

abroad. A good student should always be curious to learn. **2** [B; F3] too eager to know or learn, esp about what does not concern one; having or showing too much interest in other people's affairs. *He was so curious to know what was in the letter that he opened it, even though it was addressed to his father. The only disadvantage of living in this street is the curious neighbours.* **in-** [neg] **-ly** [adv]: *Curiously (enough), he seemed to know that already.*

**inquiring** [B] which shows an interest in knowing about things; asking for information: *He has an inquiring mind.* **-ly** [adv]: *She looked at him inquiringly.*

**inquisitive** [B] (of people and their acts) of a type which tries to find out (too many) details about things and people: *Don't be inquisitive about her private life, she doesn't like it if you ask too many questions.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

**nosy**, sometimes **nosey** infml & usu deprec [Wal; B] showing too much interest in other people's affairs: *What does he say in the letter?—Don't be so nosy!* **-sily** [adv] **-siness** [U]

## F228 nouns : interest and excitement

**interest** **1** [U; S; (in)] the condition of being interested, wanting to know, see, learn, do, etc: *He shows (a) great interest in this subject.* **2** [C] an example of this: *What are your interests in life? This has always been one of her many interests.*

**excitement** **1** [U] the condition of being excited: *He has a weak heart and should avoid all excitement.* **2** [C] an exciting event: *Life will seem very quiet after the excitements of our holiday.*

**sensation** [C] **1** (a cause of) a state of excited interest: *The new discovery was caused a great sensation everywhere.* **2** excitement: *He enjoyed the new sensation of flying in an aeroplane.*

**thrill** [C] a sudden very strong feeling of joy, fear, excitement, pleasure, etc, that seems to flow round the body like a wave: *It gave me quite a thrill to meet the president. He enjoys the thrill of hunting.*

**exhilaration** [U] the state of being exhilarated, very excited and happy: *Her exhilaration showed on her face.*

**frenzy** [U; S (of)] a state of great feeling, esp of excitement or fear, etc, so that one cannot think, act, etc properly: *She was in a frenzy (of excitement) when she heard the news.*

**keenness** [U] the state of being keen: *His keenness for swimming is well-known.*

**eagerness** [U] the state of being eager: *Her eyes showed her eagerness.*

**enthusiasm** [C; U; (for, about)] a strong feeling of interest (and admiration): *I am full of enthusiasm for this book. I don't feel much enthusiasm about that book. Among his many enthusiasms is a great fondness for Eastern music.* **enthusiast** [C] a person who is habitu-

ally full of enthusiasm (about something): *He's a chess enthusiast. They are enthusiasts for/about cycling.*

**zeal** [U] fml eagerness; keenness: *He shows great zeal for knowledge.*

**avidity** [U] esp fml & lit great desire; eagerness; keenness

**ardour** BrE, **ardor** AmE [U; (C)] esp lit, emph & pomp a strong burning feeling, due to something pleasing; excitement; eagerness: *In the ardour of love he said he would do anything for her. His political ardour led him into many arguments.*

## F229 nouns : curiosity

**curiosity** [U. U3; S. S3] the desire to know or learn: *The boy burned with (a) curiosity to know what was in the letter addressed to his mother. Curiosity caused the girl to open the door, even though it was clearly marked 'private'.*

**inquisitiveness** [U] the state of being inquisitive: *Her inquisitiveness made people dislike her; she was always asking questions about what they were doing.*

## F230 verbs & nouns : boring and frustrating

**bore** **1** [Wv4; T1; I0] to make (someone) tired or uninterested, esp by continual dull talk: *The teacher bored his students. The lesson was boring, and the students were bored (by it).* **2** [C] a person who causes others to lose interest in him or her, esp by continual dull talk: *He really is a bore.* **3** [S] esp BrE infml something which is rather unpleasant: *It's a bore having to go out again on a cold night like this.*

**frustrate** [T1] **1** [Wv4] to cause (someone) to have feelings of annoyed disappointment: *This is really frustrating! I feel frustrated; I can't go after all!* **2** to prevent the fulfilment of or defeat (someone or someone's effort, hopes, etc): *The bad weather frustrated all our hopes of going out. In his attempts to escape the prisoner was frustrated by a guard.*

## F231 adjectives : boring and frustrating [B]

**boring** causing one to be bored: *What a boring film/book! The talk was very long, dull, and boring.* **-ly** [adv]

**frustrating** causing one to feel frustrated: *It's a frustrating experience going to catch a plane/train and then finding it has been held up (= made late).* **-ly** [adv]

**tiresome** boring and annoying; causing one to feel bored and tired: *What a tiresome man he is/day it has been!* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

**tedious** tiring and boring: *What a tedious lecture!* -ly [adv]  
**monotonous** boring, because always the same: *The teacher's lessons/the school dinners were monotonous.* -ly [adv]  
**apathetic** without feeling or interest; lacking the desire to do anything: *He is apathetic about the job; it doesn't interest him.* -ally [adv Wa4]

## F232 nouns : boring and frustrating

**boredom** [U] the condition of being bored: *He nearly died of boredom; he had nothing to do. She suffers from boredom because she has nothing to do.*  
**frustration** 1 [U] the condition of being frustrated: *Frustration can make people ill.* 2 [C] something that frustrates: *All these frustrations are making him ill.*  
**tedium** [U] the condition or instance of being tedious  
**monotony** [U] the condition of being monotonous: *The monotony of her existence made her want to break away (= go and do something new).*  
**apathy** [U] lack or feeling of interest in something or everything; lack of desire or ability to act in any way: *He was sunk in apathy after his failure.*

## F233 adjectives : excitable and tense [B]

**excitable** (of a person or animal) easily excited: *These dogs are very excitable.* -bly [adv Wv3]  
**-bility** [U]  
**tense** [Wa1] not calm or relaxed: *The city seems tense tonight, as if something is going to happen. She is tense because of tomorrow's examinations.* -ly [adv] -ness [U]

## F234 adjectives : sensitive and hysterical [B]

**sensitive** 1 (too) quick to show or feel the effect of a force or of the presence of something: *She is sensitive to cold/pain. He has sensitive skin. This is light-sensitive photographic paper.* 2 (of an apparatus) measuring exactly: *This is a sensitive pair of scales.* 3 showing delicate feelings or judgment: *He made a sensitive study of the racial problem.* 4 sometimes deprec (of a person) easily hurt in the feelings, esp of self-respect: *She is a sensitive child who shouldn't be scolded too severely. She was sensitive about being tall and walked with her head bent down. Don't be so sensitive! I meant no harm in what I said.* in- [neg] -ly [adv] **sensitivity** also **sensitiveness**, **sensibility** [U] the quality, state, or degree of being sensitive in- [neg] **sensitize**, -ise [Wv5; T1] to make sensitive: *This is sensitized photographic film.*

**highly-strung** (of persons, animals) very tense by nature; easily excited: *He is a highly-strung child; please don't upset him.*

**overwrought** too nervous and excited: *She is overwrought after all these exciting happenings.*  
**worked up** not fml very excited; showing strong feelings, esp when worried (esp in the phr **get worked up**): *That child gets worked up very easily, and starts crying.*

**hysterical** 1 (of people) in a state of hysteria: *The shock of the accident made her hysterical.* 2 (of feelings) expressed wildly, in an uncontrolled manner: *He gave way to sudden hysterical anger.* -ally [adv Wa4]

## F235 nouns : tension and hysteria

[ALSO ⇒ B87]

**tension** 1 [U] the state or condition of being tense: *There was a lot of tension in the room/lair last night, at the meeting. Tension made her ill.* 2 [C] an example of this: *Tensions can make people ill.*

**stress** esp emot 1 [U] tension and what it does to people: *Stress made her ill. She has been under a lot of stress lately.* 2 [C] an example of this: *The stresses and strains of work made him ill.*

**suspense** [U] a state of uncertain expectation (often in the phr **keep someone in suspense**): *We waited for the decision and the suspense was terrible. He wouldn't tell them, but kept them in suspense all day.*

**hysteria** [U] 1 a condition of nervous excitement in which the person laughs and cries uncontrollably 2 wild excitement: *The people were in a state of hysteria.*

**hysterics** [P] attacks of hysteria: *She went into hysterics when she heard what had happened.*

## F236 nouns : surprise and astonishment

**surprise** 1 [U] the feeling caused by an unexpected thing happening: *Her surprise showed on her face.* 2 [C] an unexpected event: *I don't like surprises. What a nice/nasty surprise! She gave a surprise party.* 3 [(by) U; A] the act of coming on (someone, often an enemy) unprepared: *They took the animals by surprise. Their visit took us by surprise. The soldiers made a surprise attack on the town.*

**wonder** 1 [U] a feeling of strangeness, surprise, etc. usu combined with admiration and the wish to find out about the thing which excites this feeling: *She was filled with wonder at what she saw.* 2 [C] a wonderful act or a producer of such an act: *We saw many wonders in that place. He is a wonder, the way he arranges everything all alone.* 3 [C] a wonderfully-made object: *The Temple of Diana was one of the Seven Wonders of the World in ancient times. it's a wonder (that) it's surprising (that): It's a*



*wonder that you remembered me after all these years!*

**astonishment** [U] great surprise; wonder: *His astonishment at finding us there was very clear. To my astonishment he was there before us.*

