

Thought and communication, language and grammar

Thinking, judging, and remembering

G1 nouns : mind, thought, and reason

[ALSO ⇔ B20]

mind 1 [C; (U)] the part of a person which thinks: *We don't know exactly what goes on in the mind, or the exact relationship of mind and brain.* 2 [C] the ability to think: *She has a good mind for this kind of work.* 3 [C usu pl] a very clever person: *Some of the best minds in the country are working there.* **-minded** [comb form] 1 having the kind of mind described: *evil-minded; strong-minded* 2 having a mind that is interested in or sees the value of the thing stated: *safety-minded people*

mentality [U; C] a person's way of thinking: *He has just the right mentality for this work. I can't understand mentalities like hers.*

brain 1 [C] the organ in the head with which a person thinks, which controls the actions of animals, etc 2 [C; U] the mind: *She has a good brain; I wish she would use it.* 3 [C] infml a person with a good mind: *Some of the best brains in the country are working there.* **-brained** [comb form] having a brain or brains as stated: *These are large-brained animals. My silly bird-brained secretary can't spell!*

thought 1 [U] the act of thinking: *He sat there, deep in thought. She seemed lost in thought. The power of thought can change the world.* 2 [C; U] something that is thought; a product of thinking; idea, opinion, etc: *Let me have your thoughts on the subject. You must give up all thought of going there.* 3 [U9] the particular way of thinking of a social class, person, period, country, etc: *Ancient Indian thought interests me.* 4 [U] serious consideration: *Give his offer plenty of thought before you accept it.* 5 [U (of)] intention: *I had no thought of annoying you. The enemy's thought was to defeat us quickly.* 6 [C; U: (for)] (an example of) attention; regard: *With no thought for her own safety she jumped into the river to save the drowning child. The teacher's only thought was for the pupils.*

reason 1 [U] the power to think, understand, and form opinions: *People are different from animals because they possess reason.* 2 [U] a

sound mind that is not mad (esp in such phrs as *lose one's reason*) 3 [U] good sense: *There's a lot of reason in his advice. Why don't you listen to reason? He'll do anything within reason to help you.*

rationality [U] fml the power of reason **ir-** [neg] **cognition** [U] fml & tech the state of thinking, knowing, and being aware; the act of thinking generally

intellect 1 [U] the power of reasoning, esp on difficult matters: *She is a woman of great intellect.* 2 [C] a person who has great ability of this kind: *They are among the greatest intellects in the country.*

think [S (about)] infml an act of thinking, esp about a difficulty or question; occasion or need for thinking: *I'll have to have a think about this before I give you an answer. If you think I'm going to lend you a pound you've another think coming!* (= you'll have to think of someone else to ask, because I certainly won't lend you a pound)

G2 verbs : thinking and reasoning

think 1 [I0 (about); T1] to use the power of reason; make judgments; use the mind to form opinions; have (a thought): *Do you still think in English when you're speaking French? If animals can think, what do you think they think about? She sat there, thinking great thoughts.* 2 [T5a, b; X1, 7] to believe; consider: *I think she's wrong, don't you? He thinks himself a great poet. Do you think it will rain?—Yes, I think so! I thought he was going to die.* 3 [T6a, b] (used after **cannot** and **could not**) to imagine; understand: *I can't think why you did it! You can't think how nasty she is to me!* 4 [T6a, b] (used in questions) to believe: *Who do you think murdered the old lady? How do you think the robbers got in?* 5 [T6a] to reason about; bring to mind: *Think how big and varied the world is.* 6 [I0; T6a, b] to consider carefully: *I'll have to think deeply before I give you an answer. Think before you accept his offer! The criminal was thinking what to do next when the police arrived.* 7 [T5a, b, (fml) 3] to have as a half-formed intention or plan: *We thought to return early. We thought we'd go swimming tomorrow. I thought to catch a bus home but it*

was so nice I decided to walk. **8** [T6a, b] (used after **cannot** and **could not** and in *infin* after **try**, **want**, etc) to remember: *I can't think what his name is. I'm trying to think what his address is/how to get there.* **9** [T5a; L9] to expect: *Little did he think the police would be waiting for him. We didn't think we'd be this late. I thought as much* (used when one has heard some news, to mean 'that's just what I expected'). **10** [T1] to have as the centre of one's thoughts: *He thinks business all day.* **11** [L9] *not fml* to direct the mind in a particular way: *You must try/learn to think big! I don't think sl ironical* (used esp when bitterly or nastily attacking someone, to mean) I certainly do not think so: *You're clever, I don't think! to think aloud* to speak one's thoughts as they come **think twice** to think very carefully about something: *Think twice before accepting this offer.*

reason 1 [I0] to use one's reason: *She can reason very clearly.* **2** [T5] to argue (that); give an opinion based on reason (that): *I reasoned that since she had not answered my letter she must be angry with me.* **3** [T1 into or out of] to persuade: *Try to reason him out of that ideal/into going away quickly.*

rationalize, -ise [I0; T1] to find reasons for (one's own unreasonable behaviour or opinions): *Stop rationalising! That's not the real reason for what you did.*

