

General Category Level 1**comet**

(say **kom**-uht)

noun an object in space that moves around the sun and has a bright central part surrounded by a misty part that finishes in the shape of a tail

The comet was so close that we didn't need a telescope to see it.

crack

(say **krak**)

verb to break or split with a sharp sound

You'll crack the glass if you pour boiling water into it.

crowd

(say **krowd**)

noun a large number of people or things gathered closely together

A crowd had gathered to see the film star.

damper

(say **dam**-puh)

noun bread made from flour and water mixed to make a dough and baked in the coals of an open fire

We put the damper in the old iron frying pan and placed it on the coals to cook.

dawn

(say **dawn**)

noun the time of day when it begins to get light

I had to get up at dawn to go on the school camp.

dine

(say **duyn**)

verb to have your evening meal

We usually dine at eight each evening.

display

(say **duh**-splay)

verb to show or exhibit something

I built some bigger shelves so I could display all my trophies.

doona

(say **dooh**-nuh)

noun a large bag filled with feathers or other material and used as a quilt on a bed

I always have a doona on my bed in winter.

enjoy

(say **en-joy**)

verb to get pleasure from something

I really enjoy science fiction films.

faith

(say **fayth**)

noun the collection of beliefs of a religion

Daniel wears his yarmulke as a sign of his Jewish faith.

farmer

(say **fah**-muh)

noun someone who works on the land, growing plants and keeping animals for food

My father wants to leave the city and become a farmer.



flood

(say flud)

noun a big overflowing of water, especially over land that is usually dry

Weeks of heavy rain had caused a flood, and the main street was now under water.

floor

(say flaw)

noun the lowest flat part of a room or other place

There are clothes all over the floor of my room.

forget

(say fuh-**get**)

verb to cease or fail to remember something

I sometimes forget my own phone number.

game

(say gaym)

noun something you can play, usually with set rules

We often have a game of tennis after school.

glass

(say glahs)

noun a container that you drink from, made of glass

Alexander's mum offered me a glass of lemonade.

green

(say green)

adjective of the colour of the leaves of plants

She wore a green dress, the same colour as her eyes.

honey

(say **hun**-ee)

noun a sweet, sticky liquid made by bees from the nectar of flowers

I like honey instead of sugar on my cereal.

jumper

(say **jum**-puh)

noun a piece of warm clothing worn on the top half of your body, often over other clothes

Take a jumper because it will get cold this afternoon.

keel

(say keel)

noun a long piece of timber or metal which stretches along the bottom of a ship, holding it together

The keel of the boat was damaged on the reef.

learn

(say lern)

verb to come to have knowledge of something, or skill in doing it

I would like to learn more about the speed of light and sound.

left

(say left)

adjective The left side of something or someone is the side which is turned toward the west when they are facing north

In Australia, cars drive on the left side of the road.



mail

(say mayl)

noun letters and packages sent by post

I received three birthday cards in the mail this morning.

meat

(say meet)

noun the flesh of animals when used for food

Some people do not like meat and only eat fruit and vegetables.

oval

(say **oh**-vuhl)

noun a field for playing sport on

We kicked the ball around the oval for a few hours.

pancake

(say **pan**-kayk)

noun a thin, flat cake made of batter, cooked in a frying pan

I like to eat a pancake with lemon and sugar.

party

(say **pah**-tee)

noun a social gathering, often to celebrate something

I'm having a birthday party next week.

pasta

(say **pah**-stuh or **pa**-stuh)

noun a dough made from a paste of flour, salt, water, and sometimes egg

A quick meal is pasta with fresh tomato and basil.

pilot

(say **puy**-luht)

noun someone who flies an aircraft

My plans for when I finish school are to join the air force and train as a pilot.

plate

(say playt)

noun a flat, round dish for food

I always take my plate to the sink once I've finished eating.

point

(say poynt)

noun a unit for scoring in a game

We only need one more point to win the match.

polite

(say puh-**luyt**)

adjective behaving well to other people

Even though she was very angry she tried to remain polite.

quiz

(say kwiz)

noun a test to see how much you know about a particular subject

We had a music quiz at school yesterday.



radio

(say ray-dee-oh)

noun the sending of electrical signals through the air to a set which receives them
Radio was a sensation when it was first invented.

round

(say rownd)

adjective shaped like a circle or ball
I like the round mirror better than the square one.

safe

(say sayf)

adjective free from danger or risk
We are safe now that we are home.

silent

(say suy-luhnt)

adjective making no sound or not talking
Harry remained silent throughout dinner which was very unusual for him.

silver

(say sil-vuh)

noun a shiny grey metal used for making things like jewellery
My new ring is made of silver.

smile

(say smuyl)

verb to show you are happy by making your mouth wider and turning it up at the corners
We all had to smile for the camera.

sour

(say sow-uh)

adjective having an acid taste, such as that of lemons
Add some sugar to the juice if you find it too sour.

speak

(say speak)

verb to say words using your voice
The room fell silent as she began to speak.

spine

(say spuyn)

noun the column of bones in the back
Mum has hurt her spine and has to rest until it is better.

taste

(say tayst)

noun flavour
I love the sweet creamy taste of ice cream.

timber

(say tim-buh)

noun wood which has been cut into pieces so that it can be used to build things
The builder said the timber would be delivered the next day.



total

(say **toh**-tuhl)

noun A total is the result you get when you add up different amounts

We added up all the money we had saved to see what the total was.

track

(say trak)

noun a path or course laid out for racing

We hoped it wouldn't rain because the racing track is more dangerous when it's wet.

trail

(say trayl)

noun a path or track, usually through the bush

If you stay on the trail, you won't get lost.

trust

(say trust)

verb to have belief or confidence in someone or something

She's been my friend for many years and I can trust her to help.

upon

(say uh-**pon**)

preposition on

He gently laid the cake upon the table.

value

(say **val**-yoooh)

noun the amount of money something is worth

She asked the jeweller to tell her the value of the ring.

verb

(say verb)

noun a type of word which tells you what someone or something does or feels

For the exercise we had to circle the verb in each sentence.

waste

(say wayst)

verb to use more of something than you need

Don't waste water by leaving the tap running.

weekend

(say week-**end**)

noun the time from Friday evening, or Saturday, to Monday morning, when most people do not have to work or go to school

We went swimming on the weekend.

window

(say **win**-doh)

noun an area on a computer screen in which a particular program is run or data displayed

We were taught to close every window before shutting down the computer.

wisp

(say wisp)

noun someone or something that is small or thin

A wisp of smoke rose from the chimney.



wool

(say wool)

noun the thick hair of sheep, used to make things like warm clothes and floor coverings

I learned how to spin wool into yarn which I could then knit.

world

(say werld)

noun the earth

I'd like to travel around the world one day.

young

(say yung)

adjective being in the first or early stage of life or growth

The teacher helped the young children across the road.

Special Categories Level 1**ART Level 1****band**

(say band)

noun: a group of musicians

Hui dreamed of joining a rock band when he finished school.

beat

(say beet)

noun: regular rhythm in music

Drummers are an essential part of a band because they keep the beat.

clay

(say klay)

noun: a thick, sticky earth which is used in making pottery and bricks

We made pots out of clay in our art class.

craft

(say krahft)

verb: to make skilfully by hand

It took her two days to craft each figurine.

drum

(say drum)

noun: a musical instrument with a round hollow body often covered with a tightly stretched skin, which makes a deep sound when it is hit

The beating of the drum indicated that the procession was about to start.

flat

(say flat)

noun: in music, below the correct pitch

The conductor stopped us playing and made the tuba player retune because he was playing flat.

gala

(say **gah**-luh)

noun: a celebration or special occasion

The decorations at the gala were spectacular.



key

(say kee)

noun: the principal tonality of a musical composition

The symphony was in the key of C minor.

mime

(say muym)

noun: a form of acting in which the actors use movements of their body and face instead of words

You have to train for years to perform mime well.

plot

(say plot)

noun: the plan, scheme, or main story of a work

The play was such a success because it had an interesting and suspenseful plot.

role

(say rohl)

noun: the part or character that an actor plays

He performed his role of the town fool perfectly.

scale

(say skayl)

noun: in music, a succession of ascending or descending notes

During piano practice, I'm always glad when I reach the last scale and I can start on my favourite piece of music.

stage

(say stayj)

noun: a raised floor, usually in a theatre, on which public performances take place

Yellow tape was stuck on the stage where the actors were supposed to stand.

story

(say **staw**-ree)

noun: something told or written which has either happened in real life or has been made up in someone's mind

We read a short story about pirates at school today.

tone

(say tohn)

noun: a musical sound

The audience admired the mellow tone of the cello.

verse

(say vers)

noun: a group of lines that go together in a song or poem

We usually only sing the first verse of the national anthem.

Geography Level 1**Alps**

(say alps)

plural noun: a mountain system in southern Europe, extending from France through Switzerland, Italy and Austria to Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia

My dream is to go on a skiing holiday to the Alps in Switzerland.



beach

(say beech)

noun: the sandy land at the edge of the sea

We grabbed our towels and raced down to the beach.

cave

(say kayv)

noun: a hollow place in a hillside

The walkers sheltered in a cave until the rain stopped.

coast

(say kohst)

noun: the seashore or the land beside the sea

We wanted to stay on the coast for our holidays but it was all booked out.

Cuba

(say **kyooh**-buh)

noun: a republic consisting of a group of islands in the Caribbean Sea

The main language of Cuba is Spanish.

Iran

(say i-**rahn**)

noun: a republic in south-western Asia, on the Persian Gulf

The country of Iran used was known as Persia in ancient times.

Laos

(say louse or **lay**-os)

noun: a republic in South-East Asia

When we were on holiday in Thailand, we crossed the border and visited Laos.

Norway

(say **naw**-way)

noun: a kingdom in north-western Europe, in the western part of the Scandinavian peninsula

You can see from the map that Norway is bordered by Sweden, Finland and Russia.

river

(say **riv**-uh)

noun: a natural body of water that flows over the land in a long winding path

We paddled our canoes along the river.

Spain

(say spayn)

noun: a kingdom in south-western Europe, forming most of the Iberian peninsula between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic

My brother is planning to go to Spain for the 'Running of the Bulls' festival in Pamplona.

Plants and Animals Level 1**bear**

(say bair)

noun: a large heavy animal with short rough hair and a very short tail

A bear can be very dangerous, so you never want to approach one if you see one in the wild.



bloom

(say bloohm)

verb: to produce flowers

My roses didn't bloom until much later this year because the weather was so cold.

breed

(say breed)

verb: to mate and produce young

The zookeepers are hoping that the new elephants will breed.

deer

(say dear)

noun: a large grass-eating animal with hooves, the male of which has branching horns or antlers

We swerved to miss the deer that darted onto the road.

dingo

(say **ding**-goh)

noun: an Australian wild dog

The ranger in the national park told us that if we saw a dingo we should not feed it.

iris

(say **uy**-ruhs)

noun: a large, brightly coloured flower

The vibrant blue and yellow of the Dutch iris makes it my favourite flower.

moss

(say moss)

noun: a plant with very small leaves that grows in patches on rather wet ground, tree trunks or rocks

We slipped on the moss growing on the rocks.

rose

(say roh-z)

noun: a garden flower, usually brightly coloured and sweet-smelling with thorny stems, growing on a small shrub

I cut a rose from the garden but got scratched by one of its thorns.

thorn

(say thawn)

noun: a sharp-pointed prickle on the stem of a plant

She ripped her dress on the rose thorn.

wombat

(say **wom**-bat)

noun: a short-legged, heavy Australian marsupial that burrows holes into the ground

The wombat looked cute and cuddly but it had sharp claws so I stayed away.

Science, Maths & Technology Level 1**chart**

(say chaht)

noun: a map or plan

We've got a chart on the wall showing all the stars that can be seen at different times of the year.



data

(say **day**-tuh or **dah**-tuh)

noun: information collected for analysis or reference

We collected data on the insects we found in the school playground and then entered it into the computer.

hacker

(say **hak**-uh)

noun: a person who manipulates computer systems, especially achieving unauthorised access to the computer system of a business organisation, government department, etc.

The police believed that an experienced hacker was responsible for leaking the bank's customer details on the internet.

invent

(say in-**vent**)

verb: to create or design something original

For our project, we had to invent a new method of transport.

number

(say **num**-buh)

noun: the particular numeral or figure given to something to fix its place in a list or series

I am always number 38 on the class roll because my surname starts with 'Z'.

prove

(say **proohv**)

verb: to show that something is true by presenting convincing facts

The scientist could prove his theory -- he had evidence that could not be disputed.

record

(say **rek**-awd)

noun: a self-contained piece of data on a computer database

Each record had to be entered into the spreadsheet separately.

site

(say **suyt**)

noun: a location on the World Wide Web where there is a set of resources, such as text files, images, and so on

I've found a site which has a lot of recipes for cupcakes.

unit

(say **yoo**-nuht)

noun: an amount used in measurement

The gram is the basic unit of weight.

Sport Level 1**aim**

(say **aym**)

verb: to point something towards where you want it to go

Sophie knew she had to aim the netball carefully if she wanted to shoot a goal.

coach

(say **kohch**)

noun: someone who trains athletes

The coach made us swim twenty laps to warm up.



crew

(say krooh)

noun: a group of people operating a ship, boat, or aircraft

Our rowing crew trains early in the morning while the water is still.

dunk

(say dungk)

verb: to push a basketball down through the basket, by jumping so high and so close to the ring that your hand can reach above the ring

It's not easy to dunk in basketball if you are short.

golf

(say golf)

noun: an outdoor game in which a small ball is hit with special clubs around a set course

Playing golf is good exercise because it involves a lot of walking.

match

(say mach)

noun: a game between two or more people or teams

Today's football match has been cancelled because of the rain.

race

(say rayce)

noun: a contest of speed

It was an exciting race, and Tom was the first to reach the finish line.

saddle

(say sad-uhl)

noun: a seat for the rider of a horse

She leapt into the saddle and galloped away.

softball

(say soft-bawl)

noun: a form of baseball played with a larger, softer ball which is pitched underarm

We can choose between softball and cricket for sport.

team

(say teem)

noun: a group of people who do an activity together, such as a game or sport

My best friend and I are in the same hockey team.

yoga

(say yoh-guh)

noun: a set of exercises which involve deep breathing and holding unusual body positions, in order to reach a calm, peaceful state of mind

My mother does yoga to relax.

volt

(say vohlt)

noun: a measurement of electric force

The remote-controlled car needs a 9 volt battery.



General Category Level 2**abode**

(say uh-**bohd**)

noun the place where someone lives

The cave was the abode of many different creatures.

abroad

(say uh-**brawd**)

adverb away from your own country

When I go abroad, I want to go to Africa first.

accord

(say uh-**kawd**)

noun a formal agreement or contract between two or more groups of people

An accord was reached between the workers and management.

accused

(say uh-**kyoohzd**)

noun someone charged with a crime

The judge let the accused go free.

acute

(say uh-**kyooht**)

adjective very sudden and severe

The drought has caused acute water shortages.

against

(say uh-**genst** or uh-**gaynst**)

preposition in contact or leaning upon

He leant the piece of wood against the wall.

agony

(say **ag**-uh-nee)

noun extreme, and generally prolonged, pain

When I broke my leg, I was in agony.

bashful

(say **bash**-fuhl)

adjective very modest or shy

Don't be bashful -- tell them about your award.

behalf

(say buh-**hahf**)

phrase in someone's interest or in aid of someone

On behalf of all the students, I would like to welcome you here today.

belief

(say buh-**leef**)

noun something that you believe and accept as true

It is my belief that everyone should be treated with respect.

beneath

(say buh-**neeth**)

adverb below, or underneath

Martha hid beneath the table in a game of hide and seek.



billion

(say **bil**-yuhn)

noun, adjective a thousand times a million

There are over seven billion people in the world.

blanch

(say blanch)

verb to put in boiling water for a short time, and then in cold water

We decided to blanch the tomatoes so that it would be easier to remove the skins.

blight

(say bluyt)

noun a damaging effect

The bad weather was a blight on their beach holiday.

bodice

(say **bod**-uhs)

noun the part of a woman's dress above the waist

The bodice of the dress was covered in sequins.

bogus

(say **boh**-guhas)

noun not real or true

He used a bogus name to conceal his real identity.

boomerang

(say **booh**-muh-rang or **boom**-uh-rang)

noun one of a number of kinds of curved sticks used as weapons, some of which return to your hand if you throw them properly

My grandfather taught me how to use a boomerang.

brazen

(say **bray**-zuhn)

adjective shameless or impudent

We had had enough of her brazen behaviour.

breakage

(say **brayk**-ij)

noun the breaking of something

The breakage could have been avoided if they were more careful.

bunyip

(say **bun**-yuhp)

noun a mythical creature of Aboriginal legend, said to live in swamps and billabongs

There is a song about a bunyip in the story 'Dot and the Kangaroo'.

capsize

(say kap-**suyz**)

verb to turn over

Look out! The boat is going to capsize.

cement

(say suh-**ment**)

noun a mixture of clay and limestone, used for making concrete

I was so embarrassed -- my dog ran over the cement before it had dried and left paw prints in it!



curtain

(say **ker**-tuhn)

noun a piece of material hanging from a rod over a window

Let's pull the curtain back so some light can come in.

damage

(say **dam**-ij)

verb to harm or spoil something

Eating too much sweet food can damage your teeth.

drizzle

(say **driz**-uhl)

noun a light rain

A storm had been forecast, but there was only drizzle.

exile

(say **egz**-uyl or **eks**-uyl)

noun long separation from one's country or home, often enforced

The traitors of the kingdom were lucky that they were only sentenced to exile.

fanfare

(say **fan**-fair)

noun a short, loud piece of music usually played on trumpets

The trumpeters played a fanfare when the queen entered the room.

fashion

(say **fash**-uhn)

noun a style of dressing

She always wears the latest fashion.

fateful

(say **fayt**-fuhl)

adjective important because of a disastrous outcome

A movie was made about the fateful day of the earthquake.

feature

(say **fee**-chuh)

noun any part of your face

Everyone says that his nose is his best feature.

federal

(say **fed**-uh-ruhl)

adjective relating to a union of states under a central government

He is a journalist who writes about federal politics.

femur

(say **fee**-muh)

noun the bone of the thigh, the longest bone in the body

She had to keep the cast on her leg for twelve weeks so the fractured femur could heal.

festoon

(say fes-**toohn**)

verb to adorn or drape

We planned to festoon the hall with streamers for the party.



figment

(say **fig**-muhnt)

noun something that is only imaginary

The talking rabbit was a figment of his imagination.

