

Dictionary features

Find words quickly

Guide words show which entries are covered on each page, helping you find the right page quickly.

An **alphabet guide** on each page shows which letter you are on.

Short entries tell you where to find the main entries for words.

Words that can be more than one part of speech are usually in **different entries**, helping you find the right meaning quickly.

When a separate entry isn't needed, words are given as **derivatives** of the main headword.

Say words correctly

Easy guides show you how to **pronounce** words in the standard way. Stress the part that is printed bold.

See the key to pronunciation guides on page viii.

Check your grammar

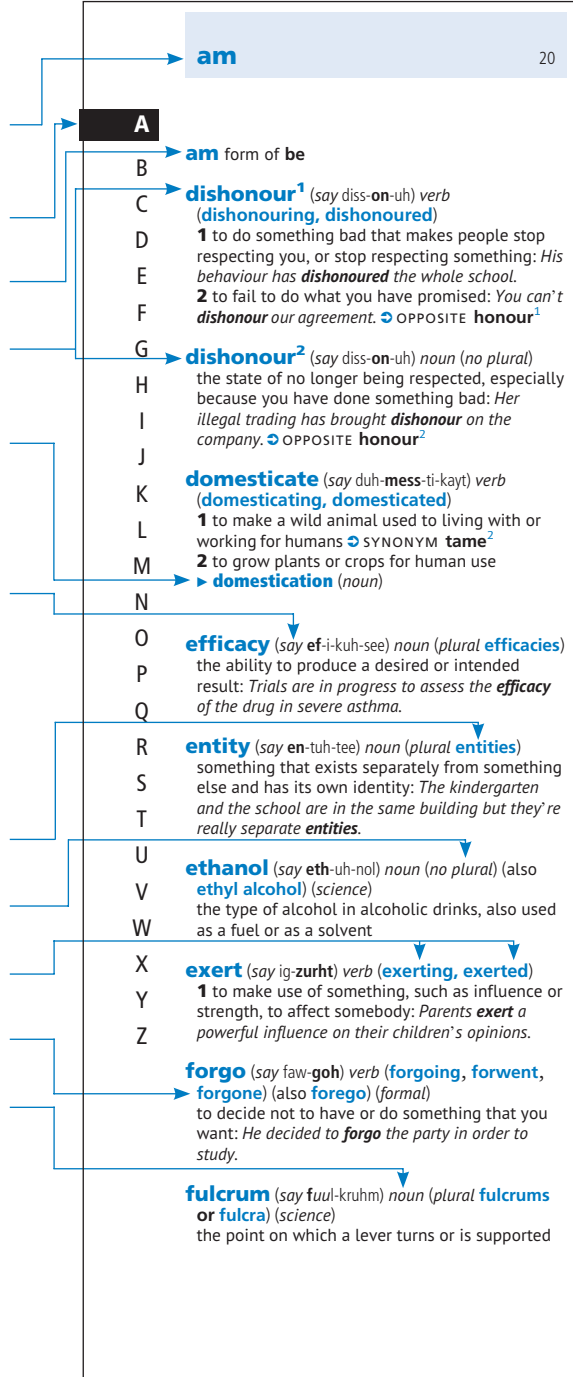
The **plural** is given for every noun that has a plural form.

Nouns that **do not have plurals** have a label to show this.

For every verb, the **present participle** (-ing form) and the **past tense** are given.

If the verb has an irregular **past participle**, this is also shown.