**amazement** [U] great surprise; wonder: *To my amazement I came first in the competition. She was filled with amazement at the story. I listened in complete amazement.*

## F237 verbs : surprising and astonishing [Wv5;T1]

**surprise** 1 to cause surprise to: *The taste surprised him; it was not as he'd imagined it. He was surprised to see the change in her. She had a surprised look on her face.* 2 to shock or cause to disbelieve: *Your behaviour surprises me. I'm surprised at you!* 3 to come on or attack when someone or something is unprepared: *They surprised us with a visit. The soldiers surprised their enemies.* -singly [adv]

**astonish** [often pass] to produce surprise or wonder in (someone): *We were astonished to hear what had happened. It astonishes me to hear that. He gave her an astonished look.* -ingly [adv]

**startle** to cause to jump or be quickly surprised; give an unexpected slight shock to: *You startled me; I didn't hear you come in! It was startling to see how much older he looked.* -ingly [adv] *She was a startlingly beautiful girl.*

**astound** [often pass] to surprise and shock: *He was astounded when he heard he had won the prize.* -ingly [adv]

**amaze** to fill with great surprise; cause wonder in: *Your knowledge amazes me. I was amazed by your performance. It amazed me to hear that you were leaving.* -singly [adv]

**stun** to surprise or shock into helplessness: *He was stunned by the unfairness of their judgment.* -stunningly [adv]

**take aback** [v adv often pass] to surprise and confuse (someone): *The news of the election defeat took the government aback. The old lady was quite taken aback by the priest's rudeness.*

**flabbergast** [usu pass (at or by)] infml to surprise very much: *She was quite flabbergasted at such a bold suggestion.*

**dumbfound** to make unable to speak, because of wonder, surprise, or lack of understanding: *The strange news completely dumbfounded us.*

## F238 verbs : puzzling and wondering

**puzzle** [I0 (over); T1] to (cause to) think hard, perhaps not being able to find an answer, explanation, etc: *Her story puzzles me; I find it hard to believe/understand. I'm puzzled by what she said. He has been puzzling over her story for weeks.* **puzzlement** [U] the state of being puzzled

**mystify** [T1] to cause (someone) to be puzzled:

*His strange behaviour mystifies me.* **mystification** [U] the state of being mystified

**wonder** 1 [T6a.b; (I0)] to ask oneself: *He wondered why she did that. 'Why did she do that?' he wondered.* 2 [I0; T6a.b] to feel interested, curious, etc: *She was wondering about him and how he got all that money.* 3 [T5a; I0 (at)] to be surprised: *I don't wonder at their happiness; I'd be happy too if I was them. Do you seriously wonder that she didn't help him?* 4 [T6a] (in asking politely): *I wonder whether I could come?*

## F239 nouns : puzzling and wondering

**puzzle** [C] 1 something that is difficult to understand: *His strange behaviour is a complete puzzle to me.* 2 something which tests the mind and is done as an amusement: *The children like doing puzzles. I bought them a puzzle book.*

**mystery** 1 [C] something that puzzles, is difficult or impossible to explain, understand, etc: *The whole matter is a complete mystery to me. There are many mysteries in life. He enjoys reading mystery stories.* 2 [U] the condition of being strange, difficult to explain, understand, etc: *There was a look of mystery about her.* **mysterious** [B] strange; difficult to explain or understand: *His death was very mysterious. A mysterious stranger came to the town.* -ly [adv]

**enigma** [C] fml or lit 1 a puzzle or mystery 2 a statement that is meant to be difficult to understand **enigmatic** [B] strange and difficult to understand -ally [adv Wa4]

**marvel** [C] something very surprising, interesting and unusual, esp that one does not see often or expect to happen, or finds difficult to understand: *Television is one of the marvels of modern life. The way he spoke in seven languages one after the other was a marvel to everybody.* **marvellous** [B] esp lit of or like a marvel: *The story was full of marvellous happenings.* -ly [adv]

**miracle** [C] a happening which cannot (easily) be explained naturally and is thought to be caused by a god or special power: *Many people believe that Jesus Christ performed miracles, such as bringing the dead back to life. The doctor used a new miracle drug to save the man's life.* **miraculous** [B] of, concerning, or like a miracle; strange and wonderful: *The way he climbed the mountain was quite miraculous; no one else could have done it that way.* -ly [adv]

**wonder** 1 [C] something or someone that causes surprise, interest, admiration, etc: *She does everything well; what a wonder she is!* 2 [U] a feeling of surprise, interest, admiration, etc: *They looked at the thing in the sky with wonder; they had never seen anything so strange before.* (it's) **no wonder** it is no surprise that: *No wonder you can't sleep when you eat so much before going to bed.*

**prodigy** [C] someone or something that is very

unusual or clever and causes puzzlement, wonder, etc: *A child who can play the piano at the age of four is a prodigy.*

## Actions of the face related to feelings

### F240 nouns : smiling and laughing [C]

**smile** an expression of the face with the mouth turned up at the ends and the eyes bright, that usu expresses amusement, happiness, approval, or sometimes bitter feelings: *She has a beautiful smile. He put on an unpleasant fixed smile. The new father wore a proud smile. all smiles very happy-looking: The winner was all smiles as he heard the results of the voting.*

**grin** a smile which shows the teeth; a smile which seems almost to be laughing, esp a very wide smile, which may sometimes also be an expression of suffering: *He didn't understand; he just stood there with a silly grin on his face.*

**leer** an unpleasant smile or sideways look expressing cruel enjoyment, rudeness, or thoughts of sex

**laugh 1** the act or sound of laughing **2** an expression of amusement, happiness, careless disrespect, etc through laughing **3** *infrm* something done for a joke or amusement: *He just did it for a laugh; he meant no harm.*

**guffaw** a laugh which is loud and perhaps rude

**giggle** a form of laughing which is repeated in an uncontrollable manner, esp by young girls: *The girls went into a fit of (the) giggles; they had the giggles for some time after that. do something for a giggle* *infrm BrE* to do something for a joke, not for serious reasons

**chuckle** a quiet laugh: *He gave a chuckle as he read her letter.*

### F241 verbs : smiling and laughing

**smile 1** [I0; (T1)] to have or make (a smile): *She smiled at me; how wonderful! It's rare to see him smile. He smiled his most welcoming smile.*

**2** [L9] to have a feeling which a smile expresses; consider something slightly funny or silly: *He smiled to think what a fool he'd been. 3 [I0 (on)] (*fig*) to act or look favourably: *The weather smiled on us; it was a fine day. 4* [T1] to express with a smile: *She smiled a greeting. smilingly* [adv]*

**grin** [I0] to make a grin: *They grinned with pleasure when I gave them the sweets. He grinned from ear to ear at the good news. You don't like the news?—Well, you must just grin and bear it (=suffer it without complaint).*

**leer** [I0] to look with a leer **-ingly** [adv]

**laugh 1** [I0] to express amusement, happiness, careless disrespect, etc by making explosive

sounds with the voice, usu while smiling: *Stop laughing (at me)! 2 [L9] to experience the feeling for which this is the expression: *He laughed silently to himself. 3 [X9] to bring, put, drive, etc with laughing: *They laughed her out of her anxiety. 4* [X7] to cause (oneself) to become by laughing: *He laughed himself sick. 5* [T1] to express with a laugh: *She laughed her disrespect. -ingly* [adv] **laughter** [U] *genl* laughing: *He heard the sound of laughter.***

**guffaw** [I0] to laugh loudly and perhaps rudely **giggle 1** [I0] to make giggles: *She thought it was funny and giggled uncontrollably. 2 [T1] to express with giggles: *She giggled her amusement.**

**chuckle** [I0] to laugh quietly to oneself: *I could hear him chuckling to himself as he read that funny article.*

### F242 verbs : frowning and scowling

**frown 1** [I0] to draw the hair-covered parts above the eyes (**the eyebrows**) together in anger or effort, to show disapproval, or to protect the eyes against strong light, causing lines to appear on the forehead: *She frowned when the sun got in her eyes. 'The boys are late,' he said, frowning anxiously at the clock. The teacher frowned at the noisy class. 2 [T1] to express by doing this: *The teacher frowned his disapproval at the noisy class. 3* [I0] (*fig*) (of a thing) to have a dangerous or frightening appearance when seen from below: *The mountains frowned down on the plains.**

**scowl 1** [I0 (at)] to make an angry or threatening expression; to frown angrily: *The teacher scowled at his noisy class. What a scowling face you have! 2 [T1] to express in this way: *He scowled his displeasure.**

**grimace** [I0] to make an expression of pain, annoyance, etc which makes the face look unnaturally twisted: *He grimaced when he tasted the coffee without sugar in it. She grimaced at the sight of all the work.*

**snarl 1** [I0] (of an animal) to make a low angry sound while showing the teeth **2** [I0; T1] (of a person) to speak or say in an angry, bad-tempered way: *'Get out of here!' he snarled.*