fluent

(say **floo**-uhnt)

adjective flowing smoothly and easily

She speaks fluent French after living in Paris for a year.

fondue

(say **fon**-doooh or **fon**-dyooh)

noun a meal cooked at the table in which pieces of food are speared on the end of long forks and cooked or dipped in melted cheese, hot oil or melted chocolate

Fondue is a popular dish in Switzerland.

fossil

(say **foss**-uhl)

noun the remains of an animal or plant from long ago, preserved in rock

We found a fossil of a fern leaf in a cave.

fretful

(say **fret**-fuhl)

adjective irritable or peevish

My little sister often gets fretful if she misses her afternoon nap.

fright

(say fruyt)

noun a sudden feeling of fear or shock

The sudden noise gave us a fright.

frisbee

(say **friz**-bee)

noun a flat plastic disc with a rim, aerodynamically designed to stay aloft for some time when thrown

I'm much better at throwing a frisbee than catching one!

fumble

(say **fum**-buhl)

verb to handle something clumsily

He tried desperately not to fumble the ball and he managed to catch it cleanly.

funnel

(say **fun**-uhl)

noun an open-ended cone used for pouring liquid into a container with a narrow opening

We didn't want to spill any water so we used a funnel to pour it into the bottle.

further

(say **fer**-dhuh)

adverb at or to a greater distance

You can see further than me -- what does that sign in the distance say?



futon

(say **fooh**-ton)

noun a Japanese-style bed consisting of an unsprung mattress on a support of wooden slats

You will find the futon quite comfortable to sleep on.

gallop

(say **gal**-uhp)

noun the fastest pace a horse can run at

The horse broke into a gallop and raced across the paddock.

garland

(say **gah**-luhnd)

noun a string of flowers or leaves you wear as an ornament

My garland was made up of many different types of flowers.

ghost

(say gohst)

noun a spirit that some people think comes back to earth and can be seen

My friend says that he has seen a ghost but I don't believe him.

guest

(say gest)

noun a visitor or someone who is entertained at your house

Dad says I have to be polite when we have a guest to dinner.

handful

(say **hand**-fuhl)

noun as much or as many as the hand can contain

Billy picked up a handful of peanuts as he walked out of the kitchen.

handsome

(say **han**-suhm)

adjective good-looking

Which actor do you think is the most handsome?

hardware

(say **hahd**-wair)

noun the physical components of a computer system, such as the circuitry, printers, etc. (opposed to software)

The IT department has to set up the hardware for a computer system before they can load the software.

harness

(say **hah**-nuhs)

noun a set of leather straps and metal pieces that fit around a horse's head and body so that it can be ridden or used to pull a vehicle

My horse doesn't mind wearing a harness because he knows we'll be going for a ride.

hearsay

(say **hear**-say)

noun gossip or rumour

The story of how the animals escaped from the zoo was interesting but it was only hearsay.



hostess

(say **hoh**-stes)

noun a woman who receives guests

The Queen is always so gracious in her role as hostess.

impede

(say im-**peed**)

verb to slow down or block the way of

I suspected that the heavy rains would impede the construction of my cubbyhouse.

impending

(say im-**pend**-ing)

adjective about to happen

The heavy, dark clouds signalled an impending storm.

inferno

(say in-**fer**-noh)

noun a place that seems like hell because of heat or fire

When the curtains caught fire, the house quickly became a blazing inferno.

intercom

(say in-**tuh**-kom)

noun a system for sending spoken messages throughout a place such as a school or office

We were warned over the intercom that a practice fire drill would be run soon.

irate

(say uy-**rayt**)

adjective angry

The shopkeeper was irate when he realised he'd been robbed.

janitor

(say **jan**-uh-tuh)

noun a caretaker

I had to get the school janitor to unlock the classroom for me.

jargon

(say **jah**-guhnh)

noun the words and phrases used only by people in a particular job or group

I don't understand half of what the IT department say -- they use so much computer jargon.

journey

(say **jer**-nee)

noun the act of travelling between two places

A driver on a long journey should stop every two hours for a break.

jukebox

(say **joohk**-boks)

noun a coin-operated machine that plays music or songs that you choose

I made sure I had plenty of coins for the jukebox before I went out.

kernel

(say **ker**-nuhl)

noun the inner part of a nut which you can eat

I had to use a nutcracker to get to the kernel of the macadamia.



kettle

(say **ket**-uhl)

noun a container with a spout, a lid and a handle, used for boiling water

I knew the water had boiled when the kettle started whistling.

kneel

(say neel)

verb to go down on your knees

I had to kneel down to see where my pen had rolled under the desk.

landfill

(say **land**-fil)

noun material as garbage, building refuse, etc., deposited under layers of earth to raise the level of the site

After collection, most household rubbish is put into the ground as landfill.

leeway

(say **lee**-way)

noun extra space, time or money that allows freedom of action and choice

If we leave a bit earlier, it gives us more leeway to stop for lunch.

lizard

(say **liz**-uhd)

noun a reptile with a long body, four legs and a tail

The lizard was lying in the sun to warm itself up for the day.

lounge

(say lownj)

noun a sofa or couch

Our lounge seats only two people so it was very uncomfortable with three on it.

lumbar

(say **lum**-buh)

adjective having to do with the lower part of the back

The lumbar vertebrae are those in the lower part of your spine.

mangrove

(say **mang**-grohv)

noun an area where trees grow on mudflats

The mangrove area of the Murray River supports a huge diversity of plant and animal life.

mania

(say **may**-nee-uh)

noun great enthusiasm or excitement

The whole family shared a mania for football.

massive

(say **mass**-iv)

adjective large, in size or amount

The house was so massive that I got lost trying to find the bathroom.

memory

(say **mem**-ree or **mem**-uh-ree)

noun part of a computer in which information is stored until needed

My computer is running slow so I probably need to boost the memory.



methane

(say **mee**-thayn)

noun a colourless, odourless, flammable gas

One of their long-term goals was to reduce the emissions of methane into the atmosphere.

mildew

(say **mil**-dyooh)

noun a coating or growth which appears on slightly wet cloth, leather, and other materials

My shoes are covered in mildew after this damp weather.

mission

(say **mish**-uhn)

noun a group of people of a particular religious faith who travel to spread word of their beliefs

The mission spent six years in the Amazon teaching the indigenous people about their religion.

mortar

(say **maw**-tuh)

noun a mixture of lime or cement, sand and water, used for joining bricks together

The bricklayer spread mortar on top of each layer of the bricks.

mulch

(say mulch)

noun plant material such as grass clippings and leaves, spread on gardens to protect and feed the plants

Jim spread mulch around his new seedlings.

mullet

(say **mul**-uht)

noun a type of fish commonly found in the rivers and sea around Australia

We caught a mullet and two bream while out fishing.

muslin

(say **muz**-luhn)

noun a soft, fine, cotton material

We used a cloth of fine muslin to wash the newborn baby.

neither

(say **nuy**-dhuh or **nee**-dhuh)

adjective not one nor the other

Neither colour suits me -- I look awful in both orange and purple.

nervous

(say **ner**-vuhs)

adjective worried or frightened, especially about something that is going to happen

He was very nervous about the speech he had to give.

nimbus

(say **nim**-buhs)

the type of cloud which brings rain or snow

Most farmers understand cloud formations, and know that nimbus is the type that will bring rain.



nomadic

(say noh-**mad**-ik)

adjective moving from one area to another, hunting and gathering food, rather than settling in one particular place

Many of the traditionally nomadic peoples of northern Africa now live in towns.

ordeal

(say aw-**deel**)

noun a severe test or difficulty

Running the marathon in such heat was an ordeal.

pastel

(say **pass**-tuhl)

noun a soft pale colour

The walls are painted in a pretty pastel.

patron

(say **pay**-truhn)

noun a supporter or helper

The governor is the patron of the children's hospital.

peanut

(say **pee**-nut)

noun a small nut which ripens in a pod underground and which you can eat

We fed the dog a peanut but she didn't like it.

peevish

(say **peev**-ish)

adjective cross or easily annoyed

Because I was tired, I was feeling peevish.

people

(say **pee**-puhl)

noun human beings, as distinguished from animals

The mayor represents all the people in the local community.

perfume

(say **per**-fyoohm)

noun a liquid prepared so that it gives out a pleasant smell

I knew my mother had arrived before I saw her because I could smell the perfume she wore.

perhaps

(say **puh**-haps)

adverb maybe or possibly

Perhaps Jane would come on Saturday if she knew it was a party.

pickle

(say **pik**-uhl)

noun an onion or other vegetable preserved in vinegar or salt water

I ordered a hamburger but without the pickle.

pirate

(say **puy**-ruht)

noun someone who attacks and robs ships at sea

The pirate swung onto the deck, brandishing a sword.



pizza

(say **peet**-suh)

noun a thin dough base covered with tomato, olives, grated cheese or similar savoury foods and baked in an oven

I picked all the olives off my pizza because I don't like them.

plait

(say plat)

verb of hair, to wind three or more strands or bunches of it together

I didn't have time to plait my hair this morning.

policy

(say **pol**-uh-see)

noun a plan of action adopted by a government

The government's policy of improving public transport was popular with the community.

pontoon

(say pon-**toohn**)

noun a floating structure used to support a temporary bridge or as a place where boats can tie up

We had a swimming race out to the pontoon and back.

practical

(say **prak**-tik-uhl)

adjective having to do with the actual doing of something, rather than with ideas

Part of learning to be a teacher is gaining practical experience in front of a class of students.

prefer

(say pruh-**fer**)

verb to like something more than another thing

I prefer chocolate ice cream over strawberry.

pursue

(say puh-**syoo**)

verb to follow someone or something in order to catch them

The police had to pursue the thieves through the streets.

quickly

(say **kwik**-lee)

adverb with great speed

He had to get dressed quickly because they were running late.

quirk

(say kwerk)

noun a particular habit or way of acting

Whistling when he is nervous is a quirk of his.

rissole

(say **riss**-ohl)

noun a fried ball or small cake of chopped up food

I had a cold tuna rissole for lunch.



ruthless

(say **rooth**-luhs)

adjective harsh or cruel

The actors were devastated by the ruthless review of the play.

scent

(say sent)

noun a pleasant smell

The scent of roses filled the room.

scheme

(say skeem)

noun a plan of action

We all agreed that a bake sale would be the best scheme for raising money.

singe

(say sinj)

verb to burn something slightly

You'll singe your hair if you get too close to that candle.

sledge

(say slej)

noun a vehicle designed to slide over the snow

The sledge was pulled across the snow by a team of huskies.

snooker

(say **snooh**-kuh)

noun a game like billiards or pool, played on a table with a cue and different-coloured balls

In snooker, you use a cue to try to shoot a ball into one of the pockets around the table.

sorbet

(say **saw**-bay or **saw**-buht)

noun a frozen dessert made with fruit and egg whites

In summer, my mum likes to eat lemon sorbet.

stead

(say sted)

noun place or position

She felt ill so she sent Maggie in her stead.

surprise

(say suh-**pru**yz)

noun something that gives you a small shock because it is unexpected or unusual

Going out to dinner after such a tiring day was a lovely surprise.

thumb

(say thum)

noun the inner finger that is much shorter and thicker than the others

She yelped when she accidentally hit her thumb with the hammer.

torrent

(say **to**-ruhnt)

noun a violent stream or flow

A torrent of water flooded down the creek bed.



triple

(say **trip**-uhl)

verb to multiply something by three

The company estimated that it would triple its profits in the following year.

trousers

(say **trou**-zuhz)

plural noun a piece of clothing for the lower half of your body, divided into two parts for the legs

He hated wearing trousers to work in the summer because he got too hot.

turban

(say **ter**-buhn)

noun a head covering, usually worn by men in some religions, made of a long piece of cloth wound around the head

I had no idea if my friend had curly hair or not because he always wore a turban.

turncoat

(say **tern**-koht)

noun someone who changes their party or principles; renegade

After his betrayal, they realised he was nothing but a turncoat.

tweed

(say tweed)

noun a rough woollen cloth

My grandfather thought he looked very dapper in his new coat made from tweed.

twelve

(say twelv)

adjective amounting to twelve in number

Dad dropped the carton of eggs and all twelve eggs broke.

tycoon

(say tuy-**koohn**)

noun a businessperson having great wealth and power

The article named him the most influential tycoon of this decade.

udder

(say **ud**-uh)

noun the part of the body which produces milk in some female animals, such as cows and goats, usually hanging and bag-like and with more than one teat

On our visit to the dairy farm we were shown how to draw milk from an udder.

understate

(say un-duh-**stayt**)

verb to describe something as being less than what it actually is

The man had been silly enough to understate his income and had to pay a lot of money to the Tax Office.

unity

(say **yoo**-nuh-tee)

noun a feeling of agreement in a group

After much disagreement in the committee, unity was finally reached.



unlikely

(say un-**luyk**-lee)

adjective probably not true

It seemed unlikely that they could have broken into the house without making a sound.

upwards

(say **up**-wuhdz)

adverb towards a higher place or position

The TV news showed the rocket going upwards into the sky.

vanity

(say **van**-uh-tee)

noun extreme pride in yourself

Her vanity would not allow her to admit that she was wrong.

velvet

(say **vel**-vuht)

noun a kind of soft, slightly furry fabric

The magician wore a cloak of dark-blue velvet.

veneer

(say vuh-**near**)

noun a thin layer of wood or plastic used to cover the surface underneath

The beach house was covered with wood veneer.

verdict

(say **ver**-dikt)

noun what a judge or a jury decides about a prisoner in a court of law

The verdict was 'not guilty' and the prisoner went free.

vermin

(say **ver**-muhn)

plural noun harmful, troublesome, or unpleasant animals, such as rats, cockroaches, and fleas

The abandoned sugar factory was full of vermin.

vibrant

(say **vuy**-bruhnt)

adjective bright, lively and exciting

The vibrant colours in the fashion parade were a completely new look.

video

(say **vid**-ee-oh)

noun A video is a film, television show or event which has been recorded on a special tape, and which you can watch on television

My aunt said she will keep the video we made of her wedding for ever and ever.

virtue

(say **ver**-chooh)

noun a good quality

The debate was about whether cleanliness or honesty was the most important virtue.

walnut

(say **wawl**-nut)

noun a type of round nut with a wrinkly shell

Would you like me to crack a walnut for you?



warden

(say **waw**-duhn)

noun someone who is given the care or responsibility of something

The warden was in charge of the whole prison.

weapon

(say **wep**-uhn)

noun an instrument used in fighting, such as a gun or a knife

The police managed to grab the thief's weapon before anyone was hurt.

whiskers

(say **wiss**-kuhz)

plural noun the long, thick hairs that grow on the face of some animals, such as cats

My baby sister is always pulling at the cat's whiskers.

wingspan

(say **wing**-span)

noun the distance between the wingtips of an aeroplane, bird, or insect

The wingspan of a wedge-tailed eagle is enormous.

withdrawn

(say with-**drawn**)

adjective rather shy

The new student was understandably a little withdrawn.

wonderful

(say **wun**-duh-fuhl)

adjective extremely good or excellent

My dad is a wonderful cook -- he makes the best lasagne!

worship

(say **wer**-shuhp)

verb to show honour and respect with prayer and ceremony

We worship at the mosque on Fridays.

yardstick

(say **yahd**-stik)

noun any standard of measurement

The first edition of the magazine became the yardstick by which all others were judged.

Special categories Level 2**ART Level 2****aria**

(say **ah**-ree-uh)

noun: a melody for a single voice in an opera

She chose to sing an aria for her final performance.

award

(say uh-**wawd**)

noun: something won for skill or excellence

William won the award for the best performance.



carol

(say **ka**-ruhl)

noun: a joyful song, especially a Christmas song or hymn
'Silent Night' is my favourite Christmas carol.

casting

(say **kah**-sting)

noun: the selection of actors for a play, film, etc.
The casting for the new film is being done entirely in Australia.

cello

(say **chel**-oh)

noun: a stringed instrument which is held upright on the floor between the knees of the player
The cello is an instrument with a lovely deep sound.

cosplay

(say **koz**- play or **kos**- play)

noun: the activity of dressing up as characters from literature, comic strips, television shows, video games, etc.
When we do cosplay, I like to dress up as Marge Simpson.

creative

(say kree-**ay**-tiv)

adjective: good at making or inventing things
She is very creative and makes beautiful jewellery.

debate

(say duh-**bayt**)

noun: a discussion, especially of an important issue in front of an audience
The debate was lively and provoked quite a few heated arguments.

editor

(say **ed**-uh-tuh)

noun: someone who prepares written material for publication
Mum is the editor of a science journal.

fable

(say **fay**-buhl)

noun: a short, made-up story, often about animals, that teaches a lesson about how to behave
Have you heard the fable of the boy who cried wolf?

famous

(say **fay**-muhs)

adjective: renowned or widely known
Stars often say they get tired of being famous.

foxtrot

(say **foks**-trot)

noun: a ballroom dance which uses short, quick steps, and which was very popular in the past
The dancers were exhausted after the energetic foxtrot.



fresco

(say **fress**-koh)

noun: a painting done on a wall or ceiling

The council hired an artist to paint a fresco on the ceiling of our new town hall.

kiln

(say kiln)

noun: a big oven or furnace for baking bricks or pottery

We needed to place the pottery into the kiln for it to set properly.

legend

(say **lej**-uhnd)

noun: a story that comes from long ago in the past and which is thought by many people to be at least partly true

Many people know of the legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

media

(say **mee**-dee-uh)

plural noun: the means of communication, including radio, television, newspapers and magazines

The accused man hid his face from the media as he entered the court.

Mozart

(say **moht**-saht)

noun: an Austrian composer of a great many works, including operas and orchestral music, born in 1756 and died in 1791

Mozart was only five years old when he started composing music.

music

(say **myooh**-zik)

noun: sounds combined together in a way that is nice to listen to, and expresses ideas or feelings

I like listening to music on the radio.

pattern

(say **pat**-uhn)

noun: a particular arrangement of forms and colours

His shirt had a swirling pattern of orange and purple.

pencil

(say **pen**-suhl)

noun: a thin, pointed piece of wood with a stick of graphite or crayon in the middle, used for writing or drawing

I need a red pencil for this drawing.

pigment

(say **pig**-muhnt)

noun: colouring matter used to make paint

Indigenous artists traditionally use ochre as a pigment to paint with.

poetry

(say **poh**-uh-tree)

noun: the art of writing or speaking in rhythmical verse

I love reading poetry but I'm not very good at writing it.



presto

(say **pres**-toh)

adverb: in music, in quick tempo; to be played very fast

I had to practise the music slowly before I could play it presto.

review

(say ruh-**vyooh**)

noun: an article which describes and gives an opinion of something, such as a book or film

The review was so good that we're going to see the film.

scene

(say seen)

noun: one of the divisions of a play

The murder occurs in the first scene of the play.

statue

(say **stach**-ooh)

noun: an image of a person or animal made out of stone, wood or bronze

We often picnic near the statue of Banjo Paterson in the park.

stencil

(say **sten**-suhl)

noun: a thin sheet of paper, cardboard or metal cut so as to reproduce a design when colour is rubbed through it

We used a metal stencil to create the base pattern of the artwork.

tempo

(say **tem**-poh)

noun: the speed of a piece of music

The music had a very fast tempo.