A **part of speech** (or word class) is given for each headword.



generic (say juh-ne-rik) *adjective*

➔ **1** shared by, including or typical of a whole group of things; not specific: *Hloni looked through the photos on her computer and placed them in **generic** folders.*

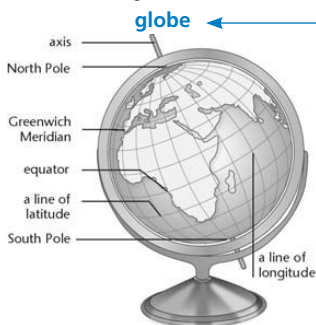
➔ **2** (used about a product, especially a drug) not using the name of the company that made it: *Doctors often do not recommend **generic** drugs.*

globe (rhymes with robe) *noun*

1 (plural **globes**) an object in the shape of a ball with a map of the world on it

2 any object shaped like a ball

3 the globe (no plural) the world: *She's travelled all over the **globe**.*



google (say goog-uhl) *verb* (**googling**, **googled**) (computing), (informal)

to type words into the **search engine** Google™ in order to find information: *When I got home I **googled** the band's name. ◊ I tried **googling** but couldn't find anything useful.*

got form of **get**

USAGE

In formal writing and schoolwork, use **got to** and **got a**, never 'gotta': *I have **got to** go now. ◊ We have **got a** dog.*

impermeable (say im-purm-i-uhb-l) *adjective* not allowing a liquid or gas to pass through:

impermeable rock ◊ *The container is **impermeable** to steam.* ◊ OPPOSITE **permeable**

locus (say low-kuhss) *noun* (plural **loci**) (formal) the exact place where something happens or which is thought to be the centre of something

monolith (say mon-uh-lith) *noun* (plural **monoliths**) (history)

a large single standing block of stone, especially one that was put there by people living in ancient times: *Have you visited the circle of **monoliths** at Stonehenge?*

❗ **ORIGIN:** from Greek *monos* 'single' + *lithos* 'stone'

Understand what words mean

When a word has more than one meaning, **each meaning** (or sense) is **numbered** so you will find the right one quickly.

Illustrations with labels and captions help to make the meanings of words clear.

Use words correctly

Example sentences and phrases show you how to use words correctly in sentences.

Notes help you to avoid hundreds of common mistakes in **pronunciation**, **spelling**, **grammar** and **usage**.

Build your vocabulary

Synonyms and **opposites** help you to write more effectively.

Illustration (see above) **captions** and **labels** also broaden vocabulary.

Find out more

Labels tell you if a word is **informal** or **formal** (see entry for 'google' above), showing you when it is appropriate to use it. Labels also tell you if it is a word from the **curriculum** that you need to know.

Notes on **word origins** tell you where words come from (a requirement in the curriculum).

Note: The entries on these pages have been drawn together from different pages of the dictionary, to show its features.

A
B
C
D
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F
G
H
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O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
X
Y
Z**hop** *verb* (**hopping**, **hopped**)

1 (used about a person) to jump on one foot
2 (used about an animal or bird) to jump with two or all feet together: *The frog **hopped** onto the stone.*

► **hop** (*noun*): a small **hop**

hope¹ (*rhymes with rope*) *verb* (**hoping**, **hoped**)

to want something to happen or be true: *I **hope** that you have a nice holiday.* ◊ *I **hope** to see you soon.* ◊ *She's **hoping** for a bike for her birthday.* ◊ *"Do you think it will rain?" "I **hope** not."* ◊ *"Will you be at the party?" "I'm not sure – I **hope** so."*

hope² (*rhymes with rope*) *noun*

1 (*plural hopes*) a feeling of wanting something to happen and thinking that it will: *There's little **hope** of finding survivors.* ◊ *Don't give up **hope**; you may still pass.*

2 (*no plural*) a person or thing that gives you hope: *Can you help me? You're my only **hope**.*

hopeful (*say hohp-fuhl*) *adjective*

thinking that something that you want will happen: *I'm **hopeful** about getting a job.*

hopefully (*say hohp-fuh-lee*) *adverb*

1 (*informal*) I or we hope: ***Hopefully** he won't be late.*

2 hoping that what you want will happen: *The cat looked **hopefully** at our plates.*

hopeless (*say hohp-luhss*) *adjective*

1 with no hope of success: *a **hopeless** situation*
 ◊ *It's **hopeless** trying to work with all this noise!*

2 (*informal*) very bad: *I'm **hopeless** at tennis.*

► **hopelessly** (*adverb*): *We got **hopelessly** lost in the forest.*

hopscotch (*say hohp-skoch*) *noun* (*no plural*)

a children's game in which you jump on squares marked on the ground

horde (*say hawd*) *noun* (*plural hordes*)

a very large number of people: *A **horde** of guests arrived at the same time.* ◊ SYNONYMS **crowd**¹, **mob**¹

SPELLING

Don't confuse **horde** with **hoard**, which has a different meaning.