### F243 nouns : frowning and scowling [C]

**frown** an act of frowning: *She had a frown on her face because the sun was very strong/because she was angry.*

**scowl** an angry, threatening expression; an angry frown: *He had a scowl on his face as he faced his enemy.*

**grimace** an act of grimacing: *She made a grimace at the mention of all the work.*

**snarl** an act of snarling: *He answered with a snarl. He could hear the snarls of animals.*

## F244 verbs : mocking and sneering

**mock** 1 [Wv4;T1;I0 (at)] to laugh at (someone or something) when it is wrong to do so; speak or act with regard to (someone or something) as if one is not serious, esp when one should be: *The Roman soldiers mocked Christ by calling him king. He had no religious beliefs, and he went to church only to mock. The pupil did his best, and the teacher was wrong to mock at his efforts, however bad they were. What made him angry wasn't losing the game but the mocking laughter of the man who'd beaten him.* 2 [T1] to copy (something) in such a way that the person or thing copied is laughed at: *He made all the other boys laugh by mocking the way the teacher spoke and walked.* 3 [T1] fml to cause (the efforts, skill, strength, etc of other people) to be useless or have no effect, success, etc: *For five years that small country has mocked the strength of the powerful nation with which it is at war.* -ingly [adv] **make mock of** fml, lit & pomp to mock: *Don't make mock of him!*

**ridicule** [T1] to laugh unkindly at; make unkind fun of: *They all ridiculed the idea.*

**caricature** [T1] to ridicule (someone) by a acting like him or her in a way intended to amuse: *He made his friends laugh by caricaturing their teacher.* b making a drawing which makes that person seem more odd, noticeable, or amusing than he or she really is

**scoff** [I0 (at)] to speak or act disrespectfully; to laugh at or ridicule: *She came to the meeting to scoff but stayed to learn. As a young man he scoffed at religion.* -ingly [adv]

**jeer** 1 [T1 (at)] to laugh rudely at: *The crowd jeered (at) the prisoners.* 2 [I0] to laugh rudely: *As the prisoners passed, the crowd jeered.* -ingly [adv]

**sneer** [I0] 1 to express proud dislike by a kind of usu one-sided smile 2 [(at)] to act proudly; treat something as if unworthy of serious notice: *That is a piece of work not to be sneered at. She sneers at all opinions but her own.*

## F245 nouns : mocking and sneering

**mockery** 1 [U] the act or action of laughing at something that should not be laughed at or of treating something serious as if it is not: *He finished his speech, in spite of the noisy mockery of his listeners.* 2 [C usu sing] a person or thing that is foolish, shameful and/or worthy of being laughed at: *The teacher is so foolish, and does his work so badly, that he's (become) a mockery to the whole school.* 3 [S] something untrue or pretended, that is unworthy of any respect or serious consideration: *The medical examination was a mockery; the doctor hardly looked at the child.* 4 [C often pl] an act of mocking **hold someone or something up to mockery** to cause or attempt to cause someone or something to appear foolish: *This book*

*holds many of our present-day politicians up to mockery. make a mockery of* 1 to cause to be done without useful result: *His failure made a mockery of the teacher's great efforts to help him.* 2 to prove to be untrue or pretended: *His evil life makes a mockery of his claims to be a holy man.*

**ridicule** [U] unkind laughter; the condition of being made fun of: *His behaviour deserves ridicule rather than blame. hold someone up to ridicule* to invite people to laugh unkindly at someone: *It's not fair to hold me up to ridicule because I can't spell!* **lay oneself open to ridicule** to do things that will make people laugh at one **ridiculous** [B] silly; deserving ridicule: *She looks ridiculous in those tight trousers. It would be (quite) ridiculous to spend all their money.* -ly [adv]

**scoff** 1 [C usu pl] a scoffing remark: *He didn't enjoy listening to the scoffs of the crowd.* 2 [S] an object of scoffing: *His ideas were the scoff of the scientific world.*

**jeer** [C] a jeering remark or noise: *He has known praise and hatred, and has gone from cheers to jeers.*

**sneer** [C] a sneering expression of the face, way of speaking, or remark: *He greeted the idea with a sneer.*

## F246 nouns : groans and growls [C]

**groan** 1 a rather loud sound of suffering, worry, or disapproval which is made in a deep voice: *There were loud groans when they heard the bad news.* 2 a sound caused by the movement of wood or metal parts: *The old chair gave a groan when the woman sat down in it.*

**moan** 1 a low sound of pain, grief, or suffering: *From time to time, during the night, there was a moan (of pain) from the sick man. Her tears and moans were pitiful, as she sat holding her dead baby in her hands.* 2 (fig) sounds that give the idea of sadness or suffering: *The moan of the wind in the trees made her feel afraid.*

**howl** a long loud cry, as in pain, anger, etc, esp that made by such animals as wolves and dogs

**growl** a deep rough sound in the throat to show anger or a warning: *He answered her with a growl (of anger).* (fig) *They heard the growl of distant guns/thunder.*

## F247 verbs : groaning and growling

**groan** 1 [I0] to make a groan: *The old man who had been in the accident lay groaning beside the road. The floorboards groaned as he crossed the room.* (fig) *The table groaned with food.* 2 [T1 (out)] to say in a low voice which seems about to groan: *He groaned out the story of how his friends had been killed.* 3 [I0] (fig) to suffer: *The people groaned under the heavy taxes. My heart groaned at the thought of the work.*

**moan** 1 [I0] to make a moan or moans: *The sick child moaned a little, and then fell asleep. The wind moaned round the house all night; it wasn't a cheerful sound.* 2 [T1 (out)] to express with moans: *The prisoner moaned (out) a prayer for help.* 3 [I0] derog to complain; to speak in a complaining voice: *Stop moaning; you really have nothing to complain about. He's always moaning about the unjust way in which he thinks he's been treated.*

**howl** 1 [I0] to make howls: *The dogs howled all night. The wind howled in the trees. We howled with laughter.* 2 [T1 (out)] to say or express with a howl: *He howled (out) my name.* 3 to weep loudly

**growl** 1 [I0] (usu of animals) to make a growl: *The dog growled at the postman.* 2 [I0] (of things) to make a sound like this: *The guns were growling in the distance.* 3 [T1 (out)] to express in a voice which seems to growl: *When he came late, he growled (out) an excuse.*

## F248 verbs, etc : crying and weeping

**cry** 1 [I0; (T1)] to produce tears from the eyes with or without sounds expressing grief, sorrow, sadness, etc: *She cried with sadness when she heard news of her friend's death. The little girl was crying because she was lost. When she knew her baby was safe the mother cried for joy. Paul was crying for some more cake (= because he wanted some more cake). On the day of mother's death my father cried real tears for the first time in his life.* 2 [I0 (out)] to make loud sounds expressing fear, sadness, or some other feeling: *The baby cried from hunger. He cried out in pain.*

**burst into tears** to start crying: *She burst into tears when she heard the bad news.*

**in tears** crying: *She was in tears because of what happened.*

**weep** 1 [T1; I0] esp fml & lit to cry: *He lost control of his feelings and began to weep. (fig) she wept bitter tears.* 2 [X7, 9] to put (oneself) into a certain state by weeping: *She wept herself silly (= into an over-excited state).* 3 [I0] to lose liquid: *His wound began to weep.*

**sob** 1 [I0] to breathe while weeping in sudden short bursts making a sound in the throat: *A little girl was sitting and sobbing in the corner.* 2 [T1 (out)] to say or tell by weeping: *'It can't be true!' he sobbed. He sobbed out the whole sad story.* 3 [X9] to bring by weeping: *She sobbed herself to sleep.* 4 [C] an uncontrolled short breath while weeping; a sound of sobbing: *Hearing her sobs, he asked what the matter was.*

## F249 adjectives, etc : crying and weeping [B]

**tearful** crying: *A tearful young girl stood in the doorway.* -lly [adv]: *She told him tearfully what had happened.*

**weepy** [W1] infml 1 tending to cry, or crying often: *She isn't very well and is feeling weepy.* 2 (of a story, film, etc) as if intended to make one sad -pily [adv] -piness [U]

## Senses and sensations

### F260 verbs : touching, feeling, and sensing

**touch** 1 [I0; T1] to be not separated (from): *Stand so that your shoulders are touching. The branches hung down and touched the water.*

2 [I0; T1] to feel with a part of the body, esp the hands or fingers: *Don't touch! Visitors are requested not to touch the paintings.* 3 [T1] to strike lightly or quietly with the hand, finger, etc: press with slight force: *You only need to touch the bell for it to ring.* 4 [T1] to handle or have: *Don't touch anything until the police come. He swore he'd never touch a drink again.* 5 [T1] to eat or drink a little of: *You haven't touched your food; I hope you're not ill.* 6 [T1 usu neg] (fig) to compare with; be equal to: *Your work will never touch her standard.* 7 [T1] (esp of a ship) to reach (esp land): *We touched land after three months at sea.* 8 [Wv4; T1] (fig) to cause (someone or his heart) to feel pity, sympathy, etc: *His sad story so touched my heart that I really wept.* 9 [X9 usu pass] to mark slightly with colour: *She wore a blue dress touched with red.*

**feel** [T1] to touch, handle, etc, esp with the fingers, esp for a purpose: *She felt the cloth to see how soft it was. The dog felt the substance with its nose.*

**finger** [T1] to touch with the fingers: *She fingered the cloth to see what it was like.*

**paw** [T1] 1 to touch, esp with a paw or the hand in the shape of a paw 2 deprec to touch too much: *'Stop pawing me!' she told him.*

