. *The next round of negotiations will be held in London.*

**round table** /ˈrʌntɔbl/ noun a discussion held by people sitting at a round table; showing that each party at the meeting is of equal status with the rest.

**round table conference** /ˌrʌntɔblˌkənʃən/ noun a discussion held by people sitting at a round table, showing that each party at the meeting is of equal status with the rest. *The government is trying to get the rebel leaders to come to the conference table.*

**Rousseau, Jean-Jacques** /rʊˈsoʊ/ noun the French philosopher (1712–78) whose book *The Social Contract* (1762) justified democracy under the complete control of a democratic government. The opening lines of *The Social Contract* are: *Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains.*

**royal** /ˈrɔɪəl/ adjective referring to a king or queen. *A member of a royal family.*

**Royal Assent** /ˈrɔɪəl əˈsent/ noun the signing of a Bill by the monarch, the ceremonial final stage by which a Bill becomes law as an Act of Parliament. *(NOTE: No monarch has refused to give the Royal Assent for three hundred years)*

**Royal Canadian Mounted Police** /ˈrɔɪəl kəˈneɪtʃən ˈmaʊntəd pəˈlɪs/ noun a police force that operates throughout Canada except in cities and provinces with their own police forces. Abbr *RCMP*

**Royal Commission** /ˈrɔɪəl kəˈmɪʃn/ noun a group of people given the job by the government of examining and reporting on a major problem.

**Royal Duke** /ˈrɔɪəl djuːk/ noun a prince of the royal house who has been given the title of Duke. *(NOTE: The wife of a duke is a duchess.)*

**Royal Family** /ˈrɔɪəl ˈfæməli/ noun the family of a king or queen.

**royalist** /ˌrɔɪəlɪst/ noun a person supporting rule by a king or queen.

**Royal Pardon** /ˌrɔɪəl ˈpærənd/ noun a pardon, given very rarely by the monarch on the advice of the elected government, by which a person found guilty of a crime is forgiven and need not serve a sentence.

**Royal prerogative** /ˌrɔɪəl prɪˈrɒɡətɪv/ noun the set of powers which have been transferred in the course of the last 300 years from the British Crown to the Prime Minister, including the right to declare war, make peace, appoint Cabinet ministers, create government departments, appoint bishops, give honours and titles, and dissolve parliament. *(NOTE: the royal prerogative is now only used on the advice of the elected government)*

**Royals** /ˈrɔɪəlz/ plural noun members of a royal family *(informal)*

**royalty** /ˈrɔɪəlti/ noun members of a royal family. *(NOTE: can take singular or plural verb)*

**RSFSR** abbreviation Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic

**Rt Hon.** abbreviation Right Honourable

**rubber stamp** /ˈrʌbər ˈstæmp/ noun a stamp made of hard rubber, cut to form letters, used to print something on a document, often to show that the document has been approved. *(NOTE: verb to approve of something automatically, without much thought)*

**rule** /rʊl/ noun 1. the way in which a country is governed. *(NOTE: The country has had ten years of military rule.)* 2.
rule of law 218

statement or order which says how things should be done, e.g. an order governing how members vote in Parliament or Congress. The debate followed the rules of procedure used in the British House of Commons. US a special decision made by the Rules Committee which states how a particular bill should be treated in the House of Representatives.

run 1. to govern a country. The country is ruled by a group of army officers. The dictator ruled the country for thirty years. 2. to give an official decision. The Speaker ruled that the question was out of order. The commission of inquiry ruled that the company was in breach of contract. 3. to be in force or to be current. Prices which are ruling at the moment.

rural 1. referring to the countryside, as opposed to the towns. An MP representing a rural constituency. The party has to win the rural vote.
S

S2P abbreviation state second pension
safe /seft/ adjective not in danger
safeguard /'setgəd/ noun protection o The proposed legislation will provide a safeguard against illegal traders. o verb to protect o The embassy acted to safeguard the interests of the tourists.
safe seat /seft/ noun a seat where the Member of Parliament has a large majority and is not likely to lose the seat at an election
safety /'setfti/ noun the position of not being in danger
Sale of Goods Act /'seul óv 'godz; 'sekt/ noun an Act of Parliament which regulates the selling of things which can be moved o The law relating to the sale of goods is governed by the Sale of Goods Act 1979.
sales tax /'setlz tæks/ noun a tax paid on things which are sold
sanction /'sankʃon/ noun 1. official permission to do something o You will need the sanction of the local authority before you can knock down the old office block. o The payment was made without official sanction. 2. a punishment for an act which goes against what is accepted behaviour o verb to approve officially or to give official permission o The council sanctioned the expenditure of £1.2m on the development plan.
satellite state /'satələt stæt/ noun a country which is economically or politically dependent on another
sceptre /'septə/ noun a ceremonial stick used as a symbol of the authority of a monarch

schedule /'ʃedju/ noun 1. a plan of things that need to be done and of when they should be done 2. an additional section of documents attached to a Bill before Parliament or to the agenda or minutes of a meeting, or to a contract o schedule of markets to which a contract applies o see the attached schedule or as per the attached schedule o the schedule before referred to 3. a list o The schedule of charges is revised annually. o verb 1. to list officially o scheduled prices or scheduled charges are subject to change without notice o The house is scheduled as an ancient monument. 2. to plan the time when something will happen o The building is scheduled for completion in May.
Schedule A /'ʃedju: 'eit/ noun the section of the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on income from land or buildings
Schedule B /'ʃedju: 'bi:/ noun the section of the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on income from woodlands
Schedule C /'ʃedju: 'si:/ noun the section of the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on profits from government stock
Schedule D /'ʃedju: 'di:/ noun the section of the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on income from trades, professions, interest and other income which does not come from employment
Schedule E /'ʃedju: 'zi:/ noun the section of the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on wages, salaries and pensions
Schedule F /ˌʃedʒuəl ˈɛf/ noun the section of the Finance Acts under which tax is charged on income from dividends.

scheme /skmi/ noun a plan, policy, or programme carried out by a government or business ○ a road-widening scheme

Schengen Agreement noun an agreement between some countries in the European Union and associated states, abolishing internal border controls over the movement of people and goods between member countries (NOTE: The countries are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Schengen is a village in Luxembourg.)

Schröder /ˈʃroʊdər, ˈɡɛrɑr/ Gerhard (b. 1944) leader of the Social Democratic Party, and chancellor of Germany (1998–)

Scotland Yard /ˈskɔrtlənd ˈjɑrd/ noun the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police in London, from which national criminal investigations are coordinated. Full form New Scotland Yard

Scot Nat /ˈskɒt ˈneɪt/ noun same as Scottish Nationalist

Scottish Executive /ˈskɔtʃ ˈɛkˈzeʃən/ noun the devolved government of Scotland. ○ Scottish Parliament

Scottish Executive Development Department /ˈskɔtʃ ˈɛkˈzeʃən ˈdɛvələpmənt ˈdɪ ˈpɑrtmənt/ noun a department of the Scottish Executive, responsible for planning, building control and housing, social justice, and economic advice. Abbr SEDD

Scottish Executive Education Department /ˈskɔtʃ ˈɛkˈzeʃən ˈɛdʒuˈkeɪʃən ˈdɪ ˈpɑrtmənt/ noun a department of the Scottish Executive, responsible for education at school level, social services, culture, sport, and tourism. Abbr SEED

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department noun a department of the Scottish Executive, responsible for agriculture, rural development, food, and fisheries. Abbr SEERAD

Scottish Executive Health Department /ˈskɔtʃ ɛkˈzeʃən ˈhelθ ˈdɪ ˈpɑrtmənt/ noun a department of the Scottish Executive, responsible for health and ambulance services. Abbr SEHD

Scottish Executive Justice Department /ˈskɔtʃ ɛkˈzeʃən ˈdʒʌstɪs ˈdɪ ˈpɑrtmənt/ noun a department of the Scottish Executive, responsible for all aspects of the legal system and the police

Scottish Nationalist /ˈskɔtʃ nəˈfɪənlɪst/ noun a member or supporter of the Scottish National Party ○ adjective relating to the Scottish National Party

Scottish National Party /ˈskɔtʃ nəˈfɪənl ˈpɑrti/ noun a Scottish political party that advocates full political independence for Scotland. Abbr SNP

Scottish Parliament /ˈskɔtʃ ˈpɑrələmənt/ noun the devolved elected representative body set up in 1999 in Edinburgh with limited powers to make laws for Scotland

Scott Report /ˈskɔt rɪˈpɔrt/ noun the document produced in 1996 by the enquiry headed by Lord Justice Scott which revealed that ministers had concealed information from Parliament and had allowed three business men to be unjustly put on trial for selling arms to Iraq (NOTE: The Scott Report contained very damaging information about how government ministers had behaved, but no minister resigned as a result, largely because the ministers responsible were no longer in the jobs they had held when the events occurred.)

SCPS abbreviation Society of Civil and Public Servants

scrutineer /ˈskrʊtɪnər/ noun someone whose job is to monitor the
American colonies seceded from the USA.

secession /ˈsɛʃ(ə)n/ noun the act of seceding

secessionism /ˈsɛʃənɪz(ə)m/ noun a policy of withdrawal from a nation, state, organisation or alliance

secessionist /ˈsɛʃ(ə)nɪst/ noun a person who is in favour of secession

second /ˈsɛk(ə)nd/ verb 1. to second a candidate to formally support a candidate wishing to stand for an office who has already been proposed by someone else. 2. to second a motion to speak in support of a motion after it has been presented by someone else, but before a vote is taken.

secondarily /ˌsekənˈdeərli/ adverb in second place

secondary /ˈsɛkəri(ə)ri/ adjective 1. second in importance. 2. Smith raised a further objection, which he said was of secondary importance to the first.

second ballot /ˈsɛk(ə)bdɔt/ noun the electoral system used in Great Britain in 1776 and formed the USA.

second chamber /ˈsɛk(ə)nd/ noun the upper house in a legislative assembly with two chambers, e.g. the British House of Lords

second-class citizen /ˈsɛk(ə)rd/ noun a person who does not have the same rights, privileges or opportunities as the rest of the population.
seconder /ˈsekəndər/ noun a person who supports a proposal made by someone else. Mr Brown has been proposed by Mr Jones, and Miss Smith is his seconder. The motion could not be put, because the proposer could not find a seconder for it.

Second Reading /ˈsekənd ˈrɛdɪŋ/ noun US the detailed debate on a Bill in the House of Commons, or House of Representatives or Senate in USA. Bills are given three 'readings' in both chambers in both USA and UK (as in many other legislatures). The second reading is usually the occasion for a major, detailed debate.

secret agent /ˈsekrɛt əˈdʒɛnt/ noun someone who spies for a government or organisation.

secretariat /ˈsekrɛtəriət/ noun an important office and the officials who work in it, usually headed by a Secretary or Secretary-General. The United Nations secretariat deals with visitors. One person who types letters or files documents or arranges meetings for someone is his secretary. His secretary phoned to say he would be late. 2. the Secretary of State or member of the government in charge of a department. 3. the Education Secretary. 4. an official of a company or society.

Secretary of State /ˈsekrət(ə)rɪ əv ‘stɛt/ noun 1. a member of the government in charge of a department. 2. the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. 2 US the senior member of the government in charge of foreign policy. See also notes at foreign, minister.

COMMENT: The uses of the words Secretary and Secretary of State are confusing. 1. In the UK, a Secretary of State is the head of a government department, usually a Cabinet Minister. Other members of the government, though not in the Cabinet, are Parliamentary Secretaries or Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State, who are junior ministers in a department. Finally, the Parliamentary Private Secretary is a minister's main junior assistant in Parliament. 2. In the USA, the Secretary of State is the person in charge of the Department of State, which is concerned with foreign policy. The equivalent in most other countries is the Foreign Minister (Foreign Secretary in the UK). Other heads of department and the US government are called simply Secretary, Secretary for Defense or Defense Secretary. 3. In the British Civil Service, a government department is headed by a Permanent Secretary, with several Deputy Secretaries and Under-Secretaries. They are all government employees and are not MPs. Also a civil servant is a minister's Private Secretary, who is attached to the minister personally, and acts as his link with the department. The British Civil Service formerly used the titles Permanent Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Principal Secretary as grades, but these have now been replaced by a system of numbers (G1, G2, G3, etc.) 4. Both in the UK and USA, the word Secretary is used in short forms of titles with the name of the department. So, the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in the UK, and the Secretary for Education in the USA are both called Education Secretary for short. In the USA, the word Secretary can be used before a surname: Secretary Smith.

Secretary of State for Defence /ˈsekrətrɪ əv steɪt ə fə dɪˈfens/ noun the government minister in charge of
the armed forces in the United Kingdom. Also called Defence Secretary
Secretary of the Treasury
the senior member of the government in charge of financial affairs. Also called Treasury Secretary
Secretary to the Cabinet
the head of the administrative staff in the Cabinet
Secretary to the Senate
an election where the voters vote in secret
Secret Intelligence Service
a British government agency concerned with obtaining information about other countries which may be of use to the government’s defence, security, economy and foreign services
secret police
in dictatorships or totalitarian regimes, the organisation which works in secret spying on people in order to stop opposition
secret service
the government service which spies on other countries and on citizens of its own country suspected of wanting to rebel
sectarian
relating to relations between religious groups or denominations, especially when the groups hold rigidly to a set of doctrines and are intolerant of other views
section
a part of an Act of Parliament or law. She does not qualify for a grant under section 2 of the Act.
sectionalism
concern for the interests of one group or area in preference to other areas
secularism
the belief that religion and religious bodies should have no official part in public life or in running public institutions, especially schools
Securities and Exchange Commission
the permanent ruling body of the United Nations, with the responsibility for preserving international peace
Security Council
the permanent ruling body of the United Nations, with the responsibility for preserving international peace
Security Services
the government organisations which protect the country against the activities of enemies such as spies and terrorists
securocrat
SEDD 224

officer with power to influence government policy

SEDD abbreviation Scottish Executive Development Department

sedition /ˈsedɪʃn/ noun the use of words or actions that are intended to lead to revolution or an armed uprising against the state

seditious /ˈsedɪʃəs/ adjective referring to sedition

SEED abbreviation Scottish Executive Education Department

SEERAD abbreviation Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department

segregate /ˈseɡrɪɡeɪt/ verb to separate or keep apart, especially to keep different races in a country apart. Single-sex schools segregate boys from girls.

segregation /ˈseɡrɪɡeɪʃn/ noun the practice of keeping ethnic, racial, religious, or gender groups separate, especially by enforcing the use of separate facilities such as schools and usually discriminating against a minority group

segregationist /ˈseɡrɪɡeɪʃnɪst/ adjective, noun supporting a policy of segregation

SEHD abbreviation Scottish Executive Health Department

Seimas noun the legislative body in Lithuania

seizure /ˈsɪzər/ noun the act of taking possession of something. The court ordered the seizure of the shipment or of the company’s funds.