G3 verbs : solving things and working things out

solve [T1] to find a way of doing (something which seemed difficult to do); come to an answer, explanation, or way of dealing with (something): *I can't solve this problem; it's too difficult for me. This is still an unsolved question* (= no one has solved it). **solution** [C; U] an act or way of finding an answer to a difficult problem: *This sheet of practice questions is provided with solutions. It's a difficulty that hardly admits solution.*

think out also esp AmE **think through** [v adv T1] to consider in detail with care; reach a decision about (something) after much careful thought: *Thank you for your suggestion, but I must think this whole matter out for myself.*

reason out [v adv T1b] to find an answer to (something) by thinking of all the possible arguments: *Let's reason the matter out.*

work out [v adv] **1** [T1, 6a, b] to solve; get the correct answer to; find by performing all the right actions: *I can't work this sum out. He worked out all the answers correctly. I can't work out where we are on this map.* **2** [I0] to have an answer which can be calculated: *The sum won't work out/doesn't work out (properly).*

G4 verbs : considering and meditating

consider [T1; I0] to think slowly and fully: *I*

need time to consider this matter. Consider carefully before you decide.

reflect [I0; T5] to consider very carefully: *After reflecting for a while (on the matter), we decided not to go. She reflected that life was full of difficulties.*

speculate [I0; T5] to think (about a matter) in a way that is not serious or without facts that would lead to a firm result: *Let's speculate on the chances of rain/about the date of the next election.*

ponder [T1, 6; I0] to spend time in considering (a fact, difficulty, etc): *When I asked advice, she pondered (the matter) and then told me not to go. He pondered over/about those strange events. The prisoner pondered how to escape.*

deliberate [T1, 6a, b; I0] often *fml* to consider (important and difficult questions) carefully, often in formal meeting(s), with other people: *The judges are deliberating (the question). They deliberated (upon/about) what to do next.*

muse [I0 (on)] often *lit & pomp* to think deeply (about something), esp not noticing what is happening at the time: *He sat in a chair, musing (on life).*

meditate 1 [I0 (on, upon)] to think seriously or deeply: *He meditated for two days before giving his answer.* **2** [I0] to fix and keep the attention on one matter, having cleared the mind of thoughts, esp for religious reasons or to gain peace of mind [⇒ C333] **3** [T1] to plan and consider carefully: *They are meditating a change in the office arrangements.*

contemplate 1 [T1] to look at (something or someone) quietly and solemnly, usu while thinking: *The art student stood contemplating the famous painting.* **2** [T1, 4, 6; I0] to think deeply about; consider with continued attention: *The doctor contemplated the difficult operation he had to perform. I hope your mother isn't contemplating coming to stay with us! I lay in bed contemplating what to do next. She often sits in church and contemplates.* **3** [T1] to expect: *The police contemplated various kinds of trouble after the football match.*

entertain [T1] often *fml* to be ready and willing to think about (ideas, doubts, suggestions, etc): *He refused to entertain for a moment the thought that his son was a thief. I am prepared to entertain your suggestion.*

G5 nouns : considering and meditating

consideration often *fml* **1** [U] careful thought; thoughtful attention: *We shall give your request careful consideration. I've sent them my book for (their) consideration. The matter is still being given consideration by the minister of foreign affairs. Taking everything into consideration, we must refuse your request.* **2** [C] a fact to be considered when making a decision: *Time is an important consideration. A number of considerations have led me to refuse your request.*

reflection 1 [U] deep and careful thought: *On reflection, he agreed to do it. I am sorry that I spoke quickly and without reflection.* 2 [C] an example or result of this; a thought: *He told us his reflections on Indian politics.*

speculation [U; C] (an example of) reasoning, not seriously or without all the facts: *There is nothing in what he says; it's pure speculation.*

speculative [B] 1 of or being speculation based on reason alone and not facts about the world -ly [adv]