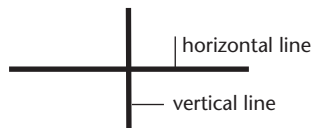
horizon (*say huh-rize-uhn*) *noun*

1 (*no plural*) the line between the earth or sea and the sky: *The sun dropped below the **horizon**.*

2 horizons (*plural noun*) the limits of your knowledge or experience: *Travelling is a good way to broaden your **horizons**.*

on the horizon likely to happen soon: *There are exciting changes on the **horizon**.*

horizontal (*say ho-ri-zon-tuhl*) *adjective*
 going from side to side, not up and down:
 a **horizontal line** ◊ See **vertical**

**hormone** (*say haw-mohn*) *noun* (*plural hormones*)

a substance in your body that influences the way you grow and develop or how your body functions

horn (*say hawn*) *noun* (*plural horns*)

1 one of the hard pointed things that some animals have on their heads

2 a thing in a car or other vehicle that makes a loud sound to warn people: *Sound your **horn**!*

3 a musical instrument with a curved metal tube that you blow into

hornet (*say hawn-it*) *noun* (*plural hornets*)

a black and yellow flying insect that has a powerful sting

horoscope (*say ho-ruh-skohp*) *noun* (*plural horoscopes*)

something that some people believe tells you what will happen, using the planets and your date of birth: *Have you read (= in a newspaper, for example) your **horoscope** today?*

horrendous (*say ho-ren-duhss*) *adjective*
(informal) very bad or unpleasant ◊ SYNONYMS **awful**, **terrible**

► **horrendously** (*adverb*)

horrible (*say ho-rib-l*) *adjective*

1 causing horror: *a **horrible** crash.*

2 (*informal*) very bad or unpleasant: *What **horrible** weather! ◊ I had a **horrible** dream.*

THESAURUS

There are many words that you can use instead of **horrible**, but check their exact meanings first. Examples are: **abominable**, **atrocious**, **awful**, **bad**, **cruel**, **disgusting**, **dreadful**, **evil**, **ghastly**, **gruesome**, **horrid** (*informal*), **horrific**, **lousy** (*informal*), **mean**², **nasty**, **obnoxious**, **offensive**¹, **repulsive**, **revolting**, **rude**¹, **shocking**, **terrible**, **ugly**, **unkind**, **unpleasant**, **vicious** and **vile**.

horrid (*say ho-rid*) *adjective* (*informal*)

very bad or unpleasant: *Don't be so **horrid**!*

◊ SYNONYM **horrible**

horrific (*say ho-rif-ik*) *adjective*

very shocking or frightening: *a **horrific** accident*

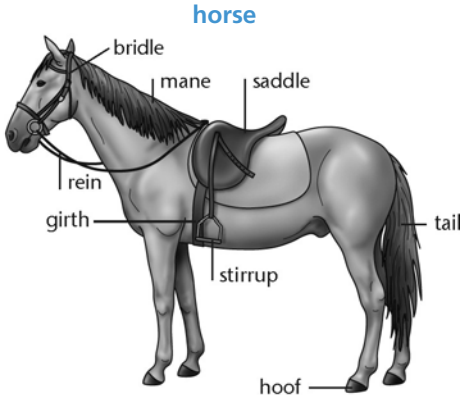
◊ SYNONYM **ghastly**

horrify (say ho-ri-fy) *verb* (**horrifying**, **horrified**)
to shock and frighten somebody: *Everyone was horrified by the murders.*

horror (say ho-ruh) *noun* (*no plural*)
a feeling of fear or shock: *They watched in horror as the child ran in front of the bus.*

horror film, **horror story** a film or a story which tries to frighten or shock you for entertainment

horse (say hawss) *noun* (*plural horses*)
a big animal that can carry people and pull heavy things: *Can you ride a horse?*



horseback (say hawss-bak) *noun*
on horseback sitting on a horse: *We saw a lot of police officers on horseback.*

horsepower (say hawss-pow-uh) *noun* (*no plural*) (abbr. hp)
in the past, a unit for measuring the power of an engine: *My grandfather said his car produced 300 horsepower.*