Geography Level 2**Africa**

(say **af**-rik-uh)

noun: the second largest continent, south of Europe and between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans

I plan on travelling from the top to the bottom of Africa when I go overseas.

alpine

(say **al**-puyn)

adjective: having to do with high, mountainous country

Alpine wildflowers are very delicate.

Amazon

(say **am**-uh-zuhn or **am**-uh-zon)

noun: a river in northern South America, flowing from the Peruvian Andes east through northern Brazil to the Atlantic; the largest river in the world

Piranhas, anacondas and caimans can be found in the Amazon so you would think twice before swimming there.



Asia

(say **ay**-zhuh)

noun: the largest continent, bounded by Europe and the Pacific, Arctic, and Indian oceans

Asia is the largest of the seven continents.

atlas

(say **at**-luhs)

noun: a book of maps

We looked in the atlas and saw that the Pacific Ocean was larger than the other oceans.

Canada

(say **kan**-uh-duh)

noun: a federal parliamentary state in the northern part of North America

The flag of Canada is easy to recognise because it has a red maple leaf on it.

capital

(say **kap**-uh-tuhl)

noun: the city which is the official seat of government of a state or country

Paris is the capital of France.

climate

(say **kluy**-muht)

noun: the usual weather of a particular place

The climate in Australia is generally quite warm and sunny.

country

(say **kun**-tree)

noun: an area of land occupied by people organised under a single independent government

Tasmania is the smallest state in the country of Australia.

delta

(say **del**-tuh)

noun: the flat rich land between outspreading river branches at the mouth of a river

Mosquitoes abound in the river's delta of muddy islands and waterways.

India

(say **in**-dee-uh)

noun: a republic in southern Asia, lying south of the Himalayas, with Pakistan to the north-west, Bangladesh to the north-east

Travelling through India by train is a rich and varied experience.

Italy

(say **it**-uh-lee)

noun: a republic in southern Europe, consisting of a peninsula extending into the Mediterranean Sea, and a number of islands, principally Sicily and Sardinia

My cousin wants to go Italy to study art, but I want to go for the pasta!

ocean

(say **oh**-shuhn)

noun: one of the large areas of salt water between continents

The ship was tossed up and down on the stormy ocean.



outback

(say **owt**-bak)

noun: the remote parts of the country, far from the cities and the coast

People who live in the outback have to be self-reliant.

Rhine

(say ruyn)

noun: a river flowing from south-eastern Switzerland through Germany and the Netherlands into the North Sea

The Rhine is the longest river in Germany.

Sweden

(say **swee**-duhn)

noun: a kingdom in north-western Europe, in the eastern part of the Scandinavian peninsula, bordered by Finland and Norway

The kingdom of Sweden is built on fourteen islands and has more than fifty bridges.

Tonga

(say **tong**-uh or **tong**-guh)

noun: a kingdom in the south-western Pacific Ocean, consisting of 169 islands

The kingdom of Tonga is also known as the Friendly Islands.

Plants and Animals Level 2**baboon**

(say buh-**boohn**)

noun: a large monkey with a mouth like a dog and a short tail, found in Africa and Arabia

The young baboon was very frightened when humans entered its habitat.

bilby

(say **bil**-bee)

noun: a small bandicoot with big rabbit-like ears

The bilby is quite different in appearance from other types of bandicoot.

blossom

(say **bloss**-uhm)

noun: the flower of a plant, especially of a fruit tree

The blossom of an orange tree smells sweet.

burrow

(say **bu**-roh)

noun: a hole in the ground dug by an animal, to live and shelter in

The wombat sleeps in a burrow during the day.

ferret

(say **fe**-ruht)

noun: an animal with a long thin body used on farms to go down rabbit holes and chase out rabbits

It's becoming more and more popular to keep a ferret as a pet, even in the city.



flipper

(say **flip**-uh)

noun: the broad flat limb of an animal such as a seal or whale that is used for swimming

The marine park released the dolphin back into the open ocean once its flipper was healed.

flora

(say **flaw**-ruh)

noun: the plants of a particular area

The flora of Australia includes the wattle tree.

gander

(say **gan**-duh)

noun: a male goose

I'm scared of the gander at the farm because it hisses at me.

jellyfish

(say **jel**-ee-fish)

noun: a soft-bodied sea animal, especially one with an umbrella-shaped body and long tentacles

We could see a large jellyfish floating about in the water.

livestock

(say **luv**-stok)

noun: all the animals kept on a farm or station such as horses, cattle and sheep

We had to move the livestock to higher ground during the flood.

marron

(say **ma**-ruhn)

noun: a freshwater crayfish of Western Australia

Mum caught a huge marron in the creek this morning.

nature

(say **nay**-chuh)

noun: the world around us, made up of earth, sky and sea, along with animals and plants, especially when untouched by human beings

My dad said we should go outside to experience nature instead of watching programs about it on television.

paddock

(say **pad**-uhk)

noun: a large area of land which has been fenced and is used for grazing sheep or other animals

During the flood, the sheep were moved to a higher paddock.

pasture

(say **pahs**-chuh)

noun: land suitable for cattle or sheep to graze on

The land near the river is good pasture for the cattle.

prey

(say pray)

noun: an animal hunted for food by another

Snakes can swallow prey much bigger than you would think.



reptile

(say **rep**-tuyl)

noun: a cold-blooded animal that lays eggs, such as a lizard or snake

Because a reptile is cold-blooded, it needs to lie in the sun to warm up.

willow

(say **wil**-oh)

noun: a tree which has strong but easily bent branches which are used in the making of baskets and other objects

The willow in our backyard provides us with plenty of shade in summer.

Science, Maths & Technology Level 2**amount**

(say uh-**mownt**)

noun: the sum total

I have added up the figures three times but I still come up with the wrong amount.

android

(say **an**-droyd)

noun: a robot made to resemble a human being

Scientists are trying to develop an android that can clean houses and do basic tasks.

Armstrong

(say **ahm**-strong)

noun: a US astronaut who was born in 1930 and died in 2012

Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon.

carbon

(say **kah**-buhn)

noun: a common chemical element

Diamond is a form of the element carbon.

compass

(say **kum**-puhs)

noun: an instrument with a magnetic needle pointing to north which is used to find directions

We always take a compass with us when we go walking in the bush.

degree

(say duh-**gree**)

noun: a unit of measurement of temperature

With the temperature just one degree above zero, it was too cold to go out!

depth

(say depth)

noun: a measure or distance downwards

The new submarine can dive to a depth of almost 500 metres.

dissolve

(say duh-**zolv**)

verb: to mix a solid in a liquid until it disappears

These tablets dissolve quickly in water.



dongle

(say **dong**-guh)

noun: a hardware device which, when plugged into a computer, can provide software copying protection, as well as wireless connectivity, etc.

If I take my laptop and dongle with me when I travel I can access wireless services.

graph

(say graf or grahf)

noun: a diagram which shows the relationship between two or more things by dots, lines or bars

The graph showed clearly how much rain had fallen.

Hawking

(say **haw**-king)

noun: a British physicist and cosmologist, who was born in 1942 and died in 2018
Stephen Hawking wrote a well-known book called 'A Brief History of Time'.

litre

(say **lee**-tuh)

noun: a measure of liquid in the metric system

The container holds one litre of milk.

modem

(say **moh**-dem or **moh**-duhm)

noun: an electronic device that allows one computer to link to others through the telephone system

We turned on the modem so we could send an email to our grandmother.

motion

(say **moh**-shuhn)

noun: the process or power of moving

The motion of tides is a result of the gravitational pull of the moon and the sun on the earth.

Newton

(say **nyooh**-tuhn)

noun: an English scientist, mathematician, and philosopher, who was born in 1642 and died in 1727

I need to understand the laws of gravity and motion formulated by Sir Isaac Newton to pass my physics exam.

octagon

(say ok-**tuh**-gon)

noun: a shape having eight angles and eight sides

The tower was in the shape of an octagon.

router

(say **rowt**-uh)

noun: a device which provides connection between computers in a network and controls the network areas that each can access

We had to follow the instructions to set up the router before we could network all our computers.



spectrum

(say **spek**-truhm)

noun: the band of colours (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet) produced when white light passes through a prism

You can see the spectrum of colours in a rainbow.

thermal

(say **ther**-muhl)

adjective: having to do with heat

Thermal energy was used to power the machine.

wireless

(say **wuy**-uh-luhs)

adjective: not using telephone lines, cables, etc.

Wireless technology allows people to access the internet even when they are outside.

Sport Level 2**basketball**

(say **bah**-skuht-bawl)

noun: a game played by two teams of five players, who try to score points by shooting a ball through a metal hoop at the top of the other team's goalpost

We play basketball every Saturday morning -- our team hasn't lost a game all year.

boxing

(say **boks**-ing)

noun: the sport of fighting with your fists, especially with protective gloves

Jeff Fenech is a famous name in Australian boxing.

canoe

(say kuh-**nooh**)

noun: a light, narrow boat that you move by using paddles

We paddled across the lake in a canoe.

captain

(say **kap**-tuhn)

noun: someone who is in charge of a sporting team

I'm hoping to be chosen as the captain of our cricket team this season.

course

(say kawce)

noun: the ground or water on which a race takes place

The course they had to row was 1500 metres long.

defeat

(say duh-**feet**)

verb: to overcome or beat in a battle or contest

We knew we could easily defeat the visiting netball team.

dribble

(say **drib**-uhl)

verb: to move a ball along by a series of little kicks or small blows with a stick

Sachin was learning how to dribble the ball along the ground at soccer training.



forehand

(say **faw**-hand)

noun: a stroke in a game like tennis which is made to the right side of the body (if the player is right-handed)

The tennis player practised his forehand all morning and his backhand all afternoon.

grandstand

(say **gran**-stand)

noun: a building with seats rising in tiers, at a sports field or similar outdoor place of entertainment

The grandstand was packed to capacity for the State of Origin match.

innings

(say **in**-ingz)

noun: a team's turn at batting in cricket

We made 136 runs in the first innings.

rodeo

(say **roh**-dee-oh or roh-**day**-oh)

noun: an event in which people compete or display skills in riding horses, lassoing cattle, and so on

When the rodeo is in town, everyone comes to watch.

stadium

(say **stay**-dee-uhm)

noun: a large sports ground, designed to hold many people

We are going to the stadium to watch the tennis.

stopwatch

(say **stop**-woch)

noun: a watch which can be stopped and started by pressing a button, used for timing races and so on

The coach got his stopwatch ready and called 'Go!'

surfboard

(say **serf**-bawd)

noun: a long, narrow board used to ride waves towards the shore

The waves looked great so I carried my surfboard down to the beach.

swimming

(say **swim**-ing)

noun: the activity of moving along in the water using your arms and legs

In summer, swimming is a popular sport.

Thorpe

(say thawp)

noun: an Australian swimmer, born in 1982

Ian Thorpe won three gold medals at the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000.

umpire

(say **um**-puy-uh)

noun: someone who makes sure a game is played according to the rules

The umpire sent the player off the field because he had broken the rules.



wicket

(say **wik**-uht)

noun: the set of three pieces of wood with two bails on top at which the bowler aims the ball in cricket

The ball hit the wicket and I was out.



General Category Level 3**abandon**

(say uh-**ban**-duhn)

verb to leave completely and finally

They decided to abandon the raft and continue their journey along the river on foot.

abdomen

(say **ab**-duh-muhn or **ab**-doh-muhn)

noun the main part of the body that contains the stomach and other organs

She saw the doctor about the pain in her abdomen.

abrupt

(say uh-**brupt**)

adjective something that is sudden or unexpected

I didn't like the story because the ending was too abrupt.

abstain

(say uh**b-stayn**)

verb to refrain from doing something

I decided to abstain from eating sweets at the party.

accost

(say uh-**kost**)

verb to approach someone, often in a threatening way

The thugs planned to accost the man and steal his wallet.

achieve

(say uh-**cheev**)

verb to bring something about by trying hard

Despite being sick, he has managed to achieve great results.

activity

(say ak-**tiv**-uh-tee)

noun something you do, especially something that involves lots of energy

Swimming is my favourite activity in summer.

adamant

(say **ad**-uh-muhnt)

adjective staying firm in what you decide

Mum was adamant that the bathroom wall should remain bright yellow.

additive

(say **ad**-uh-tiv)

noun something which is added, especially a chemical added to food to keep it fresh

Artificial colouring is a common food additive.

adept

(say uh-**dept**)

adjective skilful

He is a reasonably adept tennis player.

admiral

(say **ad**-muh-ruhl)

noun a person of the highest rank in the navy

He loved the sea and dreamed that one day he might be an admiral in the navy.



adversity

(say uhd-**ver**-suh-tee)

noun hardship or misfortune

The drought is a time of great adversity for farmers.

aggravate

(say **ag**-ruh-vayt)

verb to make worse or more severe

Going out in the rain will only aggravate your flu.

agitated

(say **aj**-uh-tayt-uhd)

adjective nervous and upset

He was too agitated to open the letter which contained his exam results.

apathy

(say **ap**-uh-thee)

noun no feeling for, or interest in things other people find interesting or exciting

James's apathy in class was worrying his teacher, because he was usually so interested and engaged.

aplomb

(say uh-**plom**)

noun the ability to handle difficult or unusual situations

Our school captain introduced the guest speaker with aplomb.

apparent

(say uh-**pa**-ruhnt)

adjective able to be seen or understood

Her red face made it apparent that she was embarrassed.

appetite

(say **ap**-uh-tuyt)

noun the desire for food

Your appetite is always good after you go hiking in the bush.

appraise

(say uh-**prayz**)

verb to make a judgement about something's value

The art historian was qualified to appraise the old vase.

arduous

(say **ah**-joooh-uhs)

adjective needing a lot of hard work

Alice complained about the arduous walk home up the hill.

assembly

(say uh-**sem**-blee)

noun a group of people meeting for a special reason

There was an assembly for everyone in the school to welcome the new principal.

atrium

(say **at**-ree-uhm or **ayt**-ree-uhm)

noun an open area which is central to the design of a building, especially one designed for public use

The party was held in the atrium of the hotel.



bamboozle

(say bam-**booh**-zuhl)

verb to confuse or deceive someone

The magician did his best to bamboozle us, but we were too clever.

barricade

(say **ba**-ruh-kayd or ba-ruh-**kayd**)

noun a barrier or wall, especially one built in a hurry

The police erected a barricade to divert the traffic.

battery

(say **bat**-uh-ree)

noun a container which stores electricity

I couldn't find the right battery for the torch.

bauxite

(say **bawk**-suyt)

noun a rock that you crush to get aluminium

Bauxite is mined in many parts of the world, in order to make aluminium.

befuddle

(say bee-**fud**-uhl)

verb to confuse, as with smooth-sounding argument

The technical language in the instruction manual managed to befuddle me very quickly.

beige

(say bayzh)

adjective very light brown

These beige curtains will go with most other colours.

bequeath

(say buh-**kweedh** or buh-**kweeth**)

verb to hand down or pass on to someone

My grandmother is planning to bequeath money to charity.

berserk

(say buh-**zerk**)

adjective uncontrollably crazy and wild

The crowd went berserk when he kicked the winning goal.

beverage

(say **bev**-uh-rij)

noun a drink of any kind

A cold beverage is refreshing on a hot day.

bizarre

(say buh-**zah**)

adjective very strange or unusual

Wearing a swimming cap to bed seems like a bizarre thing to do!

boulder

(say **bohl**-duh)

noun a very large rock

He jumped onto a boulder in the middle of the creek.



cabinet

(say **kab**-uh-nuht)

noun the group of leading people in a government

The prime minister and cabinet held an emergency meeting to discuss the alarming new developments.

carnival

(say **kah**-nuh-vuhl)

noun a time of processions and public celebrations, usually for a special occasion

The town holds a spring carnival every year.

caution

(say **kaw**-shuhn)

noun great care when there is danger

People are advised to use caution when near fire.

celebrant

(say **sel**-uh-bruhnt)

noun a special person who leads a ceremony, such as a wedding

They were married in their garden by a celebrant.

cereal

(say **sear**-ree-uhl)

noun a food made from grain, especially the food you eat in the morning with milk

We always have to eat our cereal before we go to school.

cherish

(say **che**-rish)

verb to look after tenderly

A good friendship is something to cherish.

chlorine

(say **klaw**-reen)

noun a greenish-yellow gas which is dissolved in water and used to keep swimming pools clean

After I've been swimming in the pool, my hair smells of chlorine.

classified

(say **klas**-uh-fuyd)

adjective (of military and other government information) placed in categories in relation to security risk

We were not allowed access to the information because it was classified.

coconut

(say **koh**-kuh-nut)

noun the large, hard nut of a kind of palm tree, which is lined with white flesh and contains a clear milk

We coated the lamingtons in dried coconut.

colleague

(say **kol**-eeg)

noun someone you work with

She had a meeting with a colleague to discuss the new plans.



colonial

(say kuh-**loh**-nee-uhl)

adjective relating to a colony

When the British first came to Australia, they established colonial settlements.

commodore

(say **kohm**-uh-daw)

noun a senior captain in the navy

The commodore was disappointed with the sailor's behaviour on the ship.

commuter

(say kuh-**myooh**-tuh)

noun someone who regularly travels some distance between home and work, as from an outer suburb to the city

She enjoyed being a commuter as it gave her a chance to relax and read a book.

component

(say kuhm-**poh**-nuhnt)

noun a part of a whole

A microchip is just one component of a motherboard.

concede

(say kuhn-**seed**)

verb to admit that something is true

In the end I had to concede that I was mistaken.

condemn

(say kuhn-**dem**)

verb to strongly express disapproval of something

The government moved quickly to condemn the actions of the vandals.

congeal

(say kuhn-**jeel**)

verb to thicken or become solid

I must remember to wash up the frying pan before the fat has a chance to congeal.

console

(say kuhn-**sohl**)

verb to comfort someone or cheer them up

He was very upset when his team lost the final and we could do nothing to console him.