deliberation fml 1 [U] the fact of deliberating, of thinking slowly and deeply. 2 [U; C] careful consideration; thorough examination of a matter: *After much deliberation we found that nothing could be done. Our deliberations were useless.* 3 [U] the quality of being slow, careful, or unhurried in thought, speech, or movement: *The old man rose from his chair with great deliberation and left the room.*

deliberate [B] 1 carefully considered; thoroughly planned: *The government is taking deliberate action to lower prices.* 2 intentional [⇒ G17]; on purpose: *That shooting was not accidental, but a deliberate attempt to kill him!* 3 (of speech, thought, or movement) slow; careful; unhurried: *The old man rose from his chair in a deliberate way and left the room.* -ly [adv] -ness [U]

meditation 1 [U] the act, state, or time of meditating 2 [U] the practice of deep, usu religious thought [⇒ C333] 3 [C often pl] an example of deep thought on a subject in a piece of speech or writing: *She enjoyed reading his meditations.*

contemplation [U (of)] the act of thinking deeply and quietly; deep thought: *Each morning the priest spent an hour in quiet contemplation. She seemed lost in contemplation (of the future).*

G6 nouns : reasoning and logic

reasoning [U] the use of one's reason: *He shows great power(s) of reasoning. Your reasoning in the matter was quite correct.*

logic [U] 1 the science of reasoning by formal methods: *He wants to study logic.* 2 a way of reasoning: *I don't understand his logic at all.* 3 infml reasonable thinking: *There's no logic in spending money on useless things. I don't see the logic in that/of doing that.*

philosophy 1 [U] the study of the nature and the meaning of existence, reality, knowledge, goodness, etc: *She is a student of philosophy and logic.* 2 [C] a special system of thought having this as its base: *He was studying the philosophy of Aristotle.* 3 [C] a rule or set of rules for living one's life, esp based on one's beliefs and experiences: *Eat, drink, and be merry; that's his philosophy.* 4 [U] calmness and quiet courage, esp in spite of difficulty or unhappiness: *He accepted his misfortune with philosophy and never complained.*

philosopher [C] a person who studies philosophy or uses it in life

psychology [U] 1 the study or science of the mind and the way it works, and of behaviour as an expression of the mind: *She is a student of psychology.* 2 a branch of this study that deals with a particular group or division of human activity: *His main interest is criminal/educational psychology.* 3 infml the mind and patterns of behaviour of a particular person or group; a person's character: *I can't understand that man's psychology.* 4 infml cleverness in understanding people: *You must use psychology if you want to get his help.* **psychologist** [C] a person skilled in psychology

G7 adjectives, etc : reasoning and logic [B]

mental [Wa5] of or concerning the mind: *Mental illness is often harder to cure than bodily illness. His mental abilities are very good.* -ly [adv]

intellectual 1 of or concerning the intellect, mind, higher thought, etc: *Philosophy is an intellectual exercise. She isn't interested in intellectual things.* 2 having, showing, or needing great mental ability: *intellectual work* -ly [adv] 3 [C] a person who is intellectual: *'Philosophy interests intellectuals, but not ordinary people,' he said.*

rational 1 (of people) having the power of reason: *A rational man wouldn't do things like that.* 2 (of ideas and behaviour) according to reason: *Is there any rational explanation of what happened? That wasn't a very rational thing to do.* ir- [neg] -ly [adv]

logical 1 according to the rules of logic or reason: *The logical result of such behaviour is punishment.* 2 having or showing good reasoning: *Try to be logical about your plans.* il- [neg] -ly [adv Wa4]

abstract 1 concerned with an idea or ideas in the mind rather than actual things, events, etc: *Good people exist, but the idea of 'goodness' is abstract. He is good at abstract thinking.* 2 difficult to understand because concerned with ideas rather than actual things: *These abstract matters make no sense to me; give me concrete* [⇒ N13] *everyday things to deal with.* 3 (of kinds of art) not showing actual pictures but rather shapes, colours, patterns, etc: *He is an abstract painter.* **in the abstract** as an idea: *He considered the matter in the abstract first, before dealing with it in real life.*

conceptual of or concerning a concept or concepts [⇒ G9]; relating to ideas in the mind: *There is a conceptual difference between 'good' and 'true'; they are not the same thing. His conceptual ability is good; he can think well in the abstract.* -ly [adv]

philosophical 1 of, concerning, or like philosophy: *That was a good philosophical argument.* 2 calm and thoughtful about things, esp

in spite of difficulty or unhappiness: *He was very philosophical about losing the money.* -ly [adv Wa4]

psychological of, concerning, or like psychology: *They made a psychological study of his behaviour. Try to be psychological; if you know how he'll behave you'll be able to stop him doing it.* -ly [adv Wa4]

cognitive [Wa5] of, about, or needing cognition [⇒ G1] or reasoned thought: *Cognitive psychology tries to study how people think.* -ly [adv]

coherent (esp of thought, speech, ideas, etc) being naturally or reasonably connected: *He isn't a very coherent thinker, is he?* in- [neg] -ly [adv]