USAGE

The power of an engine is now measured in **kilowatts** (1 hp = 0,746 kW). **Horsepower** is still used in some countries.

horse riding *noun* (*no plural*)
the sport or hobby of riding a horse: **Horse riding** is my favourite sport!

horseshoe (say hawss-shoo) *noun* (*plural horseshoes*)
a piece of metal like a U that a horse wears on each hoof

horticulture (say haw-ti-kul-tshuh) *noun* (*no plural*)
the study or practice of growing plants in gardens

► **horticultural** (*adjective*): *Ben belongs to a horticultural society.*

► **horticulturist** (*noun*)

hose (say hohz) *noun* (*plural hoses*) (also **hosepipe**)
a long soft tube that you use to bring water, for example in the garden or when there is a fire

hospice (say hoss-piss) *noun* (*plural hospices*)
a special hospital where people who are dying are cared for: *The hospice helped my grandmother to live as actively as possible until death.*

❶ **ORIGIN:** from French *hospice* meaning 'hospital'

hospitable (say hoss-pit-uhb-l) *adjective*
friendly and kind to visitors ⇨ **OPPOSITE inhospitable 1**

hospital (say hoss-pit-uhl) *noun* (*plural hospitals*)
a place where doctors and nurses look after people who are ill or hurt: *My brother is in hospital – he's broken his leg.* ◇ *The ambulance took her to hospital.*

THESAURUS

If you are very ill or you **have an accident** you go **to hospital**. A doctor or nurse gives you **treatment** and you are called a **patient**. You might need to **have an operation**. The room in a hospital where people sleep is called a **ward**.

hospitality (say hoss-pi-tal-i-tee) *noun* (*no plural*)
being friendly to people who are visiting you, and looking after them well: *They thanked us for our hospitality.*

host (*rhymes with most*) *noun* (*plural hosts*)
1 a person who invites people to their house, for example to a party: *Vuyo, our host, introduced us to the other guests.* ⇨ See **hostess**
2 a person who introduces a television or radio show and talks to the guests

hostage (say hoss-tij) *noun* (*plural hostages*)
a prisoner that you keep until people give you what you want: *Several passengers were taken and are hostages.* ◇ *They held his daughter hostage until he paid them the money.*

hostel (say hoss-tuhl) *noun* (*plural hostels*)
a place like a cheap hotel where people can stay: *a youth hostel*

hostess (say hohss-tess) *noun* (*plural hostesses*)
a woman who invites people to her house, for example to a party ⇨ See **host 1**

hostile (say hoss-tile) *adjective*
very unfriendly: *a hostile crowd*
► **hostility** (*noun*): *She said nothing but I could sense her hostility.*

hot *adjective* (**hotter**, **hottest**)

1 having a high temperature: *I'm hot. Can you open the window?* ◇ *It's hot today, isn't it?* ◇ **hot water** ⇨ **OPPOSITE cold 1**

2 (used about food) having a strong, burning taste: *a hot spicy curry* ⇨ **OPPOSITE bland 2**

Setswana *kgotla* meaning ‘courtyard, meeting place’

PRONUNCIATION

Pronounce the **g** in **lekgotla** like the **g** in the Afrikaans word **lag**.