**tap** [T1; I0 (on)] to touch quickly and lightly: *He tapped me on the shoulder. She tapped on the door.*

**sense** [T1] to be aware of through the senses, esp by touching: *She sensed his anger although he was not looking at her. It is possible to sense heat through your clothes.*

**handle** [T1] to touch or feel with the hands: *'Please do not handle the goods,' said the shop-keeper.*

### F261 nouns : touching and sensing

[ALSO ⇒ F1]

**touch** 1 [U] that sense by which a material object is felt and by which it is known to be hard, smooth, rough, etc 2 [C] the effect caused by touching something; way something feels: *the silky touch of soft smooth cloth* 3 [C] an act of touching: *She felt the touch of his*



*hand.* **4** [C] a way of touching: *He has a light touch.* **5** [S] (*fig*) a slight attack, as of an illness: *She has a touch of cold/fever.* **6** [C] a slight stroke or blow: *It was just a touch, nothing more.* **7** [C] an addition or detail that improves or completes something; slight added effort in finishing any piece of work: *That was a nice touch! I'm just putting the finishing touches to (= adding the last details to) the cake.* **8** [S9] a special ability to do something needing skill, esp artistic work: *Your recent work's been bad. I hope you're not losing your touch.* **9** [C] a person's particular way of doing things: *The wording of this letter bears her touch but is not written in her handwriting.* **10** [C] (*fig*) a slight amount of some quality or substance: *This soup could do with a touch more salt. She spoke with a touch of disrespect in her voice.* **in/out of touch (with)** **1** regularly/not regularly exchanging news and information: *Are you still in touch with your parents? Please write; it would be nice to keep in touch.* **2** having/not having information about something: *I would like to go back to teaching but I'm out of touch with my subject now.* **lose touch** to stop exchanging news and information: *If we write regularly we won't lose touch.* **to the touch** when felt: *It's cold to the touch.* **touch and go** **1** a delicate state of affairs; uncertain: *It was touch and go whether we'd win or not.* **2** a narrow escape: *I was very lucky. It was touch and go.*

**contact** **1** [U] the condition of meeting, touching, or coming together with: *body contact* **2** [U] relationship; connection: *The tribe had no contact with the outside world for centuries. Have you been in contact with your sister recently? That poor madman has lost all contact with reality.* **3** [C] *infml* a social, professional, or business connection; a person one knows in a position to be of help to one: *Her contacts in the government warned her that she ought to leave the country.* **make contact** to get in touch, esp after much effort: *Our generals have made contact with the enemy.*

**tap** [C] (the sound of) a quick light touch: *I felt a tap on the shoulder. There was a tap on the door.*

**senses** **1** [(the) P] the five natural powers (sight, hearing, feeling, tasting, and smelling) which give a person or animal information about the outside world: *Food and wine are pleasures of the senses.* **2** [B] one's powers of (reasonable) thinking: *Are you mad? Have you taken leave of/lost your senses? Are you out of your senses? Perhaps losing his job will bring this lazy boy to his senses. She felt faint in the hot room, but the fresh air made her come to her senses again.* **sensational** [Wa5;B] *tech* of or relating to the senses

## F262 adjectives : touching and sensing [B]

**sensory** [Wa5] of, from, or concerning the bod-

ily senses and their use: *Sensory information is carried to the brain by sensory nerves.*

**sensual** **1** *lit & usu deprec* interested in, related to, or giving pleasure to one's own body, such as by sex, food, and drink: *He enjoys sensual things.* **2** [Wa5] of or seen, felt, etc by the senses **-lly** [adv] **-ity** [U]

**sensuous** *lit* being, of, concerning, causing, interested in, etc feelings, esp of pleasure, by the senses: *The cat stretched itself with sensuous pleasure.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

**tactile** [Wa5] that can be felt by touch; experienced by touch: *It was a tactile sensation.*

**contiguous** [Wa5 (to, with)] *tech & fml* **1** touching; next (to); having a common border: *England is the only country contiguous to/w/with Wales.* **2** next or near in time or order: *Were these events contiguous?* **-ly** [adv]

**tangible** [Wa5] **1** that can be felt by touch **2** clear and certain; real; not imaginary: *There are no tangible reasons for thinking him guilty.* **-in** [neg] **-bly** [adv Wa3] **-bility** [U]

**palpable** [Wa2] that can be touched or felt; easily and clearly known by the senses or the mind: *He told us a palpable lie. The silence in the house was almost palpable.* **-im** [neg] **-bly** [adv Wa3]

**numb** [Wa1] not able to feel anything (or to move): *He felt numb with cold/fear.* **-ly** [adv]: *She listened numbly to the bad news.* **-ness** [U]

**audible** *tech* able to be heard: *The sounds were clearly audible.* **-in** [neg] **-bility** [U]

**auditory** [Wa5] *tech* of, by, or for hearing: *She had auditory difficulties for which an ear operation was necessary. The animal had damaged auditory apparatus.*

## F263 verbs : seeing and looking

**see** **1** [Wv6;I0] to use the eyes; have or use the power of sight: *See! Here comes the train. It was so dark he could hardly see (to do his work). He doesn't see very well in his right eye. She claims to see into the future (= know what is to happen).* **2** [Wv6;T1, 5a, 6a; V2, 3 (*fml & only pass*), 4, 8] to look at; get sight of; notice, examine, or recognize by looking: *I looked for her but I couldn't see her in the crowd. I saw the train come/coming into the station. Can you see what's going on over there? Let me see your ticket, please. (fml) The prisoner was seen to take the money. I could see (that) my friend needed my help. I saw the whole accident with my own eyes. I saw the man knocked down and the driver driving away.* **3** [Wv6;I0;T1, 5a, b, 6a] to understand or recognize: *Do you see what I mean?—Yes, now I see. I see in the paper (that) the government lost a vote in Parliament. Try to see the matter my way. When seen in the light of your arguments, the question is simple.* **4** [I0; T6a, b] to (try to) find out or determine: *Will you see if you can repair my car? I'll see what I can do/see what the trouble is. I'm not sure if I can lend you that much money; I'll have*

to see. **5** [Wv6;T5a] to make sure; take care: *See that you're ready at 8 o'clock. I promise to see that the job is done on time.* **6** [Wv6;T1.4; V4.8] *not fml* to form a picture in the mind of; imagine: *I can't see (myself) lending her money; can you see her ever paying it back? I can see a great future for you in music. Can you see him bent over a desk studying? I admit it's hard to see.* **7** [Wv6;T1.4; usu neg] *not fml* to be in favour of: *I put my opinion to the chairman but he couldn't see it.* **8** [Wv6;T1] *lit* to be an occasion of (an event or course in history): *The 5th century saw the end of the Roman Empire in the West.* **9** [Wv6;T1] to have experience of: *You and I have seen some good times together. This old house has seen better days; now it's in bad repair. (infml) I don't know her age for sure, but she'll never see 40 again (=she's older than 40). I thought I'd never see the day when such a thing could happen.* **10** [T1] to visit, call upon, or meet with: *The doctor can't see you yet; he's seeing someone else at the moment. Mrs Johnson, may I see you a moment, please?* **11** [X9] to go with: *Someone ought to see the old lady safely home. Please see this troublesome fellow out of the office and tell him not to come back. let me see* (used for expressing a pause for thought): *Do you recognize this music? Let me see . . . Yes, now I do. see here* *usu pomp* (used to express warning or disapproval): *See here, boys, you mustn't ever do that again. seeing is believing* *infml* **1** I'll believe it when I see it, and not before. **2** Now I've seen it, so I believe it. *see something in someone* *infml* to like or be fond of someone: *I wonder why she fell in love with him; I'll never know what she sees in him. see nothing/little/a lot of someone* *infml* to see or be in company with a person never/seldom/often, etc: *Where's John? I've seen nothing of him all week. They're good friends and see a lot of one another. you see* *not fml* (used with rather weak meaning in explanations): *Why are you so late?—Well, you see, the bus broke down. see things* *not fml* to think that one sees something that is not there: *I must be seeing things: I can't believe the neighbours have got a new car! so I see* what you say is already clear or easy to see: *I'm afraid I'm a bit late.—So I see.* **sight** [T1] to see, esp for the first time: *The men in the boat sighted land. She finally sighted her husband on the other side of the crowded room. Several rare birds have been sighted in this area.* **spot** [T1] **1** to see (someone or something) quickly or suddenly, esp as one among many, or in a place where things are difficult to see: *She spotted him immediately among the people in the railway station, because he was wearing his yellow hat. 2 to guess or choose: *Can you spot the winner of the next race?* **look** **1** [I0 (at)] to give attention to in seeing: *He went to look at the baby. We looked at him running. You could see it if you'd only look. 2 [L (to be) 1, 7] to seem from how someone or something is seen: *You look ill. He looked***

*tired. Things are looking better now; they are looking up. Judging by her letter, she looks to be the best person for this job. You look good in that dress. 3 [T1] to express with the eyes: *She said nothing but she looked all interest. 4 [L9] to turn the eyes and see in a certain direction: *Look round the corner/over the wall.***

**regard** [T1] *fml* to look at: *She regarded him thoughtfully.*

**face** [T1; L9] **1** to look towards (a particular direction) because one's face and body are turned that way: *They faced east. He faced towards the rising sun. 2 (of a building, etc) to have the front built so as to be towards (a particular direction): *The house faces south/the sea.**