consultant

(say kuhn-**sul**-tuhnt)

noun a medical or surgical specialist

The doctor said he'd have to talk to the hearing consultant before he could be sure of his diagnosis.

contingent

(say kuhn-**tin**-juhnt)

adjective depending on something that is not yet certain

The future of our company is contingent upon good sales this year.



corrosion

(say kuh-**roh**-zhuhn)

noun the act, process, or product of wearing away

The mechanic advised us to keep our car in the garage to help protect against corrosion.

crucial

(say **krooh**-shuhl)

adjective extremely important

The game was at a crucial point and the fans were tense with excitement.

cryptic

(say **krip**-tik)

adjective mysterious, or difficult to understand

I was baffled by her cryptic email so had to ask her what she meant.

crystal

(say **kriss**-tuhl)

noun a clear mineral which looks like ice

I love how the crystal in my pendant sparkles in the light.

currency

(say **ku**-ruhn-see)

noun the type of money in general use in a country

He changed his American dollars into Australian currency.

dearth

(say derth)

noun scarcity or scanty supply; lack

The dearth of rain caused the waterhole to dry up.

deceive

(say duh-**seev**)

verb to trick someone or hide the truth from them

He could not deceive them -- they knew immediately that he wasn't telling the truth.

deity

(say **day**-uh-tee or **dee**-uh-tee)

noun a god or goddess

The tribe worshipped the moon as a deity.

delicacy

(say **del**-uh-kuh-see)

noun a tasty or expensive food

Caviar is considered a delicacy by many.

demise

(say duh-**muyz**)

noun death or coming to an end

The demise of the local newspaper was a blow to the town's population.

desirable

(say duh-**zuy**-ruh-buhl)

adjective good or beautiful enough to be wanted

The house is fairly small, but it's in a desirable location right on the beach.



desolate

(say **dess**-uh-luht or **dez**-uh-luht)

adjective sad and hopeless

They felt desolate after losing all their possessions.

diesel

(say **dee**-zuhl)

noun a type of fuel used in some cars, trucks, boats and other machines

Our truck runs on diesel, not petrol.

discreet

(say duh-**skreet**)

adjective able to keep secrets

You can tell her anything because she is very discreet.

disparage

(say dis-**pa**-rij)

verb to speak about something, or treat it as if it has little value

It is rude to disparage the achievements of others.

dispel

(say dis-**pel**)

verb to drive something off, or scatter it

The news item about skiing accidents has done nothing to dispel my doubts about our plans for a holiday in the snow!

doctorate

(say **dok**-tuh-ruht)

noun the highest academic degree awarded by a university

After three years of studying the lifecycle of cicadas my cousin was finally awarded a doctorate.

doldrums

(say **dol**-druhmz)

plural noun a period of dullness or gloominess

Sam has been in the doldrums since his best friend moved to another city.

drainage

(say **drayn**-ij)

noun the act or process of draining

The soil in this area has extremely good drainage, even after heavy rain.

dungarees

(say dung-guh-**reez**)

plural noun work clothing, usually overalls, made from a strong cotton cloth

I think I'm going to grow out of my dungarees before they wear out!

dungeon

(say **dun**-juhn)

noun a dark, small prison or cell, usually underground

The soldiers were held captive in the cold, dark dungeon of the castle.

elaborate

(say uh-**lab**-uh-ruht)

adjective having great detail

With great care, she painted an elaborate design on the plate.



elevator

(say **el**-uh-vay-tuh)

noun something shaped like a large box for carrying people up and down inside tall buildings

Let's catch the elevator -- it's quicker than walking up the stairs.

eligible

(say **el**-uh-juh-buhl)

adjective accepted as suitable

Because his birthday fell in April, he was eligible for the older team.

emphatic

(say em-**fat**-ik)

adjective showing or highlighting the importance of something

The manager's instruction to the staff was emphatic -- we should arrive at work on time.

encourage

(say en-**ku**-rij)

verb to inspire with courage, confidence, or trust

We thought his paintings were so good we tried to encourage him to enter the art competition.

encroach

(say en-**krohch**)

verb to go beyond your own area and onto some other area that is not yours

The outer areas of the town have started to encroach on the bush.

enviable

(say **en**-vee-uh-buhl)

adjective worth wanting

My sister has an enviable job involving lots of travel overseas.

exasperate

(say eg-**zas**-puh-rayt)

verb to annoy very much

You will exasperate people if you continue to tease them.

expertise

(say eks-per-**teez**)

noun expert skill or knowledge

Her expertise in environmental science was sought by many governments.

faculty

(say **fak**-uhl-tee)

noun one of the powers that you are born with

Hearing is a very important faculty.

fatigue

(say fuh-**teeg**)

noun severe mental or physical tiredness

The rescued bushwalkers were suffering from fatigue.

felony

(say **fel**-uh-nee)

noun a serious crime such as murder or burglary

She was sentenced to jail for eight years for her felony.



garrison

(say **ga**-ruh-suhn)

noun a building housing soldiers who are ready to defend a fort or town

The army garrison was heavily fortified.

glacial

(say **glay**-shuhl or **glay**-see-uhl)

adjective as cold as ice

Temperatures became glacial as they neared the peak of the mountain.

grimace

(say **grim**-uhs or gruh-**mays**)

verb to contort your face so that it shows you are upset, afraid or in pain

She tried not to grimace when the doctor gave her the flu vaccination.

gruesome

(say **grooh**-suhm)

adjective causing feelings of horror

The house had a gruesome history which horrified people when they heard it.

guardian

(say **gah**-dee-uhn)

noun someone who is appointed by law to take care of another person and their property

The court appointed a guardian to look after the child.

habitual

(say huh-**bit**-chooh-uhl)

adjective commonly used; usual

She took her habitual place at the head of the table.

havoc

(say **hav**-uhk)

noun great damage or destruction

The cyclone caused havoc all along the coast.

hideous

(say **hid**-ee-uhs)

adjective very ugly

The story was about a hideous monster who frightened the villagers.

horseradish

(say **haws**-rad-ish)

noun the pungent roots of a plant which are ground and used as a condiment and in medicine

I like a little bit of horseradish on beef sandwiches, but not too much.

hospital

(say **hos**-pi-tl)

noun a place where sick and injured people are given medical treatment

I had to go to the hospital when I broke my leg.

hydroplane

(say **huy**-druh-playn)

noun a light boat designed to skim along the surface of the water at high speed

I was surprised at how fast the hydroplane went.



ignition

(say ig-**nish**-uhn)

noun a system for setting on fire, especially that of the electrical sparks which ignite the fuel in the cylinders in a car engine

They left the ignition on while they waited in the car so the air conditioning would keep running.

impartial

(say im-**pah**-shuhl)

adjective not taking one side or the other

The principal was an impartial judge.

impromptu

(say im-**promp**-tyooh)

adjective made or done on the spot, without any previous preparation

At my friend's birthday party, they asked me to give an impromptu performance on the piano, so I played my favourite piece.

inadvertent

(say in-uhd-**ver**-tuhnt)

adjective not intentional

An inadvertent insult brought an end to the meeting.

inordinate

(say in-**aw**-duh-nuht)

adjective too great in number or amount

We couldn't keep up with her inordinate demands.

insolent

(say in-**suh**-luhnt)

adjective insulting and rude

Another insolent remark like that and you'll be in really big trouble!

intercept

(say in-tuh-**sept**)

verb to catch or stop something as it goes from one place to another

I was able to intercept the ball just before it touched the ground.

intrinsic

(say in-**trin**-zik)

adjective being a basic and important part of something

The beach is an intrinsic part of summer in Sydney.

invasion

(say in-**vay**-zhuhn)

noun the act of invading or entering as an enemy

The invasion was planned to take place at dawn.

inventory

(say in-**vuhn**-tree or in-**vuhn**-taw-ree)

noun a detailed list of articles, goods, etc.

The shop was closed on Saturday to allow an inventory of the stock to be completed.

jocular

(say **jok**-yuh-luh)

adjective joking or playful

There were a few jocular references to his similarity to Santa Claus.



jovial

(say **joh**-vee-uhl)

adjective cheerful and friendly

My uncle is always so jovial that everyone loves visiting him.

laconic

(say luh-**kon**-ik)

adjective using few words

Because he was so tired he gave only laconic replies.

lawyer

(say **loy**-yuh)

noun someone whose work is to give advice about the law and to argue for people in law courts

Their lawyer advised them to stop speaking to the media.

lectern

(say **lek**-tuhn)

noun a reading desk, especially in a church

The minister gave his address from the lectern.

leisurely

(say **lezh**-uh-lee)

adjective unhurried

There was plenty of time, so we walked at a leisurely pace.

lesion

(say **leezh**-uhn)

noun a wound

He had a lesion on his leg from falling off his skateboard.

lettuce

(say **let**-uhs)

noun a plant with large green leaves which are used in salads

My brother says that only rabbits should eat lettuce, but Dad says it is healthy for us.

loiter

(say **loy**-tuh)

verb to move about aimlessly or stay in the one place

I was late for school so I couldn't loiter.

lullaby

(say **lul**-uh-buy)

noun a song sung to put a baby to sleep

The baby was sound asleep by the end of the lullaby.

magnate

(say **mag**-nayt or **mag**-nuht)

noun someone who is very powerful and successful, especially in business

The magnate made millions in the mining industry.

mandatory

(say **man**-duh-tree or man-duh-**taw**-ree)

adjective required or essential

A life sentence is mandatory for some types of crime.



manifesto

(say man-uh-**fes**-toh)

noun a public statement by a government or group, setting out its ideas or goals

The government issued its manifesto for their coming term.

marriage

(say **ma**-rij)

noun the legal relation of spouses to each other

My grandparents have had a very long and happy marriage.

maximum

(say **maks**-uh-muhm)

noun the most you can have

The maximum who can come on the excursion is 20.

meander

(say mee-**an**-duh)

verb to wind or wander about

I love to meander around the markets looking at the stalls.

merchandise

(say **mer**-chuhn-dice)

noun goods for sale

Department stores carry a large variety of merchandise.

misspell

(say mis-**spel**)

verb to spell incorrectly

You can't afford to misspell a word in this competition if you want to do well.

mockery

(say **mok**-uh-ree)

noun ridicule or derision

He spoke with mockery and disdain of the botched investigation.

monitor

(say **mon**-uh-tuh)

noun the part of a computer which contains the screen

Your eyes will get tired if you stare at the monitor for too long.

mundane

(say mun-**dayn**)

adjective ordinary or boring

Choir practice can be mundane at times.

nachos

(say **nah**-chohz **nah**-chohs)

noun a snack made from corn chips with tomato, chilli, and melted cheese on top

Dad often makes nachos when we have friends over because it is quick and easy.

nautical

(say **naw**-tik-uhl)

adjective having to do with ships, sailors or sailing

The captain used all his nautical knowledge to steer us safely through the dangerous waters.



negotiate

(say nuh-**goh**-shee-ayt)

verb to arrange by discussion

The hotel had to negotiate a solution with neighbouring properties about the noise on Saturday nights.

nocturnal

(say nok-**ter**-nuhl)

adjective active or out by night, as certain birds, insects and flowers

Possums and bats are nocturnal animals.

nourish

(say **nu**-rish)

verb to provide with food or other substances needed for growth and health

A diet of ice cream and peanut butter is not sufficient to nourish anybody!

novice

(say **nov**-uhs)

noun someone who is new to the type of work or activity they are doing

Returning to work after so many years, he felt like a complete novice again.

observant

(say uhb-**zer**-vuhnt)

adjective watchful or alert

An observant neighbour noticed that our front door was open when we weren't home and called the police.

occupy

(say **ok**-yuh-puy)

verb to fill or take up time

My grandfather used to occupy himself with calligraphy.

officer

(say **of**-uh-suh)

noun someone who holds a rank in the army, navy, air force, police force or similar organisation

The wellbeing of the soldiers was the responsibility of the officer.

omission

(say oh-**mish**-uhn)

noun the act or fact of failing to include something

The omission of your name from the invitation list was just an oversight.

omnivore

(say **om**-nuh-vaw)

noun an animal that eats both meat and plants

The bilby is an omnivore -- it eats insects and worms as well as fruit and seeds.

opportune

(say **op**-uh-choohn)

adjective favourable or appropriate

She waited for an opportune moment to interrupt the discussion.



oracle

(say o-ruh-kuhl)

noun someone who answers difficult questions or reveals the future

The oracle at Delphi in Ancient Greece gave messages that could not be proved either right or wrong.

organza

(say aw-gan-zuh)

noun a material made from a mixture of silk or nylon with cotton

She loved the design of the dress but was adamant that it be made of organza.

origami

(say o-ruh-gah-mee)

noun the art of folding paper into interesting shapes, first developed in Japan

We learned how to make swans using origami.

pacify

(say pas-uh-fuy)

verb to make someone peaceful or calm

She tried to pacify the whimpering child by letting him pat the puppy.

pagoda

(say puh-goh-duh)

noun a sacred building or temple shaped like a tower and usually found in Asian countries

During our trip to Japan, we visited a pagoda in the hills near Kyoto.

pallor

(say pal-uh)

noun unnatural paleness

The pallor of my skin convinced the doctor I was not well.

pamphlet

(say pam-fluht)

noun a very small paper-covered book

The pamphlet explained what the exhibition was about.

pancreas

(say pang-kree-uhs)

noun a gland near the stomach which produces important hormones and helps digestion

She had to have an operation on her pancreas.

pantheon

(say pan-thee-uhn)

noun a temple dedicated to all the gods

Representations of all the Roman gods could be seen around the pantheon.

paprika

(say pap-ri-kuh or puh-pree-kuh)

noun powder made from a red pepper, used as a spice

He added paprika to spice up the casserole.



passenger

(say **pas**-uhn-juh)

noun someone who travels on a ship, aircraft, bus or other vehicle

The only other passenger on the bus was an odd-looking little man dressed all in green.

peculiar

(say puh-**kyooh**-lyuh)

adjective strange or unusual

What is that peculiar smell? It's a bit like burning rubber.

pendulous

(say **pen**-juh-luhs)

adjective hanging loosely

The pendulous branches of the willow hung over the creek bed.

penguin

(say **peng**-gwuhn)

noun a bird which cannot fly, has webbed feet and lives in or near the cold southern parts of the world

Visiting a penguin colony in Antarctica is something not many people have experienced.

pennant

(say **pen**-uhnt)

noun a triangular flag used as an award in a sporting event

Our team was awarded a blue pennant at the competition.

periscope

(say **pe**-ruh-skohp)

noun an instrument made of a tube with an arrangement of mirrors, used to see something from a position below or behind it

Only the periscope of the submarine could be seen above the surface of the water.

perpetual

(say puh-**pech**-ooh-uhl)

adjective continuing without a break

I get tired of his perpetual complaining.

persuade

(say puh-**swayd**)

verb to cause to do or believe something by advice, argument or influence

We tried to persuade Yusef to come to the beach with us.

perverse

(say puh-**vers**)

adjective deliberately going against what is expected or wanted

He seemed to take perverse pleasure in my embarrassment.

pesticide

(say **pest**-uh-suyd)

noun a chemical for killing animals, such as insects, that are dangerous or harmful

They had to use a pesticide to get rid of the termites.



phantom

(say **fan**-tuhm)

noun the spirit of a dead person imagined as wandering among living people

In the play, there was a phantom who dwelt in the sewers below the opera house.

pharmacy

(say **fah**-muh-see)

noun a chemist's shop

I have to get to the pharmacy before it closes because I need this prescription filled.

phobia

(say **foh**-bee-uh)

noun a very strong fear

Alison has a phobia about flying.

pleasure

(say **plezh**-uh)

noun enjoyment or happiness

Thomas gets a lot of pleasure from riding his bike.

pompous

(say **pom**-puhs)

adjective marked by a showy display of importance or rank

No-one voted for him because they thought he was both pompous and ignorant.

possessive

(say puh-**zes**-iv)

adjective wanting to keep or control something or someone all by yourself

The collector was possessive of all his model ships and wouldn't let anyone touch them.

pragmatic

(say prag-**mat**-ik)

adjective concerned with practical consequences or values

She tried to be pragmatic about the situation to achieve a realistic outcome.

precede

(say pree-**seed**)

verb to go or come before

A guard of police on motorcycles will precede the president's car and another group will follow.

preparation

(say prep-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun an action, measure, or arrangement by which a person gets ready for something

I need to study in preparation for my exams.

pressure

(say **presh**-uh)

noun a force applied to something, measured as so much weight on a unit of area

We had to increase the pressure in the tyres.

prevalent

(say **prev**-uh-luhnt)

adjective widespread

Snakes seem to be more prevalent this summer.



prodigy

(say **prod**-uh-jee)

noun someone, especially a child, who has talent far greater than is normal

At the age of five it was clear that he was a musical prodigy.

profound

(say pruh-**fownd**)

adjective very deep

She had a profound understanding of art.

prolific

(say pruh-**lif**-ik)

adjective producing plentifully

He is a prolific author, publishing a novel every year.

prominent

(say **prom**-uh-nuhnt)

adjective very noticeable

The posters were placed in prominent positions around the city.

pronounced

(say pruh-**nownst**)

adjective strongly marked

Since the accident, Steve has had a pronounced limp.

protein

(say **proh**-teen)

noun a substance found in foods such as meat and cheese, which is important to our health

Meat, fish and eggs are all good sources of protein.

prowess

(say **proh**-es or **proh**-es)

noun outstanding ability or skill

We were impressed by her athletic prowess.

pyjamas

(say puh-**jah**-muhz)

plural noun loose trousers and jacket worn in bed

My flannelette pyjamas help keep me warm in winter.

regiment

(say **rej**-uh-muhnt)

noun a division of an army consisting of two or more battalions

The commander sent one regiment from the battalion into battle.

relegate

(say **rel**-uh-gayt)

verb to send to some lower position, place, or condition

I told my brother if didn't wash the dishes properly I would relegate him to changing the kitty litter tray!

remonstrate

(say **rem**-uhn-strayt)

verb to make an objection or protest

He began to remonstrate with the referee over the decision.



resonate

(say rez-uh-nayt)

verb to ring or resound

You could hear the bells resonate from the church some distance away.

ridicule

(say rid-uh-kyoohl)

verb to make fun of someone

The media was quick to ridicule the government for its handling of the affair.

royalty

(say roy-uhl-tee)

noun kings, queens and members of their families

It was a great honour to attend the dinner held for the visiting royalty.

sausage

(say soss-ij)

noun finely chopped up meat packed into a thin skin

She was still hungry so she put another sausage on the barbecue.

shrubbery

(say shrub-uh-ree)

noun a group of shrubs or a garden area where they are grown

In the shrubbery, we found a small garden gnome which had fallen over.

spiritual

(say spi-ruh-chooh-uhl)

adjective having to do with holy, religious, or supernatural things

He is the spiritual leader of his people, but not their political leader.

sternum

(say ster-nuhm)

noun the breastbone

In the accident, the seatbelt hurt his sternum, but it prevented serious injury.

surgeon

(say ser-juhn)

noun a doctor who performs surgery

The surgeon was able to remove my cousin's appendix before it burst.

taffeta

(say taf-uh-tuh)

noun a shiny silk or rayon fabric of plain weave

A lot of ball gowns are made of taffeta because the material is so glamorous and shiny.

telescope

(say tel-uh-skohp)

noun a tube-shaped device you look through, which makes things that are far away seem closer and bigger

We used a telescope to look at the space station as it passed overhead.

trident

(say truy-duhnt)

noun a three-pronged instrument or weapon

The Greek god of the sea, Poseidon, is often depicted carrying a trident.



tuition

(say tyooh-**ish**-uhn)

noun teaching

I would benefit from some extra tuition in maths.

tutorial

(say tyooh-**taw**-ree-uhl)

noun a period of instruction given by a university tutor to a single student or a small group of students

The first tutorial was to discuss the aims of the course and outline what would be expected of the students.

uniform

(say **yoo**h-nuh-fawm)

noun distinctive clothes, usually all the same, worn by people to show they have a particular job or go to a particular school

The insignia on her uniform told us that she was an admiral.

vitality

(say vuy-**tal**-uh-tee)

noun energy or vigour

The music the violinist played was chosen to show off the vitality he was famous for.

vitamin

(say **vuy**-tuh-muhn or **vit**-uh-muhn)

noun any of a number of substances present naturally in food, and necessary in small quantities for good health

Citrus and kiwifruit are good sources of vitamin C.

vitriol

(say **vit**-ree-ol)

noun something sharp, bitter or severe, such as criticism or speech

The speaker responded with vitriol when questioned by the angry audience.

wallaroo

(say wol-uh-**rooh**)

noun a type of stocky kangaroo with shaggy, dark fur that lives in rocky or hilly land

The wallaroo has shorter back legs than the kangaroo.

weathervane

(say **wedh**-uh-vayn)

noun a flat piece of metal fixed on a roof, which moves with the wind and shows its direction

We knew the wind had changed direction when the weathervane swung towards the west.

zodiac

(say **zoh**-dee-ak)

noun a part of the sky which forms an imaginary belt through which the sun, moon and planets appear to travel, and which contains twelve constellations which are used in astrology

Her sign of the zodiac was Aries but she would have liked to have been Aquarius.