Sejm noun the lower house of the legislature in Poland

Select Committee /ˈsɛkt kəmɪt/ noun 1. (in the House of Commons) a special committee with members representing various political parties, which examines the work of a government department or a particular problem in the House of Commons (NOTE: There are also a smaller number of Select Committees in the House of Lords) 2. (in Congress) a committee set up for a special purpose, usually to investigate something

COMMENT: The main non-departmental Select Committees are: the Committee of Privileges which considers breaches of parliamentary privilege; the Committee of the Parliamentary Commissioner which considers the reports of the Ombudsman; the Public Accounts Committee which examines government expenditure. The departmental select committees are: Culture, Media and Sport; Defence; Education and Skills; Environment and Rural Affairs; Health; Home Affairs; International Development; Northern Ireland Affairs; Scotland; Science and Technology; Scottish Affairs; Trade and Industry; Transport, Local Government and the Regions; Treasury; Welsh Affairs; and Work and Pensions.

self-determination /ˌself dɪˈtɛrnəmənt/ noun the free choice by the people of a country as to which country should govern them. Countries with powerful neighbours have to fight for the right to self-determination.

self-government /ˈself ɡəv(ə)mnənt/ noun the control of a country by its own government, free from foreign influence

semi-autonomous /ˌsemi ˈɔʊtəmənəs/ adjective ruled partly by its own local government and partly by national government or another country or region

Sen. abbreviation 1. senate 2. senator

senate /ˈsenət/ noun the upper house of a legislative body. France has a bicameral system; a lower house or Chamber of Deputies and a upper house or Senate.

COMMENT: The senate is the upper house of the legislature in many countries, including Antigua, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, France, Italy, Jamaica, Mauritania, Mexico, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, the USA, Uruguay, Venezuela.
Senate /ˈsenət/ noun 1. the upper house of the American Congress (NOTE: The US Senate has 100 members, each state electing two senators by popular vote. Bills may be introduced in the Senate, with the exception of bills relating to finance. The Senate has the power to ratify treaties and to confirm presidential appointments to federal posts.) 2. the upper chamber of the federal parliament of Canada, made up of 104 senators appointed by the ruling government of Canada, made up of 104 senators plus two appointors. 3. the upper house of the federal parliament of Australia, made up of 76 members, 12 from each state plus two each from the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory.

Senator /ˈsenətər/ noun the member of a senate (NOTE: written with a capital letter when used as a title: Senator Jackson)

Senatorial /ˈsenəˌtɔrɪəl/ adjective referring to a senate or to senators

Senatorial courtesy /ˈsenəˌtɔrɪəl ˈkɔːtəs/ noun the polite way in which members of the US Senate behave towards one another during their debates and discussions.

Senedd noun the devolved elected representative body set up in Wales in 1999. English Welsh Assembly

Separationist noun, adjective same as separatist

Separation of powers /ˌseprəˈfəʊz/ noun the system in which the power in a state is separated between the legislative body which passes laws, the judiciary which enforces the law, and the executive which runs the government.

Comment: In the USA, the three parts of the power of the state are kept separate and independent: the President does not sit in Congress; Congress cannot influence the decisions of the Supreme Court, etc. In the UK the legislative and executive powers are fused, because of our parliamentary system of government which means that the executive is always part of the legislature. The government or executive is responsible to Parliament and can be dismissed by it on a Vote of No Confidence. There has also been a partial fusion of powers in the UK between the legislature and judiciary because the law lords sit in the House of Lords, but by reforms introduced in 2003–4, this will stop and a completely independent Supreme Court will be set up. In the USA, members of government are not members of Congress, though their appointment has to be approved by Senate; in the UK, members of government are usually Members of Parliament, although some are members of the House of Lords.

Separatism /ˌseprəˈtɪzəm/ noun the belief that a part of a country should become separate and independent from the rest.

Separatist /ˌseprəˈtɪst/ adjective referring to separatism. The rise of the separatist movement in the south of the country.

Sergeant /ˈsargent/ noun a police officer of a rank above constable. Abbr Sgt, Sergt

Sergeant at Arms /ˈsargent ət ˈɑːmz/ noun someone with the job of keeping order in a legislative body or court of law.

Serjeant at Arms /ˈsərdʒənt ət ˈɑːmz/ noun an official of the House of Commons who keeps order in the House, makes sure that no one enters the chamber of the House unless invited to do so, and removes members if asked to do so by the Speaker. (NOTE: The spelling Sergeant at Arms is used in the US House of Representatives.)

Serve /sərv/ verb 1. to spend time as a member of a committee or as Member of Parliament. He served six years on the Foreign Relations Committee. She has served two terms as chairman.

Serve /sərv/ verb 2. to deal with a customer. 3. to do a type of work.

Service /sərvis/ noun a civil service the organisation and personnel which administer a country under the direction of the government.
session /’ʃeʃ(ə)n/ noun 1. a meeting, or the time when a meeting is held. 
  ○ The morning session or the afternoon session will be held in the conference room. 
  ○ opening session, closing session the first part or last part of a conference. 
  ○ The period when Parliament is meeting, usually about 12 months long. 
  ○ The government is planning to introduce the Bill at the next session of Parliament. 
  ○ The first session of the new Parliament opened in the opening of each session of parliament. 

sessional /’seʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ adjective referring to a session

sessional Select Committee /’seʃ(ə)n(ə)l səˌlekt ˈkærətI/ noun a Select Committee set up at the beginning of each session of parliament or the Select Committee on Defence or the Defence Select Committee

sessions /’seʃ(ə)nz/ plural noun a court

set aside /’set ə’saId/ verb to decide not to apply a decision. 
  ○ The arbitrator’s award was set aside on appeal.

set forth /’set ə’fɔr/ verb to put down in writing. 
  ○ The argument is set forth in the document from the European Court.

set out /’set ə’ot/ verb to put down in writing. 
  ○ The claim is set out in the enclosed document. 
  ○ The figures are set out in the tables at the back of the book.
  ○ to try to do something. 
  ○ The Government has set out to discredit the Opposition.

settle /’set(ə)l/ verb 1. to go to live in a new area, often abroad. 
  ○ In the 18th century, thousands of people left the country to settle in North America.
  ○ to put an end to an argument. 
  ○ The matter was settled by an agreement to change the working hours.

settlement /’set(ə)lmənt/ noun 1. a group of homes built in a new area. 
  ○ a British settlement on the coast of India.
  ○ an agreement which ends a dispute between people or between countries.
  ○ The Department for Education reached a settlement with the teachers’ union.

settler /’set(ə)lə/ noun a person who goes to colonise a country. 
  ○ Settlers built up colonies along the banks of the river.

shadow /’ʃeɪdəu/ adjective to follow or to watch

Shadow Cabinet /’ʃeɪdəu ‘keɪbɪnət/ noun the senior members of the Opposition who cover the areas of responsibility of the actual Cabinet, and will form the Cabinet if their party is elected to government. 
  ○ the shadow Minister for the Environment. 
  ○ the shadow spokesman on energy matters.

shadow senator /’ʃeɪdəu ‘senətə/ noun a non-voting representative of the District of Columbia in the US Senate

shanty town /’ʃænti ˈtaʊn/ noun an area of badly built houses around a large city where poor people live

shareholder /’ʃeəhəʊldər/ noun a person who owns shares in a company

sheikh /’ʃeɪk/ noun a leader or prince in an Arab country

sheikhdom /’ʃeɪkdaʊm/ noun a state or area ruled by a sheikh. 
  ○ Many of the Gulf sheikhdoms export oil.

Sheriff /’ʃerIf/ noun same as High Sheriff

Sheriff Court /’ʃerIf kɔst/ noun a court presided over by a sheriff

sheriffdom /’ʃerIfdaʊm/ noun a district in Scotland with a Sheriff Court

shire /’ʃaʊ/ noun a county in the United Kingdom, used in county names such as Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. 
  ○ the shires the rural counties in the centre of England. 
  ○ the Tory Party is very strong in the shires.
have to make sure that we do not lose the support of the shire voters

shire county /ʃaɪəˈkaʊnti/ noun a county that is not based on a metropolitan area

shortcoming /ˈʃɔrtkəmɪŋ/ noun a fault in somebody’s character or in a plan or organisation o The government plan has many shortcomings.

short title clause /ʃɔrt ˈteɪt(ə)l/ noun a section in a Bill which gives the short title by which the Act will be known

show of hands /ʃəʊ əv hændz/ noun an informal vote that involves counting the hands raised by people to show support for or rejection of a proposal

shroud-waving /ʃraʊd _wɛvɪŋ/ noun the deliberate use of distressing events or statistics to make more of an issue or gain political advantage

shuttle diplomacy /ˈʃɔlt(ə)dɪpləməsi/ noun diplomatic negotiations by an official who travels frequently between the countries involved

S1 abbreviation statutory instrument

signatory /ˈsɪgnət(ə)rɪ/ noun a person who signs a contract, or a country which signs a treaty or convention o You have to get the permission of all the signatories to the agreement if you want to change the terms. o Britain is a signatory to the Geneva Convention.

sine die /ˈsɪni dɪə/ Latin phrase meaning ‘without a day’

sine qua non /ˈsɪn kwa ˈnɒn/ Latin phrase meaning ‘without which not’: condition without which something cannot work o Agreement by the management is a sine qua non of all employment contracts.

single ballot /ˈsɪŋgl ˈbɔːlt/ noun an election where only one round of voting is held

single chamber /ˈsɪŋgl ˈtʃæmbr/ noun a legislature with only one chamber, as in New Zealand and Nebraska. o unicameral

Single European Act /ˈsɪŋgl əˈrɛkt/ noun a treaty of the European Union signed in 1987 which aimed to create a free internal market in labour, goods, and services by 1992

Single Market /ˈsɪŋgl əˈmɑːkt/ noun the European Union considered as a free trade area, with no tariff barriers between its member states

single transferable vote /ˈsɪŋgl əˈtræns ˈfɔːrəb(ə)v/ noun a proportional voting system where each voter votes for the candidates in order of preference, and this vote is transferred to the next preference candidate if the first choice is not elected. A calculation based on the total votes is made to show how many votes, or what quota, a candidate needs to be elected. Candidates with more than this electoral quota of first preference votes are automatically elected, and their second preference votes are passed to other candidates, and so on until the full number of candidates have the required quota and so are elected. Abbr STV (NOTE: It is used for the European Parliament, and in Northern Ireland for district councils.)

sinking fund /ˈsɪŋknɪŋ fʌnd/ noun a sum of money saved by a government regularly from taxation and used to pay off its debts

Sinn Féin /ˈʃiːn ˈfɛɪn/ noun a nationalist Irish republican party

Sir /sɜːr/ noun the title given to a baronet or knight (NOTE: The title is always used with the man’s Christian name, and in a formal address, with the surname as well: Good morning, Sir George, May I introduce Sir George Carey?, Sir George and Lady Carey attended the dinner.)

sit /sɪt/ verb 1. to meet o No one can enter the Council Chamber when the committee is sitting. o The court sat from eleven to five o’clock. 2. to be an
sit-down strike

MP ○ She sat for a London constituency for ten years. ○ The sitting MP was re-elected with a comfortable majority. 3. sit on the bench to be a magistrate

sit-down strike /ˈsɪt daʊn straɪk/ noun a form of industrial action in which workers refuse to leave their workplace until their demands are listened to

sit-in /ˈsɪt in/ noun a form of protest in which people occupy a building or public place and refuse to leave until their demands are listened to

sitting /ˈsɪtɪŋ/ noun a meeting of Parliament or of a court or of a tribunal

COMMENT: Parliamentary sittings start at 2.30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; at 11.30 a.m. on Thursdays; and at 9.30 a.m. on Fridays. They continue until business is completed, which is expected to be no later than 10.30 p.m. on the first three days, and earlier on Thursday and Friday. Occasionally there are all-night sessions when very important or controversial matters are debated. These hours may seem strange, but they are needed to allow committee and constituency work to take place at other times. Before 1997 the hours were even later, but were changed as part of the modernisation policies of the Labour government.

sketch /ˈsketʃ/ noun, parliamentary sketch

sketch-writer /ˈsketʃ wriːtər/ noun a journalist who writes parliamentary sketches

slander /ˈslæŋdər/ verb the crime of using spoken words to harm someone by saying things which are untrue about them

slate /ˈslæt/ noun a list of candidates for a position ○ the Democratic slate in the state elections

slavocracy /ˌslɛvəˈkrɒsɪ/ noun a ruling group consisting of owners of slaves, or rule by owners of slaves

sleaze /ˈslɛz/ noun political activity of a dishonest or disreputable sort, usually involving bribery and corruption (NOTE: In the 1990s various politicians were accused of sleaze, for example by taking free holidays and payments from prominent businessman.)

sleeper /ˈslɛpər/ noun a spy who lives an ordinary life often for many years before starting spying activities

sleeper cell /ˈslɛpə sel/ noun a group of trained terrorists who live ordinary lives while waiting for instructions to commit a terrorist act

slip law /ˈslɪp lɔː/ noun US a law published for the first time after it has been approved, printed on a single sheet of paper, or as a small separate book

slogan /ˈsləʊgən/ noun a short phrase which shows the beliefs of a party, used to attract voters ○ The party’s slogan is ‘More Power to the People’. ○ The campaign under the slogan ‘Responsibility and Trust’.

SLP abbreviation Scottish Labour Party

slum /ˈslʌm/ noun a crowded dirty area of a town where poor people live ○ The children were brought up in the slums of Glasgow.

slum clearance /ˈslʌm kəˈlɛərɪs/ noun the organised demolishing of slum areas to replace them with modern blocks of flats

smoke-filled room /ˌsmɔːk fɪld ˈrʊm/ noun a room where deals are made in private (NOTE: The image is of participants who have spent a long time discussing and smoking.)

snap /ˈsnæp/ adjective sudden or unexpected ○ The Prime Minister called a snap election. ○ The Committee will discuss the matter fully and will not reach a snap decision.

SNP abbreviation Scottish National Party

SO abbreviation standing order

soapbox /ˈsəʊpbɔks/ noun a wooden box used to stand on by a public speaker

soapbox oratory /ˈsəʊpbɔks ˈɔrətəri/ noun a form of public speaking which is aimed at attracting
the general public in a simple, direct way

**social** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l// adjective referring to society in general or The government dealt carefully with many of the social problems of the day.