**watch** **1** [T1; V2.4; I0] to look at (some activity, amusement, or event) *usu* while sitting or standing: *Do you often watch television? They watched the games while sitting under the trees.*

**2** [T1] to keep one's eyes fixed on (someone or something): *She watched the train till it disappeared from sight. 3 [T1.3] to look for; to expect and wait (for): *She watched her chance/her moment to cross the street. 4 [T1.5] to take care of, be careful with, or pay attention to: *I'll watch the baby while you are away. You'd better watch Smith; I think he's a thief. Watch that the milk doesn't boil over. 5 [T1.6a.b; V2.4] to attend carefully to (someone or someone's action): *Watch him jump/doing it. Watch how to do this. Watch what I do, then do the same. watcher [C] a person who watches****

**scan** [T1] **1** to look at quickly without careful reading: *He scanned the pages of the book to see what it was about. 2 to look at or examine fully or closely, esp in search: *She scanned the doctor's face for a sign of hope. They scanned the sky for enemy aeroplanes.**

**observe** **1** [T1; V4] to see and notice; watch carefully: *She has observed the stars all her life. They were observed entering the bank at 8.32. 2 [T1] to act in accordance with law or custom: *Does everyone observe the speed limits in your country? observer [C] a person who observes **observation** **1** [U] the act of observing **2** [C] an example of this: *He made his observations of the animals from the top of a tree.***

**view** **1** [T1] *esp tech* to examine; look at thoroughly: *Several possible buyers are coming to view the house. 2 [X9] to consider, regard, or think about: *He viewed his son's lawless behaviour as an attack on himself. 3 [T1; I0] to watch (*esp* television): *What are you viewing tonight? viewer [C] a person who views (*esp* television)***

**notice** [Wv6;I0;T1.5a.b.6a.b; V2.4] to pay attention (to) with the eyes, other senses, or mind: *She was wearing a new dress, but he didn't even notice (it). Did you notice me leave/leaving the house? It's good to notice that the price has gone down. Yes, so I've noticed.*

**note** **1** [T1.5.6a.b] to pay attention to and remember: *Please note that this bill must be paid within 10 days. 2 [T1.5.6a] to recognize;*

observe: *You may have noted that my address has changed.* **3** [T1, 5, 6a] to call attention to; make known; show: *In her speech she first noted the importance of the occasion. The newspapers failed to note what happened next.*

**witness 1** [T1] to be a witness [⇒ C207] of; (*esp lit*) to see: *He witnessed the accident himself; he saw it all.* **2** [L9] to serve as a witness: *Several people witnessed against her.* **3** [I0; T1] to show by one's signature [⇒ G141] that the proper person has signed (his name, a paper, etc): *I'll sign and you witness, please. Will you witness my signature, please?*

**glimpse** [T1] to have a passing view of: *I glimpsed her among the crowd, then she disappeared from sight.*

**glance 1** [L9] to give a rapid look: *He glanced at his watch. I glanced round the room before I left. She glanced down the list of names. She glanced through the library book. He glanced over the report. (fig) In his book he only glances at the difficulties of the new government before passing on to the history of the country.* **2** [I0] (of bright surfaces) to flash as light falls on it/them: *The glasses glanced in the firelight.*

**sightsee** [I0] to go about, as on holiday, visiting places of interest (*esp in the phr go sightseeing*)

**sightseer** [C] a person who goes sightseeing

**eye** [T1 (*up and down*)] sometimes *deprec* to look at someone, *esp* carefully or for a long time, *esp* for a reason: *He eyed the man thoughtfully. She eyed him up and down and asked him what he wanted. Stop eyeing me like that!*

**peer** [L9] to look very carefully or searchingly, *esp* as if not able to see well: *She peered through the mist, trying to find the right path. He peered at me over the top of his glasses.*

**stare** [I0 (*at*)] to look, *esp* for a long time at (something or someone), *esp* with very wide-open eyes: *She stared at him in surprise. He was staring out to sea. She looked at him with strange staring eyes.*

**gaze** [I0 (*at*)] to look, *esp* for a long time over *esp* a wide distance, *esp* with great interest, etc: *He gazed at her beauty. The children were gazing at the toys.*

**gape** [I0 (*at*)] to look at (something or someone) with one's mouth open: *He gaped at her in surprise. Don't just stand there gaping; do something!*

**behold** [T1] *old use, lit, fml & pomp* to see: *Behold, the King comes! He beheld a terrible sight. (humor) Lo and behold, she came in through the window!*

*He felt faint at the sight of blood.* **at first sight** at the first time of seeing or considering: *They fell in love when they first met; it was love at first sight. At first sight the difficulty looks greater than it really is.* **at/on sight** as soon as seen or presented; without delay: *The guard had orders to shoot on sight (= without finding out who was there). I can't sing this hard music at sight; I'll need practice.* **in sight 1** in view: *The car remained in sight until it turned the corner.* **2** within a little of being reached; near: *Peace was in sight at last after 2 years of war.* **in the sight of** *lit* in the judgment or opinion of: *'Do those things that are pleasing in his sight' (The Bible); punishable in the sight of the law* **know someone by sight** to recognize someone without knowing him personally or without knowing his name **lose sight of 1** to cease to see: *He lost sight of his friend in the crowd.* **2** to cease to get news about; lose touch with: *She lost sight of her school friends over the years.* **3** to forget; fail to consider: *In the heat of the argument we mustn't lose sight of our main purpose.* **out of sight 1** out of the range of being seen: *Stay out of sight; she mustn't see us.* **2** *infml* very high, great, etc: *The chairman said that labour costs had gone out of sight in the past year.* **3** *sl* very good; wonderful: *A party? That would be out of sight! I'd love it.* **sight unseen** without a chance for seeing or examining: *You can't expect anyone to buy a car sight unseen.*

**vision** [U] **1** (the) ability to see: *I've had my eyes tested and the report says that my vision is perfect. The windows of the car gave the driver good vision all round.* **2** (*fig*) *apprec* power of imaginative thought and expression; wisdom in understanding the true meaning of facts, *esp* with regard to the future: *The new director worked hard but he lacked vision. We need a man of vision as our president.*

**notice 1** [U] attention: *His writings brought him into public notice. Local events are beneath the notice of the largest newspapers. Don't take any notice (= pay any attention) to what he says. Take particular notice of (= pay close attention to) the road signs.* **2** [C] a usu short written statement of information or directions to the public: *He sold the car by putting a notice in the newspaper. The notice on the wall says 'No smoking'.* **3** [C often *pl*] a statement of opinion, as in a newspaper, about a new book, play, etc: *The new play got mixed notices (= some good, some bad) after its first night.* **4** [U] a warning or information about something that will happen: (*fml*) *These rules are subject to (= may) change without notice. Can you be ready at 10 minutes' notice/at short notice? (= if I tell you only 10 minutes/a short time before).* **b** formal warning of the end of living or working in a place: *The company gave notice to 10 workers/gave 10 workers their notice. I gave the company/the owner of the flat my notice (= said I planned to leave). They wanted three weeks' notice before I left.* **sit up and take notice** *infml* to (be made to) pay attention or show respect: *My new*

## F264 nouns : seeing and noticing

**sight 1** [U] also **eyesight** the sense of seeing; the power of the eye: *He had his sight tested by a doctor. She has good sight for a woman of 80.* **2** [U; S] the seeing of something: *The crowd waited for a sight of the Queen passing by. The house is hidden from sight behind some trees.*

*book will make the world sit up and take notice!*  
**until further notice** *fml* from now until another change might be made: *This office will close at 5 o'clock from May 1 until further notice.*

## F265 nouns : looking and scanning, etc

**look** [C] *usu infml* 1 an act of looking: *Take a look at this. He had a good look at the picture.* 2 the way someone or something seems when seen; appearance: *I like the look of him. I like his looks.*

**sight** 1 [C] something that is seen: *What a beautiful sight those roses make! She saw the familiar sight of the postman going along the street.* 2 [U] presence in one's view; the range of what can be seen: *She's too careful with her children, never letting them out of her sight. The boat was within sight of land. The train came in (to) sight. Get out of my sight and don't come back!*

**sighting** [C] act of seeing or sighting: *There have been several sightings of enemy ships/those rare birds.*

**scan** [S] an act of scanning, esp a searching look: *They did a quick scan of the area, looking for the enemy.*

**view** 1 [U] ability (esp of the person or thing stated) to see or be seen from a particular place; sight: *My view of the stage was blocked by the big hat of the woman sitting in front of me. The car turned the corner and was lost to our view/passed out of view (= could not be seen any more). The valley was hidden from view in the mist. When we reached the top of the mountain, we came in view of (= were able to see) a wide plain below. A wide plain came into view (= was able to be seen). He fell off his horse in full view of his friends (= seen by all and himself able to see all of them). There was no shelter within view (= that could be seen) anywhere.* 2 [C (of)] a something seen from a particular place, esp a stretch of pleasant country: *One splendid mountain view followed another during our journey. There's no view from my bedroom window except of some factory chimneys.* b a picture or photograph of a piece of scenery, a building, etc: *This artist has painted many views of the rocky west coast.* 3 [S (of)] a special chance to see or examine someone or something: *Have you ever had a close view of the princess? If we stand at this window, we'll get a better view (of the procession).* 4 [C (of) *usu sing*] (fig) a general consideration of a matter in all its details: *We need a fresh view of the whole affair before we decide. The lawyer hasn't yet formed a clear view of the case.* 5 [C (about, on)] (fig) a personal opinion, belief, idea, etc about something: *In my view, he's a fool. He has strong views about the evils of playing cards. What are your views on university education?*