Special Categories Level 3

ART Level 3

animation

(say an-uh-**may**-shuhn)

noun: the process of preparing moving cartoons

The computer animation in the cartoon film was amazing.

audio

(say **aw**-dee-oh)

adjective: relating to recording or reproducing sound

We used a smartphone to record an audio file of the song for our dance routine.

audition

(say aw-**dish**-uhn)

noun: a test given to see how suitable an actor or performer is for a particular role

Connie was very nervous about her audition for the school play.

ballad

(say **bal**-uhd)

noun: a simple poem with short verses, which tells a story and is often turned into a song

Most people find that a ballad is the easiest type of song to sing.

Brahms

(say brahmz)

noun: a German composer who was born in 1833 and died in 1897

Brahms composed many works, but he never wrote an opera.

choral

(say **ko**-ruhl)

adjective: sung by a choir or a chorus

The choral performance of the famous rock song was beautiful.

classical

(say **klass**-i-kuhl)

adjective: in music, belonging to a period in which several traditional forms developed

I had to learn two classical pieces as well as a jazz piece for my saxophone exam.

cliffhanger

(say **klif**-hang-uh)

noun: a part of novel, movie, play, etc., that is very suspenseful

Last night's episode ended with a real cliffhanger -- I can't wait until next week to find out what's going to happen.

compere

(say **kom**-pair)

noun: someone who introduces the acts in a show

The compere of the comedy show kept everyone laughing between acts.

concert

(say **kon**-suht)

noun: a public performance by one or more musicians or other performers

At the end of each year my ballet school puts on a concert.



cornet

(say **kaw**-nuht)

noun: a musical instrument like the trumpet, but smaller

Luca plays the cornet in the band, but as there aren't many parts written for it he also plays the trumpet.

debut

(say **day**-byooh or duh-**booh**)

noun: a first appearance in public, on stage, and so on

She made her debut in the chorus of 'Swan Lake'.

descant

(say **des**-kant)

noun: a tune played or sung above the main tune

The girls in the choir sang the descant part of the song.

lambada

(say lam-**bah**-dah)

noun: a fast-paced dance originating in Brazil

I had to practise the steps slowly before mastering the lambada.

parable

(say **pa**-ruh-buhl)

noun: a short story used to teach a truth or moral lesson

The parable of the good Samaritan is quite well known.

parody

(say **pa**-ruh-dee)

noun: a humorous copy of a serious piece of writing or music

They turned the famous novel into a very funny musical parody for their school play.

quill

(say kwil)

noun: a feather, as of a goose, formed into a pen for writing

It is a real challenge to write with a quill and ink, but that's how everyone used to do it.

quotation

(say kwoh-**tay**-shuhn)

noun: a part of a piece of writing that someone copies and repeats somewhere else

My favourite quotation from Shakespeare is 'A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!'.

recite

(say ruh-**suyt**)

verb: to repeat something like a piece of poetry or prose before an audience that you have memorised

At the concert we had to recite our favourite poem.

reggae

(say **reg**-ay)

noun: a style of popular music, originating in Jamaica

Reggae is my favourite type of music, especially anything sung by Bob Marley.



reproduction

(say ree-pruh-**duk**-shuhn)

noun: a copy or duplicate of something, especially of a picture

The forger made an excellent reproduction of a famous painting to sell at the market.

saga

(say **sah**-guh)

noun: a long novel about the lives of a family or group of people

The saga of a Viking voyage was an interesting read.

sequel

(say **seek**wuhl)

noun: a book or film which continues on from an earlier work

It was so disappointing that the sequel was such a flop -- the original was so good!

sonnet

(say **son**-uht)

noun: a poem of fourteen lines which have to rhyme in a certain way

Whoever wrote the best sonnet in our class would be asked to read it to the whole school at assembly.

thesis

(say **thee**-suhs)

noun: an idea, argument or explanation, especially one to be discussed and proved

His central thesis -- that the earth was a cube -- was widely scorned.

thespian

(say **thess**-pee-uhn)

noun: an actor

Cate Blanchett is a famous Australian thespian.

thriller

(say **thril**-uh)

noun: an exciting story, especially one about a crime

I love watching a thriller on TV when it's dark and stormy outside.

trombone

(say trom-**bohn**)

noun: a brass wind instrument, on which you play different notes by sliding a tube in and out

Joe gets very annoyed when his sister practises her trombone while he is trying to watch television.

villain

(say **vil**-uhn)

noun: a wicked person

Everyone hissed when the villain came onto the stage.

Geography Level 3**Albania**

(say al-**bay**-nee-uh)

noun: a republic in south-eastern Europe, bordered by Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Greece and the Adriatic and Ionian Seas

Most of the landscape of Albania is rugged and mountainous.



atmosphere

(say **at**-muhs-fear)

noun: the air that surrounds the earth

Volcanoes release poisonous gases into the atmosphere when they erupt.

Austria

(say **os**-tree-uh)

noun: a republic in central Europe, containing part of the Alps and the Danube basin

Austria is a landlocked country in central Europe.

Chile

(say **chil**-ee or **chil**-ay)

noun: a republic in South America, extending along the Pacific coast from Peru and Bolivia to Cape Horn, bounded by the Andes mountains to the east

Spanish is the official language of Chile.

continent

(say **kon**-tuh-nuhnt)

noun: one of the main land masses of the world

It's hard to believe that Australia is the smallest continent because it's such a large country.

crevice

(say **krev**-uhs)

noun: a crack forming an opening

The branch was wedged in a crevice between two boulders.

Delhi

(say **del**-ee)

noun: a city in northern India

The Indian city of Delhi has a population of more than 20 million.

Egypt

(say **ee**-juhpt)

noun: a republic in north-eastern Africa, on the Mediterranean and Red Seas

Archaeologists believe that there are still tombs that remain undiscovered in Egypt.

Europe

(say **yoo**h-ruh) *p*

noun: a continent in the Northern Hemisphere forming the western part of the Eurasian landmass

My brother's currently backpacking through Europe -- I'm so jealous.

Everest

(say **ev**-uh-ruhst)

noun: a peak of the Himalayas, on the border between Nepal and Tibet

Mount Everest is famous for being the highest mountain in the world.

Germany

(say **jer**-muh-nee)

noun: a republic in central Europe

Germany is a member of the European Union.

Morocco

(say muh-**rok**-oh)

noun: a kingdom in north-western Africa

We ate lots of delicious food when we travelled in Morocco.



Pilbara

(say **pil**-buh-ruh)

noun: a large area in the north-west of Western Australia, enclosed by the De Grey river system in the north and the Ashburton river system in the south

The Pilbara is home to some of the earth's oldest rock formations.

ravine

(say ruh-**veen**)

noun: a long, deep, narrow valley, especially one made by a river

We nervously rode the donkeys along the edge of the ravine.

Russia

(say **rush**-uh)

noun: a federation of republics in eastern Europe and central and northern Asia, extending from the Gulf of Finland to the Pacific Ocean, and consisting of the federal republic of Russia and over 20 other federal republics

Russia is the largest country in the world.

Sahara

(say suh-**hah**-ruh)

noun: a desert in northern Africa, extending from the Atlantic to the Nile valley

The Sahara is the world's hottest desert.

Singapore

(say **sing**-uh-paw)

noun: a republic in South-East Asia, consisting of one main island and several smaller islands

Singapore is famous as a very clean city.

Thailand

(say **tuy**-land)

noun: a kingdom in South-East Asia, on the Gulf of Thailand and bordered by Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia

Thailand is a popular tourist destination for Australians.

tornado

(say taw-**nay**-doh)

noun: a violent whirlwind

The tornado had severely damaged the town centre.

Turkey

(say **ter**-kee)

noun: a republic mostly in western Asia with a small European part separated from the Asian part by the Bosphorus Straits and the Dardanelles

Turkey was the centre of the Ottoman Empire before its dissolution after World War I.

Yellowstone

(say **yel**-oh-stohn)

noun: a national park in the US, in north-western Wyoming and adjacent parts of Montana and Idaho

With its spectacular geysers, hot springs, falls and canyons, Yellowstone National Park is a popular tourist destination.



Plants and Animals Level 3

algae

(say **al**-jee or **al**-gee)

noun: a type of green plant found in or near water

Seaweed is a type of algae.

aphid

(say **ay**-fuhd)

noun: a small insect which sucks the juice from certain plants

Dad says if I see an aphid on his roses I should squash it!

bandicoot

(say **ban**-dee-kooht)

noun: a rat-like Australian marsupial which feeds at night on insects, worms and plant roots

Dad was not happy because a bandicoot had dug up part of his vegetable garden in the night.

banksia

(say **bangk**-see-uh)

noun: an Australian shrub or tree with hard jagged leaves and spikes of flowers

The banksia outside my window attracts beautiful parrots.

bovine

(say **boh**-vuynd)

adjective: having to do with the family of cud-chewing animals that includes cows, bulls and oxen

Cattle, water buffalo and yaks are all part of the bovine family.

bream

(say brim)

noun: an Australian saltwater fish which is good for eating

The seafood restaurant's menu offered fresh bream caught daily.

cockatoo

(say kok-uh-**tooh**)

noun: a crested parrot

He taught his pet cockatoo to whistle the national anthem.

conch

(say konch or kongk)

noun: the spiral shell of a sea snail, which can make a sound if you blow it

I found a beautiful conch in the sand while walking along the beach.

cypress

(say **suy**-pruhs)

noun: an evergreen cone-bearing tree

The cypress in the backyard had grown too large and needed to be trimmed.

daffodil

(say **daf**-uh-dil)

noun: a yellow, bell-shaped flower

She had a daffodil in a vase on her desk.



ostrich

(say **os**-trich)

noun: a large bird with long legs, that lives in Africa

An ostrich can run fast, but it cannot fly.

parakeet

(say **pa**-ruh-keet)

noun: a kind of small parrot, such as the budgerigar, usually with a long pointed tail

We spent a long time trying to teach our parakeet to talk but it wouldn't.

parasite

(say **pa**-ruh-suyt)

noun: an animal or plant which lives on or in another, from which it obtains its food

The tick is a parasite which is particularly dangerous to dogs and cats.

primula

(say **prim**-yuh-luh)

noun: a type of plant with flowers of many colours

I planted a primula which will have colourful flowers in spring.

quoll

(say kwol)

noun: a marsupial with a long tail and spots, about the size of a cat

The quoll is endangered like a lot of other Australian species.

scorpion

(say **skaw**-pee-uhn)

noun: a small, hard-shelled animal with a long, narrow tail that ends in a poisonous sting

A scorpion sting is painful but rarely deadly.

species

(say **spee**-seez **spee**-sheez)

noun: one of the groups into which animals and plants are divided according to their characteristics

Chimpanzees are a species of ape.

taipan

(say **tuy**-pan)

noun: a venomous brown snake found in Australia and New Guinea

I wouldn't like to meet a taipan in the dark -- or the light!

tuber

(say **tyooh**-buh)

noun: an underground plant stem, such as a potato, from which new plants may grow

The yam is an edible tuber.

tulip

(say **tyooh**-luhp)

noun: a beautiful flower that is shaped like a cup

Each table in the cafe had a vase with a red tulip in it.

walrus

(say **wawl**-ruhs)

noun: a large, warm-blooded sea animal with flippers and large tusks

The walrus lives in the cold arctic seas of the northern hemisphere.



wolfhound

(say **w**oolf-hownd)

noun: a dog of various breeds formerly used in hunting wolves

Our wolfhound seems boisterous but he is really very gentle.

Science, Maths & Technology Level 3

asteroid

(say **ass**-tuh-royd)

noun: one of several hundred planetary bodies with orbits lying mostly between those of Mars and Jupiter

It is a popular theory that an asteroid crashing into the earth caused the extinction of the dinosaurs.

automatic

(say aw-tuh-**mat**-ik)

adjective: having the power of self-motion

Our dishwasher is fully automatic -- we just have to push a button!

average

(say **av**-uh-rij)

noun: the result you get if you add two or more amounts together, and then divide the total by the number of amounts

In the last three games our team scored 7, 12 and 20, so our average was 13.

bionics

(say buy-**on**-iks)

noun: the study which helps in the development of such equipment as electronic limbs

The advances made in bionics means that people with no legs may be able to walk again.

browser

(say **brow**-zuh)

noun: a computer program that allows you to access web pages

This new browser is much faster than the previous version.

calculator

(say **kal**-kyuh-lay-tuh)

noun: a small machine that you can use to do sums

I would rather use a calculator than work out problems in my head.

calorie

(say **kal**-uh-ree)

noun: a measurement of the energy value of food

Counting every calorie is a really boring way to diet.

decimal

(say **dess**-uh-muhl)

adjective: relating to a number system based on the number ten

Like most countries, Australia uses decimal currency.

device

(say duh-**vice**)

noun: something which has been invented for a particular purpose

This device counts each step you take.



dimensions

(say duy-**men**-shuhnz)

plural noun: measure or extent

We had to check the dimensions of the doorway to make sure there was enough room to get the couch through.

engineer

(say en-juh-**near**)

noun: someone who is trained to design and build things and to use machinery

His mother is an engineer who designs roads and bridges.

equipment

(say uh-**kwip**-muhnt)

noun: anything used in doing a job, especially tools, machines, materials, and so on

All of the laboratory equipment was stored in the locked cupboard.

formula

(say **faw**-myuh-luh)

noun: in chemistry, the representation of the atoms in a molecule by symbols

The chemical formula for common salt is NaCl.

numerous

(say **nyooh**-muh-ruhs)

adjective: very many

We found numerous ants in our picnic basket when we went to eat our lunch.

prototype

(say **proh**-tuh-tuyp)

noun: the original or the model of something which is later copied

The prototype of this racing car is in a motor museum.

quadrant

(say **kwod**-ruhnt)

noun: a quarter of a circle

We had to fill in each quadrant of the circle with a different colour.

radiology

(say ray-dee-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun: the science dealing with X-rays or rays from radioactive substances, especially for medical uses

X-rays provided by radiology are an important part of diagnosis in medicine.

ratio

(say **ray**-shee-oh)

noun: the relationship between two amounts or quantities expressed in the lowest possible whole numbers

The male--female ratio of students in our school is about 4 to 3.

research

(say ruh-**serch** or **ree**-serch)

noun: the process of studying something deeply and doing tests to find out more about it

One day, medical research might discover a cure for colds.



rhombus

(say **rom**-buhs)

noun: a shape with four equal sides, and angles that are not right angles

I have a kite that is in the shape of a rhombus.

supersonic

(say sooh-puh-**son**-ik)

adjective: relating to a speed greater than that of sound

He would like to be a pilot and fly supersonic jets.