**social assistance** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l əˈsɪst(ə)ns/ noun same as social security

**Social Chapter** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l, ˈsəʊʃəl/ noun a section of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union (1993) which commits Member States to reducing unemployment, improving working conditions, discussions between management and workers, and removing discrimination

**social class** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˈklaːs/ noun a group of people who have some position in society

**Social Credit** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˈkredɪt/ noun a system of monetary reform, founded in Canada

**social democracy** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˈdɛməkrəsi/ noun a belief that changes should be made to the structure of society to produce greater equality, with a mixed economy where there is some state involvement in industry and welfare but also a strong free market, and in addition a political system based on democratic freedom

**social democrat** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˈdɛməkræt/ noun 1. a person who believes in social democracy 2. Social Democrat a person who supports or belongs to a Social Democratic Party

**Social Democrat** a person who supports or belongs to a Social Democratic Party

**Social Democratic and Labour Party** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˌdeməˈkrætɪk ˈpərti/ noun a political party in Northern Ireland, many of whose supporters want to unite Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland peacefully. Abbr SDLP

**Social Democratic Party** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˌdeməˈkrætɪk ˈpərti/ noun a political party which is in favour of social democracy

**social exclusion** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ɪkˈskluːz(ə)n/ noun lack of the benefits enjoyed by most members of society, because of factors such as poverty, social or ethnic background or disability

**social housing** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˈhauzɪŋ/ noun housing provided by organisations such as local authorities or housing associations for renting cheaply to people who cannot afford to buy their own homes or rent privately

**socialism** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)lɪz(ə)m/ noun the belief that in a state the means of production, distribution and exchange should be controlled by the people, that the people should be cared for by the state and that wealth should be shared equally

**Socialist** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)lɪst/ adjective 1. in favour of socialism 2. referring to or supporting a Socialist Party • noun 1. a person who believes in socialism 2. a person who supports or is a member of a Socialist Party

**Socialist Party** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)lɪst ˌpərti/ noun a political party such as those in France, Spain and Portugal, which follows socialist policies and beliefs

**Socialist Workers Party** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)lɪst ˈwɜːkəz ˌpərti/ noun a British political party that opposes capitalism

**social ownership** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˈəʊərnəʃ(ə)m/ noun a situation where an industry is nationalised and run by a board appointed by the government

**social security** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˈsɪkərəti/ noun money or help provided by the government to people who need it • He lives on social security payments

**social services** /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˈsɜːrvɪs/ noun a department of a local or national government which provides services such as health care, ad-
vice, and money for people who need help

social worker /ˈsəʊʃ(ə)l ˈwɜːkə/ noun a person who works in a social services department, visiting and looking after people who need help

society /ˈsəʊətri/ noun 1. a group of people who live together and have the same laws and customs ○ British society has changed since the Second World War. ○ All Western societies have the same social problems. (NOTE: not used with the) 2. an organisation of people with the same interests or jobs ○ a political society ○ a debating society ○ the Society of Education Officers

socio-economic /ˈsəʊəʃ(ə)nik/ adjective referring to social and economic conditions ○ The socio-economic system in capitalist countries. ○ socio-economic groups ○ groups in society divided according to income and position

socio-political /ˈsəʊəʃ(ə)pəl ˈlɪtɪk(ə)/ adjective combining social and political matters

Solicitor-General /ˈsəˌlistər ˈdʒenərəl/ noun one of the law officers, a Member of the House of Commons and deputy to the Attorney-General

Solicitor-General for Scotland /ˈsəˌlistər ˈdʒenərəl fəˈskətənd/ noun a senior law officer in Scotland

solidarity /ˈsɒldərɪti/ noun an expression of unity between people with common interests

source /ˈsɔs(ə)/ noun 1. a person who gives someone, especially a journalist, some information ○ The information had come from a usually reliable source. 2. the origin from which something comes ○ energy from renewable sources ○ You must declare income from all sources to the Inland Revenue. ○ at source referring to a system of removing tax or other payments from someone’s income before the income is paid ○ income taxed at source ○ maintenance payments deducted at source

South /ˈsauθ/ noun 1. a region of a country, e.g. the part of the USA to the south of Washington 2. the South the less industrialised countries of the world, mainly in the southern hemisphere

sovereign /ˈsəʊvrɪn/ noun a title given to the king or queen ○ The sovereign’s head appears on coins and stamps. ○ adjective having complete freedom to govern itself

sovereign state /ˈsəʊvrɪn ˈstɛt/ noun an independent country which governs itself

sovereignist /ˈsəʊvrɪnɪst/ noun a supporter of sovereignty for Quebec

sovereignty /ˈsəʊvrɪnti/ noun the power to govern independently ○ to have sovereignty over a territory to have power to govern a territory ○ Two neighbouring states claimed sovereignty over the offshore islands. ○ the sovereignty or supremacy of Parliament the right of Parliament to make or undo laws

sovereignty association /ˈsəʊvrɪnti əˈsəʊrviəsiən/ noun a proposed economic and political association between a sovereign Quebec and the rest of Canada

soviet /ˈsəʊvijət/ noun 1. an elected local, regional or national council used to govern the USSR before the fall of communism which began in 1989 2. the Supreme Soviet the legislative body of Tajikistan ○ adjective referring to the former Soviet Union

Soviet Union /ˈsəʊvijət ˈsʌvnjən/ noun the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), now split into the Russian Federation and various independent states, some of which joined the Russian Federation in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Speaker /ˈspiːkə/ noun a person who acts as chairman of a meeting of a parliament ○ discussions held behind the Speaker’s chair informal discussions between representatives of opposing political parties meeting
on neutral ground away from the floor of the House

**COMMENT:** In the House of Commons, the Speaker is an ordinary Member of Parliament chosen by the other members; the speaker in the House of Lords is the Lord Chancellor. Plans announced in 2003–4 will lead to the abolition of the office of Lord Chancellor and a new chairman for the House of Lords will need to be chosen. In the US Congress, the Speaker of the House is chosen by the other congressmen; the person presiding over meetings of the Senate is usually the Vice-President.

**Speaker’s Chaplain** *(spitkaz ’tʃeplən/ noun)* a clergymen who reads prayers at the beginning of each sitting of the House of Commons

**special agent** *(speʃ(ə)l ’edʒənt/ noun)* 1. a person who does secret work for a government 2. a person who represents someone in a particular matter

**Special Branch** *(speʃ(ə)l brənʃ/ noun)* the branch of the UK police force that specialises in political security and is the executive arm of the government intelligence agencies

**special committee** *(speʃ(ə)l kə ’nmiti/ noun)* a committee set up by Congress to investigate something

**special constable** *(speʃ(ə)l ’kənstəbl/ noun)* in the United Kingdom, someone who acts as a volunteer police officer, especially when a large force is necessary as for large public events

**special interest group** *(speʃ(ə)l ’ɪntərst grəup/ noun)* people who try to influence government to support the industry or particular concerns that they belong to or support

**specialise** *(speʃ(ə)lˈaɪz/ , specialize verb)* to concentrate on one particular subject or area of activity

**special session** *(speʃ(ə)l ’seʃ(ə)n/ noun)* US a session of Congress called in an emergency by the President to discuss an important matter when Congress is not normally in session

**special sessions** *(speʃ(ə)l ’seʃ(ə)nz/ plural noun)* a court hearing called to meet an unusual emergency

**speech** *(spitʃ/ noun)* 1. speaking or ability to talk 2. a talk given in public ○ to make a speech in Parliament ○ counsel’s closing speech to the jury ○ The Chancellor’s Budget Speech lasted two hours.

**speech of acceptance** *(spitʃ əv ’əkseptəns/ noun)* a speech made by someone agreeing to take a job, e.g., after being chosen to stand as a candidate for Parliament. Also called **acceptance speech**

**sphere of influence** *( spirəv ’ɪnfələns/ noun)* an area of the world where one country plays a leading role over other states ○ Some Latin American states fall within the USA’s sphere of influence.

**spin** *(spin/ noun)* an interpretation of information that is intended to guide public opinion in a particular direction

**spin doctor** *(spin ’doktər/ noun)* a person who gives political information to journalists expressed in a way that is good for the party or government by which he or she is employed ○ There is nothing new in politics about using spin doctors apart from the name.

**spinmeister** *(spinmeɪstər/ noun)* same as **spin doctor**

**spiritual** *(spiritjuəl/ adjective)* referring to religious matters

**splendid isolation** *(splendid ’ɪzələʃ(ə)n/ noun)* a policy where a country refuses to join with other countries in treaties

**splinter group** *(splintər gruːp/ noun)* a small group which breaks away from a main political party, or other organisation

**spoils of war** *(spɔɪlz əv ’wɔːr/ plural noun)* the goods or valuables taken by an army from an enemy

**spoils system** *(spɔɪlz ’sɪstəm/ noun)* in the USA, the way in which the senior civil servants and appointments to the federal bureaucracy are temporary appointments made by the
MP is expected to represent the sponsor her local party's funds. For this the expenses of an MP, and contribute to his or a rival organisation.

get information about another country, esp., listens or investigates secretly to watch, listen to, or investigate another country or rival organisation secretly.

pose a Bill in the House of Commons.

to see evidence that he was a spy.

stalking horse /stækɪŋ həʊs/ noun a candidate who stands election only to conceal the potential candidacy of someone else, to divide the opposition, or to determine how strong the opposition is.

spoilt ballot paper newly elected President (NOTE: The alternative system is the merit system, by which the majority of US civil servants are now appointed.)

spying /ˈspainɪŋ/ noun the action of a spy. o She was sentenced to death for spying for the enemy.

spy /ˈspai/ noun a person who watch- es, listens or investigates secretly to get information about another country, or a rival organisation. o Half the embassy staff are spies. o The government asked the military attaché to leave the country, as they had evidence that he was a spy.

sponsor /ˈspɒnser/ noun 1. a person or group such as a trade union which pays money towards the expenses of an MP or candidate. 2. an MP who introduces a Bill in the House of Commons. 1 verb 1. to support the expenses of an MP or candidate. 2 to sponsor an MP to pay part of the election expenses of an MP, and contribute to his or her local party's funds. For this the MP is expected to represent the sponsor's interests in Parliament. 2. to propose a Bill in the House of Commons.

sponsorship /ˈspɒnʃəp/ noun the act of sponsoring. 1 Sponsorship of two MPs cost the company several thousand pounds.

spy /ˈspai/ noun a person who watches, listens or investigates secretly to get information about another country, or a rival organisation. o Half the embassy staff are spies. o The government asked the military attaché to leave the country, as they had evidence that he was a spy. 1 verb 1. to watch, listen to, or investigate another country or rival organisation secretly to get information. 2. to see. 2 I spy strangers formerly, used by an MP who wanted a debate to take place in private.

Stalin /ˈstælɪn/ Joseph (1879–1953) general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party (1922–53) and ruler of the former Soviet Union as a dictator after 1930. He removed political opponents in a series of purges and causing nationwide famine with his collectivist agricultural policy. After World War II, he extended Soviet control over most of Eastern Europe.

Stalinism /ˈstælɪnɪzəm/ noun a political system based on the centralised authority of the Communist party and an oppressive totalitarian state, as in the former Soviet Union under Stalin.

Square Mile /ˈskweər maɪl/ noun the City of London, the British financial centre.

SSP abbreviation Social Security Number.

SSN abbreviation state second pension.
Committee.

The report stood referred to the Finance Committee.

standard of living /ˈstændəd ʌv ˈlɪvɪŋ/ noun the quality of personal home life, measured by things such as the amount of food or clothes bought, or size of the family car

standard rate /ˈstændəd rɛt/ noun the basic rate of income tax which is paid by most taxpayers or basic rate of Value Added Tax which is paid on most goods and services

standards officer /ˈstændədz ˈɒfəsər/ noun trading standards officer

stand down /ˈstænd ˈdɒn/ verb to say you no longer wish to be considered as a candidate in an election • the wife of one of the candidates is ill and he has stood down.

Standerrat /ˈstændərət/ noun the States Council, the upper house of the legislature in Switzerland

stand in for /ˈstænd ɪn fɔr/ verb to take the place of someone • Mr Smith is standing in for the chairman who is away on holiday.

standing /ˈstændɪŋ/ adjective permanent a noun reputation • the financial standing of a company • standing committee 1. permanent committee which always examines the same problem 2. committee of Members of Parliament which examines in detail Bills which are not passed to other committees (all senses) ad hoc

standing orders /ˈstændɪŋ ˈɔːdəz/ plural noun the rules governing the way in which a meeting or a debate in Parliament or a local council is run

standing vote /ˈstændɪŋ ˈvɔʊt/ noun US a vote in the House of Representatives, where members stand up to be counted

standstill agreement /ˈstændstɪl ə ˈgrɪmənt/ noun an agreement that things should remain as they are, e.g. one between a creditor country and a debtor country that needs extra time to repay its debt

Star Chamber /ˈstreɪmbə/ noun 1. a royal court which in the past tried cases without a jury 2. a cabinet committee which examines the spending proposals of government departments

Star-spangled Banner /ˈstreɪspændəld ˈbɛrnər/ noun a national anthem of the USA. Compare Hail to the Chief

START abbreviation Strategic Arms Reduction Talks

state /ˈsteɪt/ noun 1. an independent country 2. the political system of a country represented by its government (note: The state is the permanent embodiment of the political system. The members of the government hold the power of the state during their term in office.) • an offence against the State an act of attacking the lawful government of a country 3. a semi-independent section of a federal country such as the USA 4. a condition • The Prime Minister is due to make a speech on the state of the economy. • In his state of the EU address, the President said that only by working together could the countries of the union tackle the problem of unemployment. noun • verb to say clearly • The document states that all revenue has to be declared to the tax office.

state capital /ˈsteɪt ˈkæpɪtl/ noun the main town in a state or province. Also called provincial capital

state capitalism /ˈsteɪt ˈkæpɪtalɪzm/ noun an economic system in which the state has control of capital and the means of production

State Capitol /ˈsteɪt ˈkæpɪtl/ noun the building in the main city of a state, where the state legislature meets

State Chamber /ˈstreɪmbə/ noun the lower house of the legislature in Slovenia

state-controlled /ˈstreɪt ˈkəntrəld/ adjective run by the state
State Council

State Council /ˈsteɪt ˈkaʊns(ə)/ noun the upper house of the legislature in Slovenia

State Department /ˈsteɪt dɪˈpærtnmənt/ noun the US government department dealing with relations between the USA and other countries; See note at foreign

State Duma /ˈsteɪt dʊˈmaɪəl/ noun the lower house of the legislature in Russia

State enterprise /ˈsteɪt ɪnˈtrəpərprəz/ noun a company run by the state (NOTE: The possessive of State enterprises is State enterprise)

statehood /ˈsteɪt hʊd/ noun the status of a state in a federal union, especially the United States; (NOTE: The plural is statehoods)

Statehouse /ˈsteɪt həʊs/ noun a building in a US state capital in which its state legislature meets

stateless person /ˈsteɪtəless ˈpɜrs(ə)n/ noun a person who is not a citizen of any state

state line /ˈsteɪt ˈlaɪn/ noun the official boundary between two US states

statement /ˈsteɪtmənt/ noun 1. saying something clearly to explain your actions to the House 2. a written document containing information

state of emergency /ˈsteɪt əv ɪˈmɜrzənSI noun a dangerous or difficult situation such as a natural disaster, a war or a revolution, during which the government has to take special measures to control the country (NOTE: The government declared a state of emergency the government decided that the situation was so dangerous that they had to take special measures to control the country)

State of the Union message /ˈsteɪt əv ə ˈjuːnɪʌn ˈmesɪdʒ/ noun an annual speech by the President of the USA which sums up the political situation in the country

State Opening of Parliament /ˈsteɪt əˈpen(ə)lənt əv ˈpærliˌmənt/ noun the ceremony when the Queen opens a new session of Parliament and reads the Queen's Speech which has been written for her by the government

State-owned /ˈsteɪt ˈɔʊnd/ adjective owned by the State

state school /ˈsteɪt skɔːl/ noun a school paid for with public money

state second pension /ˈsteɪt ˌsekənd ˈpenʃən/ noun an additional pension paid by the government to supplement the basic state pension, based on an employee's earnings and National Insurance contributions

state secret /ˈsteɪt ˈsɪkrət/ noun a piece of information that is supposed to be known only to authorised people

States-General /ˈsteɪts ˈdʒen(ə)rəl/ noun the legislative body in the Netherlands, equivalent to Parliament or Congress

statesman /ˈsteɪtsmən/ noun an important and respected political leader or representative of a country (NOTE: The plural is statesmen)

statesmanlike /ˈsteɪtsmənˌlaɪk/ adjective wise and skilful, like a good political leader

statesmanship /ˈsteɪtsmənʃip/ noun the ability of being a good political leader

state socialism /ˈsteɪt ˈsoʊɪəlɪz(ə)m/ noun a system in which the state controls the major industries and banks and plans economic and social welfare for the benefit of all citizens

States of the Union /ˈsteɪts əv ə ˈjuːnɪʌn ˈplərəl noun the states joined together to form the United States of America

statesperson /ˈsteɪtspərson/ noun a senior politician who plays an important role in government or international affairs and is widely respected for integrity
pealed.

statute book, and has never been re-

Statute of Limitations

brought because it is too long since the
event in dispute occurred under the

statutory period of probation of thir-

teen weeks. ○ The authority has a stat-

atory obligation to provide free edu-
cation to all children. ○ Powers con- 

ferred on an authority by the statutory 

code.

statutory books

the official registers which a company must keep, e.g. 

the register of shareholders and the 

minute books of board meetings

statutory
declaration

1. a statement made to the Registrar of 

Companies that a company has com-

plied with specific legal conditions 2. 

a declaration signed and witnessed for 

official purposes

statutory duty

duty which someone 

must perform and which is laid down 

by act of parliament

statutory holiday

a holiday which is 

fixed by act of parliament

statutory instrument

an order which has the force of law, made 

by a minister under powers granted by 

an Act of Parliament. Abbr SI

statutory undertakers

bodies formed by act of parlia-

ment and having legal duties to pro-

duce services such as gas, electricity, 

water

stealth tax

a new 

tax or tax increase that is introduced in a 

way that allows it to be relatively un-

noticed by the public, or an additional 

charge that is effectively, though not 

officially, a tax

steering committee

a committee which works 

out the agenda for discussion by a 

main committee or conference, and so 

can influence the way the main com-

mittee or conference works

stenographer

an official person who can write in 

shorthand and so take records of what 

is said in Parliament or in court
step down /step 'daun/ verb to resign ○ He stepped down as Chair of the Finance Committee.

step up /step 'æp/ verb to increase ○ The government has stepped up its grants to small businesses. (NOTE: stepping – stepped)

Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds /stju:ərdʃiːp əv dɑːl/ /'ʃotən 'hændzəd/ noun a nominal government position, which disqualifies a person from being a Member of Parliament (NOTE: If an MP wishes to resign, he or she is said to 'take the Chiltern Hundreds' in order to do so)

stipulate /stɪpjuˈleɪt/ verb to state firmly that something particular must be done ○ The government stipulated that the applicants should take a means test.