G8 verbs : considering, supposing, and conceiving

[ALSO ⇒ I 43]

consider [T1, 4, 5, 6a, b; X (to be) 1, 7] to think or suppose: *I consider him (to be) a fool. She considered (that) it (was) time to go.*

regard [T1; X9, esp as] not fml to consider: *She regards him as a fool.*

look on also **think of** [X9] not fml to regard: *She looks on/thinks of him as a fool.*

assume [T1, 5a, b; X (to be) 1, 7] to take as a fact or as true without proof: *I assumed that he was there. I assumed him (to be) able to read. He was there, or so I assumed. Assuming it rains tomorrow, what shall we do?*

suppose 1 [T5a, b; V3] to take as likely; consider as true: *If we suppose that man is an animal/suppose man to have descended from animals, then we can learn something useful from animal behaviour. I suppose he's gone home. He must be dead, then.—Yes I suppose so.* 2 [T5a, b; V3 often pass; X1, 7, 9] often fml to believe: *I suppose that's true. I supposed him to be a workman, but he was in fact a thief. He was commonly supposed (to be) foolish. I supposed him in the office. Where's the house? It's supposed to be here.* 3 [V3 pass] a to expect, because of duty, responsibility, or other condition: *Everyone is supposed to wear a seat belt in the car.* b [neg] to allow: *You're not supposed to smoke in here.*

guess 1 [I0; T1, 5a, b] to consider, judge, or state (something) without being sure: *He didn't know the answer to the question, so he guessed (it). He guessed correctly/wrongly. I guessed (that) he would do it.* 2 [T5a, b not pass] infml, esp AmE to suppose: *Is he coming?—I guess so. He says he won't do it and I guess he means it.*

reckon 1 [X (to be) 1, 7; X9 esp among, as] to consider; regard: *He is reckoned (to be) a great actor. She was reckoned (to be) very beautiful. I reckon him as a friend/among my friends.* 2 [T5a, b] infml to guess; suppose; calculate (a number) without counting exactly: *I reckon*

(that) he'll come soon. How much do you reckon (that) she cares?

imagine 1 [T5a, b, 6a, b] to suppose; have an idea about, esp mistakenly: *I can't imagine what she means. He imagines that people don't like him.* 2 [T1, 4; V4] to form a picture or idea of in the mind: *I can imagine the scene clearly in my mind.*

fancy 1 [T1, 4] to form a picture of; imagine: *Fancy working every day! Fancy her saying such rude things! Fancy that!* 2 [T5a] to believe without being certain; think: *I fancy I have met you before.*

conceive also [v prep] **conceive of** [T1, 4] to think of; imagine: *In ancient times people conceived (of) the world as flat. When did scientists first conceive of space travel? It's difficult to conceive of travelling to the moon. How did he ever conceive such an idea?*

G9 nouns : assuming and conceiving

[ALSO ⇒ I 45]

assumption [C, C5] something that is taken as a fact or as true without proof: *Our assumption that we would win was wrong.*

supposition 1 [U, U5] the act of supposing or guessing: *We must work on the supposition that he borrowed the money, not that he stole it.* 2 [C] an idea which is the result of this: *My supposition is that he took the money, meaning to pay it back later. Suppositions will not explain the reasons.*

guess [C] an opinion, judgment, etc that one is not sure about: *He made a guess as to how many people were there. His guess was 200. At a guess I'd say 200 people. I'll give you three guesses.*

imagination 1 [U; C] the ability to imagine: *She has great visual imagination; she can see things easily in her mind. What imaginations these children have!* 2 [U] the working of one's mind, in forming a picture or idea, esp mistakenly: *The difficulties are all in your imagination.*

fancy 1 [U] imagination, esp in a free and undirected form: *His mind went where fancy took it.* 2 [U] the power of creating decorative images, esp in poetry 3 [C] an image, opinion, or idea imagined and not based on fact: *I think he will come but it's only a fancy of mine. Is someone knocking at the door or is it a fancy?*