Sport Level 3

archery

(say **ah**-chuh-ree)

noun: the sport of shooting with a bow and arrows

We tried archery on our school camp, and I shot an arrow into the bullseye.

ballet

(say **bal**-ay)

noun: a formal type of dancing, where the dancers act out a story, using graceful and controlled movements

We are going to see my favourite ballet, 'Swan Lake', next week.

baton

(say **bat**-uhn or buh-**ton**)

noun: a short stick, especially one handed by one runner to the next in a relay race

I reached out to grab the baton from the first runner in the relay, but disaster struck and I dropped it.

biceps

(say **buy**-seps)

noun: a large muscle at the top of the arm or the back of the leg

The weightlifter worked on developing his biceps.

bobsleigh

(say **bob**-slay)

noun: a racing sledge with two sets of runners, one behind the other

Bobsleigh racing has been a part of the Winter Olympic Games since 1924.

bodysurf

(say **bod**-ee-serf)

verb: to ride waves in the surf, by holding your body stiff, usually with outstretched arms

We're going to bodysurf all day when we go to the beach for our holiday.

crampon

(say **kramp**-on)

noun: a spiked iron plate worn on the shoe to ensure grip when climbing or walking on ice or snow

Because the ice was so hard I had to put a lot of weight on each crampon with every step.



decider

(say duh-**suy**-duh)

noun: an extra race or game to decide a previously level contest

Our soccer team has to play a decider this weekend as there is a draw for the championship.

default

(say duh-**fawlt**)

verb: to lose a game because you have failed to take part in it

We had to default because half of the team was sick.

exercise

(say **eks**-uh-suyz)

noun: an activity of the body or mind to train or improve it

Walking in the fresh air is good exercise.

feint

(say faynt)

noun: a movement made in order to deceive an opponent

Learning how to execute a feint is an important tactic in fencing and boxing.

forfeit

(say **faw**-fuht)

verb: to give something up, usually because you have broken a rule or made a mistake

Because we arrived late, we had to forfeit the game.

gridiron

(say **grid**-uy-uhn)

noun: American football

In Australia, American football is sometimes called gridiron.

javelin

(say **jav**-uh-luhn)

noun: a spear which is thrown in sporting contests

He threw the javelin so far, it ended up in the car park past the field.

muscular

(say **muss**-kyuh-luh)

adjective: having to do with muscles

After a day of heavy training, he had an intense muscular pain across his back.

opponent

(say uh-**poh**-nuhnt)

noun: someone who is on the opposite side to you in a competition or fight

My opponent was much taller than me, so I was very nervous.

rappel

(say ruh-**pel**)

verb: to go down a cliff by means of a rope attached to a harness

He spent a weekend in the mountains learning to rappel.

referee

(say ref-uh-**ree**)

noun: someone who makes sure that the rules in a sporting match are followed

He is a very good referee -- everybody thinks he is fair.



slalom

(say **slay**-luhm or **slah**-luhm)

noun: a skiing race with a winding course

Skiing in the slalom puts a lot of pressure on your knees.

steeplechase

(say **steep**-uhl-chays)

noun: a horserace over a course which has obstacles such as jumps and ditches

The horse managed to safely jump all the obstacles in the steeplechase.

timekeeper

(say **tuym**-keep-uh)

noun: someone who observes and records the time taken by competitors in a race

The timekeeper used to rely on a stopwatch.

triathlete

(say truy-**ath**-leet)

noun: an athlete who takes part in a triathlon, which consists of three events

A triathlete needs to be very fit -- they have to compete in swimming, cycling, and running.

wrestle

(say **ress**-uhl)

verb: to fight with someone and try to throw them to the ground without using any weapons

Our coach taught us how to wrestle without injuring each other.



General Category Level 4**accelerator**

(say uhk-**sel**-uh-ray-tuh)

noun a pedal in a car which the driver presses to make the car go faster

A manual car has three pedals -- the accelerator, brake and clutch.

accentuate

(say uhk-**sen**-chooh-ayt)

verb to emphasise something

She used a black pencil to accentuate her eyebrows.

acceptable

(say uhk-**sep**-tuh-buhl)

adjective satisfactory, pleasing or worth accepting

I'd run out of spaghetti, but I thought that fettuccine would be an acceptable substitute.

accrual

(say uh-**krooh**-uhl)

noun something accumulated in the course of time

We hope the accrual of interest in our bank account will be enough to pay for a small holiday.

accustomed

(say uh-**kuss**-tuhmd)

adjective very familiar with or used to

They've become accustomed to working at night.

acetic

(say uh-**see**-tik or uh-**set**-ik)

adjective sour, with a sharp smell

Vinegar has a sharp, acetic flavour.

actuality

(say ak-chooh-**al**-uh-tee)

noun reality or actual existence

In actuality, he doesn't like to eat fish, even though he enjoys catching them.

addendum

(say uh-**den**-duhm)

noun an addition

She wouldn't sign the contract until the addendum had been included.

adjective

(say **aj**-uhk-tiv)

noun a word which describes a noun

The word 'cold' is an adjective in the phrase 'a cold wind'.

administration

(say uhd-min-uhs-**tray**-shuhn)

noun the people who run a business or government

The Rugby League administration is keen to increase the popularity of the sport.

admissible

(say uhd-**miss**-uh-buhl)

adjective allowed as evidence in a court of law

That evidence is hearsay, so is not admissible in this court case.



adorable

(say uh-**daw**-ruh-buhl)

adjective delightful

The puppy was absolutely adorable.

adventure

(say uhd-**ven**-chuh)

noun something that is exciting and perhaps a bit dangerous

Our bush walk was a bit of an adventure because we almost got lost!

advertisement

(say uhd-**ver**-tuhs-muhnt)

noun a notice telling you about an event that is coming, or about something lost or for sale

We'll put an advertisement in the local paper to sell our old car.

aerodrome

(say **air**-ruh-droh)

noun a landing field for aeroplanes which is smaller than an airport but which has hangars and other buildings

The plane was forced to land at the aerodrome instead of the city airport.

aerosol

(say **air**-ruh-sol)

noun a substance made up of tiny particles mixed into a gas

To protect us against mosquitoes on the bushwalk, we took an aerosol as well as a cream insect repellent.

affinity

(say uh-**fin**-uh-tee)

noun a natural liking or sense of closeness

She is a very successful horse trainer because of her affinity with animals.

akimbo

(say **uh**-kim-boh)

adverb with your hands on your hips and your elbows pointing out

I knew I was in trouble when I saw mum standing at the front door with her arms akimbo and a frown on her face.

alabaster

(say al-uh-**bass**-tuh)

noun a fine white stone used for carving

Most of the ornaments on her shelf were carved from alabaster.

albatross

(say **al**-buh-tross)

noun a very large seabird that can fly long distances

Many sailors believe that it is bad luck to harm an albatross.

allegation

(say al-uh-**gay**-shuhn)

noun a claim made without proof

It is a serious crime to make a false allegation to the police.



alliance

(say uh-**luy**-uhns)

noun an agreement to work together, especially an agreement between countries
After much negotiation, the two countries formed a trade alliance.

ambassador

(say am-**bass**-uh-duh)

noun the highest official who is sent by a government to represent it in a foreign country
She has just been appointed Australia's ambassador to East Timor.

ambiguous

(say am-**big**-yooh-uhs)

adjective unclear, due to having more than one meaning
As the question was quite ambiguous, we had to ask the teacher to explain what she meant.

ancestry

(say **an**-sess-tree)

noun descent from your ancestors or forebears
I can trace my family ancestry back to the First Fleet.

ancient

(say **ayn**-shuhnt or **ayn**-chuhnt)

adjective happening or existing a long time ago
The people of ancient Egypt worshipped many gods.

anticipate

(say an-**tiss**-uh-payt)

verb to expect something to happen
We anticipate that progress will continue at the current rate.

apparition

(say ap-uh-**rish**-uhn)

noun a ghostly appearance
He appeared out of the fog like an apparition.

apprentice

(say uh-**pren**-tuhs)

noun someone who is learning a trade
Geoff was an apprentice in the electrical trades.

asparagus

(say uh-**spa**-ruh-guhs)

noun a plant with long green shoots, used as a vegetable
Steamed asparagus is tasty with butter and pepper.

attractive

(say uh-**trak**-tiv)

adjective pleasing
There were a lot of attractive qualities about moving to the country.

audible

(say **aw**-duh-buhl)

adjective loud enough to be heard
The phone connection was so bad that her voice was barely audible.



austere

(say ost-**ear** or awst-**ear**)

adjective very plain and simple

The millionaire lived a surprisingly austere life.

barrage

(say **ba**-rahzh or **ba**-rahj)

noun a long and strenuous verbal attack

The premier faced a barrage of questions from the press.

benefactor

(say **ben**-uh-fak-tuh)

noun someone who gives help or money to those who need it

The hospital was able to open a new ward because of a gift from a benefactor.

beneficial

(say ben-uh-**fish**-uhl)

adjective helpful

We looked forward to the beneficial effects of a long holiday.

bilious

(say **bil**-ee-uhs)

adjective sickly or nauseating

The first thing we're going to do when we move in is to repaint the bilious mustard-coloured walls.

bounteous

(say **bow**n-tee-uhs)

adjective plentiful or generous

There was a bounteous supply of food at the banquet.

boysenberry

(say **boy**-zuhn-be-ree)

noun a blackberry-like fruit with a flavour similar to raspberries

She told us that the boysenberry was her favourite berry.

brioche

(say **bree**-osh)

noun a kind of light, sweet bun or roll, raised with eggs and yeast

I think the best type of French toast is made with brioche.

bucolic

(say byooh-**kol**-ik)

adjective having to do with farming or the country

She painted a typical bucolic scene of cows grazing in a paddock.

bulbous

(say **bul**-buhs)

adjective bulging or shaped like a bulb

My uncle is very self-conscious about his bulbous nose.

cafeteria

(say kaf-uh-**teer**-ree-uh)

noun a cheap self-service restaurant

We had a coffee in the hospital cafeteria.



canister

(say **kan**-uh-stuh)

noun a container for storing food such as rice and flour

The canister fell to the floor, covering the room with flour.

capability

(say kay-puh-**bil**-uh-tee)

noun the power or skill to be able to do something

He had the knowledge and capability to cook, but was lazy.

cassette

(say ka-**set**)

noun the plastic container holding the recording tape used in videos and tape recorders

My dad has an old cassette of the 1995 football grand final but we can't play it on our DVD player.

catalogue

(say **kat**-uh-log)

noun a list, usually in alphabetical order, of names, books or items on sale or display and some information about them

We browsed through the catalogue of the pieces in the art exhibition.

cathedral

(say kuh-**thee**-druhl)

noun a very big and important church

We could hear the sound of bells coming from the cathedral.

censorship

(say **sen**-suh-ship)

noun the act or practice of deciding what books and films the public should have access to

The censorship of films is decided by a government body.

cessation

(say sess-**ay**-shuhn)

noun a pause or stopping

The United Nations called for a cessation of fighting.

chivalry

(say **shiv**-uhl-ree)

noun the rules and customs of medieval knighthood, involving courtesy and bravery

In medieval times, knights had to obey the rules of chivalry.

circumspect

(say **ser**-kuhm-spekt)

adjective cautious and watchful

She knew she must be circumspect about any comments she made on radio and television.

circumvent

(say ser-kuhm-**vent**)

verb to get around or avoid

They chose to circumvent the problem rather than spend the time needed to solve it.



colonel

(say **ker**-nuhl)

noun an officer in the army

A colonel is ranked lower than a brigadier.

colossal

(say kuh-**loss**-uhl)

adjective very great in size

The ship looked colossal from our tiny canoe.

conceptual

(say kuhn-**sep**-chooh-uhl)

adjective relating to the forming of concepts or ideas

The design of the building is still at the conceptual stage.

concurrent

(say kuhn-**ku**-ruhnt)

adjective happening at the same time

I am exhausted because I am working on three concurrent jobs.

confidential

(say kon-fuh-**den**-shuhl)

adjective secret or private

The politicians were shocked when details of their confidential conversations appeared in the media.

consonant

(say **kon**-suh-nuhnt)

noun any letter of the alphabet which is not a, e, i, o or u

The letter B is the first consonant of the alphabet.

conspiracy

(say kuhn-**spi**-ruh-see)

noun a secret plot planned by a number of people

There was a conspiracy to give our teacher a surprise birthday party.

continuity

(say kon-tuh-**nyooh**-uh-tee)

noun the quality of going on in the same way

It is important to ensure the continuity of cultural traditions.

controversial

(say kon-truh-**ver**-shuhl)

adjective subject to different points of view; debatable

The political party was divided about the controversial issue.

coronation

(say ko-ruh-**nay**-shuhn)

noun the ceremony at which a person becomes king or queen

The press were eager to get as many photos at the coronation of the prince as possible.

couscous

(say **koos**-koos)

noun a type of grain, originating in North Africa, often cooked with spices and meat or vegetables

We ate some delicious couscous at the Moroccan restaurant.



croissant

(say krwu-**son**t)

noun a roll of baked pastry in the shape of a crescent

I had a croissant and a coffee every morning for breakfast when I was in France.

cuisine

(say kwuh-**zeen**)

noun a style of cooking

The restaurant served modern Australian cuisine.

cumbersome

(say **kum**-buh-suhm)

adjective awkward to handle

The package that arrived was large and cumbersome.

cumulus

(say **kyooh**-myuh-luhs)

noun a cloud, usually white, which is flat at the bottom and has round heaps at the top

The sky was cloudless except for a single cumulus floating by.

defensible

(say duh-**fens**-uh-buhl)

adjective able to be protected against attack

There is no defensible reason why a wealthy person should be treated better than a poor person.

dermatology

(say derm-uh-**tol**-uh-jee)

noun the study of the skin and its diseases

Researchers in dermatology are trying to find an improved treatment for skin cancer.

eclipse

(say ee-**klips**)

noun the darkness that comes when the moon is between the sun and the earth and blocks the sun's light

You must never look directly at the sun during an eclipse.

efficient

(say ee-**fish**-uhnt)

adjective effective in the use of energy or resources

This pump is very efficient -- it gives a strong flow of water.

eloquent

(say **el**-uh-kwuhnt)

adjective able to speak in a flowing, expressive manner

Being naturally eloquent, Ann was chosen to give the opening speech.

emulsion

(say uh-**mul**-shuhn)

noun a milk-like mixture, often rather oily

Mayonnaise is just an emulsion of oil and egg yolk.

epilogue

(say **ep**-uh-log)

noun a short section at the end of a play or written work

The epilogue gave the information that the story was based on real events.



exemplify

(say eg-**zemp**-luh-fuy)

verb to show or make clearer by example

These two habitats exemplify my point about biodiversity.

freighter

(say **fray**-tuh)

noun a ship or plane that carries goods

The freighter was too big to dock in the harbour so it had to unload further down the coast.

frivolity

(say fruh-**vol**-uh-tee)

noun lack of seriousness

We were all looking forward to a night of fun and frivolity.

generosity

(say jen-uh-**ros**-uh-tee)

noun the quality of being generous

Charities rely on the generosity of donors.

gibberish

(say **jib**-uh-rish)

noun fast talk which does not make sense, or incomprehensible writing

My cat likes walking over my keyboard but what comes up on the screen is always complete gibberish!

glutinous

(say **glooh**-tuh-nuhs)

adjective sticky, like glue

We heated and stirred the sauce until it developed a glutinous texture.

gluttonous

(say **glut**-uh-nuhs)

adjective tending to eat too much

We have to be careful not to leave any food around as our gluttonous cat will eat anything he sees!

grotesque

(say groh-**tesk**)

adjective very unnatural or ugly in shape, form or appearance

We wore grotesque monster masks to the fancy-dress party.

icicle

(say **uy**-sik-uhl)

noun a hanging tapering piece of ice formed by the freezing of water falling in drops

It was so cold that an icicle had formed above the window.

infrastructure

(say **in**-fruh-struk-chuh)

noun the basic framework or underlying foundation

A new motorway will improve our transport infrastructure if it goes ahead.

ingenious

(say in-**jee**-nee-uhs)

adjective cleverly made or invented

My brother has made an ingenious device to trap fish.



initiate

(say in-**ish**-ee-ayt)

verb to begin something or set it going

We want to initiate an annual street party.

insatiable

(say in-**say**-shuh-buhl)

adjective never having enough

Teenage boys seem to have an insatiable appetite.

insular

(say in-**syoo**-luh or in-**shoo**-luh)

adjective characterised by standing or being alone

The insular nature of her upbringing made it hard for her to be sociable.

intrepid

(say in-**trep**-uhd)

adjective very brave

The intrepid reporter risked her life by entering the war zone.

inundate

(say in-**un**-dayt)

verb to overwhelm with a flood or with something like a flood

I hope our teacher doesn't inundate us with assignments over the holidays.

invariably

(say in-**vair**-ree-uh-blee)

adverb always

My sister will invariably ask for tomato sauce if she orders hot chips.

jeopardy

(say **jep**-uh-dee)

noun peril or danger

The school excursion is in jeopardy because insurance costs so much.

jettison

(say **jet**-uh-suhn or **jet**-uh-zuhn)

verb to throw out, especially from a ship to lighten the load

The ship's captain had to jettison cargo in the storm.

judicial

(say joo**h-dish**-uhl)

adjective having to do with judges or law courts

A respected judge was appointed to lead the judicial inquiry into the helicopter accident.

knapsack

(say **nap**-sak)

noun an old-fashioned word for a backpack

The camper carried water and food in her knapsack.

laborious

(say luh-**baw**-ree-uhs)

adjective needing a lot of effort

It was a laborious climb to the top of the hill.



livelihood

(say **luyv**-lee-hood)

noun a way of earning money to live

Farming has been his livelihood for sixty years.

luxuriant

(say lug-**zhoo**h-ree-uhnt)

adjective strong in growth

The luxuriant forest was thick with ferns and hanging vines.

mahogany

(say muh-**hog**-uh-nee)

noun a hard, reddish-brown wood, used for making furniture

The house was full of old furniture made of cedar and mahogany.

marvellous

(say **mah**-vuh-luhs)

adjective wonderful

We had a marvellous time at the party last night.

metropolis

(say muh-**trop**-uh-luhs)

noun a large city

He grew up on a farm near Dubbo and now lives in the metropolis of New York.

moisturiser

(say **moys**-chuh-ruyz-uh)

noun a substance used to prevent dryness in the skin

I had put so much moisturiser on my face that my glasses kept sliding off.

momentous

(say moh-**men**-tuhs)

adjective of great importance

The opening of the new parliament house was a momentous occasion.

moustache

(say muh-**stah**sh or **muss**-tash)

noun the hair that grows on the upper lip of a man

My uncle's moustache is so bushy he often gets food caught in it!

muesli

(say **myooh**z-lee or **mooh**z-lee)

noun a breakfast cereal made from oats, chopped fruit and nuts

I decided to have a bowl of muesli instead of toast this morning.

mythical

(say **mith**-i-kuhl)

adjective relating to an ancient story about gods, brave people and supernatural happenings, which may try to explain natural events

I wish the centaur really did exist, but it's a mythical creature.

nougat

(say **nooh**-gah)

noun a hard chewy sweet, usually white or pink and containing nuts

Traditional nougat tastes distinctly of almonds.



nuisance

(say **nyooh**-suhns)

noun someone or something that is very annoying

It was a real nuisance that we couldn't turn on the tap.

outrageous

(say owt-**ray**-juhs)

adjective intolerable or shocking

I don't shop there anymore because the prices they charge are outrageous!

overwhelm

(say oh-vuh-**welm**)

verb to affect someone so much that they cannot function properly

They knew that the arduous trek might overwhelm them but decided to start off anyway.

parallel

(say **pa**-ruh-lel)

adjective side by side and the same distance from each other at every point along the way

The two lines of a railway track are parallel.