Stormont /'streɪmɒnt/ noun a large house in Belfast, where the Northern Ireland Assembly and executive meets

straight majority /strɪt maˈdʒərɪ/ noun more than half the votes. Also called overall majority

straight ticket /strɪt ˈtɪkɪt/ noun a vote for all the candidates put forward by a political party

stranger /ˈstrændʒər/ noun a visitor to Parliament who is allowed into the public gallery or the press gallery to watch the debates. ○ private sitting

COMMENT: Formerly, an MP who wanted a debate to take place in private could call out 'I Spy Strangers'. Since 1998 the procedure has been replaced by one based on the motion that the House sit in private.

strangers’ gallery /ˈstrændʒəz,ɡeɪləri/ noun a gallery from which members of the public may observe the business of a legislature, especially in the British House of Commons

strategic /strɪˈtɪdʒɪk/ adjective based on a long-term plan of action

strategic planning /strɪˈtɪdʒɪk ˈplænɪŋ/ noun planning for the future long-term work of a government or other organisation

strategy /ˈstrætədʒi/ noun a long-term plan of action ○ The Opposition’s electoral strategy was to attack the government’s record on unemployment.

straw poll /strɔːz 'pɒl/ noun an unofficial vote or expression of opinion used to discover the likely result of an election or the trend of opinion regarding an issue ○ A straw poll among members of staff shows the government is in the lead.

strike /strɪk/ noun 1. a refusal by workers to work, as a protest ○ to come out on strike ○ to go on strike to stop working, as a protest ○ the local government workers are on strike for higher pay ○ to take strike action to stop working, as a protest ○ strike ballot, strike vote a vote by employees to decide if a strike should be held ○ strike call a demand by a union for a strike ○ verb 1. to stop working, as a protest ○ to strike for higher wages or for shorter working hours ○ to strike in protest against bad working conditions 2. to remove a word from a text or a name from a list ○ to strike from the record to remove words from the written minutes of a meeting because they are incorrect or offensive ○ the chairman’s remarks were struck from the record ○ to strike out the last word US a way of getting permission of the chair to speak on a question, by moving that the last word of the amendment or section being discussed should be deleted

strongman /ˈstreɪmən/ noun a powerful leader who rules by force

STUC abbreviation Scottish Trades Union Congress

stuff /stʌf/ verb to put invalid ballot papers into a ballot box to affect the result of an election

stump /stʌmp/ verb to campaign for election to a public office

STV abbreviation single transferable vote

sub- /sʌb/ prefix meaning less important
sub-clause /ˈsəb klaɪz/ noun part of a section in a Bill being considered by Parliament.

subcommittee /ˈsəbˌkɒməti/ noun a committee which is formed to advise a larger committee. The Schools Subcommittee makes recommendations to the Education Committee.

subject /ˈsəbədʒekt/ noun 1. what something is concerned with. The subject of the report was poverty in the inner cities. 2. a person who is a citizen of a country, especially one with a king or queen. She is a British subject. British subjects do not need visas to visit European Union countries.

subject to /ˈsəbədʒekt tu/ adjective 1. depending on. The contract is subject to government approval the contract will be valid only if it is approved by the government. 2. under. The subject to contract not legal until a contract has been signed. The sale is agreed, subject to contract. Under a contract, two parties to make someone suffer something. He was subjected to torture. The MP subjected the committee to a boring list of figures.

sub judice /ˈsəb ˈdʒuːdiʃ/ Latin phrase meaning 'under the law': being considered by a court, and so not to be mentioned in the media or in Parliament. The papers cannot report the case because it is still sub judice.

submit /ˈsəbmit/ verb to ask for something to be considered by a committee or meeting. She submitted six planning applications to the committee.

subpoena /ˈsəpənə/ noun a court order telling someone to appear before a Parliamentary Committee or a court of law. The subpoena to appear before a parliamentary committee or a court of law. She was subpoenaed to appear before the Commons committee on Defence.

subscribe /ˈsəbˌskrɪb/ verb to subscribe to something. 1. to sign something, showing that you agree to it. 2. to support a policy or proposal.

sub-section /ˈsəbˌsɛkʃən/ noun a part of a section of a document such as an Act of Parliament. You will find the information in sub-section 3 of Section 47.

subsidiarity /ˈsəbˌsɪdərəti/ noun (in the EU) the principle that decisions should be taken at the lowest possible effective level.

subsidary motion /ˈsəbˌsɪdiəriˈmoʊʃən/ noun a motion which is related to another motion, e.g. a motion to adjourn discussion of the other motion.

subsidise /ˈsəbˌsɪdɪzaɪz, ˈsəbˌsɪdʌɪzaɪz/ verb to give money to an organisation to help it continue to work. The youth theatre is subsidised by the council. The government has refused to subsidise the construction work.

subsidy /ˈsəbˌsɪdɪ/ noun money given by a government to an organisation to help it continue to work. The club relies on council subsidies for its finances.

substantive /ˈsəbˌstæntɪv/ adjective real or actual. The substantive motion is the main motion under discussion rather than a subsidiary one.

substitute /ˈsəbˌstɪtjuːt/ noun 1. a person or thing which takes the place of someone or something else. The Mayor was ill so she sent the Deputy Mayor as substitute. 2. US a motion introduced in place of the business being discussed, which has the effect of killing the original motion. The verb to put in the place of something else. He proposed to amend the motion by deleting the words 'the Council' in line three and substituting 'the Council Officers'. Please substitute 'school' for 'college' on page 4.

suburb /ˈsəbər/ noun an area on the edge of a city or town, which is mainly used for houses and not shops or offices.
subversion /ˈsʌbˈvɜːʃən/ noun secret acts intended to bring down a government or political system. The government stated that the power of the State was being undermined by enemy subversion.

suffragette /ˈsʌfrədʒɪt/ noun a woman who campaigned for women to be given the right to vote in the early part of the 20th century.

suffragist /ˈsʌfrədʒɪst/ noun a supporter of the right to vote being given to a particular group such as women or all people above a particular age.

suggestion /ˈsədʒəstʃən/ noun a proposal or idea which is put forward.

successor /ˈsəkˈsesər/ noun a person who takes over from someone.

succession state /ˈsəkˈʃəʃən stət/ noun a nation that was formerly part of another larger nation.

succession state /ˈsəkˈʃəʃən stət/ noun the right to vote in elections.

suffragette /ˈsʌfrədʒɪt/ noun a woman who campaigned for women to be given the right to vote in the early part of the 20th century.

suffragist /ˈsʌfrədʒɪst/ noun a supporter of the right to vote being given to a particular group such as women or all people above a particular age.

suggestion /ˈsədʒəstʃən/ noun a proposal or idea which is put forward.
supply /səˈplaɪ/ noun 1. the amount of something which is available to be used 2. the stock of something which is needed 3. Supplies of coal have been reduced.

Supreme /soʊˈprɪzm/ adjective most powerful or important

Supreme Council /ˈkɑʊns(ə)/ noun the legislature in the Ukraine

Supreme Court /ˈkɔːrt/ Supreme Court (of Judicature) the highest court in England and Wales, consisting of the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Justice. noun the highest federal court in the USA and other countries

Supreme Kenges noun the legislative body in Kazakhstan

Supreme People’s Assembly /soʊˈprɪzm ′piːpləz ′səmbl/ noun the legislature in North Korea

Supreme Soviet /soʊˈsviət/ noun the legislative body of Tajikistan

surgeon general /səˈdʒɜːn ′dʒɜːnəl/ noun the chief public health officer of the United States, or the chief public health officer of some individual states (NOTE: The Surgeon General is roughly the equivalent of the UK Chief Medical Officer.)

surrender /səˈrɛndər/ verb 1. to give in to an enemy 2. to hand over something to someone 3. He surrendered his seal of office.

survive /səˈvərv/ verb 1. to live longer than another person 2. He survived the vote of no confidence.

suspension /səˈspenʃən/ noun 1. the act of stopping something for a time 2. Suspension of a sitting

supremacy /soʊˈpreməsi/ noun being in an all-powerful position 2. the supremacy of Parliament the situation of the British Parliament which can both pass and repeal laws
if the MP is suspended twice in the same session of Parliament.)

Sussex Drive
noun
the address of the official residence of the Prime Minister of Canada

suzerain
noun
a ruler or nation that controls a dependent nation's international affairs but allows it to control its internal affairs

swear
verb
to promise that what you will say will be the truth
She swore to tell the truth.
I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth
the words used when a witness takes the oath in court

swear in
verb
to make someone formally promise specific things before taking up a position
He was sworn in as a Privy Councillor.

swearing-in
noun
an act of making someone formally promise specific things before taking up a position
Five hundred guests attended the swearing-in of the President.

swing
noun
a percentage change in votes from one election to another
A 10% swing away from the government or to the Opposition.
He needs a 5% swing to recapture the seat which he lost at the last election.

swinging voter
noun
ANZ same as floating voter

swing voter
noun
US
a person who does not vote for the same political party on all occasions, or whose voting behaviour is unpredictable

SWP
abbreviation
Socialist Workers Party

sympathiser
noun
a person who agrees in general with the policies of a political party, without being a party member
The government is formed of communists and communist sympathisers.

syndic
noun
in some European countries, a government official, especially a civil magistrate

syndicalism
noun
a type of socialism, where property and control of industry is in the hands of the trade unions in each industry

syndicate
noun
in some European countries, the office of a government official, especially a civil magistrate

system
noun
1. the arrangement or organisation of things which work together
The British legal system has been taken as the standard for many other legal systems.
2. a particular way of doing things
table /ˈteɪbl/ noun 1. a piece of furniture for sitting at 2. the long table in the centre of the House of Commons between the two front benches. The Serjeant at Arms places the mace on the table when the business of the House begins. The two despatch boxes which the main speakers from either party talk across are also on the table. 3. to let a bill lie on the table US not to proceed with discussion of a bill, but to hold it over to be debated later 4. a list of numbers or facts set out in a list a verb to put written information on the table before or during a meeting, making them available to everyone at the meeting ○ The report of the finance committee was tabled. ○ to lay a bill on the table US 1. to present a bill to the House of Commons for discussion 2. to kill debate on a bill in the House of Representatives tactical /ˈteɪktɪkl/ adjective done as part of a short-term plan to try to achieve success
tactical voting /ˈteɪktɪkl ˈvəʊtɪŋ/ noun a way of voting, which aims not at voting for the candidate you want to win, but at voting in such a way as to prevent the candidate whom you do not want to win from being elected (NOTE: in a case where the three candidates A, B and C, have 47%, 33% and 20% of the vote according to an opinion poll, C’s supporters might all vote for B, to prevent A winning.)
take out /ˈteɪk ˈaut/ verb to remove
take over /ˈteɪk ˈəʊvər/ verb 1. to take control of something such as a factory or organisation ○ During the uprising, the rebels took over the Post Office and radio station. ○ The party has been taken over by an activist group. 2. to start to do a job in place of someone else ○ The new leader of the party takes over on May 1st. ○ Ambassador Brown took over from Ambassador Green last April. 3. to replace something
Taliban /ˈteɪlbən/ plural noun a strict Islamic group that ruled Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001
talk /tɔk/ plural noun formal discussions between two or more groups to bring about agreement on an issue
talking shop /ˈtɔkɪŋ ʃɔp/ noun a place where people talk, but not much action takes place ○ The Council Chamber is just a talking shop.
talk out /ˈtɔk ˈaut/ verb to go on talking in a debate, so that the time runs out before the vote can be taken ○ The bill was talked out and so fell.
Tammany Hall /ˌtæmənɪˈhɔl/ noun the very powerful Democratic Party Committee in New York
Tammany Hall politics /ˌtæmənɪˈhɔl ˈpolɪtɪks/ noun the use of bribery and violence to achieve political control especially in a big city, so-called after the Tammany Hall Society in late 19th century and early 20th century in New York
Tánaiste noun the Deputy Prime Minister in the Republic of Ireland
Taoiseach /ˈtəʃək/ noun the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland
target /ˈtərəjt/ verb to aim an attack or criticism at somebody or something ○ The terrorists targeted military and political figures. ○ The advertising campaign is targeting floating voters.
rate of income tax

are heavily taxed.

can be claimed against tax

to pay for government services

impose a tax

amount of tax to be paid

general

facing more than one Directorate-

tion, a group which organises work af-

thing

one tax or to put a tax on some-

pay tax

/\ inferiord/ashr\f

tax concession

/t\eks\ ə\n
is happier than what is thought to be

part of one’s income

money removed from a salary to pay tax

not pay tax on

which a person is allowed to earn and

which a tax has to be paid

noun

imposed tax

tax on petrol

tax on goods

tax on services

verb to tax businesses at 50%

to make a tax payable

to remove

to lift a tax

to tax

taxation

tax avoidance

tax code

tax concession

tax deduction

tax exemption

tax return

tax year

taxpayer

tax inspector

taxing officer

a tax

money removed from a salary to pay tax

tax allowances

part of one's income

of taxing

the act

trying legally to reduce the amount of tax to be paid

a number given to someone to show the amount of income tax he or she must pay

allowing less tax to be paid

money deducted from the amount of income tax someone has to pay for some reason

not subject to tax

money not subject to tax

money deductible

money deductible

money tax deductible

money tax-exempt

money tax-deductible

money tax-free

tax free

tax-exempt

taxpayer

taxpayer

tax inspector

taxing officer

a person appointed by the House of Commons to assess the charges made by a Parliamentary agent

a person or company which has to pay tax at basic rate

a person or organisation and make sure the tax is paid. Also called inspector of taxes

taxation

tax avoidance

tax deduction

tax exemption

tax return

tax year

taxpayer

tax inspector

taxing officer

money removed from a salary to pay tax

tax allowances

part of one's income

of taxing

the act

trying legally to reduce the amount of tax to be paid

a number given to someone to show the amount of income tax he or she must pay

allowing less tax to be paid

money deducted from the amount of income tax someone has to pay for some reason

not subject to tax

money not subject to tax

money tax deductible

money tax-exempt

money tax-deductible

money tax-free

tax free

tax-exempt

taxpayer

taxpayer

tax inspector

taxing officer

a person appointed by the House of Commons to assess the charges made by a Parliamentary agent

a person or company which has to pay tax at basic rate

a person or organisation and make sure the tax is paid. Also called inspector of taxes

money removed from a salary to pay tax

tax allowances

part of one's income

of taxing

the act

trying legally to reduce the amount of tax to be paid

a number given to someone to show the amount of income tax he or she must pay

allowing less tax to be paid

money deducted from the amount of income tax someone has to pay for some reason

not subject to tax

money not subject to tax

money tax deductible

money tax-exempt

money tax-deductible

money tax-free

tax free

tax-exempt

taxpayer

taxpayer

tax inspector

taxing officer

a person appointed by the House of Commons to assess the charges made by a Parliamentary agent

a person or company which has to pay tax at basic rate
which seems unfair. The Appeal Court rejected the appeal on a technicality.

technocrat /tekna/ noun an expert in engineering or science who has political or industrial power

teller /telə/ noun 1. a member who counts the votes in the House of Commons or House of Representatives 2. a worker in a bank

COMMENT: When a division is called in the House of Commons, the Speaker appoints four MPs as tellers, two for the motion and two against. They do not vote, but check the other MPs as they pass through the division lobbies.

tem /tem/ pro tempore

temporary /tempəral/ Lords

tendency /tendənsi/ noun a group within a political party which tries to push the party in a particular direction politically but which still remains fundamentally loyal to the party (NOTE: A faction may try to break away from a political party, while a tendency will avoid pushing its opposition to others in the party too far.)

tender /tendə/ noun a document offering to do work or supply goods at a certain specified cost verb to make an offer in the form of a tender

tenderer /tendərə/ noun a person or company which tenders for work. The company was the successful tenderer for the project.