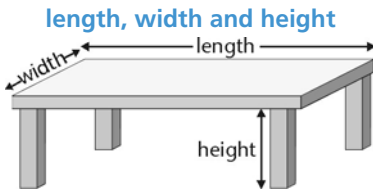
lemon (say **lem-uhn**) *noun* (*plural lemons*)
a yellow fruit with sour juice that is used for giving flavour to food and drink: **lemon juice**

lemonade (say **lem-uh-nayd**) *noun* (*no plural*)
1 a sweet, clear drink with bubbles in it: *a glass of lemonade*
2 a drink that is made from fresh lemon juice, sugar and water

lemur (say **lee-muh**) *noun* (*plural lemurs*)
an animal like a monkey with thick fur and a long tail, which lives in trees in Madagascar. There are many different types of lemurs.

lend *verb* (**lending, lent**)
to give something to somebody for a short time: *I lent the book to Jo.* ◊ *Rick lent me his car for an hour.* ➔ See note at **borrow** ➔ **SYNONYM loan²**
▶ **lender** (*noun*): a **lender** of money

length (say **leng-th**) *noun* (*no plural*)
how long something is: *The table is two metres in length.* ◊ *We measured the length of the garden.*
➔ The adjective is **long¹**



lengthen (say **leng-thuhn**) *verb* (**lengthening, lengthened**)
to become or to make something longer: *I need to lengthen this skirt.* ➔ **OPPOSITE shorten**

lengthways (say **length-wayz**) *adverb* (also **lengthwise**)
in a direction along the longest part of something: *Fold the paper lengthways.*

lengthy (say **leng-thee**) *adjective* (**lengthier, lengthiest**)
very long: *a lengthy meeting*

lenient (say **lee-ni-uhnt**) *adjective*
not as strict or harsh as a punishment or a person who punishes somebody could have been
➔ **OPPOSITE severe 1**
▶ **leniency** (*noun*): *She appealed to the judge for leniency.*
▶ **leniently** (*adverb*): *Fraud should not be treated leniently.*

lens (say **lenz**) *noun* (*plural lenses*)

1 a special piece of glass in things such as cameras, **microscopes** or glasses. It makes things look bigger, smaller or clearer when you look through it.

2 the transparent part of the eye, behind the round hole in the middle of the eye (called the **pupil**), that changes shape in order to direct light so that you can see clearly
➔ See illustration at **eye**

lent form of **lend**

lentil (say **lent-l**) *noun* (*plural lentils*)
a small, round dried seed. You cook **lentils** in water before you eat them: **lentil soup**

leopard (say **lep-uhd**) *noun* (*plural leopards*)
a wild animal like a big cat with yellow fur and dark spots. **Leopards** live in Africa and southern Asia.

leotard (say **lee-uh-taad**) *noun* (*plural leotards*)
a piece of clothing that fits the body tightly from the neck to the tops of the legs, worn by dancers or by women doing some sports
❶ **ORIGIN**: 20th century, named after Jules Léotard (1839–1870), a French circus performer

leper (say **lep-uh**) *noun* (*plural lepers*)
a person who has **leprosy**

leprosy (say **lep-ruh-see**) *noun* (*no plural*)
a serious infectious disease that mainly affects the skin and nerves and can cause parts of the body to fall off

lesbian (say **lez-bi-uhn**) *noun* (*plural lesbians*)
a woman who is sexually attracted to other women ➔ See **homosexual**
▶ **lesbian** (*adjective*): *a lesbian relationship*

less¹ *adjective, adverb, pronoun*
a smaller amount of something: *A poor person has less money than a rich person.* ◊ *The doctor advised him to drink less beer.* ➔ **OPPOSITE more¹**

WHICH WORD?

Less or fewer?

- We use **less** when we talk about something that has no plural, such as **fat**: *You should eat less fat.*
- We use **fewer** when we talk about things that have a plural, such as **sweets**: *You should eat fewer sweets.*

less² *adverb*
not so much: *It rains less in summer.* ◊ *He's less intelligent than his sister.* ➔ **OPPOSITE more¹** ➔ See **least**

lessen (say **less-uhn**) *verb* (**lessening, lessened**)
to become or to make something less: *This medicine will lessen the pain.* ➔ **SYNONYMS diminish, reduce**

lesson (say **less-uhn**) *noun* (*plural lessons*)
a time when you learn something with a teacher:

We have a Maths **lesson** after lunch. ◊ She gives piano **lessons**. ◊ I'm taking driving **lessons**.