**glimpse** [C] 1 a quick look at or incomplete view of (esp in the phr **get/catch a glimpse**): *I*

*only caught a glimpse of the parcel, so I can't guess what was inside it.* 2 (fig) a moment of understanding: *When I saw how worried he was I had a glimpse of his true feelings.*

**glance** [C] 1 a rapid look: *One glance at his face told me he was ill. He took a glance outside at the weather.* 2 a rapid movement of the eyes: *He gave her an admiring glance. He saw what was happening at a glance.*

## F266 nouns : sights and visions [C]

**sight** 1 [often pl] something special, unusual, etc that is seen: *What a fine sight these mountains are! The tourists went to see the sights of London. They had a tour of the main sights.* 2 [S] *deprec* something which looks very bad or laughable: *What a sight you are, with paint all over your clothes! This room looks a sight; it's very untidy.*

**spectacle** 1 a grand public show or scene: *He is a film producer who makes spectacles based on the Bible.* 2 *deprec* a silly sight; an object of laughing or disrespect: *She made a spectacle of herself! I never thought I'd see the spectacle of a minister standing on his head.* **spectacular** [B] causing people to look or pay attention; making a spectacle; very great, exciting, etc: *It is a spectacular film about ancient Rome. His success in sport was spectacular.* -ly [adv]

**vision** 1 something that is without bodily reality, seen (as) in a dream, when in a sleeplike state, or as a religious experience: *She saw/had a vision in which God seemed to appear before her.* 2 a picture seen in the mind; an imaginative idea, esp as a fulfilment of a desire: *He has a clear vision of the future for his children. The student had visions of getting a degree with first class honours.* 3 *lit & apprec* something seen, esp unexpectedly: *The clouds opened and they had a sudden vision of the mountains.*

**stare** a long look with (esp) wide-open eyes: *He did not like the stares of the people as he passed them.*

**gaze** [*usu sing*] a long interested look: *Under his gaze she turned red/dropped her eyes.*

**gape** a look while one's mouth is open

## F267 adjectives : relating to sight [Wa5;B]

[ALSO ⇨ B133]

**ocular** 1 *tech* of the eyes 2 *becoming rare* that can be seen: *He demanded ocular proof.*

**optical** of or about the sense of sight -ly [adv Wa4]

**ophthalmic** *med* of the study and treatment of the eyes -ally [adv Wa4]

**visual** 1 gained by seeing: *He has no visual knowledge of the place.* 2 connected with or having an effect on the sense of sight: *The*



visual arts include painting and dancing, as opposed to music. **3** tech concerned with the power of sight: *This animal's visual organs are different from ours.* **4** (esp of the directing of aircraft) performed without the help of radio, calculating instruments, etc: *The pilot made a visual landing.* **-ly** [adv]

**sighted** (of a person) able to see; not blind: *Sighted people find it difficult to understand the needs and feelings of blind people.* **-sighted** [comb form] showing or having the stated kind of ability to see: *He is very weak-sighted/near-sighted/short-sighted*

**sightless** esp lit & emot unable to see; blind: *He turned his sightless eyes towards her.*

## F268 adjectives : relating to seeing and being seen [B]

**visible** that can be seen: *The aircraft got smaller and smaller in the distance until it was no longer visible to the people on the ground.* **in-** [neg] **-bly** [adv Wa3] **-bility** [U]

**noticeable** that can be noticed; worth noticing: *There was a noticeable change in the weather.* **-bly** [adv Wa3]

**conspicuous** noticeable; attracting attention; easily seen: *She's always conspicuous because of her fashionable clothes. He was conspicuous for his bravery. That was a very conspicuous mistake. They made themselves conspicuous by wearing strange clothing. You were conspicuous by your absence yesterday.* **in-** [neg] **-ly** [adv]

**prominent** **1** noticeable or most easily seen: *Our house is the most prominent one in the street; it's painted red.* **2** standing or stretching far out (beyond a surface): *Her appearance is spoilt by her prominent teeth.* **3** (fig) of great ability, fame, importance, etc: *She is a prominent actress. He is a prominent politician in that city.* **-ly** [adv] **prominence** [U] the state of being prominent

**apparent** **1** [(to)] easily seen or understood; plain: *Her anxiety was apparent to everyone.* **2** according to appearances; not necessarily true or real; seeming: *Their apparent grief soon turned to laughter.* **-ly** [adv]

**clear** [Wa1] easily seen or allowing one to see easily: *The print on the page is large, clear, and easy to read. It's a lovely clear day today.* (fig) *It is quite clear to me that he won't help us.* **un-** [neg] **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

**graphic** very clear; easily imagined, understood, etc: *He gave a graphic word picture of what happened.* **-ally** [adv Wa4]

**evident** plain, esp to the senses: *It's evident (that) he can't do it.* **-ly** [adv]

**obvious** easy to see or understand; clear; which must be recognized: *The best way to go was obvious to everybody except him. It's obvious that a boy isn't strong enough to lift an elephant.* **-ly** [adv]

## F269 adjectives : watchful and wary [B]

**watchful** careful to notice things: *Let's remain watchful for any sign of trouble/danger/enemy activity.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

**vigilant** continually watchful or on guard; always prepared for possible danger: *The police should be vigilant in the fight against crime.* **-ly** [adv] **vigilance** [U] the condition of being vigilant; (fml) watchfulness

**observant** noticing things quickly: *What an observant child he is!*

**alert** **1** watchful and ready to meet danger: *They are alert soldiers; they'll stay alert in case the enemy approaches.* **2** apprec quick to see and act: *She's an alert child, very observant.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U] **on the alert** very watchful: *He was on the alert for any strange noises.*

**cautious** careful; paying no attention; having or showing caution [⇒ G39]: *She is cautious of/about telling secrets. You should be very cautious when crossing the road. Don't be too cautious over this work; let us have your opinion.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

**wary** [Wa1] emot careful; looking out for danger: *He had a wary look in his eyes.* **warily** [adv] **wariness** [U]

## F270 adjectives : transparent and clear [B]

**transparent** **1** allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be clearly seen: *Most glass is transparent.* **2** fine enough to be seen through: *Her silk dress was almost transparent.* **3** (fig) clear; easily understood: *He has a transparent style of writing.* **4** about which there is no doubt; certain: *He is a man of transparent honesty. That was a transparent lie!* **-ly** [adv] **transparency** **1** [U] the state of being transparent **2** [C] also **slide** a picture, photograph, etc that has been put on transparent material esp so that it can be shown on a screen [⇒ K59], etc

**clear** [Wa1] easy to see through; transparent: *What a lovely clear sky. The water here is very clear; I can see the bottom of the lake. He looked through the clear green glass.* **un-** [neg] **-ly** [adv] **clarity** [U] **-ness** [U]

**translucent** not transparent but clear enough to allow light to pass through: *The translucent glass in their bathroom window allowed light to come in without letting people see in.*

**diaphanous** (esp of cloth) so fine and thin that it can be seen through: *She wore a diaphanous silk skirt.*

**see-through** not fml that can be seen through; allowing what is inside to be (partly) seen: *She wore a sexy see-through dress.*

## F271 adjectives : opaque and dense [B]

**opaque** **1** not allowing light to pass through: *The glass in the door was opaque.* **2** (fig) hard to understand: *His words were quite opaque.* -ly [adv] -ness also **opacity** [U]  
**dense** [Wa1] difficult to see through: *The mist was dense.*

## F272 verbs : hearing and listening

**hear** **1** [Wv6;T1; V2, 4; I0] to receive and understand (sounds) by using the ears: *I can't hear very well. I heard him say so. I can hear someone knocking.* **2** [Wv6;T1, 5a, b] to be told or informed: *I heard that he was ill.* **3** [T1, 6a] to listen with attention (to), esp a case in court: *The judge heard the case.*

**listen** [I0 (to)] to give attention in hearing: *Are you listening or are you just pretending? Listen to the music, don't make a noise. don't listen to someone:* Don't believe or do what someone says

**sound** **1** [Wv6; L1,7,9] to have the effect of being; seem when heard: *Your idea sounds (like) a good one. Does this sentence sound right? It sounds as if the government don't know what to do. The minister sounds unsure of himself.* **2** [I0] to make a sound; produce an effect that can be heard: *His advice seemed to keep sounding in my ears. The bell sounded at 8 o'clock for dinner.* **3** [T1] to cause (as a musical instrument) to make a sound: *A bell is sounded at 8 o'clock. Sound your horn to warn the other driver.* **4** [T1] to signal by making sounds: *Sound the 'all clear' after an air attack. (fig) Let me sound a note of warning to you.* **5** [T1 usu pass] to express as a sound; pronounce: *The s in island is not sounded.*