10 Downing Street /ten 'daʊnɪŋ/ noun the house of the Prime Minister, where the Cabinet meets and which is the centre of the executive branch of the British government

Ten Minute Rule /ten 'mɪnt ruːl/ noun a standing order in the House of Commons, where an ordinary MP can introduce a Bill with a short speech. The Bill was proposed under the Ten Minute Rule.

tense /tens/ adjective a potentially dangerous situation. The situation in the area is still tense. As the situation became more tense, the Defence Department sent troops to nearby bases.

tension /ˈtenʃən/ noun a period when relations between states are difficult and they may take action against each other. The Security Council resolution is aimed at reducing tension in the area. The attack on the ship increased tension in the area. The debate in council showed the tension between the two factions.

term /təm/ noun 1. a period of time the term of a lease to have a loan for a term of fifteen years. during her term of office as manager. The term of the loan is fifteen years.

term limits /təm 'limits/ noun in the USA, a restriction on the number of times an elected official can hold office (NOTE: The US President is restricted to two terms, but efforts to impose term limits on other federal politicians have failed.)

territorial /ˈterɪtoriəl/ adjective referring to land territorial claims claims to own land which is part of another country. territorial waters sea water near the coast of a country, which is part of the country and governed by the laws of that country. outside territorial waters in international waters, where a single country's jurisdiction does not run.

territorialise /ˈterɪtoriəlaɪz/ verb to increase the size of a country by adding a territory or territories to it

territorialism /ˈterɪtoriəlɪzm/ noun a social system in which landowners have most control

territorial waters /ˈterɪtoriəl wɔːʃəz/ plural noun the area of sea around a country's coast that is under the control of that country

territory /ˈterɪtərɪ/ noun an area of land ruled by a government. Their government has laid claim to part of our territory.
terror /ˈterər/ ○ Reign of Terror 1. a period of repression and violence, when people live in a continual state of fear 2. the period during the French Revolution when the Jacobins under Robespierre were all-powerful (1793–94)
terrorism /ˌterəriz(ə)zm/ noun the use of acts of public violence to achieve political change
terrorist /ˈterərɪst/ adjective, noun trying to achieve political change by acts of public violence ○ The government has had to face a series of terrorist attacks on post offices and police stations. ○ Three terrorists seized the Minister and held him hostage.
test ban /ˈtest bæn/ noun an agreement between countries to stop testing some or all nuclear weapons
test roll /ˈtest rəʊl/ noun a book in which each MP signs his or her name after taking the oath at the beginning of a new Parliament
textbook /ˈtekstbʊk/ noun a book which is used for studying
thalassocracy /ˌθeɪləsˈɒskrəsi/ noun naval or commercial supremacy over a large area of sea
Thatcher /ˈθeɪtʃər/, Margaret, Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven (b. 1925) the first woman prime minister of Great Britain (1979–90)
Thatcherism /ˌθeɪtʃərɪz(ə)zm/ noun the political policies and style of government of Margaret Thatcher, including privatisation, monetarism and lack of support for trade unions
there- /ˈðeər/ prefix that thing (NOTE: The following words formed from there- are frequently used in government and legal documents.)
thereafter /ˈðeərəˈɑːftər/ adverb after that
therefor /ˈðeərərˈfɔːr/ adverb for that
therefore /ˈðeərərˈfɔːr/ adverb as a result of that
therefrom /ˈðeərərˈfrɔːm/ adverb from that
therein /ˈðeərən/ adverb in that

thereinafter /ˈðeərənəˈɑːftər/ adverb afterwards mentioned in that document
thereinbefore /ˈðeərənbiˈfɔːr/ adverb before mentioned in that document
thereinunder /ˈðeərənənˈʌndər/ adverb mentioned under that heading
thereof /ˈðeərəvəf/ adverb of that
thereeto /ˈðeərətuə/ adverb to that
thereetofore /ˈðeərətəˈfɔːr/ adverb before that time
therewith /ˈθɪərəwəθ/ adverb with that
think tank /ˈθɪŋk tæŋk/ noun a group of experts, academics and politicians who discuss important political, economic and social problems and suggest how they should be solved. Their suggestions are sometimes adopted by government, which may set up similar groups of its own. ○ Professor Smith is a member of the government’s economic think tank.
third estate /ˈθɜrd ɪˈstɛst/ noun the common people
third force /ˈθɜrd fɔrθ/ noun a group that acts to bring two opposing political groups or parties together
third party /ˈθɜrd pɑrti/ noun 1. any person other than the two main parties involved in a contract or some business 2. (in a two-party system) another political party, beside the main two
COMMENT: In UK the third party is the Liberal Democratic Party, although in Scotland this role is sometimes challenged by the Scottish National Party. In the USA any small party apart from the Republican or Democratic Parties is called a third party.
Third Reading /ˈθɜrd ˈriːdɪŋ/ noun the final discussion and vote on a Bill in Parliament
Third Reich /ˈθɜrd rɪk/ noun the Nazi regime in Germany between 1933 and 1945
Third Republic /ˈθɜrd rɪˈpʌblɪk/ noun the French system of government set up after Napoleon III’s reign, lasting until 1940
Third Way /ˈθɜːd ˈweɪ/ noun a political policy that is neither Socialist nor Conservative, but combines aspects of free-market capitalism with egalitarian social aims

Third World /ˈθɜːrd ˈwɜːld/ noun a way of referring to developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. See Fourth World. (Note: This description was relevant when there was a 'free' world led by America and a communist world led by Russia, but is now less useful since the fall of communism. It is also considered offensive by some.)

three line whip /θriː lайн ‘wip/ noun strict instructions to the MPs in each political party to attend parliament and vote on a particular bill as their party whips tell them. This is done by underlining the matter three times on a piece of paper or 'whip' which is given to each MP in the party.

throwing out /ˈθraʊtɪŋ ˈaʊt/ verb 1. to reject a proposal or refuse to accept it. The proposal was thrown out by the planning committee. 2. the board threw out the draft contract submitted by the union. 3. to get rid of something. We threw out the old telephones and put in a computerised system. 4. The AGM threw out the old board of directors. (Note: throwing = threw = has thrown)

ticket /ˈtɪkɪt/ noun US a party’s list of candidates for election to political office. He ran for governor on the Republican ticket.

title /ˈtɪtl/ noun 1. the right to hold goods or property. She has no title to the property. 2. a document proving a right to hold a property. She has a good title to the property. 3. a name given to a person in a job. He has the title 'Chief Executive'. 4. a name given to someone to show that they have received an honour or are a member of the nobility. He inherited his title from his uncle. 5. the name of a bill which comes before Parliament or name of an Act of Parliament. See short title.

titled /ˈtaɪtl(ə)ld/ adjective referring to a person with a title

titular /ˈtɪtjuələ/ adjective holding a title. He is the titular head of state.

tokenism /ˈtəʊkənɪzəm/ noun appointing a woman or someone from a minority group to a job just to avoid being criticised for being prejudiced.

topple /ˈtɒp(ə)l/ verb to bring down or to make a government lose power or a person lose his or her position. The scandal toppled the minister. The smaller parties voted together and succeeded in toppling the government.

tory /ˈtɔrɪ/ adjective referring to a Conservative Party. See short title. (Note: used of the British Conservative Party, but also of other Conservatives, as in Canada)

totalitarian /ˈtɔtəlɪtəriən/ adjective (often as criticism) having total power and not allowing any opposition or personal freedom. The totalitarian state. The totalitarian regime of the junta.

totalitarianism /ˈtəʊkərɪənɪzəm/ noun (usually as criticism) a political system in which the state has total power over the citizens. Many extreme right-wing or left-wing governments have been accused of practising totalitarianism.

town /ˈtaʊn/ noun a place where people live and work, with houses and other buildings. Town Clerk /ˈtaʊnklərk/ noun the term used in the past for the most important permanent official of the administration of a town, working under the instructions of the town council. The official is now usually referred to as the Chief Executive.

town council /ˈtaʊncənsəl/ noun the representatives elected to run a town
trade agreement /ˈtredɪmənt/ noun an international agreement between countries over trade

trade deficit /ˈtredɪdɛfɪsɪt/ noun the amount by which a country imports more goods than it exports

Trade Descriptions Act /ˈtrædɪpɜrəzmənt/ noun an Act of Parliament which limits the way in which goods can be described so as to protect consumers from buying goods which have been given false descriptions

trademark /ˈtredmærk/ noun a particular name, design or symbol which a company or maker uses for its product, has been registered by the maker, and which cannot be used by anyone else You cannot call your beds ‘Soft’n’kumf’ – it is a registered trademark.

Trades Union Congress /ˈtredz ˈdʒʊnjən kɒŋgres/ noun the central organisation for all British trade unions. Abbr TUC (NOTE: Although Trades Union Congress is the official name for the organisation, trade union is more common than trades union.)

trade union /ˈtred doomɪn/ noun 1. a British trade union, or trade union an organisation which represents workers who are its members in discussions with management about pay and conditions of work. Also called trades union. US term labor union

trade unionist /ˈtred doomɪnɪst/ noun a member of a trade union

Trading Standards Department /ˈtredɪŋ ˈstreɪndz dɪptʃəmənt/ noun a department of a council which deals with weighing and measuring equipment used by shops, and other consumer matters

trading standards officer /ˈtredɪŋ ˈstreɪndz ˈɒffɪsər/ noun the official in charge of a council’s Trading Standards Department

traitor /ˈtreɪtər/ noun a person who betrays his or her country, especially by giving secret information to the enemy

transact /ˈtrænsæk/ verb to do business with someone

transaction /ˈtrænsækʃən/ noun 1. a piece of business done between companies or people 2. the process of doing something

transcript /ˈtrænskrɪpt/ noun a written record of a spoken discussion or debate The Committee’s report gives a full transcript of the evidence presented to it. Transcripts of cases are available in the Supreme Court Library.

transferable vote /ˈtrænferəbl/ noun a vote that will be given to a voter’s second choice if the first-choice candidate receives too few votes to continue in the selection process

transitional period /ˈtrænsɪʃən pəriˈɒd/ noun the period during which new Member States of the European Union are allowed to introduce EU laws gradually, because
introducing them immediately might cause difficulties

transnational /ɪˈtrænzənə(ʊ)nl/ adjective going beyond the borders of one state

transparency /trænsˈpærənsi/ noun an open and honest way of acting when making decisions, e.g. being open to the public about the actions of government or the European Union

treason /ˈtreɪzn/ noun the crime of betraying one’s country, usually by helping the enemy in time of war. She was accused of treason. Three men were executed for treason. The treason trial lasted three weeks.

treasonable /ˈtreɪznəb(ə)l/ adjective considered as treason. He was accused of making treasonable remarks.

Treasureer /ˈtreɪzəər/ noun the finance minister in the US federal government and in each of the state governments

treasurer’s report /ˌtreɪzərəz ˈrɪptəl/ noun a document from the treasurer of an organisation to explain the financial state of the organisation to its members

Treasury /ˈtreɪzəri/ noun the government department which deals with the country’s finances. Secretary to the Treasury, Treasury Secretary US the member of the government in charge of finance

COMMENT: In most countries, the government’s finances are the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance, headed by the Finance Minister. In the UK, the Treasury is headed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Treasury Bench /ˈtreɪzəri bɛntʃ/ noun the front bench in the House of Commons where the government ministers sit

Treasury Bill /ˈtreɪzəri bɪl/ noun a bill of exchange which does not give any interest and is sold by the government at a discount

treasury bonds /ˈtreɪzəri bɔndz/ plural noun the documents given to people who lend money to the government of the USA, which promise repayment and interest on certain dates

Treasury counsel /ˈtreɪzəri ˈkɑːnsəl/ noun a lawyer who works in the Central Criminal Court on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Treasury Solicitor /ˈtreɪzəri ˈsɒlɪsɪtər/ noun in England, the lawyer who is head of the government’s legal department

treaty /ˈtriːti/ noun 1. a written legal agreement between countries. The treaty was signed but never ratified. The minister negotiated a commercial treaty or a cultural treaty with the French. 2. an agreement between individual persons

Treaty of Accession /ˈtriːti əv ˈæksesɪʃn/ noun the treaty by which a new Member State joins the European Union, e.g. the treaty by which the UK joined the European Community in 1973

Treaty of Maastricht /ˈtriːti əv ˈmuːstrɪkt/ noun the treaty which established the European Union in 1993 on the basis of the European Economic Community set up in 1957. Also called Treaty on European Union

Treaty of Paris /ˈtriːti əv ˈpærɪs/ noun the treaty which established the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951

Treaty of Rome /ˈtriːti əv ˈrəʊm/ noun the treaty which established the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community in 1957, and which is the basis of the European Union established in 1993. Also called Maastricht Treaty

trend /trend/ noun the general way things are going. a downward trend in inflation. There is a trend away from old-fashioned party politics. The report points to upwards trends in reported cases of international terrorism.