◊ SYNONYM class 2

let verb (letting, let)

1 to allow somebody or something to do something: *Her parents won't **let** her stay out late.* ◊ **Let** the dog in (= let it come in). ◊ **Let** go of my hand!

2 let's (short for **let us**) used for making suggestions about what you and other people can do: ***Let's** watch a film.*

3 to allow somebody to use your house or land if they pay you: *We have a room to **let**.*

let somebody down to not do something that you promised to do for somebody: *She **let** me down. She didn't come to my party.*

let somebody off to not punish somebody: *He didn't go to prison – the judge **let** him off.*

USAGE

You cannot use **let** with meaning 1 above in the passive. You must use **allow** and **to**: *They **let** him take the exam again. He **was allowed** to take the exam again.*

USAGE

The negative of **let's** in meaning 2 above is **let's not**: ***Let's not** go out this evening.*

lethal (say leeth-l) adjective

Something that is **lethal** can cause death or a lot of damage: *a **lethal** weapon* ◊ SYNONYM **deadly**¹

lethargy (say leth-uh-jee) noun (no plural)

the feeling of being very tired and not having any energy

► **lethargic** (adjective)

letter (say let-uh) noun (plural letters)

1 a piece of writing that one person sends to another person: *He got a **letter** from his cousin.* ◊ a thank-you **letter**

2 a sign in writing that represents a sound in a language: *Z is the last **letter** in the English alphabet.*

THESAURUS

A, B and C are **capital** letters (also called **upper case** letters), and a, b, and c are **small** letters (also called **lower case** letters).

letter box noun (plural letter boxes)

1 (also **mail box**) a private box outside a house or a building, or a hole in a door for putting letters through

2 (also **postbox**) a metal box in the street where you put letters that you want to send

letterhead (say let-uh-hed) noun (plural letterheads)

the name and address of a person, a company or an organisation printed at the top of their writing paper and other **stationery**

lettering (say let-uh-ring) noun (no plural)

the letters that you use to write or the letters

printed on paper or other materials: *Use colour, shape and size to design the **lettering** for your signboard.*

lettuce (say let-iss) noun (plural lettuces)

a plant with big green leaves that you eat cold in salads

leukaemia (say loo-keem-i-uh) noun (no plural)

a serious disease (**cancer**) of the blood

levee (say lev-ay, lev-ee) noun (plural levees) (geography)

1 a natural **ridge** formed along a river

2 a low wall built at the side of a river to prevent it from flooding

① **ORIGIN**: from French *levée*, feminine past participle of *lever* 'to lift'

level¹ (say lev-l) noun (plural levels)

1 the amount, size or number of something: *a low **level** of unemployment*

2 the height, position, standard, etc. of something: *The town is 500 metres above sea **level**.* ◊ a *beginners-level* isiZulu class

level² (say lev-l) adjective

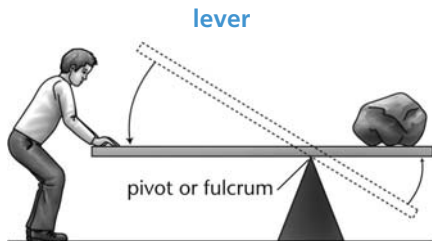
1 with no part higher than another part: *We need **level** ground to play football on.* ◊ *This shelf isn't **level**.* ◊ SYNONYM **flat**¹

2 at the same height, standard or position: *The teams are **level** with 40 points each.* ◊ *His head is **level** with her shoulder.*

lever (say lee-vuh) noun (plural levers)

1 a handle that you pull or push to make a machine work: *Pull this **lever**.*

2 a bar for lifting something heavy or opening something. You put one end under the thing you want to lift or open and push the other end down.



how a lever works

leverage (say lee-vuh-rij) noun (no plural)

1 the action of using a **lever** to lift or open something; the force that is produced when you do this

2 power or influence over other people that allows somebody to get or do what they want: *political **leverage***

Plain English

It is not necessary to use complicated words to explain something clearly. It is better to use language that most people understand. To the right are some words and phrases that are often used unnecessarily. Next to each one is a less complicated alternative.