paranoia

(say pa-ruh-**noy**-uh)

noun a mental condition in which the patient suffers from delusions such as that of persecution

A person with paranoia often imagines they are the victim of conspiracies.

personnel

(say per-suh-**nel**)

noun the group of people working for a particular organisation

The company's personnel are unhappy about the changes to their working hours.

petticoat

(say **pet**-ee-koht)

noun a light, skirt-like piece of clothing sometimes worn under dresses by women and girls

I'm glad that fashions have changed and I'm not expected to wear a petticoat whenever I wear a dress.

petulant

(say **pech**-uh-luhnt)

adjective showing or feeling impatient annoyance, especially over something unimportant

'Well, I don't care anyway', she said in a petulant voice.

pontificate

(say pon-**tif**-uh-kayt)

verb to speak in an important-sounding or pompous manner

The crowd was expecting an interesting speech but all the speaker did was pontificate.

posterior

(say poss-**teer**-ree-uh)

adjective from or at the back

The X-ray gave a posterior view of the lung.



predilection

(say pree-duh-**lek**-shuhn)

noun a tendency to like or favour something

My aunt has a strange predilection for purple shoes.

samurai

(say **sam**-uh-ruy or **sam**-yuh-ruy)

noun a Japanese fighter who lived in medieval times

The samurai wielded his sword with great expertise.

scholarship

(say **skol**-uh-ship)

noun a sum of money won by a student which helps to pay school or university fees

She was a talented basketballer and won a sport scholarship.

seniority

(say see-nee-**o**-ruh-tee)

noun the condition or fact of being senior, in age or position

Because of their seniority in the company, they were given the front seats in the meeting.

soiree

(say swah-**ray** or **swah**-ray)

noun a social gathering in the evening

The Russian violinist played for us at the soiree.

sonorous

(say **son**-uh-ruhs)

adjective sounding deep, loud and rich

The double bass has a rich, sonorous tone.

stalwart

(say **stawl**-wuht)

adjective strong and brave

The knight was stalwart as he faced the fire-breathing dragon.

subservient

(say suhb-**ser**-vee-uhnt)

adjective very submissive

Even though my German shepherd is three times the size of my other dog, he is very subservient and gets bossed around.

superficial

(say sooh-puh-**fish**-uhl)

adjective not very thorough or deep

It was a rather superficial description of the situation and didn't cover some of the main problems.

sustenance

(say **sus**-tuh-nuhns)

noun nourishment gained from what you eat

Athletes need to ensure they have plenty of sustenance in their diets.

synthetic

(say sin-**thet**-ik)

adjective made from artificial substances, not natural ones

Fabrics made from synthetic fibres can be hot to wear, as they don't let air through.



tamarillo

(say tam-uh-ril-oh)

noun an egg-shaped red fruit

I thought some slices of apple and tamarillo would be a good addition to the cheese platter.

tenement

(say ten-uh-muhnt)

noun a building divided into flats, especially one in the poorer parts of a large city

The tenement we live in is divided up into twelve units and everyone has to share the small garden out the back.

translucent

(say tranz-looh-suhnt)

adjective allowing some light to come through, so that you can see things, but not clearly

The curtain was made of translucent material which let the sunlight filter through.

turbulence

(say ter-byuh-luhns)

noun violent disturbance or storminess in the air

A flash of lightning illuminated the turbulence in the sky, and then it began to hail.

ultimatum

(say ul-tuh-may-tuhm)

noun a final statement of terms or conditions

The coach gave an ultimatum that if we didn't come to training, we would not be in the team.

unflappable

(say un-flap-uh-buhl)

adjective not easily upset

His unflappable temperament enables him to cope with any amount of media attention.

utterance

(say ut-uh-ruhns)

noun something spoken, such as a word or a cry

He was very embarrassed when his utterance was overheard, because it wasn't very nice.

vengeance

(say ven-juhns)

noun harm done to someone in return for harm they have done to you

The police thought the destructive fire was an act of vengeance.

vicious

(say vish-uhs)

adjective very cruel or harmful

Many consider the velociraptor to be the most vicious of the dinosaurs.



Special Categories Level 4

ART Level 4

adage

(say **ad**-ij)

noun: a wise saying

'It's the thought that counts' is an old adage.

allegro

(say uh-**lay**-groh or uh-**leg**-roh)

adverb: in music, played or sung at a fast speed

The most difficult passage to play was the one marked 'allegro'.

anagram

(say **an**-uh-gram)

noun: a word made by changing the order of the letters in another word

'Mate' is an anagram of 'tame', and of 'team' and 'meat'!

annotate

(say **an**-uh-tayt)

verb: to supply with notes or make remarks upon

It took years for the professor to annotate the works of Shakespeare.

anthology

(say an-**thol**-uh-jee)

noun: a collection of poems, short stories or songs, each by a different author or songwriter

I bought my mother an anthology of Australian poetry for her birthday.

applaud

(say uh-**plawd**)

verb: to show that you are pleased by clapping your hands

The crowd began to applaud as she bowed at the end of the performance.

biography

(say buy-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun: the story of a person's life, written by someone else

Writing someone's biography requires a lot of research.

bolero

(say buh-**lair**-roh or buh-**lear**-roh)

noun: a lively Spanish dance

The Spanish dancers performed a spectacular bolero.

cadence

(say **kay**-duhns)

noun: the sequence of notes or chords which indicates the end of a piece of music

Part of my music exam involved having to say what sort of cadence was being played.

castanets

(say kass-tuh-**nets**)

plural noun: a pair of shell-shaped pieces of wood which you hold in your hand and click together in time to music and dancing

The flamenco dancer played the castanets as she danced.



ceremony

(say **se**-ruh-muh-nee or **se**-ruh-moh-nee)

noun: a formal event performed to mark an important occasion

We watched the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games on television.

chorister

(say **ko**-ruhs-tuh)

noun: someone who sings in a choir

She loved singing and wanted to be a chorister in the cathedral choir.

clarinet

(say kla-ruh-**net**)

noun: a musical instrument belonging to the woodwind family

Nine members of our school band play the clarinet.

concerto

(say kuhn-**cher**-toh)

noun: a piece of music for one or more solo instruments, such as a piano or violin, and an orchestra

The concerto was performed by a famous orchestra.

conjunction

(say kuhn-**jungk**-shuhn)

noun: a type of word which joins parts of a sentence together

The word 'and' is a very common conjunction.

crochet

(say **kroh**-shuh or **kroh**-shay)

verb: to make lace using a special hook and yarn

Juliet attempted to crochet a tea-cosy for her grandmother.

cymbal

(say **sim**-buhl)

noun: one of a pair of curved brass plates which are hit together to make a sharp, musical, ringing sound

The percussionist dropped a cymbal during a very quiet passage, and we all jumped.

fantasia

(say fan-**tay**-zhuh)

noun: a musical composition which does not keep to the usual strict forms or styles

The pianist played the Chopin fantasia with great passion.

ocarina

(say ok-uh-**ree**-nuh)

noun: a simple musical wind instrument shaped like an elongated egg, with finger holes

The ocarina is not a very difficult instrument to learn.

pantomime

(say **pan**-tuh-muym)

noun: a play in which the actors use actions and not words to tell the story

The children put on a pantomime of the story of Cinderella.



percussion

(say puh-**kush**-uhn)

noun: relating to musical instruments which produce a note when they are struck
The parts written for percussion in the overture were very hard and took a lot of practice to get right.

Picasso

(say puh-**kah**-soh or puh-**kass**-oh)

noun: Pablo Picasso was a Spanish painter and sculptor who was born in 1881 and died in 1973

Picasso was one of the greatest and most influential artists of the 20th century.

sculpture

(say **skulp**-chuh)

noun: the art of making figures in clay, bronze, stone or similar materials
She is studying sculpture and wants to work in bronze.

sienna

(say see-**en**-uh)

noun: a yellowish or reddish brown

The artist had used shades of sienna to depict the desert.

waltz

(say wawltz or wolts)

noun: a type of dance in which you and your partner move in circles

The bride and groom danced a waltz.

Geography Level 4**Antarctica**

(say an-**tahk**-tik-uh)

noun: an ice-covered continent around the South Pole

Antarctica is the coldest continent in the world.

Argentina

(say ah-juhn-**tee**-nuh)

noun: a republic in southern South America, on the Atlantic and bounded by the Andes mountains to the west

Spanish is the official language of Argentina.

Belgium

(say **bel**-juhm)

noun: a kingdom in north-western Europe, on the North Sea

Belgium has three official languages -- Dutch, French and German.

Botswana

(say bot-**swah**-nuh)

noun: an inland republic in southern Africa, bordered by South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Zambia

Around 70 per cent of Botswana is covered by the Kalahari Desert.

cartography

(say kah-**tog**-ruh-fee)

noun: the making of maps or charts

People who work in cartography have to be very precise because maps need to be exact.



constellation

(say kon-stuh-**lay**-shuhn)

noun: a group of stars

The Southern Cross is the most widely known constellation in the southern hemisphere.

Ethiopia

(say ee-thee-**oh**-pee-uh)

noun: a republic in north-eastern Africa

Ethiopia is landlocked country with the second highest population in Africa.

Himalayas

(say him-uh-**lay**-uhz)

plural noun: a lofty mountain system extending about 2400 km along the border between India and Tibet

The highest peak of the Himalayas is Mount Everest.

Jamaica

(say juh-**may**-kuh)

noun: a parliamentary state in the West Indies

Jamaica is the third largest island in the Caribbean Sea.

Malaysia

(say muh-**lay**-zhuh)

noun: a federal monarchy in South-East Asia

Kuala Lumpur is the capital of Malaysia, and its largest city.

Portugal

(say **paw**-chuh-guhl)

noun: a republic in south-western Europe

Portugal has some of the best surf beaches in Europe.

Quebec

(say kwuh-**bek**)

noun: a province in eastern Canada

Quebec is a province in Canada where most people speak French.

Shackleton

(say **shak**-uhl-tuhn)

noun: a British Antarctic explorer who was born in 1874 and died in 1922

Sir Ernest Shackleton led three expeditions to the Antarctic in the early 20th century.

Switzerland

(say **swits**-uh-luhnd)

noun: a federal republic in western central Europe, in the Alps and the Jura Mountains

Watches from Switzerland are supposed to be the best in the world.

Tanzania

(say tan-zuh-**nee**-uh)

noun: a republic in eastern Africa

The highest mountain in Africa is located in Tanzania.



Tunisia

(say tyooh-niss-ee-uh or tyooh-niz-ee-uh)

noun: a republic in northern Africa on the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Algeria and Libya

You have to go to Tunisia if you want to see the ancient ruins of Carthage.

Yosemite

(say yoh-sem-uh-tee)

noun: a deep valley in the US, in eastern California, in the Sierra Nevada mountains; a part of Yosemite National Park

We saw a black bear on our tour of Yosemite.

Plants and Animals Level 4**acacia**

(say uh-kay-shuh or uh-kay-see-uh)

noun: a wattle tree

In Australia, we usually refer to the acacia as a wattle tree.

aquarium

(say uh-kwair-ree-uhm)

noun: a glass container in which fish and water plants are kept

Helen kept some very interesting Mexican walking fish in her aquarium.

azalea

(say uh-zay-lee-uh)

noun: a shrub which produces attractive flowers in spring

The azalea growing near the front gate is covered in bright pink flowers.

botanical

(say buh-tan-i-kuhl)

adjective: relating to plants or the study of plants

His botanical illustrations have been used in a book on Australian native plants.

deciduous

(say duh-sid-yooh-uhs)

adjective: of trees, losing their leaves every year

Deciduous trees can look a little bare in winter.

dugong

(say dyooh-gong)

noun: a large marine mammal of northern Australia, having flipper-like forelimbs

The dugong was hunted for its meat and oil by some Indigenous peoples.

germinate

(say jerm-uh-nayt)

verb: to begin to grow or develop

The seeds will take at least fourteen days to germinate.

hibernation

(say huy-buh-nay-shuhn)

noun: a dormant or sleeping state of an animal in winter

Many animals in cold climates go into hibernation when food is scarce during the winter.



hibiscus

(say huy-**biss**-kuhs)

noun: a large brightly coloured flower which grows on a tropical shrub

Of all the flowers in my garden, the bees seem to like the hibiscus the most.

hippopotamus

(say hip-uh-**pot**-uh-muhs)

noun: a large African mammal with short legs and a heavy body, that lives around lakes and rivers

A hippopotamus likes nothing better than a swim in the mud.

horticulture

(say **haw**-tuh-kul-chuh)

noun: the growing of garden plants for their fruit, vegetables and flowers

The plant nursery requires its workers to have some knowledge of horticulture.

jonquil

(say **jong**-kwuhl)

noun: a flowering plant with long, narrow leaves and sweet-smelling yellow or white flowers

The jonquil starts to flower in early winter.

llama

(say **lah**-muh)

noun: a South American animal related to the camel and used for carrying loads

Each hiker led a llama, loaded with gear, as they trekked through the mountains of Peru.

malamute

(say **mal**-uh-mooht)

noun: an Arctic sled dog, noted for its strength and endurance

My favourite dog is the malamute but where I live it's too hot to have one.

orchid

(say **aw**-kuhd)

noun: a plant which grows in warm climates and which produces a beautiful flower with an unusual shape

She is going to carry a single white orchid at her wedding.

organism

(say **aw**-guh-niz-uhm)

noun: any form of animal or plant life

She could see the tiny organism under the microscope.

quokka

(say **kwok**-uh)

noun: a small wallaby, just larger than a cat, with rounded ears and a short face

The quokka is only found on a small island off the western coast of Australia.

scavenger

(say **skav**-uhn-juh)

noun: an animal which eats flesh from dead animals

The hyena is a scavenger and has strong jaws for crushing bones.



swordfish

(say **sawd**-fish)

noun: a large sea fish with the upper jaw lengthened into a sword-like weapon

A fierce swordfish attacked our fishing boat for no reason.

Science, Maths & Technology Level 4

amplitude

(say **amp**-luh-choohd)

noun: in physics, the distance or range from the maximum or minimum point of a wave pattern to the middle point

We could measure the changes in amplitude from looking at the graph.

analysis

(say uh-**nal**-uh-suhs)

noun: a detailed examination of something

The scientist's analysis of the substance showed that it was some kind of metal.

antenna

(say an-**ten**-uh)

noun: a wire or rod that you put up to receive radio or television signals

I had to adjust the antenna on the radio to receive a good signal.

astronomy

(say uh-**stron**-uh-mee)

noun: the scientific study of the sun, moon, stars and planets

When you study astronomy, you learn things like how long it takes light from the sun to reach different planets.

barometer

(say buh-**rom**-uh-tuh)

noun: an instrument that measures air pressure, used to help work out what changes in the weather can be expected

The barometer is falling which means we are in for bad weather.

biology

(say buy-**ol**-uh-jee)

noun: the science or study of all living things

I am going to study all four sciences when I go to high school -- biology, geology, chemistry and physics.

bisector

(say buy-**sek**-tuh)

noun: a line or plane which divides an angle or line into two

He used a protractor to draw the bisector of the angle.

cache

(say kaysh or kash)

noun: a section of a computer's memory which can be accessed very quickly

Sometimes you need to clear out the cache to make your computer work more quickly.



Celsius

(say **sel**-see-uhs)

adjective: a scale used to measure temperature, where 0 degrees is the melting point of ice and 100 degrees is the boiling point of water

The temperature at the centre of the sun is 15 million degrees Celsius.

chemical

(say **kem**-ik-uhl)

noun: a substance which is artificially created for any of various uses

There is a chemical in that shampoo that gives me a rash.

circumference

(say suh-**kum**-fuh-ruhns)

noun: the distance around something, especially around a circle or circular object

The good thing about knowing the circumference of a circle is that you can then work out its diameter.

contraption

(say kuhn-**trap**-shuhn)

noun: a complicated device or piece of machinery

They pulled the contraption apart to try and see how it worked.

diameter

(say duy-**am**-uh-tuh)

noun: the straight line which goes through the centre of a circle from one side to the other

The part of a circle on one side of the diameter is always exactly half the whole circle.

emoticon

(say uh-**moh**-tuh-kon)

noun: an image, created with keyboard characters, used in texts to indicate an emotion

You could tell from the emoticon she added at the end of her text that she wasn't very happy.

evaporation

(say ee-vap-uh-**ray**-shuhn)

noun: the act or process of water turning to vapour

Evaporation increases as the temperature increases.

helium

(say **hee**-lee-uhm)

noun: a gas which is lighter than air and is often used to fill balloons

These balloons are filled with helium so don't let go or they'll float away.

meridian

(say muh-**rid**-ee-uhn)

noun: a line of longitude

Time is measured from the meridian that goes through Greenwich in England.

processor

(say **proh**-ses-uh)

noun: the circuitry which responds to and processes the basic instructions that drive a computer

I have to decide whether to just upgrade the processor or buy a whole new PC.



Sport Level 4

abseil

(say **ab**-sayl)

verb: to descend down a cliff using ropes

Julian would love to abseil, but he is afraid of heights.

announcer

(say uh-**noun**-suh)

noun: someone on radio or television who talks about or introduces a program

The sports announcer listed the results of all the football games played that day.

bocce

(say **boch**-ay)

noun: an Italian form of the game of bowls

Bocce is played in teams of one to four players.

breaststroke

(say **bre**st-strohk)

noun: a way of swimming in which your arms move in a circle in front of your chest and your legs kick in a frog-like manner

Swimming breaststroke always exhausts me.

disqualify

(say dis-**kwol**-uh-fuy)

verb: to declare someone unable to compete because a rule has been broken

The judges will disqualify you if you start running before the whistle blows.

dressage

(say **dress**-ahzh)

noun: the art of training a horse in obedience and deportment

Laura and her horse Arnie won first prize in the dressage event.

equestrian

(say uh-**kwess**-tree-uhn)

adjective: having to do with horseriding

Jane and her horse showed great skill and stamina to win the equestrian event.

gymnastics

(say jim-**nass**-tik)

noun: the performance of exercises to develop flexibility, strength and agility

We do gymnastics every week to strengthen our muscles.

heavyweight

(say **hev**-ee-wayt)

noun: a boxer in one of the heaviest groups

Muhammad Ali was a world heavyweight champion.

lacrosse

(say luh-**kross**)

noun: a ball game played by two teams, who use long-handled racquets to try to send the ball through a goal

Lacrosse is a team sport that was first played by Native American people.

motivation

(say moh-tuh-**vay**-shuhn)

noun: the desire to achieve a goal

Before every game, our coach gives us a talk to increase our motivation.



mountaineering

(say mown-tuh-**near**-ring)

noun: the activity of climbing mountains

You generally need good, strong ropes to go mountaineering.

quarterfinal

(say kwaw-tuh-**fuy**-nuhl)

noun: a contest which precedes the semifinals in a tournament

The Tamworth Tigers have to win their last two games to secure a spot in the quarterfinal.

shuttlecock

(say **shut**-uhl-kok)

noun: a thin rounded piece of plastic with feathers attached to it, which is hit from one player to another over a net as a game

The game was declared a draw when the shuttlecock got stuck in a tree.

tournament

(say **taw**-nuh-muhnt)

noun: a meeting for contests in sport or other games

I played in a tennis tournament last weekend and made it to the semifinals.

velodrome

(say **vel**-uh-droh-m)

noun: an arena with sloping sides used for cycling races

We all crowded into the velodrome to watch the Olympic cycling final.

wakeboarding

(say **wayk**-baw-ding)

noun: a form of waterskiing which uses an adapted skateboard rather than skis

Rakesh thought he'd try wakeboarding instead of waterskiing next time.

wushu

(say wooh-**shooh**)

noun: a sport created in China which is a hybrid of various martial arts and gymnastics

Honi thought he would be interested in wushu as he liked both karate and gymnastics.

yacht

(say yot)

noun: a sailing boat used for sport or pleasure

It was his dream to sail his yacht in a big ocean race.