TRH abbreviation Their Royal Highnesses

triarchy /ˈtraɪkri/ noun government by three people or by three institutions
try.)

with reference to Russia, but now

the next one
try which is the current president, to-

to member group consisting of the coun-

in special problems and makes judg-
ments 2. a court set up, under English
law, by the British government to
judge or investigate a specific matter

Tribune group /tribju:n grʊp/ noun a group of Labour MPs who
support left-wing policies

tribute /'tribju:t/ noun a payment
made by one ruler or state to another

more powerful one

tricolour /'treiziər bɔnd/ noun a flag
with three bands of colours like the
French flag

trilateral /'trɪələt(ə)rəl/ adjective
involving three states or trilateral ne-
gotiations

trilateralism /'trɪələt(ə)rəlɪz(ə)m/ noun relations or discussions between
three nations, areas or groups

Trimble /'trɪmb(ə)l/, David (b. 1944) leader of the Ulster Unionist
Party (1995–), he had an important
role in the peace negotiations that led
to the Good Friday peace agreement
in Northern Ireland (1998), for which
he shared the Nobel Peace Prize
(1998). He was first minister of the
Northern Irish Assembly (1999–2002)
until its suspension.

tripartism /'trɪəpərtɪzm(ə)m/ noun division into three groups

tripartite /'trɪəpərtaɪt/ adjective
formed of three groups or political parties

triplicate /'trɪplɪkət/ noun a document
with three copies

triumvirate /'trɪəmvaɪrət/ noun a group of three leaders running a country or a party

(Note: It was originally used with reference to Russia, but now
used for three leaders in any country.) 2. in the European Union, a three-
member group consisting of the coun-
try which is the current president, to-
gether with the previous president and
the next one (EU)

troika /'trʊɪkə/ noun 1. a group of three leaders running a country or a party (NOTE: It was originally used with reference to Russia, but now used for three leaders in any country.) 2. in the European Union, a three-
member group consisting of the coun-
try which is the current president, to-
gether with the previous president and
the next one (EU)

trooper /'trʊəpə/ noun a member of
a mounted police unit

Trotskyism /'trɒtskiːz(ə)m/ noun a communist political theory opposed to
Lenin and Stalin’s belief in a strong,
centralised Russian Communist Party,
but in favour of continuous world rev-
olution to prevent power being taken
away from people

Trotskyite /'trɒtskiːt/ noun a person
who supports the ideas of Trotsky-

ism (NOTE: also informally called a Trot)

trouble /'trəbl/ noun or troubles
riots or disturbances

trust /'trʌst/ verb to believe that
someone will do something they have promised

trustee /'trʌsti/ noun 1. a person
who has charge of money or property
in trust or a person who is responsible for a family trust or the trustees of the
pension fund, a country appointed by the United Nations to administer
another country

trusteeship /'trʌstiʃip/ noun the
position of being a trustee or the territ-
ory is under United Nations trustees-

ship.

tsarism /'tsɑːriz(ə)m/ noun govern-

ment by an emperor who has absolute power

TUC abbreviation Trades Union
Congress

turncoat /'tɜːnkaʊt/ noun someone
who abandons or betrays a group or
caul and joins its opponents

turn down /'tɜːndaʊn/ verb to refuse
the Speaker turned down the
Opposition’s request for an emergen-
cy debate. The bank turned down
their request for a loan. The applica-
tion for a licence was turned down.

turn out /'tɜːn aʊt/ verb 1. to go to
vote Voters turned out in thousands
to vote for their sitting MP. 2. to throw
out a government The ruling party
was turned out in the election. Vote
for the Opposition and help to turn the
government out!
turnout /ˈtɜːnaut/ noun the number of people who vote in an election as a proportion of those who are qualified to vote but do not do so. There was a very low turnout (only 26%) at the municipal elections. In general elections, the turnout is usually higher than in local elections. We can expect a very high turnout in this constituency.

turnover /ˈtɜːnəvə/ noun the total amount of money a business receives for selling its goods or services in a year

Tweede Kamer noun the lower house of the States-General in the Netherlands

twin /twɪn/ verb to make a special arrangement between a town in one country and one of similar size or situation in another, involving visits between the two places

twinning /ˈtwɪnɪŋ/ noun a special arrangement between a town in one country and one of similar size or situation in another country involving visits between the two places. The district council’s town-twinning committee decided that Epping should be twinned with Eppingen in Germany.

two-party system /ˈtuːˈpæti/ˈsɪstəm/ noun the political system in many countries where there are only two large political parties, with the result that any smaller party finds it impossible to get enough votes to form a government

tyrranical /ˈtɪrænklɪ/, tyrannous adjective cruel and unjust. The people rose up against the tyrannical dictator.

tyran nise /ˌtɪrənɪz/ verb to govern a people or community with extreme cruelty and harshness

tyrranny /ˈtɪrənɪ/ noun 1. (usually as criticism) the use of force and fear to rule a country. To arrest so many students on minor charges was an act of tyranny. 2. (usually as criticism) a government system which uses force and fear to rule

tyrant /ˈtɪrænt/ noun a ruler who rules by force and fear (used as criticism)

tzarism /ˈtsərɪzəm/ noun another spelling of tsarism
UDA abbreviation Ulster Defence Association
UDI abbreviation Unilateral Declaration of Independence
UDR abbreviation Ulster Defence Regiment
UK abbreviation United Kingdom
UKIP /′ju:kɪp/ abbreviation United Kingdom Independence Party
Ulster Unionist Party /′ʌlstər ˌjuːnɪˈɒnɪst ˌpæti/ noun the largest and most moderate of the Northern Ireland parties committed to the maintenance of the union with the UK. Also called Official Unionist Party
ultra /′ʌltrə/ noun a person who holds extreme political views, especially extreme conservative views
ultranationalism /′ʌltrəˈneɪʃənəlɪzəm/ noun extreme nationalism
ultrapatriot /′ʌltrəˈpærtrɪət/ noun someone who is extremely or excessively patriotic
ultraroyalist /′ʌltrəˈreɪəlɪst/ noun someone who is a very strong supporter of royalism
ultra vires /′ʌltrə ˈvaɪərəs/ Latin phrase meaning 'beyond its powers'
Uluk Kenesh noun the legislative body in Kyrgyzstan
UN abbreviation United Nations
unaligned /′ənəˈlaɪnd/ adjective not associated with any major world power or any political party
un-American /′ənəˈɛməriən/ adjective disloyal to the United States
unanimity /′juːnəˈnæməti/ noun being completely in agreement
unanimous /′juːnəˈnæməs/ adjective where everyone votes in the same way.

They reached unanimous agreement. The chairman ruled that the meeting was unconstitutional.

unanimous consent /′juːnəˈnæməs ˈkɒnsent/ noun the agreement to a motion in Congress without a vote because everyone agrees unanimously.

unavoidably /′ʌnəˈvɔɪdləbli/ adverb in a way which cannot be avoided.

Uncle Sam /′ʌŋk(ə)l ˈsæm/ noun a personification of the government of the United States, shown as a tall thin white man with a white beard, wearing red and white striped trousers, a blue tail coat, and a stovepipe hat with a band of stars.

unconstitutional /′ʌnkonstɹɪnəl/ adjective not allowed by the rules or laws of a country or organisation. The chairman ruled that the meeting was unconstitutional.

uncontested /′ʌnkonˈtɛstɪd/ adjective not opposed or defended. He was elected Secretary in an uncontested election.

uncontroversial /′ʌnˌkɒntrəˈvɜːʃəl/ adjective not causing disagreement.

undemocratic /ˌʌndiˈmɛtrɪk/ adjective not democratic. Everyone must agree that the first-past-the-post system is undemocratic, because a candidate can be elected who has only a minority of the votes cast.
under /ˈʌndər/ preposition 1. lower than or less than • The interest rate is under 10%. • Under 20% of MPs voted in the division. • Children under the age of 18 cannot vote. 2. controlled by or according to • regulations under the Police Act • Under the terms of the agreement, the goods should be delivered in October. • She does not qualify under section 2 of the 1979 Act.

undercover agent /ˌʌndərˈkʌvər/ noun a spy or policeman working in secret

undermentioned /ˌʌndərˈmɛntɪd/ adjective mentioned lower down in a document

underrepresent /ˌʌndərˌreprɪˈzent/ verb to give fewer elected representatives to the members of a group or people in an area than they ought to have • Women are underrepresented in the House of Commons. • The present system tends to underrepresent minority parties.

undersecretary /ˌʌndərˈsɛkrəri/ noun 1. a secretary who ranks just below a chief secretary in a government or organisation 2. a government minister who works for the secretary of state of a government department

undersheriff /ˈʌndərˌʃerɪf/ noun a person who is second to a High Sheriff

undesirable alien /ˈʌndɪzərərɪbəl/ noun a person who is not a citizen of a country, and who the government considers should not be allowed to stay in that country • She was declared an undesirable alien and deported.

undischarged bankrupt /ˈʌndɪsˈtreɪd/ noun a person who has been declared bankrupt because they owe more money than they can repay, and has not been released from that state by repaying the money [NOTE: a bankrupt cannot become or remain as an MP]

undue influence /ˈʌndjuːˈɪnfləns/ noun wrongful pressure put on someone which prevents that person from acting independently • The government was accused of putting undue influence on the board of the nationalised industry.

unelectable /ˌʌnɪˈlekətəb(ə)/ adjective certain to be defeated if standing as a candidate for public office, e.g. because of extreme opinions on controversial issues

unemployed /ˌʌnmɪˈplɔɪmd/ adjective, noun with no paid work, without a job

unemployment /ˌʌnmɪˈplɔɪmənt/ noun the fact of people not having jobs • The unemployment figures or the figures for unemployment are rising

unemployment benefit /ˌʌnmɪˈplɔɪmənt ˈbenɪt/ noun the money paid by the government to someone who is unemployed

unenforceable /ˌʌnmɪˈfɔrəsəbl/ adjective impossible to apply or make people accept

UNESCO /juːˈneskəʊ/ noun a United Nations agency that promotes international collaboration on culture, education, and science. Full form United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

unfederated /ˌʌnɪˈfɛdərətɪd/ adjective not being or belonging to a federation

UNHCR abbreviation United Nations High Commission for Refugees

unicameral /juːˈnɪkəmərəl/ adjective of a legislature, having only one chamber or house. • bicameral COMMENT: Unicameral legislatures exist in many countries and states, including Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Gabon, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, Mongolia, Morocco, Nebraska, New Zealand, Panama, Sweden and Turkey.

UNICEF /juːˈnɪsɛf/ noun a United Nations agency that works for the protection and survival of children around the world. Full form United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO /juːˈnɪdɔː/ abbreviation United Nations Industrial Development Organization

unilateral /juːˈnɪlətri/ adjective on one side only or done by one party only. They took the unilateral decision to cancel the contract.

Unilateral Declaration of Independence /juːˈnɪlətri dɪˈeɪkliərəʃən/ an act whereby a colony announces that it is independent without the agreement of the country to which it belongs. Abbr UDI

unilateral disarmament /juːˈnɪlətri ˈdɪsərˌmænɪmont/ unilateral nuclear disarmament /juːˈnɪlətri ˈnjuːklər ˈdɪsərˌmænɪmont/ noun removing all nuclear weapons from a country, even if other countries keep theirs

unilateralism /juːˈnɪlətriəlɪzəm/ noun the support for a policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament

unilaterally /juːˈnɪlətrəli/ adverb by one party only. They cancelled the contract unilaterally.

union /juːˈnɪʒən/ noun 1. a state of being joined or the act of joining. We support the union of the environmental pressure groups into a federation. 2. a group of independent states or organisations which have joined together into a federation. 3. the group of states which formed the United States of America. 4. a trade union. 5. a club or organisation for people with similar interests

Union /juːˈnɪʒən/ noun 1. the United States of America. 2. the union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland since 1920

Union Calendar /juːˈnɪʒən ˈkælɪndər/ a list of bills for debate in the House of Representatives which deal with finances

unionsd /juːˈnɪʒəzd/, unionized /juːˈnɪʒəzd/ a company where the members of staff belong to a trade union

Unionism /juːˈnɪʒənzəm/ noun 1. loyalty to the federal union during the Civil War in the United States. 2. support or advocacy since 1920 for the union between Northern Ireland and Great Britain

unionist /juːˈnɪʒənst/ noun 1. a member of a trade union. 2. a person who supports a political union of states or parties

Union Jack /juːˈnɪʒənd ˈdʒæk/, Union Flag /juːˈnɪʒənd flæg/ noun the national flag of the United Kingdom

Union Territory /juːˈnɪʒənd ˈterətri/ noun a territory in India ruled directly by the central government

UNISON /juːˈnɪsnən/ noun the UK’s largest trade union (over 1.3 million members), representing people working in public services and utilities. It was formed in 1993 when three major public sector unions, National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO), National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) and Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE), merged.

unitary authority /juːˈnɪtəri əˈrəli/ noun an administrative unit in Great Britain responsible for all local government services in its area, replacing a former system of two tiers of local government

United Kingdom /juːˈnɛdɪd, nɔːtɪd/ ‘ˌkɪŋdəm/ noun an independent country, formed of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. He came to the UK to study. Does she have a UK passport? Is he a UK citizen?

British Isles. Abbr UK

United Kingdom Independence Party /juːˈnɛdɪd, nɔːtɪd, ‘ˌkɪŋdəm ,ɪndiˈpɛndənts ˌpɑːrti/ noun a right-wing party committed to withdrawing Britain from the European Union and opposed to immigration. Abbr UKIP

United Nations /juːˈnɛdɪd, nɔːtɪd/ ‘ˌnetʃənz/ noun an organisation of nations that was formed in 1945 to promote peace, security, and international cooperation. Abbr UN
in the House.

Bill had an unopposed second reading pass on property of fire

armed members of the population charged with unlawfully carrying fire-

arms.

UNinspection Commission and revised from time to time

ject, and revised from time to time

United States of America (based in Washington D.C.) is formed of

a legislature (the Congress) with two chambers (the Senate and House

of Representatives), an executive (the President) and a judiciary (headed

by the Supreme Court). Each of the fifty states making up the USA has its

own legislature and executive (the Governor) as well as its own legal system

and constitution.

universal franchise noun

universal sufrage noun the right to vote of all adult members of the population

unlawful adjective against the law, illegal unlawful trespass on property unlawful sexual intercourse

unlawfully adverb illegally or in an illegal way He was charged with unlawfully carrying firearms.

UNMOVIC abbreviation United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission

UNO abbreviation United Nations Organization

unopposed adjective having no one voting against The Bill had an unopposed second reading in the House.

unparliamentary adjective not suitable for Parliament

unrest noun publicly expressed unhappiness or protest about something by many people, sometimes developing into violent behaviour.

UNRRA abbreviation United Nations Reliefs and Rehabilitation Administration

UNRWA abbreviation United Nations Relief and Works Agency

unseat verb to make a sitting MP lose his seat in an election She only needs a small swing to have a good chance of unseating the present MP.
unwritten adj. not written or codified in a single document ( NOTE: The British Constitution is described as unwritten because it is not contained in a single codified document but is to be found written in numerous different documents and is in some areas dependent on custom)
as good as it could be, which gives people something to aim to achieve. Compare dystopia (Note: Sir Thomas More published his description of a perfect state in Utopia in 1516. The word means 'nowhere' or 'the perfect place' in Greek depending on its spelling).

utopian /juːˈtɒpiən/ adjective perfect, and also difficult to achieve - His utopian ideal of a state was impossible to put into practice.

utopian socialism /juːˌtɒpiən ,səʊʃəlɪz(ə)m/ noun a form of socialism based on the belief that a socialist society can be brought about peacefully persuading those in power to accept it.

U-turn /juː tʊrn/ noun a change of policy to do exactly the opposite of what was done before - The Opposition was surprised at the Government’s U-turn on defence expenditure. - The council did a U-turn and passed the development plan for the town centre.

