Words Used in the Definitions in this Dictionary

All the definitions in this dictionary have been written using the words on this list. If a definition includes a word that is not on the list, that word is shown in SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

The Defining Vocabulary has been carefully chosen after a thorough study of all the well-known frequency lists of English words. Furthermore, only the most common and “central” meanings of the words on the list have actually been used in definitions. We have also used a special computer program that checks every entry to make sure that words from outside the Defining Vocabulary do not appear in definitions.

Restrictions on Part of Speech

For some words on the list, a label such as n. or adj. is shown. This means that this particular word is used in definitions only in the part of speech shown. So anger, for example, is used only as a noun and not as a verb. But if no word class is shown for a word, it can be used in any of its usual parts of speech: answer, for example, is used in definitions both as a noun and as a verb.

Compound Words

Definitions occasionally include compound words formed from words in the Defining Vocabulary, but this is only done if the meaning is completely clear. For example, the word businessman (formed from business and man) is used in some definitions.

Prefixes and Suffixes

The main list is followed by a list of common prefixes and suffixes. These can be added to words on the main list to form derived words, provided the meaning is completely clear. For example, the word nervousness (formed by adding -ness to nervous) is used in some definitions.

Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal verbs formed by combining words in the Defining Vocabulary (for example, put up with) are NOT used in definitions in the dictionary, except in a very small number of cases where the phrasal verb is extremely common and there is no common equivalent. So, for example, give up (as in give up smoking) and take off (as in the plane took off) are occasionally used.

Proper Nouns

The Defining Vocabulary does not include the names of actual places, nationalities, religions, and so on, which are occasionally mentioned in definitions.
A
a abbreviation
ability
able
about
above adv., prep.
abroad
absence
absent adj.
accept
acceptable
accident
according (to)
account
achieve
acid
across
act
action n.
active adj.
activity
actor, actress
actual
actually
add
addition
address
adjective
admiration
admire
admit
adult
advanced
advantage
adventure n.
adverb
advertise
advertisement
advice
advise
affair
affect v.
afford
afraid
after adv., conj., prep.
afternoon
afterward
again
against
age n.
ago
agree
agreement
ahead
aim
air n.
airplane
airport
alcohol
alive
all adv., pron., determinant
allow
almost
alone
along
alphabet
already
also
although
always
among
amount n.
amuse
amusement
amusing adj.
an
ancient adj.
and
anger
angle n.
angry
animal
announce
announcement
annoy
another
answer
anxiety
any
anyone
anybody
anymore
anything
anywhere
apart
apartment
appear
appearance
apple
apple
apricot
arrival
art
article
artificial
artist
as
ash
ashamed
ask
asleep
association
at
atom
attack
attack
attempt
attend
attention
attitude
attract
attractive
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avoid
awake
away adv.
awkward
B
baby
back adj., adv., n.
background
backward(s) adv.
bad adj.
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bake
balance
ball n.
bend
bend
beneath
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beside(s)
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better adj., adv.
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beyond adj., adv.
bicycle n.
big adj.
bill n.
bird
birth
bite
bitter adj.
black adj., n.
blade
blame
bleed
blind
block
blood n.
blow
blue
board n.
boat n.
body
boil
bomb
bone n.
book n.
boot n.
border
bored
boring
born
borrow
both
bottle n.
bottom n.
bowl n.
box n.
boy
brain n.
branch
brave adj.
bread
break v.
breakfast n.
breast n.
breath
breathe
broad
brother
brown adj., n.
brush
bucket n.
built v.
building
bullet
bunch n.
burn
burst
bury
bus n.
bush n.
business
busy
but conj.
butter n.
button n.
buy v.
by
C
cake n.
calculate
call
calm adj.
camera
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can n., v.
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cap n.
capital n.
car
card n.
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careful
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his  
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history  
hit v.  
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hopeful  
horn  
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if  
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ilness  
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imaginary  
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imagine  
immediate  
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importance  
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including  
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kilometer  
kind  
king  
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kitchen  
knee n.  
kneel  
nknife n.  
nock  
not  
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knowledge  
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magic  
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make up  
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manger  
manner  
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mark  
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messy  
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military adj.  
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mystery