REGISTER, COLLOQUIAL SPEECH AND SLANG

Register (formal or informal), colloquial speech (only used among speakers of a certain geographic area), and slang (very informal words used when talking, usually among a certain group of people or in a certain context), can also influence whether language is understood by the average reader. Be sure to choose the right register for your topic and audience; use colloquial speech only if the piece of writing is aimed at local readers; and use slang words only in special cases (e.g. when writing an informal email to another teenager, or a story about tsotsis).

COMPLICATED WORDS AND THEIR PLAIN ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

Complicated	Clear and simple
acquire	get
ascertain	find out
assist	help
commence	start/begin
concerning	about
endeavour	try
enquire	ask
inform	tell
magnitude	size
notify	tell
numerous	many
obtain	get
participate	join in
peruse	read
proprietor	owner
purchase	buy
regarding	about
request	ask for
require	need
residence	home/house
terminate	end
utilise	use
vicinity	area

COMPLICATED PHRASES AND THEIR PLAIN ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

Complicated	Clear and simple
at the present time	now
at this moment in time	now
because of the fact that	because
despite the fact that	although
during which time	while
each and every one	every one
in due course	soon
in excess of	more than
in order to	to
in respect of	about
in the amount of	for
in the proximity of	close to
in view of the fact that	because
prior to	before
refrain from	stop

Types of essay

Different types of essay (narrative, descriptive, persuasive/argumentative, or discussion/discursive) require different ways of writing. The table below will guide you to writing the right kind of essay according to the instruction you receive.

Types of essay and their features

Type	Features
Narrative	
Entertain and tell a story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually written in the past tense • Descriptive words: verbs, adjectives and adverbs make events more interesting • Figures of speech: similes, metaphors and alliteration used to sharpen descriptions • Shorter sentences build up tension • Opening paragraph should engage the reader's interest and set the scene • Final paragraph should give the reader a sense that the story is finished • Direct speech to show character
Descriptive	
Describe something in a detailed and vivid way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually written in present or past tense • Descriptive words used to give detailed and vivid pictures • Appeal to senses: see, touch, smell, taste and hearing • Figures of speech, especially similes, metaphors, alliteration and onomatopoeia • Descriptive words: adjectives and adverbs
Persuasive/argumentative	
Argue a case for a particular point of view/convince the reader to agree with a particular point of view	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subjective, so usually written mainly in first person • Present simple tense for stating facts • Appropriate connectives (linking words) used to introduce reasons for argument, to show progression of argument, and to strengthen argument • Emotive and figurative language is used, e.g. rhetorical questions • Abstract nouns to refer to issues being argued, e.g. freedom, sexism • Modal verbs used to express certainty, probability and possibility
Discussion/discursive	
Present a balanced view or both sides of an argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal language • Present simple tense for stating objective viewpoints • Third person mostly used for stating objective viewpoints or arguments • Common nouns used to indicate general participants • Appropriate connectives (linking words) are used to introduce reasons for arguments, the progression of arguments, to strengthen arguments and to introduce contrasting ideas • Antonyms used to refer to opposing ideas • Modal verbs used to express certainty, probability and possibility

Spelling

Some common spelling mistakes

(Some of them have mnemonics to help you remember the rule)

- successful NOT ~~succesful~~, ~~successfull~~
- beautiful NOT ~~beautifull~~
- receive NOT recieve: 'i' before 'e' except after 'c'
- loose/lose: lose has lost its second 'o'
- desert/dessert: there isn't enough rain to support two s's in the desert
- stationary/stationery: the trAin is stationAry at the station; you buy pEnS from a stationEry shop

Words that sound the same (homophones)

Some words sound the same but they are written differently. You will need to learn the spelling of these words and when to use each spelling. E.g. *ate/eight, blue/blew, flour/flower, l/eye, knew/new, know/no, meet/meat, peace/piece, reed/read*. Look up the words you are not sure about in your dictionary and note their meanings in your personal dictionary (page 722).