UU abbreviation Ulster Unionist
vacant seat /ˈveɪkənt ʃeɪt/ noun a constituency which has no MP at the moment. The seat became vacant when Mr Smith was made a life peer.

vacation /ˈveɪkəʃən/ noun 1. the period when the courts, or the universities are closed for their holidays. 2. US a holiday or period when people are not working.

valid /ˈvɛlɪd/ adjective 1. acceptable because it is true or reasonable. 2. possible to use lawfully. The ticket is valid if the owner has not been witnessed. 3. He was carrying a valid passport.

valorem /ˈvælərəm/ ad valorem Value Added Tax /ˈvæljuː əd ˈtæks/ noun a tax on goods and services, added as a percentage to the price. Abbr VAT

variation /ˌvɛrəˈʃən/ noun the amount by which something changes.

VAT /ˈvæt əˈtɪʃn/ VAT Value Added Tax

VAT declaration /ˈvæt əˌdɛklərəʃən/ noun a statement made by a company to say what VAT it has collected.

VC abbreviation vice chancellor

venue /ˈvɛnuː/ noun a place for a meeting. The venue for next year’s party conference will be Brighton.

verbatim /ˌvɛərəˈbɛtəm/ adjective, adverb in the exact words. Hansard provides a verbatim account of the proceedings of the House of Commons.

versa /ˈvɜːsə/ vice versa
vice chancellor /vəsˈtʃɛnlər/ noun a deputy for the chancellor of a country
vice-consul /vəsˈkɒnsəl/ noun an officer who acts as the deputy for the official representing a country’s commercial interest in another country
vicegerent /vəsˈdʒeərənt/ noun a deputy appointed to act on the authority of a ruler or magistrate, especially in administrative duties
vice-president /vəsˈprezɪdənt/ noun an official of a rank below a president, who can take the president’s place if necessary. When President Kennedy was assassinated, Vice-President Johnson became president.

vicegeral /vəsˈdʒeərəl/ adjective referring to a viceroy. The reception was held at the Viceroyal Palace.
vice-regent /vəsˈriːdʒənt/ noun a deputy for the regent of a country
vicereine /vəsˈriːn/ noun the wife of a viceroy
vicereine /vəsˈrən/ noun a person who represents a king or queen in a colony. In the nineteenth century, India was ruled by viceroys.

viceregency /vəsˈrərəlti/ noun 1. the office, term of office, or authority of a viceroy. 2. an area that is governed by a viceroy
vice versa /vəsər vəsərə/ Latin phrase meaning ‘reverse position’; the other way round

videlicet /vɪdəˈlɪsɛt/ Latin word meaning ‘that is’ or ‘namely’ (note: usually abbreviated to viz.; the Education Committee has three sub-committees, viz. Schools, Further Education and Training)
village /ˈvɪldʒ/ noun a group of houses and shops in a country area, smaller than a town

violate /ˈvəʊlɪt/ verb to break a rule or a law. The council has violated the planning regulations. The action of the government violates the international treaty on commercial shipping.
violation /ˌvəʊlɪˈeɪʃən/ noun the act of breaking a rule. The number of traffic violations has increased. The court criticised the violations of the treaty on human rights.
VIP abbreviation very important person. Seats have been arranged for the VIPs at the front of the hall.

virement /ˈvərəmənt/ noun the transfer of money from one account to another or from one section of a budget to another. The council may use the virement procedure to transfer money from one area of expenditure to another.

virtue officio /vɜːˈtʃuːr əˈfɪʃiə/ Latin phrase meaning ‘by virtue of his office’

visa /ˈvɪzə/ noun a special document or special stamp in a passport which allows someone to enter a country. You will need a visa before you go to the USA. He filled in his visa application form.

viscount /ˈvɪskənt/ noun a member of the peerage, ranking between an earl and a baron

viscountess /ˈvɪskəntəs/ noun a woman who is the wife of a viscount, or who holds the rank of viscount

vital statistics /ˈvɪtəl ˈstɪstɪks/ plural noun figures dealing with births, marriages and deaths in a district

votary /ˌvətərəri/ noun in Congress where the members shout Aye (Yes) or No

voluntary services /ˌvɒləntərəri ˈsɜːrvənsz/ plural noun organisations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vote</th>
<th>vote 258</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>which give free services or help to people</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vote /ˈvouɪt/ noun 1. marking a paper or holding up your hand, to show your opinion or to show who you want to be elected</td>
<td>to take a vote on a proposal, to put a proposal to the vote to ask people present at a meeting to say if they agree or do not agree with the proposal. The French President is elected by popular vote. He is elected by a majority vote of all the people in France.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vote in /ˈvouɪt ˈɪn/ verb to vote someone in to elect someone who the Tory candidate was voted in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vote down /ˈvouɪt ˈdaʊn/ verb to defeat a motion or proposal by voting against it. The proposal was voted down.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vote in</td>
<td>to vote someone in to elect someone who the Tory candidate was voted in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vote out /ˈvouɪt ˈaʊt/ verb to vote someone out to make someone lose an election. The government was voted out of office within a year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vote of no confidence /ˈvouɪt əv nəʊ ˈkɒnfɪd(ə)ns/ noun same as confidence vote. After the Commons passed a vote of no confidence in the government, the Prime Minister called a general election.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vote of confidence /ˈvouɪt əv ˈkɒnfɪd(ə)ns/ noun a vote in which voters show their approval of the leadership of a party or policy.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voteless /ˈvouɪtəs/ adjective without the right to choose or express a political opinion by voting.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voting patterns /ˈvouɪtɪŋ ˈpɑːtəns/ plural noun the tendency of voters to vote in a particular way.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voting rights /ˈvouɪtɪŋ rəts/ plural noun the rights of shareholders to vote at company meetings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voter /ˈvouɪtə/ noun a person who votes or is eligible to vote. Voters stayed away from the polls because of the bad weather.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voter apathy /ˈvouɪtər əˈæpəθi/ noun lack of interest in voting in local and national elections, especially when one party regularly has a large majority or when people feel they have little influence in influencing decisions that affect their lives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voter alienation /ˈvouɪtər əˈliəneɪʃən/ noun the feeling of many voters that, since voting does not produce the changes in their lives that they want, they have no motivation to vote.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voter's</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voting card /ˈvouɪtɪŋ kaːd/ voting paper /ˈvouɪtɪŋ ˈpeɪpər/ noun the paper on which the voter puts a cross to show for whom he or she wants to vote.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voting patterns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voting patterns /ˈvouɪtɪŋ ˈpɑːtəns/ plural noun the tendency of voters to vote in a particular way.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voter apathy /ˈvouɪtər əˈæpəθi/ noun lack of interest in voting in local and national elections, especially when one party regularly has a large majority or when people feel they have little influence in influencing decisions that affect their lives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>voter alienation /ˈvouɪtər əˈliəneɪʃən/ noun the feeling of many voters that, since voting does not produce the changes in their lives that they want, they have no motivation to vote.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wag the Dog syndrome /wæg ˈdɒɡˌ, ˈsɪndrəm/ noun a situation in which a US president uses military attacks on other nations to draw intense public and media scrutiny away from a personal scandal.

waive /weɪv/ verb to give up a legal right. He waived his claim to the estate.

waiver /ˈweɪvə/ noun a situation in which someone gives up a legal right to something. If you want to work without a permit, you will have to apply for a waiver.

Wales Office /ˈweɪlz ˈɒf/ a UK government department responsible for representing Welsh interests within the government of the United Kingdom (NOTE: The Welsh name is Swyddfa Cymru.)

war /wɔ/ noun the situation where one country fights another. The two countries are at war.

war crime /ˈwɑr k्रɛɪm/ noun an illegal action committed by someone during a period of armed conflict. A number of former Nazis were brought to trial for war crimes committed during the Second World War.

ward /wɔrd/ noun 1. a division of a town or city for administrative purposes. 2. electoral ward 2. a child protected by a guardian or by a court.

warden /ˈwɔd(ə)n/ noun 1. a person who is in charge of an institution. The block of flats have a warden who helps elderly residents. 2. a person who sees that rules are obeyed.

ward heeler /ˈwɔrd ˈhiːlə/ noun a person who does minor tasks for a local politician.

wardship /ˈwɔrdʃiːp/ noun being in charge of a child or the power of a court to take on itself the rights and responsibilities of parents in the interests of a child (NOTE: no plural)

war on terror /ˈwɔr ən ˈtərə/ noun the struggle against international terrorism which President Bush declared following the attacks on New York and Washington of 11 September 2001. Critics of the President were quick to point out that the problem with a war on terror is that you never know when you have won it.

warring /ˈwɔrɪŋ/ adjective fighting. The warring factions on the town council.

Washington /ˈwɒʃəntən, ˈgɛrəʊ/ the first president of the United States.

watchdog /ˈwɔtdɔg/, watchdog body /ˈwɒtdɔg, ˈwɒtʃdɔb/ noun a body which watches something, especially government departments, or businesses, to see that regulations are being obeyed. The Post Office Users Council acts as a watchdog.

Ways and Means /ˈweɪz ən ˈmiːnz/ Chairman of Ways and Means. noun in the United States, a legislative committee in charge of methods of raising money for government.

Ways and Means resolution /ˈweɪz ən ˈmiːnz ˌrɪzəˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ noun a Supply Bill, especially the annual budget proposals.

WDA abbreviation Welsh Development Agency.

weapons of mass destruction /ˈweɪpənz əvˌ, ˈmes ˌdɪstrəkʃən/ noun armaments which can kill large num-
former Communist countries
North America, as opposed to the democratic countries of Europe and


opened sun
surface, the direction facing the set-


mal, or group

comfort and safety of a person, ani-

and other consumer matters

measuring machines used in shops,
and other consumer matters (NOTE: usually called the Trading Stan-
ards Department)

welfare /wel'far/ noun the health, comfort and safety of a person, ani-

mial, or group o It is the duty of the ju-
venile court to see to the welfare of children in care.

welfare state /wel'far stæt/ noun a state which spends a large amount of money to make sure that its citizens all have adequate housing, education, public transport and health services

Welsh Assembly /wel chə'sambil/ noun National Assembly for Wales

West /west/ adjective, adverb, noun 1, one of the directions on the Earth’s surface, the direction facing the set-


ring sun 2, a region of a country, as op-

posed to the East 3, a: the West the democratic countries of Europe and North America, as opposed to the former Communist countries

Western European Union /westən juəropiən jʊ'nɪkn/ noun a union formed in 1954 with the aim of harmonising defence and security in the region, now including Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lux-
embourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom as full members, and Bulgaria, the Czech Re-
public, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Turkey as associate members. Abbr WEU

West Lothian question /west 'laʊʃən ,kwestʃən/ noun the question that sets out a major issue of de-


volved government in the UK, that of the justice of allowing Westminster MPs representing Scottish constitu-
tencies to vote on issues affecting England and other parts of the UK, when non-Scottish MPs cannot vote on equivalent Scottish issues that are dealt with by the Scottish Assembly.

Westminster /westmənstər/ noun 1, a borough in London, where the Houses of Parliament are 2, the Brit-
ish parliament or parliamentary sys-
tem

West Wing /west wɪŋ/ noun the US president’s senior staff and advisers

wet /wet/ noun a Conservative politi-

cian whose policies are regarded as more liberal than the mainstream of conservative opinion

WEU abbreviation Western European-


Union

whatever /wɛtʃɑːvər, wɛtsəvər/ noun the US president’s senior staff and advis-
ers (NOTE: always used after a noun and after a negative)

wheeling and dealing /'wiːlin/ noun discussions and bargain-
ing between political parties or groups or members of a committee to obtain a general agreement for something o Af-


ther some wheeling and dealing, the subcommitte members were selected. o horse-trading

whereas /'weəz/, conjunction taking into consideration that o where-
as the contract between the two parties stipulated that either party may withdraw at six months’ notice

whereby /'weə'ber/ noun by which o a deed whereby ownership of the property is transferred
wherein /ˈwɛərɪn/ adverb in which  
○ a document wherein the regulations are listed
whereof /ˈwɛərəv/ adverb of which
whereon /ˈwɛərən/ adverb on which  
○ land whereon a dwelling is constructed
wheresoever /ˈwɛərəsəvər/ adverb in any place where  
○ the insurance covering jewels wheresoever they may be kept
Whig /ˈwɪg/ noun the old name for a member of a political party which later became the Liberal Party in Britain, and is now called the Liberal Democratic Party
whip /ˈwɪp/ noun 1. an MP who controls the attendance of other MPs of his party in the House of Commons or Lords, and who tries to make sure that all MPs vote as their party wants  
2. the instructions given by a whip to other MPs, telling them which business is on the agenda and underlining items where a vote may be taken  
COMMENT: A party may decide to withdraw the Whip from an MP as a punishment for opposing it in some way. This prevents the MP from being involved in the party’s activities in the parliament, although they remain as an MP and usually sit as an independent until the Whip is restored to them.
whip in /ˈwɪp ˈɪn/ verb to keep the members of a political party in line with the party’s aims
Whitehall /ˈwɛɪtlɔːl/ noun a street in London, where several ministries have their offices (NOTE: used to refer to the Government or more particularly to the civil service: Whitehall sources suggest that the plan will be adopted; there is a great deal of resistance to the idea in Whitehall)
White House /ˈwɛɪt ˈhaus/ noun the building in Washington D.C., where the President of the USA lives and works (NOTE: also used to mean the President himself, or the US government: White House officials disclosed any knowledge of the letter; the White House press secretary has issued a statement)
White Paper /ˈwɛɪt ˈpeɪpə/ noun a report issued by the government as a statement of government policy on a particular problem, often setting out proposals for changes to legislation for discussion before a Bill is drafted. Compare Green Paper
winding up /ˈwʊndɪŋ ʌp/ verb 1. to end a meeting or a debate  
○ She wound up the meeting with a vote of thanks to the committee.  
○ The Home Secretary wound up for the government.  
2. to close a company and sell its assets
wing /ˈwɪŋ/ noun a group within a political party or movement that has distinct beliefs, especially either of two broad groupings, one more conservative, the other more liberal in its views
WMD abbreviation weapons of mass destruction
woman police constable /ˈwʊmən ˈpəliːs ˈkɒnstəb(ə)l/ noun in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, a woman police officer of the lowest rank. Abbr WPC
women’s suffrage /ˈwʊmenz ˈsʌfrɪdʒ/ noun the right of women to vote in elections
wonk /ˈwʌŋk/ noun an expert in matters of policy, especially in government, the economy, or diplomacy: a policy wonk
Woolsack /ˈwʊlsæk/ noun the seat of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords (NOTE: the Lord Chancellor is unlikely to sit for much longer on the Woolsack since proposals introduced in 2003–4 will abolish his office)  
COMMENT: It is really a large cushion stuffed with wool, dating from the time when the wool trade was very important.
wording /ˈwɜːdɪŋ/ noun a series of words. Did you understand the wording of the contract? (NOTE: no plural)

Workers’ Revolutionary Party /ˈwɜːkəz ˌrevəˈluːʃənəri ˈpærtri/ noun a Marxist political party in the United Kingdom

working class /ˈwɜːkɪŋ ˈklaːs/ noun the people in low-paid jobs

World Bank /ˈwɜːld ˈbæŋk/ noun a specialised agency of the United Nations that guarantees loans to member nations for reconstruction and development (NOTE: The official name is International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.)