General Category Level 5**accessory**

(say uhk-**ses**-uh-ree)

noun an additional part or object which adds to the attractiveness or convenience of an outfit or unit

The fake moustache really wasn't the right accessory for the ball gown.

acquittal

(say uh-**kwit**-uhl)

noun the state of being found innocent of a crime

When it was clear there was an acquittal, the accused man's family cheered.

acrimony

(say **ak**-ruh-muh-nee or **ak**-ruh-moh-nee)

noun harshness or bitterness

It's a shame there's so much acrimony between the two rivals.

adjunct

(say **aj**-ungkt)

noun something joined to another thing but not essentially part of it

The working farm is an important adjunct to the agricultural museum.

affectionate

(say uh-**fek**-shuh-nuht)

adjective having or showing great love or affection

The puppy is very affectionate and is always trying to lick the children's faces.

allegretto

(say al-uh-**gret**-oh)

adverb in music, played or sung at a rapid tempo

She had to practise the passage slowly before she could play it allegretto.

alleviation

(say uh-lee-vee-**ay**-shuhn)

noun the act of alleviating, or making easier to bear

Some find meditation useful for the alleviation of stress.

auctioneer

(say ok-shuh-**near**)

noun someone whose job is to sell things to the highest bidder

The auctioneer was amazed when the bidding went much higher than he expected.

battalion

(say buh-**tal**-yuhn)

noun a large army unit

An Australian battalion was the first to enter the town.

beautician

(say byooh-**tish**-uhn)

noun a person skilled in cosmetic treatment

My sister hired a beautician to do her hair and makeup for her wedding day.

behemoth

(say buh-**hee**-muhth)

noun a huge and powerful person, animal or thing

The elephant is a behemoth of the animal world.



broccolini

(say brok-uh-lee--nee)

noun a cross between broccoli and Chinese kale, with a mild, sweet flavour
I'm not keen on broccoli but I don't mind broccolini -- it tastes a little sweeter.

cadaverous

(say kuh-dav-uh-ruhs)

adjective pale and thin, or like a corpse

The zombies in the movie were horribly cadaverous, with rotting flesh -- a wonderful job by the make-up department!

cannula

(say kan-yuh-luh)

noun a metal tube for insertion into the body, used to keep a passage open or to introduce medication

The nurse had to insert a cannula into a blood vessel to attach the drip.

catastrophe

(say kuh-tass-truh-fee)

noun a sudden disaster

Many houses were lost in the catastrophe.

cemetery

(say sem-uh-tree or sem-uh-terry)

noun a burial ground

We sometimes go to the cemetery to visit my grandfather's grave.

chromosome

(say kroh-muh-sohm or kroh-muh-zohm)

noun a tiny part found in the nucleus of all living cells, which carries the genetic codes for the characteristics of the organism

The Y chromosome is passed only from father to son.

circumstantial

(say ser-kuhm-stan-shul)

adjective relating to evidence which gives reasonable but not definite grounds for believing something to be true

The circumstantial evidence against the suspect was very strong.

colloquial

(say kuh-loh-kwee-uhl)

adjective suitable for casual, informal, or everyday language

'This arvo' is a colloquial way of saying 'this afternoon'.

conscience

(say kon-shuhns)

noun the ability to see the difference between right and wrong in what you do

Her conscience told her it was wrong to steal.

contentious

(say kuhn-ten-shuhs)

adjective characterised by argument

The government's contentious new policy has caused many arguments in the community.



corps

(say kaw)

noun a unit of soldiers

My brother has joined the cadet corps at his school.

cosmopolitan

(say koz-muh-pol-uh-tuhn)

adjective having people or customs from many parts of the world

The conference attracted a cosmopolitan audience.

diabetes

(say duy-uh-bee-teez)

noun a disease in which the body finds it difficult to use sugar

An excessive thirst is a symptom of diabetes.

differentiate

(say dif-uh-ren-shee-ayt)

verb to see that one thing is different from another

It is hard for colourblind people to differentiate between red and green.

egotistical

(say ee-guh-tis-tik-uhl or eg-uh-tis-tik-uhl)

adjective self-centred and conceited

The star came across as egotistical in the interview but I didn't think much of his acting skills.

emancipation

(say ee-man-suh-pay-shuhn)

noun freedom given to someone who has been restrained

The convicts strove for emancipation so that they could start a new life.

extortionate

(say ek-staw-shuhn-uht)

adjective excessively high

The price of limes was extortionate because they were out of season.

fortuitous

(say faw-tyooh-uh-tuhs)

adjective happening by chance or by good luck

I needed to speak to her, so it was fortuitous that I bumped into her on my way to the shops.

gargoyle

(say gah-goyl)

noun a spout, often carved in the shape of an ugly head with an open mouth, which carries rainwater off a roof

Each corner of the old building was adorned with an ugly gargoyle.

glaucoma

(say glaw-koh-muh)

noun a disease of the eye with progressive loss of vision

Glaucoma runs in my family so I have to get my eyes checked regularly.



gondolier

(say gon-duh-lear)

noun a person who works on one of the long, narrow boats found on the canals of Venice, in Italy

The gondolier used a long pole to move the boat through the water.

gratuity

(say gruh-tyooh-uh-tee)

noun a gift, usually of money, for service given

He was given a gratuity of five dollars for carrying the luggage to the room.

hollandaise

(say hol-uhn-dayz)

noun a yellow sauce made of eggs, lemon juice or vinegar, butter, and seasonings

There's nothing tastier than hollandaise on poached eggs.

illiterate

(say il-it-uh-ruht)

adjective unable to read and write

Illiterate people face many hardships in everyday life.

Implacable

(say im-plak-uh-buhl)

Adjective not able to be changed in opinion or feelings

She met implacable opposition from the committee when she suggested the radical plan.

interrogation

(say in-te-ruh-gay-shuhn)

noun the act of questioning someone closely to find out something

The interrogation of the suspect took more than four hours because he wouldn't name his accomplices.

legionnaire

(say lee-juh-nair)

noun a member of a legion, especially the French Foreign Legion

The legionnaire had fought in many parts of the world.

marshmallow

(say mahsh-mal-oh or mahsh-mel-oh)

noun a type of sweet with a spongy texture, usually containing gelatine, sugar, and flavouring

I like to put a marshmallow in my hot chocolate.

monastery

(say mon-uhs-tree or mon-uhs-terry)

noun a place where a group of monks live and work

Most of the monks worked within the grounds of the monastery.

municipality

(say myooh-nuh-suh-pal-uh-tee)

noun a district which has its own local government

We have some good parks in our municipality.



necessary

(say **nes**-uh-se-ree)

adjective unable to be done without

Have you got all the necessary ingredients for the cake?

noxious

(say **nok**-shuhs)

adjective harmful or hurtful

A noxious chemical leaked from the damaged tanker.

nuance

(say **nyooh**-ons)

noun a slight variation of colour, meaning, expression or feeling

I knew every nuance of my sister's voice and could tell that she was worried.

pheromone

(say **fe**-ruh-mohn)

noun any of a large group of chemicals produced by animals, especially insects, used as a chemical means of communication

Some insects, like the stink beetle, produce a very powerful pheromone.

portmanteau

(say pawt-**man**-toh)

noun a suitcase for travelling which opens into two halves

What I just call a suitcase, my grandmother calls a portmanteau.

primordial

(say pruy-**maw**-dee-uhl)

adjective existing at the beginning of the world

Scientists have tried to discover what kind of life existed in the earth's primordial oceans.

prophecy

(say **prof**-uh-see)

noun a statement telling what is going to happen in the future

His prophecy of rain raised the farmers' hopes.

secede

(say suh-**seed**)

verb to withdraw from an association

The club threatened to secede from the federation.

solicitous

(say suh-**liss**-uh-tuhs)

adjective anxiously caring about something

They were solicitous for the new girl's wellbeing.

trattoria

(say trat-uh-**ree**-uh or truh-**taw**-ree-uh)

noun an Italian-style restaurant, usually inexpensive and informal

We felt like pasta so we went down to the local trattoria for dinner.

valedictory

(say val-uh-**dik**-tuh-ree)

adjective relating to saying goodbye or farewell

As a farewell gift, he was given a gold watch at his valedictory dinner.



Special categories Level 5

ART Level 5

adagio

(say uh-**dah**-zhee-oh or uh-**dah**-jee-oh)

adverb: (a direction) indicating that music should be played or sung slowly and calmly

The conductor made the violins slow down during the passage marked 'adagio'.

bibliography

(say bib-lee-**og**-ruh-fee)

noun: a list of all the books, websites, etc., read or used when writing a book or essay

We lose marks if we don't include a complete bibliography with our work.

cabaret

(say **kab**-uh-ray)

noun: a musical or comedy show performed at a restaurant or club

They ate dinner while enjoying the cabaret.

cadenza

(say kuh-**den**-zuh)

noun: in music, an elaborate passage for the voice or an instrument, usually near the end of a concerto

A drum cadenza ends the composition with a dramatic flourish.

classicism

(say **klas**-uh-siz-uhm)

noun: the classical style in literature or art, which pays special attention to form, stressing simplicity, balance, proportion and controlled emotion

We compared the different styles of classicism and romanticism in art class.

conservatorium

(say kuhn-serv-uh-**taw**-ree-uhm)

noun: a school where you learn music

Fran played two solo pieces in her audition for the conservatorium.

contemporary

(say kuhn-**temp**-uh-ruh-ree)

adjective: modern

I prefer contemporary music to classical.

crescendo

(say kruh-**shen**-doh)

noun: an increasingly loud or forceful part in a piece of music

The composer chose a slow crescendo to give a dramatic end to his symphony.

elocution

(say el-uh-**kyooh**-shuhn)

noun: the way you speak

Newsreaders have to have very clear elocution.

excerpt

(say **ek**-serpt)

noun: a piece quoted from a book or shown from a film

The teacher read us an excerpt from the prize-winning book.



fictitious

(say fik-**tish**-uhs)

adjective: imaginary or made up

The characters in this film are fictitious -- they are not based on real people.

guiro

(say **gweer**-roh)

noun: a percussion instrument consisting of a dried empty gourd, which has parallel notches across which a stick is drawn

love being the band's percussionist, because I get to play some unusual instruments, like the guiro.

manuscript

(say **man**-yuh-skript)

noun: a book, letter, or piece of music, written by hand or typed

The manuscript of my unfinished novel is in the bottom drawer.

portfolio

(say pawt-**foh**-lee-oh)

noun: a collection of an artist's drawings or photographs, which they can show to someone as examples of their work

The artist showed his portfolio of drawings to the gallery owner.

Geography Level 5

Caribbean

(say ka-ruh-**bee**-uhn or kuh-**rib**-ee-uhn)

noun: a sea between Central America, the West Indies, and South America

Hurricanes and earthquakes occur quite frequently in the Caribbean.

chasm

(say **kaz**-uhm)

noun: a deep hole or opening in the ground

The earthquake left a large chasm in the earth's surface.

Ecuador

(say **ek**-wuh-daw)

noun: a republic on the Pacific coast of South America, bordered by Colombia and Peru

The Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean are a province of Ecuador.

Indonesia

(say in-duh-**nee**-zhuh)

noun: a republic in South-East Asia, consisting of a group of about 13,000 islands lying between the Malay Peninsula and New Guinea

Indonesia is one of Australia's closest neighbours, and one of our favourite holiday destinations.

Kokoda

(say kuh-**koh**-duh)

noun: a track in Papua New Guinea between Port Moresby and the village from which it was named, about 240 km long

Australian and Papuan soldiers in World War II successfully held off the Japanese invasion along the Kokoda Track in 1942.



Mauritius

(say muh-**rish**-uhs)

noun: a republic, consisting of the island of Mauritius, and several other islands, in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar

Before it became extinct, the dodo could be found in Mauritius.

seismograph

(say **suyz**-muh-graf or **suyz**-muh-grahf)

noun: an instrument for measuring and recording vibrations within the earth, such as earthquakes

At the museum, we were shown how a seismograph measures the strength of an earthquake.

stalactite

(say **stal**-uhk-tuyt)

noun: a deposit formed by dripping water, which hangs from the roof of a limestone cave

While we were exploring the cave, I hit my head on a stalactite.

Vanuatu

(say van-uh-**wah**-tooh)

noun: a republic in the south-western Pacific Ocean

Vanuatu consists of about 80 separate islands.

Zimbabwe

(say zim-**bahb**-way or zim-**bahb**-wee)

noun: a republic in southern Africa bordered by Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa

Zimbabwe was a British colony called Rhodesia before independence was declared in 1965.

Plants and Animals Level 5

agapanthus

(say ag-uh-**pan**-thuhs)

noun: a type of plant with big, round, blue or white flowers

The agapanthus is often used as a border plant, along driveways and fences.

amphibian

(say am-**fib**-ee-uhn)

noun: an animal that begins life in the water and lives on land as an adult

I had to come up with three examples of an amphibian but I could only think of one -- a frog.

apiary

(say **ay**-pee-uh-ree)

noun: a place where bees and their hives are kept

The beekeeper wore a protective suit when working on his apiary.

arachnid

(say uh-**rak**-nid)

noun: one of a group of animals that includes spiders and scorpions

Any type of spider frightens me, so the arachnid in the Harry Potter movies had me terrified.



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budgerigar

(say **buj**-uh-ree-gah)

noun: a parakeet of the inland regions of Australia, often kept as a pet

I would like to keep a budgerigar as a pet but I'm worried that my cat might like it too!

caribou

(say **ka**-ruh-booh)

noun: any of several kinds of reindeer from North America

Both the male and female caribou have antlers.

comfrey

(say **kum**-free)

noun: a kind of plant of Europe and Asia, having blue, purplish or white flowers, used in making herbal tea, etc.

The naturopath made a paste of comfrey leaves to put on my bruise.

diurnal

(say duy-er-nuhl)

adjective: active or out by day, as certain birds, insects, flowers, and so on

It's much easier to observe diurnal animals than nocturnal ones.

eucalyptus

(say yoooh-kuh-**lip**-tuhs)

noun: a type of tree with many different varieties, used for its timber and its strong oil

The Australian bush is characterised by the eucalyptus.

megafauna

(say **meg**-uh-faw-nuh)

noun: the largest animals existing in a particular region or in a particular geological period

Australia's prehistoric megafauna included a giant wombat-like creature.

Science, Maths & Technology Level 5

algebra

(say **al**-juh-bruh)

noun: the branch of mathematics which uses letters to stand for numbers

We have just started to learn about algebra in maths.

alkaline

(say **al**-kuh-luyn)

adjective: having to do with a substance which neutralises acids

Some plants won't grow in alkaline soil.

Copernicus

(say kuh-**per**-nik-uhs)

noun: a Polish astronomer who was born in 1473 and died in 1543

Copernicus was the first person to argue that the earth and the other planets move around the sun.



cybernetics

(say suy-buh-**net**-iks)

noun: the study of methods of control and communication which are shared by living organisms and machines

The study of cybernetics is important in the development of robots.

Galileo

(say gal-uh-**lay**-oh)

noun: an Italian physicist, astronomer and mathematician who was born in 1564 and died in 1642

In 1609, Galileo built the first astronomical telescope.

hypothetical

(say huy-puh-**thet**-i-kuhl)

adjective: assumed by hypothesis; supposed

The medical student was asked how he would treat a hypothetical case of blood poisoning.

interstellar

(say in-tuh-**stel**-uh)

adjective: between the stars

The science fiction novel was about interstellar travel.

laboratory

(say luh-**bo**-ruh-tree or **lab**-ruh-taw-ree)

noun: a building or room for doing scientific tests or for making chemicals or medicines

The mad scientist worked in his laboratory all night.

metabolism

(say muh-**tab**-uh-liz-uhm)

noun: all the processes and chemical changes happening in the body of a living thing

A slow metabolism can make it difficult to lose weight.

millimetre

(say **mil**-uh-mee-tuh)

noun: a unit of length in the metric system

A millimetre is a very small unit which you can use for detailed measurements.

Sport Level 5

acrobatically

(say ak-ruh-**bat**-ik-lee)

adverb: in a manner which shows great gymnastic skill

The fullback scored a try by leaping acrobatically over his opponent and rolling into a somersault over the line.

aikido

(say uy-**kee**-doh or **uy**-kid-oh)

noun: a type of Japanese martial art

Aikido is similar to jujitsu, and is used for self-defence.

buoyant

(say **boy**-uhnt)

adjective: tending to float or rise in a fluid

This rubber ring will keep you buoyant in the water.



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circumnavigate

(say ser-kuhm-**nav**-uh-gayt)

verb: to sail around something

The contestants in the sailing race had to circumnavigate the island.

liniment

(say **lin**-uh-muhnt)

noun: an oily liquid for rubbing on bruises, sprains or sore muscles

After tennis practice my shoulder was sore, so I rubbed some liniment onto it.

muscly

(say **muss**-uh-lee)

adjective: having big or prominent muscles

My brother became very muscly after several months of weight training at the gym.

physiotherapy

(say fiz-ee-oh-**the**-ruh-pee)

noun: the treatment of disease and injuries by physical means such as massage and exercise

She had five sessions of physiotherapy to strengthen her injured knee.

pugilist

(say **pyooh**-juh-luhst)

noun: a boxer, usually a professional

The pugilist put a mouthguard in before stepping into the ring.