## F273 nouns : hearing and listening

**hearing** **1** [U] the sense by which one hears sound: *Her hearing is getting worse.* **2** [U] the distance at which one can hear: *Don't talk about it in his hearing.* **3** [U;C] the act or experience of listening: *At first hearing I didn't like the music.* **4** [C] a chance to be heard explaining one's position (esp in the phr **gain/get a hearing**): *It's a good idea, so try to get a hearing with the people in charge.* **5** [C] law, etc trial of a case by a judge: *I was not present at the hearing. At the official hearing both sides presented their cases well.* **hearing aid** [C] a small electric machine fitted near the ear which makes sounds seem louder

**earshot** [U] (esp in the phrs **within/out of earshot**) (within/beyond) the distance up to which a sound can be heard: *If you want to talk about Mary, let's make sure she's not within earshot.*

**listen** [S] infml an act of listening: *Have a listen to this.*

**sound** **1** [U] what can be heard: *She could hear the sound of cars passing outside. Sound travels fast, but light travels faster. Sound waves take a certain time to travel.* **2** [C] an example of this: *She heard a sound outside. The sounds of the night came through the window.* **3** [S9] (fig) idea: *I don't like the sound of that; I don't agree.*

**noise** **1** [U;C] (an) unwanted or unpleasant sound: *Try not to make any noise when you go into the bedroom. She enjoyed the holiday, away from city noises.* **2** [U] confused, meaningless, and continuing sound, esp a the sound heard in any public place: *There's so much noise in this restaurant I can hardly hear you talking.* **b** also **static** unwanted sound which keeps sounds on radio, telephones, etc from being heard clearly **3** [C] an unmusical sound that is difficult to describe or strange: *What's wrong with my car? The engine is making funny noises. She heard a noise like a train.*

**din** [S] deprec a loud, continuous, confused, and unpleasant noise: *The children are making a terrible din in the school hall. kick up a din* infml to make a noise of this kind: *Stop kicking up such a din!*

**racket** [S] deprec a loud noise: *Stop making such a racket upstairs!*

**percussion** [U] tech **1** the striking of two usu hard things together **2** the noise produced in this way

## F274 adjectives : loud and noisy [Wa1;B]

**loud** being or producing great strength of sound; not quiet: *What loud music! Can you make the radio louder please?* **2** (fig) attracting attention by being unpleasantly noisy or colourful: *What a loud tie he is wearing!* -ly [adv] -ness [U] **aloud** also **out loud** [adv Wa5] so as to be (easily) heard: *He read the letter aloud to us. He read it out loud to us. (emph) They shouted aloud/out loud with joy!*

**noisy** usu deprec making or marked by a lot of noise: *What a noisy car! It's very noisy in this office.* -sily [adv] -siness [U]

## F275 adjectives : not loud and noisy [B]

**quiet** [Wa1] with little noise: *She played some quiet music on the record-player. He has rather a quiet voice.* -ly [adv]: *He spoke quietly.* -ness [U]

**noiseless** without any noise: *He crossed the dark room with noiseless footsteps.* -ly [adv] -ness [U]

**silent** **1** free from noise; quiet: *The night was dark and silent.* **2** not speaking; not using spoken expression: *They were silent; no one spoke. Her lips moved in silent prayer/reading.* **3** making no statement; expressing no opinion, decision, etc: *The law is silent on this difficult*

**point.** 4 [Wa5] *tech* (of a letter in a word) not having a sound; not pronounced: *The w in 'wreck' is silent; it is a silent w.* 5 [Wa5] being or concerning films with no sound: *It was a silent film.* -**ly** [adv] **silence** [U; C] the state of being silent; an occasion when people, etc are silent: *the silence of the night; a moment of complete silence*

**reticent** (of a person) not saying much, esp where one could say a lot: *Don't be reticent; tell us. She was reticent about her past life.* **reticence** [U] the state of being reticent

**taciturn** (of a person) saying very little; silent by nature: *a taciturn manner* **taciturnity** [U] the state of being taciturn

**tacit** [Wa5] accepted or understood without one having to say anything or without saying anything: *I think he had your tacit agreement to do it, even if you did not agree officially.* -**ly** [adv]

**laconic** saying something in the fewest possible words -**ally** [adv Wa4]

## F276 verbs & nouns, etc : special sounds

**rattle** 1 [I0] to make a number of short sharp sounds, usu together: *The stones in the box rattled when he shook it.* 2 [T1] to cause to do this: *He rattled the (stones in the) box.* 3 [C] such a noise: *I could hear the rattle of the stones in the box.* 4 [C] anything that rattles, esp a child's toy: *He shook the rattle.*

**bang** 1 [I0] to make a sharp loud noise or noises: *The door banged. There's someone banging about upstairs.* 2 [C] a sudden loud noise: *The door shut with a bang.*

**bump** 1 [I0] to make a sudden dull noise: *Something bumped in the night.* 2 [C] a sudden dull noise: *She fell down with a bump.*

**crash** 1 [I0] to make a sudden loud noise: *The drums crashed. The lightning flashed and the thunder crashed.* 2 [T1; I0] to (cause to) fall or strike the ground noisily and violently: *The teacher crashed her book down on the desk to show how angry she was. The tree crashed to the ground.* 3 [C] a sudden loud noise as made by a violent blow, fall, break, etc: *He heard the crash of thunder.*

**roar** 1 [Wv4; I0] to make a very loud noise: *The lion/the football crowd/the engine roared. The roaring wind shook the trees.* 2 [L9] to move while making this noise: *The cars roared along.* 3 [T1, 5 (out)] to express in this way: *They roared their answer. 'Put it down!' he roared.* 4 [I0] *infml* to laugh long and loudly: *Mother will roar when she hears this!* 5 [C] a deep loud continuing sound: *the roar of an angry lion/of a football crowd/of an aircraft engine/of the wind and waves* 6 [C of] a deep loud sound of the stated kind: *roars of laughter* **set the room/the table in a roar** to make everyone in the room/at the table laugh loudly

**thud** 1 [C] a dull sound, as caused by a heavy object striking something soft: *The dead man*

*fell to the floor with a thud. He landed with a thud on the grass.* 2 [Wv4; L9] to make a thud by beating, striking, landing, falling, etc: *We jumped from the branch and thudded onto the grass. He heard a thudding noise.*

**thump** 1 [Wv4; I0] to produce a repeated dull sound by beating, striking, falling, walking heavily, etc: *The old man thumped noisily along the passage. My heart thumped with excitement. We could hear a thumping noise coming from the car engine. (fig) I've got a thumping headache.* 2 [T1; L9] to strike with a heavy blow: *I'll thump you if you annoy me any more. The brick thumped against the tree. The teacher thumped the desk angrily.* 3 [C] the dull sound produced by this 4 [C] a heavy blow: *I'll give you a thump if you continue to annoy me.*

**ring** 1 [I0 (out); T1] to (cause to) give a sound like a bell: *The church bells rang (out). The telephone was ringing. Ring the doorbell.* 2 [C] an act of ringing: *Give the doorbell a ring. She heard several rings on the doorbell.*

**peal** 1 [I0 (out)] (esp of bells) to ring out or sound loudly (and continually): *Listen to the church bells pealing. His loud voice pealed out.* 2 [T1] to cause (bells) to ring out 3 [S] the sound of the loud ringing of bells: *the peal of the bells from many churches* 4 [C] a musical pattern made by the ringing of a number of bells one after another: *People form bell ringers' associations to ring peals for their own pleasure.* 5 [C] (fig) a loud long sound or number of sounds one after the other: *a peal of thunder; peals of laughter*

**toll** 1 [I0; T1] (of esp large bells) to sound slowly and deeply: *The great bells tolled (his death). They heard the bells tolling sadly.* 2 [S] such a sound: *They heard the toll of the bells.*

**pop** 1 [C] a sound like that of a slight explosion: *As he opened the bottle of wine there was a loud pop.* 2 [adv] with a small explosive sound (esp in the phr *go pop*): *When he opened the bottle it went pop.* 3 [I0] to make a sound like a pop 4 [L9] to move suddenly, esp with a popping sound: *The top popped out of the bottle.* 5 [T1] *infml* to put quickly and lightly: *She popped a sweet into her mouth.*

## F277 verbs : smelling and stinking

**smell** [Wv6] 1 [I0] to use the nose; have or use the sense of the nose: *Here, smell; what do you think this liquid is? That old dog can hardly smell any longer.* 2 [T1, 4, 5, 6a; V4] to notice, examine, discover, or recognize by this sense: *I can smell smoke/cooking. I could smell that the milk wasn't fresh. He can always smell when rain is coming. Can you smell something burning?* 3 [T1, 4, 5; V4] (fig) to notice, come to know of, recognize, etc, by some natural unexplained ability: *He is a writer who can always smell a good idea. I could smell (someone) cheating. I could smell that I was no longer welcome.* 4 [L7, 9, esp of, like] to have an effect

on the nose; have a particular smell: *It was a sweet-smelling flower. This book smells old. The room smelt of beer and tobacco. It smelt as if something was on fire.* 5 [I0 (of)] to have an offensive effect on the nose; have an unpleasant smell; stink: *The meat had been left out for days and had started to smell.*

**sniff** 1 [I0 (at)] to draw air into the nose with a sound, esp in short repeated actions: *The cat sniffed at the food before deciding to eat it.* 2 [T1] to do this to discover a smell in or on: *The dogs were sniffing the ground. He sniffed the air for gas but couldn't smell any.* 3 [T1] (fig) to say in a proud complaining way: *'I expected something rather nicer,' she sniffed.*