World Trade Organization /ˈwɜːld ˈtrɑːd əˈsɑːrənəz/ noun the international treaty which aims to try to reduce restrictions in trade between countries, and which replaced GATT. Abbr WTO

COMMENT: Formed on 1st January 1995 to replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

world war /ˈwɜːld ˈwɔːr/ noun a war involving several countries on each side, with fighting taking place in many parts of the world

WPC abbreviation woman police constable

writ /rɪt/ noun 1. a legal document which begins an action in the High Court. He issued writs for libel in connection with allegations made in a Sunday newspaper. 2. the legal document ordering that an election or a by-election should be held. To move a writ to propose in the House of Commons that a by-election should be held

write in /rɪt ɪn/ verb US to vote for a candidate whose name does not appear on the ballot paper, by writing the candidate’s name on it

write-in candidate /rɪt ɪn ˈkændɪdət/ noun a candidate whose name has been written by the voters on their ballot papers

writ of summons /rɪt əv ˈsʌmənz/ noun notice from the Lord Chancellor asking a peer to attend the House of Lords

written answer /ˈrɪtn əns/ noun a formal reply to a question put in writing to a Minister

written question /ˈrɪt(ə)kwestʃən/ noun a question presented to a Minister in writing, usually dated two days after it is presented and answered within seven days of that date. If an answer is needed by an earlier date the question receives priority and is known as a ‘question for answer on a named day’, indicated by the letter N in the Order Book. However the answer may simply be that the Minister will answer the question as soon as possible.

WRP abbreviation Worker’s Revolutionary Party

WTO abbreviation World Trade Organization
xenophobe /'zenəfəʊb/ noun a person who hates foreigners
xenophobia /'zenəfəʊbiə/ noun the hatred of foreigners
xenophobic /'zenəfəʊbɪk/ adjective showing hatred of foreigners
yah-boo politics /'jaː bʊˌpɔlɪtɪks/ plural noun politics in which parties automatically criticise and reject any idea put forward by an opposing party, regardless of its merits
Yang di-Pertuan Agong /'jaŋ di-pɜrtœn əˈɡɒŋ/ noun the title given to the head of state of the Malaysian Federation, who is elected for five years by the rulers of the thirteen states which make up the federation
Yard /'jaːrd/ noun same as Scotland Yard
YC abbreviation Young Conservative
yea and nay /'jɛə nɛ/ noun old forms of ‘yes’ and ‘no’
vote a vote in a legislature where members say ‘yes’ or ‘no’
zero-rated /'zɪərə ˈrɛɪtɪd/ adjective having a Value Added Tax rate of 0%.
zero-rating /'zɪərə ˈrɛɪtɪŋ/ noun rating an item at 0% Value Added Tax
zionism /'zɪənɪz(ə)mi/ noun the belief that the Jewish people should have a homeland, and that Israel’s independence and security should be defended
zionist /'zɪənist/ noun a supporter of the belief that the Jewish people should have a homeland and that Israel’s independence and security should be defended
zone /'zoʊn/ verb to order that land in a district shall be used only for one type of building. The land is zoned for industrial use.
zoning /'zoʊnɪŋ/ noun an order by a local council that land shall be used only for one type of building (NOTE: no plural)
SUPPLEMENTS

Legislative Procedure in the United Kingdom
Legislative Procedure in the European Union
Legislative Procedure in the United States of America
United Kingdom Court Structure
United States of America Federal Court Structure
The United Kingdom: Members of the Cabinet
Prime Ministers of Great Britain
Structure of A British Government Department:
The Department of Trade and Industry
Kings and Queens of England
The United States of America: Members of the Cabinet
Presidents of the United States of America
### Legislative procedure in the United Kingdom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Paper Stage</td>
<td>a paper discussing the issues surrounding the proposed bill (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Paper Stage</td>
<td>a paper stating current policy on the issues surrounding the proposed bill (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Bill Stage</td>
<td>the wording of the Bill is drafted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Reading</td>
<td>the Bill is presented formally in Parliament, usually in the House of Commons, as a reading with no debate or decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Reading</td>
<td>the Bill is read again to the House and a debate takes place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee stage</td>
<td>a standing committee (a committee of about 18 house members, more for long or complicated bills) debates whether each clause and schedule of the Bill should be kept or dropped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report Stage</td>
<td>the whole house looks at the amendments proposed by the standing committee and propose and debate any of their own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Reading Stage</td>
<td>the whole redrafted Bill is read once more in the House and briefly discussed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lords Approval Stage</td>
<td>the House of Lords takes the Bill and goes through the same procedure from First to Third Reading, debating any amendments. The Lords and Commons agree on a final text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Assent Stage</td>
<td>royal approval is given and the Bill becomes a statute (Act of Parliament)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legislative procedure in the United Kingdom cont’d

Important Note: The Parliament Act
The entire process must take place in one Session of Parliament, meaning that a Bill may not be passed purely because it has run out of time. This means that the House of Lords may ‘kill’ a Bill they don’t wish to pass (for example the Hunting Bill 2002) by taking an overly long time to discuss it. In this case the Parliament Act means that the Bill can be reintroduced and passed in the following Session without the approval of the Lords, with the following conditions:

1. The Lords had enough time to debate it before the end of the session (at least one month).
2. The wording of the Bill has not changed since the last presentation.
3. One year has passed since the Bill was given its Second Reading in the Commons.

Private Members’ Bills go through the same procedure from First Reading. However, there is intense competition for the little Parliamentary time available for considering these. Unless the Bill is completely uncontroversial it is likely to be formally objected to at some stage and therefore dropped; otherwise it is more or less ‘nodded through’ without much debate.
### Legislative procedure in the European Union

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal</td>
<td>The European Commission drafts the text of a Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Reading</td>
<td>The European Parliament submits the Bill to a committee reading and a report is prepared with suggested amendments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Position</td>
<td>The European Council either accepts the amended Bill or suggests its own amendments (NB this is the first point at which the Bill can be passed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation</td>
<td>A further committee assessment is undertaken of the Council’s proposed amendments at Parliament and a recommendation given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Reading</td>
<td>Parliament debates the committee’s report and vote by absolute majority whether to accept the Council’s amendments and on further amendments of their own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amended proposal</td>
<td>The Commission looks at Parliament’s second reading decisions and drafts an amended proposal for the Council, who vote whether to accept or modify it (this is the second point at which the Bill can be passed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conciliation committee</td>
<td>A committee of members from both the Council and Parliament meet to agree on a joint text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Reading</td>
<td>Parliament meets to finally discuss whether to adopt the Bill as law. If no mutual agreement can be reached the Bill will lapse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Legislative procedure in the United States of America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>the draft Bill is submitted to the House without reading or debate (any time while the House is in session)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Referral to Committee</strong></td>
<td>the Bill is published and assigned an identification number, then sent to the appropriate committee (of 19) according to its subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Committee Action 1</strong></td>
<td>relevant offices and departments give their input, reports are prepared on the validity of the Bill and committee meetings are held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Committee Action 2</strong></td>
<td>a public hearing may be held before a subcommittee with the questioning of witnesses and the attendance of interested parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Markup</strong></td>
<td>the subcommittee prepares a report on the hearing with any relevant amendments to the Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Committee Action</strong></td>
<td>the full committee reads and amends the Bill and either reports it back favourably to the House, tables it or discharges it (thereby preventing it from progressing any further), or reports it back without recommendation (rare)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>House Floor Consideration</strong></td>
<td>the committee report is debated in the House and any further amendments voted on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resolving Differences</strong></td>
<td>the Bill is sent to the Senate for consideration and an identical version is agreed on by both bodies, possibly with the help of a mediating committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Step</strong></td>
<td>the Bill is approved (signed) by the President and becomes a Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
United Kingdom court structure

Court of Justice of the European Communities (ECJ)
(in cases concerning European law)

House of Lords

Court of Appeal

Criminal Division  Civil Division

Crown Court  High Court

Magistrates Court  County Court
United States of America Federal court structure

Supreme Court

- Courts of Appeal (12 Circuits)
- Court of Appeal (Federal Circuit)
- Court of Military Appeals

  - 94 District Courts
  - Tax Court
  - Courts of Military Review

    - International Trade Court
    - Claims Court
    - Court of Veterans' Appeals
The United Kingdom:
Members of the Cabinet

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service
Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Leader of the House of Commons
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Leader of the House of Lords
Lord President of the Council
Secretary of State for Wales
Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Lord Chancellor)
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Secretary of State for International Development
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Secretary of State for Transport
Secretary of State for Scotland
Secretary of State for Health
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Secretary of State for Defence
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Secretary of State for Education and Skills
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Government Chief Whip)
Prime Ministers of Great Britain

Tony Blair (Labour)
1997 – Present
John Major (Conservative)
1990 – 1997
Margaret Thatcher (Conservative)
1979 – 1990
James Callaghan (Labour)
1976 – 1979
Harold Wilson (Labour)
1974 – 1976
Edward Heath (Conservative)
1970 – 1974
Harold Wilson (Labour)
1964 – 1970
Sir Alec Douglas-Home (Conservative)
1963 – 1964
Harold Macmillan (Conservative)
1957 – 1963
Sir Winston Churchill (Conservative)
1955 – 1957
Winston Churchill (Conservative)
1951 – 1955
Clement Attlee (Labour)
1945 – 1951
Winston Churchill (Conservative)
1940 – 1945
Neville Chamberlain (Conservative)
1937 – 1940
Stanley Baldwin (Conservative)
1935 – 1937
J Ramsey Macdonald (Coalition)
1931 – 1935
J Ramsey Macdonald (Labour)
1929 – 1931
Stanley Baldwin (Conservative)
1924 – 1929
J Ramsey Macdonald (Labour)
1924
Stanley Baldwin (Conservative)
1923 – 1924
A Bonar Law (Conservative)
1922 – 1923
David Lloyd George (Liberal)
1916 – 1922
H H Asquith (Liberal)
1908 – 1916
Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (Liberal)
1905 – 1908
A J Balfour (Conservative)
1902 – 1905
Marquess of Salisbury (Conservative)
1895 – 1902
Earl of Rosebery (Liberal)
1894 – 1895
W E Gladstone (Liberal)
1892 – 1894
Marquess of Salisbury (Conservative)
1886 – 1892
W E Gladstone (Liberal)
1886
Marquess of Salisbury (Conservative)
1885 – 1886
W E Gladstone (Liberal)
1880 – 1885
Benjamin Disraeli (Conservative)
1874 – 1880
W E Gladstone (Liberal)
1868 – 1874
Benjamin Disraeli (Conservative)
1868
Earl of Derby (Conservative)
1866 – 1868
Earl Russell (Liberal)
1865 – 1866
Viscount Palmerston (Liberal)
1859 – 1865
Earl of Derby (Conservative)
1858 – 1859
Viscount Palmerston (Liberal)
1855 – 1858
Earl of Aberdeen (Conservative)
1852 – 1855
Earl Of Derby (Conservative)
1852
Lord John Russell (Whig)
1846 – 1852
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prime Minister</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sir Robert Peel</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1841 – 1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viscount Melbourne</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1835 – 1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir Robert Peel</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1834 – 1835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Wellington</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viscount Melbourne</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl Grey</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1830 – 1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Wellington</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1828 – 1830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viscount Goderich</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1827 – 1828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Canning</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl of Liverpool</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1812 – 1827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spencer Perceval</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1809 – 1812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Portland</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1807 – 1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Grenville</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1806 – 1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Pitt</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1804 – 1806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Addington</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1801 – 1804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Pitt</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1783 – 1801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Portland</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl of Shelburne</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1782 – 1783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquess of Rockingham</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord North</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1770 – 1782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Grafton</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1768 – 1770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl of Chatham</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1766 – 1768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquess of Rockingham</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1765 – 1766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Grenville</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1763 – 1765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl of Bute</td>
<td>Tory</td>
<td>1762 – 1763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Newcastle</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1757 – 1762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Devonshire</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1756 – 1757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Newcastle</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1754 – 1756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Pelham</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1743 – 1754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl of Wilmington</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1742 – 1743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir Robert Walpole</td>
<td>Whig</td>
<td>1721 – 1742</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Structure of a British Government Department: The Department of Trade and Industry

**Minister**
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

**Ministers of State**
Minister for E-Commerce and Competitiveness
  Private Secretary
Minister of State (Trade)
  Private Secretary
Minister of State for Industry and the Regions
  Private Secretary
Minister for Women and Equality
  Private Secretary
Minister of State for International Trade and Investment
  Private Secretary

**Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State**
Minister for Employment Relations, Competition and Consumers
  Private Secretary
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science and Innovation
  Private Secretary
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Small Business and Enterprise
  Private Secretary

**Officials**
Permanent Secretary
  Private Secretary

**Directorates**
Director General for the Business Group
Director General for the Innovation Group
Director General for the Energy Group
Director General for the Fair Markets Group
Director General for the Services Group
Director General for the Legal Services Group

**Office of Science and Technology**
Head of the Office of Science and Technology
Chief Scientific Adviser
Director of Transdepartmental Science and Technology
Director General of Research Councils
Director of the Science and Engineering Base Group

**Strategy Unit**
Director of Strategy
Chief Economic Adviser
Director General of Economics

**UK Trade and Investment**
Group Chief Executive of UK Trade and Investment
Chief Executive
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Strategy and Communications Group
# Kings and Queens of England since 1066

## House of Windsor
- **Elizabeth II**
  - Head of the Commonwealth
  - 1952 – Present
- **George VI**
  - 1936 – 1952
- **Edward VIII**
  - 1936
- **George V**
  - 1910 – 1936

## House of Saxe-Coburg
- **Edward VII**
  - 1901 – 1910

## House of Hanover
- **Victoria**
  - 1837 – 1901
- **William IV**
  - 1830 – 1837
- **George IV**
  - 1820 – 1830
- **George III**
  - 1760 – 1820
- **George II**
  - 1727 – 1760
- **George I**
  - 1714 – 1727

## House of Stuart
- **Anne**
  - 1702 – 1714
- **William III**
  - 1694 – 1702
- **Mary II & William III**
  - 1689 – 1694
- **James II**
  - 1685 – 1688
- **Charles II**
  - 1660 – 1685
- **The Commonwealth**
  - 1649 – 1659
- **Charles I**
  - 1625 – 1649
- **James I**
  - 1603 – 1625

## House of Tudor
- **Elizabeth I**
  - 1558 – 1603
- **Mary I**
  - 1553 – 1558
- **Jane**
  - 1553 (reigned for 14 days)
- **Edward VI**
  - 1547 – 1553
- **Henry VIII**
  - 1509 – 1547
- **Henry VII**
  - 1485 – 1509

## House of York
- **Richard III**
  - 1483 – 1485
- **Edward V**
  - 1483
- **Edward IV**
  - 1461 – 1483

## House of Lancaster
- **Henry VI**
  - 1422 – 1461
- **Henry V**
  - 1413 – 1422
- **Henry IV**
  - 1399 – 1413

## House of Plantagenet
- **Richard II**
  - 1377 – 1399
- **Edward III**
  - 1327 – 1377
- **Edward II**
  - 1307 – 1327
- **Edward I**
  - 1272 – 1307
- **Henry III**
  - 1216 – 1272
- **John**
  - 1199 – 1216
- **Richard I**
  - 1189 – 1199
- **Henry II**
  - 1154 – 1189

## House of Normandy
- **Stephen**
  - 1135 – 1154
- **Henry I**
  - 1100 – 1135
- **William II**
  - 1087 – 1100
- **William I**
  - 1066 – 1087
The United States of America:
Members of the Cabinet

The President of the United States
The Vice-President of the United States
Secretary of State
Secretary of the Treasury
Secretary of Defense
Secretary of Commerce
Attorney-General
Secretary of the Interior
Secretary of Agriculture
Secretary of Labor
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Secretary of Transportation
Secretary of Energy
Secretary of Education
Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs
Ambassador to the United Nations
US Trade Representative
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Director, Office of Management and Budget
National Security Adviser
White House Chief of Staff