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polite
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pour
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somewhere
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song
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sore adj.
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sorry
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soul
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sour adj.
south
southern
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space
spade
speak
special adj.
specific
speech
speed n.
spell v.
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spoil v.
spoon n.
sport(s) n.
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spread v.
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stand v.
standard
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start
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stay
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adv.
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stranger
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street
strength
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strict
strike v.
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strong
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struggle
student
study
stupid
style n.
subject n.
substance
subtract
succeed
success
successful
such
suck v.
sudden
suffer
sugar n.
suggest
suit
suitcase
suitable
sum n.
summer n.
sun n.
supper
supply n., v.
support
suppose
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surprise
surround v.
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swear
sweep v.
sweet
swim
swing
sword
sympathetic
sympathy
system
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tail n.
take v.
take care of
talk
tall
taste
tax	taxi n.
tea
teach
team n.
tear v., n.
technical
telephone
television
tell
temperature
temporary
ten(th)
tend
tendency
tennis
tense n.
tent
terrible
terror
test
than
thank
that conj., pron.,
determiner
the
theater
their(s)
them
then adv.
there
therefore
these
they
thick adj.
thief
thin adj.
thing
think v.
third
this pron.,
determiner
thorough
those
though
thought
thousand(th)
thread n.
threat
threaten
three
throat
through adv.,
prep.
throw
thumb n.
ticket n.
tie
tight adj.
time n.
tire n.
tired
tiring
title
to
tobacco
today
toe n.
together
toy n.
tomorrow
tongue
tonight
too
tool n.
tooth
top adj., n.
total adj., n.
touch
tourist
toward
tower n.
town
toy n.
town
track
trade
tradition
traditional
traffic n.
train
training
translate
transparent
trap
travel
treat v.
treatment
tree
tribe
trick n., v.
trip n.
tropical
trouble
truck n.
true adj.
trunk
truth
trust
try v.
tube
tune n.
turn
twice
twist
two
type n.
typical
U
ugly
uncle
under prep.
understand
underwear
undo
uniform n.
union
unit
unite
universe
unless
until
up adj., adv.,
prep.
upper adj.
upright adj., adv.
upset v., adj.
upside down
upstairs adj.,
adv.
urgent
us
use
useful
useless
usual
V
vacation
valley
valuable adj.
value n.
variety
various
vegetable
vehicle
verb
very adv.
victory
view n.
vigour
violence
violent
# Prefixes and Suffixes that Can Be Used with Words in the Defining Vocabulary

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**W**
- waist v.
- wait v.
- wake v.
- walk n.
- wall n.
- wander v.
- want v.
- war n.
- warm adj., v.
- warmth n.
- warn v.
- warning n.
- wash v.
- waste n.
- watch n.
- water n.
- wave n.

**Way**
- way n.
- we n.
- weak adj., v.
- wealth n.
- weapon n.
- wear v.
- weather n.
- weave v.
- wedding n.
- week n.
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- weigh n.
- weight n.
- welcome v.
- well adj., adv.
- west n.
- western adj.
- wet adj.
- what determiner, pron.
- whatever determiner, pron.
- wheat n.
- wheel n.
- when adv., conj.

**Winter**
- winter n.
- wire n.
- wise adj.
- wisdom n.
- wish v.
- within prep.
- without prep.
- woman n.
- wood n.
- wooden adj.
- wool n.
- word n.
- work n.
- world n.
- worm n.
- worry n.
- worse adj., adv.
- worst adj., adv.
- worth n.
- would v.
- wound n.
- wrap v.
- wrist n.

**Y**
- yard n.
- year n.
- yearly adj.
- yellow adj., n.
- yesterday adj., adv.
- yet adv.
- you pron.
- young adj.
- your(s) determiner, pron.
- yourself pron.

**Z**
- zero n.