**scent** 1 [T1] (esp of animals) to smell, esp to tell the presence of (someone or something) by smelling: *The dogs scented the fox.* 2 [T1, 5] (fig) to get a feeling or belief of the presence or fact (of): *She scented danger/scented that all was not well.* 3 [Wv5; T1 (with) usu pass] to fill with a scent: *The air was scented with spring flowers. She had a scented handkerchief.*

**stink** [I0] to smell very unpleasant: *He stinks; does he never wash? (fig) Your whole plan stinks; I don't like it at all! stink the place out* to stink very much: *That animal stinks the place out; get rid of it!*

## F278 nouns : smelling and stinking

**smell** 1 [U] the power of using the nose; the sense that can discover the presence of gases in the air: *These dogs track by smell alone. She has a sharp sense of smell.* 2 [C] a quality that has an effect on the nose; something that excites this sense: *Some flowers have stronger smells than others. What a smell! What's burning?* 3 [C usu sing] not fml an act of smelling something: *Have a smell of this wine; does it seem all right?*

**odour** BrE, **odor** AmE fml smell (defs 1 & 2)  
**scent** 1 [C] a smell, esp a as left by an animal and followed by hunting dogs, etc: *The dogs followed the fox's scent as far as the river; then they lost the scent.* b a particular, usu pleasant smell: *The scent of roses was strong in the garden.* 2 [S] (fig) not fml a way of discovery: *The scientist thought he was on the scent of a cure for heart disease, although others thought he was following a false scent.* 3 [S] (of animals) the power of smelling: *The dog has a good scent.* 4 [U; C] esp BrE perfume: *It's that cheap scent she uses.*

**perfume** [U; C] 1 a sweet or pleasant smell, as of flowers 2 a sweet-smelling liquid, often made from flowers, for use on the body

**fragrance** 1 [U] apprec the quality of being fragrant: *The fragrance of the air was wonderful.* 2 [C] a (sweet or pleasant) smell: *This soap is made in several fragrances.*

**aroma** [C] 1 a strong usu pleasant smell: *The aroma of hot coffee came out of the shop.* 2 (fig) an appearance, feeling, or sensation con-

sidered typical of some quality: *There was an aroma of wealth in the room.*

**pong** infml BrE 1 [C] an unpleasant smell: *Oh, what a pong!* 2 [I0] to have or make a pong  
**stink** also **stench** [C] emph a very unpleasant smell: *What's that awful stink? He smelled the stench of dead bodies. (fig) That place has the stink of evil.*

**sniff** [C] an act or sound of sniffing: *Take a sniff of this chemical; what is it?*

## F279 adjectives : smelling and stinking [B]

**fragrant** apprec having a sweet or pleasant smell (esp of flowers): *The air in the garden was warm and fragrant.*

**perfumed** [Wa5] having a sweet smell; covered with perfume: *The room was perfumed with the scent of flowers.*

**scented** [Wa5] having a pleasant smell; covered with scent: *The room was scented with the perfume of flowers.*

**sweet-smelling** [Wa2] having a very pleasant smell: *The garden was full of sweet-smelling flowers.*

**aromatic** having a strong pleasant smell: *Aromatic herbs (= plants) are often used in cooking.* -ally [adv Wa4]

**acid** 1 (of smell or taste) bitter; sour 2 (fig) bitter in manner; bad-tempered: *What an acid speech that was!*

**smelly** [Wa1] having a bad smell: *That place is dirty and smelly! Burn these smelly old clothes.*

**evil-smelling** [Wa2] having a very bad smell: *What an evil-smelling liquid; what is it?*

**stinking** deprec 1 very evil-smelling: *He had stinking breath.* 2 (fig) very bad: *Take your stinking ideas out of here!*

## F280 verbs : tasting things

**taste** 1 [T1] to test (food or drink) by taking a little into the mouth: *I always taste the wine before allowing the waiter to fill my glass. I've never tasted meat but I know I wouldn't like it.* 2 [T1] to tell the taste of (something): *I've got a cold so I can't taste what I'm eating. I can't taste the pepper in this soup; you've not put enough in.* 3 [T1] to eat or drink: *The prisoner had not tasted food in the three days since he'd escaped.* 4 [L7, 9, esp of] to have a particular taste: *These oranges taste nice. This meat's been cooked for too long and doesn't taste of anything. This soup tastes of chicken but I thought you said it was vegetable.* 5 [T1] (fig) to experience: *Once people have tasted freedom they're unwilling to become slaves again.*

**flavour** BrE, **flavor** AmE [T1 (with)] to give flavour (⇒ F281) to: *She flavoured the cake with chocolate.*

**savour** BrE, **savor** AmE [T1] to enjoy, as by tasting, slowly and purposefully: *He drank the*



wine slowly, savouring every drop. She savoured the pleasures of country life in the summer. **savour of** [v prep T1] to have a (slight) quality of, as in a taste, smell, etc: He disliked any law that savoured of more government control.

## F281 nouns : tasting things

**taste** 1 [C; U] one of the special senses, by which a person or animal knows one food from another by its sweetness, bitterness, saltiness, etc: I've got a cold so my taste's quite gone. 2 [C; U] the sensation produced when food or drink is put in the mouth and that makes it different from other foods or drinks, by its saltiness, sweetness, bitterness, etc: Sugar has a sweet taste. This cake has no very little taste. This fish has an odd taste; it tastes like cheese. 3 [C (of) usu sing] a small quantity of food or drink: I had a taste of soup to see if it was nice. 4 [U] (fig) the ability to enjoy and judge beauty, style, art, music, etc; ability to choose and use the best manners, behaviour, fashions, etc: His speech offended many people present and was in very bad taste. You need good taste before you can enjoy this music. She has excellent taste in dress. 5 [C; U; (for, in)] (fig) a personal liking for something: He has a taste for music. She has expensive tastes in clothes. Popular music is not to everyone's taste. 6 [C (of) usu sing] (fig) an experience: Once you've had a taste of life in our country you won't want to return home. It was the prisoners' first taste of freedom.

**flavour** BrE, **flavor** AmE 1 [C] a taste; quality that only the tongue can experience: It had a strong flavour of cheese. Choose from six popular flavours! (fig) It is a story with an unpleasant flavour. 2 [U] the quality of tasting good or pleasantly strong: This bread hasn't much flavour/has plenty of flavour.

**savour** BrE, **savor** AmE [S; U] 1 taste or smell: The meat had cooked too long and lost its savour. (fig) I could hear a savour of distrust in his voice. 2 (fig) (power to excite) interest: She used to say that argument adds savour to conversation, but now argument has lost its savour for him.

## F282 adjectives : tasting things [B]

[ALSO ⇒ E110]

**tasty** [Wa1] esp infml having a good taste; enjoyable to eat: That was a tasty meal. -tily [adv] -tiness [U]

**savoury** BrE, **savory** AmE [Wa2] 1 pleasant or

attractive in taste: There was a savoury smell coming from the kitchen. 2 not fml morally attractive or good: That isn't a very savoury book he's reading. **un-** [neg]: unsavoury ideas. **flavoured** BrE, **flavored** AmE having been flavoured; having a flavour: He was drinking some flavoured water/water flavoured with fruit juice.

**delicious** very tasty; savoury; good to taste or eat: What a delicious meal! -ly [adv]

**bland** [Wa1] (of food) not hurting the stomach and without much taste: The doctor says that the sick woman must have only bland food. This soup is too bland for me.

**insipid** deprec not having much or any taste: The food in that hotel is rather insipid.

**flat** deprec (esp of a drink) having lost its taste: The beer is a bit flat.

## F283 adjectives : kinds of taste [B]

**sweet** [Wa1] tasting like or of sugar: She takes a lot of sugar in her tea; it would be too sweet for me. It tastes very sweet.

**bitter** [Wa1] 1 having a peculiar sharp biting taste, like beer or black coffee without sugar: Beer has a bitter taste. Beer tastes bitter. 2 (fig) (of cold winds, etc) very sharp 3 (fig) causing pain or grief: His failure was a bitter blow. -ly [adv] -ness [U]

**sour** [Wa1] 1 having a peculiar sharp taste like acid: Lemons have a sour taste. Lemons taste sour. 2 (fig) unfriendly and unhappy: She really looks sour this morning.

**acid** 1 having a sour taste like that of unripe fruit or vinegar [⇒ E49] 2 (fig) bad-tempered; angry in speech: Her acid remarks made him angry. -ly [adv] **acidity** [U] the condition of being acid

**salt** [Wa5] tech & fml tasting like or of salt: This liquid tastes salt/has a salt taste.

**salty** [Wa1] infml 1 tasting like or of salt: It has a salty taste. 2 fig interesting: He tells very salty stories.

**hot** [Wa1] tasting of pepper [⇒ E49]; causing a burning taste in the mouth: This food is too hot for me; it's very spicy.

**pungent** 1 having a strong sharp stinging taste or smell, that may or may not seem unpleasant: The old man smokes a rather pungent kind of tobacco. 2 (fig) (of speech or writing) producing a sharp, direct effect that awakens interest or expresses an unfavourable opinion: He made some pungent remarks about my lateness. -ly [adv]

**savoury** [Wa5] BrE (of a dish, of food) having the taste of meat, cheese, vegetables, etc without sugar