The basic rules for spelling are included on the following pages:

- **Nouns:** plurals – SP4
- **Verbs:** verb tenses – SP5–6
- **Adjectives:** comparatives and superlatives – SP8

However, in English there are many exceptions to the rules. They are called **irregular**. Below are some you will come across often.

Irregular plurals

How the plural is made	Singular	Plural
Adding a different ending	child	child ren
	ox	ox en
Changing <i>-f/fe</i> to <i>-ves</i>	calf	cal ves
	knife	kn ives
Changing <i>-is</i> to <i>-es</i>	crisis	cr ises
Changing <i>-ix</i> to <i>-ces</i> or <i>-xes</i>	index	ind ices (or indexes)
Changing <i>-o</i> to <i>-oes</i>	potato	potat oes
Changing <i>-on</i> to <i>-a</i>	criterion	criter ia
Changing <i>-um</i> to <i>-a</i>	curriculum	curricul a
Changing <i>-us</i> to <i>-i</i> (or <i>-es</i>)	hippopotamus	hippopotam i (or hippopotamuses)
Changing form	goose	ge ese
	die	d ice
	mouse	m ice
	person	pe ople
	tooth	te eth
Keeping same spelling as singular form (or adding <i>-es</i>)	fish	fish (or fish es)

Irregular verb forms

In English, some verbs are **irregular**. This means that their past and perfect forms (which use the past participle) are different. Look in your dictionary for the correct past tense and past participle forms of these verbs, and note them in your personal dictionary (page 722).

arise	crochet	hang	make	shine	sting
awake	cut	have	manufacture	shoot	strike
be (is, are)*	deal	hear	mean	show	swear
bear	dig	hide	meet	shrink	sweep
beat	do	hit	mend	shut	swim
become	draw	hold	overcome	sing	swing
begin	dream	hop	pay	sink	take
bend	drink	hurt	perfect	sit	teach
bet	drive	keep	prove	sleep	tear
bind	eat	knot	put	slide	tell
bite	fall	know	quit	smell	think
bleed	feed	label	read	sow	throw
blow	feel	lay	ride	speak	try
break	fight	lead	ring	spell	understand
breed	find	lean	rise	spend	undertake
bring	flee	leap	run	spill	undo
build	fly	learn	saw	spin	upset
burn	forecast	leave	say	split	wake
burst	forget	lend	see	spoil	wear
buy	forgive	let	seek	spread	weave
catch	get	lie	sell	spring	weed
choose	give	light	send	stand	win
come	go	limit	sew	steal	wind
cost	grow	lose	shake	stick	write

* The verb *to be* is very common but irregular:

Present	Past	Future
I am tired.	I was tired.	I will/shall be tired.
You are tired.	You were tired.	You will be tired.
She/He/It is tired.	He/She/It was tired.	He/She/It will be tired.
We are tired.	We were tired.	We will/shall be tired.
They are tired.	They were tired.	They will be tired.

Note: This verb is often contracted or shortened, for example: You're tired; She's tired; We aren't tired; They weren't tired; We'll be tired.

ELECTRONIC SPELLCHECKER

If you are using a computer to type up your homework or school projects, you can use an **electronic spellchecker** to find spelling errors and correct them. Once you have uploaded the spellchecker program, you can usually click on 'Review' in the toolbar at the top of your computer screen and select 'Language'. Following the prompts, set your language to the one you want, e.g. 'South African English', and then click on 'ABC' in the toolbar to start. The spellchecker will indicate each potential error and you can hit the 'Ignore' or 'Change' button to create an error-free document. Be sure to note the errors in your personal dictionary (page 722) so you don't make them again in future!