idea [C] 1 a picture in the mind: *I've got a good idea of what he wants.* 2 a plan: *I have an idea for a new book.* 3 an opinion: *He'll have his own ideas about that.* 4 a guess; a feeling of probability: *I have an idea that she likes him better than anyone else.* 5 [also C5a] understanding: *You have no idea how worried I was! She doesn't have any idea how to do the job.* 6 a suggestion or sudden thought: *What a good idea! Don't start putting ideas into his head; he has enough work to do at the moment.*

concept [C (of), C5] often tech & fml an idea, thought, or understanding: *I disagree with your*

concept that all history is the history of the struggle between social classes.

conception [U, U5, (6b); C: (of)] (a) general understanding; idea: *Different people have different conceptions of what he means. Having studied history we can have some/a conception of what life was like in the past. The conception that the earth is flat developed in ancient times. I have no conception (of) why you left home.*

afterthought [C] 1 an idea that comes later: *Have you had any afterthoughts about it?* 2 something added later: *Surprisingly, the best part of the book was an afterthought, added just before it was printed.*

impression [C] 1 the image or idea that a person or thing gives to someone's mind: *She made a good/bad impression on his mother. First impressions of people can be wrong. We wanted to make a big impression on her family.* 2 a feeling about the nature of something: *I had an impression of a large animal but it all happened so quickly that I'm not sure what kind of beast it was. I got the impression that they had just had an argument. My impression was that he was uncertain about the plan.*

notion 1 [C, C5, 6a, b] an idea, belief, or opinion (in someone's mind); conception: *I don't believe in the notion of a perfectly just man. I haven't the faintest notion what you are talking about.* 2 [C, C3, 5] a desire or liking, esp an unreal or sudden one: *His head is full of silly notions. I've a notion to go to a film tonight.*

notional [B] coming from notions, ideas, thoughts, etc and not necessarily from experience -ly [adv]

intuition 1 [U] the power to know without reasoning how something happens/will happen; the (feeling of) understanding which results 2 also infml **hunch** [C] an example of intuition or the piece of knowledge that results: *I have an intuition/a hunch that he'll come tomorrow.* **intuitive** [B] 1 having intuition: *an intuitive person* 2 understood or got by intuition: *intuitive knowledge* -ly [adv]

insight 1 [U] the power of using one's mind to understand something, without help from outside information: *It is insight, not knowledge or experience that helps her to understand other people's difficulties.* 2 [C] an example of this or the understanding which results: *I had an unexpected insight into the child's feelings last night. These new scientific insights are very useful.*

opinion 1 [C] that which a person thinks about something: *His opinions are usually based on facts. In my opinion you're wrong.* 2 [U] that which people in general think about something: *(Public) opinion has changed in favour of that group.* 3 [C] professional judgment or advice: *You should get a second opinion (= from another doctor) before you decide to have an operation. be of the opinion that . . . to think or believe that have a good/bad/high/low opinion of to think well/badly of opinionated*

[B] derog very sure of the rightness of one's opinion

mind [C usu sing] one's opinion; what a person thinks, believes, plans, etc (esp in the phrs **change one's mind, be in two minds, make up one's mind, be of the same mind**): *I've changed my mind on what to do. She's in two minds on what to do/She can't make up her mind on what to do (= She can't decide what to do). You and I are just not of the same mind in this matter (= We do not agree).*

regard [U;S] often fml a good opinion (of someone or something): *I hold his ideas in high/little regard. She has a special regard for him.*

point of view [C] a way of considering or judging a thing, person, event, etc: *We need someone with a fresh point of view to suggest changes. You can study this matter from several points of view. From my point of view no changes should be made.*

viewpoint also **standpoint** [C] more emph point of view: *People all look at things from different viewpoints. From his standpoint this seems (to be) a good idea.*

hypothesis [C] an idea which is thought likely to explain the facts about something: *His new hypothesis gives a possible reason for the changes in the weather.* **hypothetical** [B] of, concerning, or like a hypothesis: *Your suggestions are purely hypothetical; there is no way of showing that they are true or false.* -ly [adv Wa4]

theory 1 [C; S 5] a statement or group of statements established by reasoned argument based on known facts, intended to explain a particular fact or event; explanation which has not yet been fully proved but which appears to be reasonable: *According to Darwin's theories man and apes are descended from the same ancient animal. Do you agree with the wave theory of light?* 2 [U] the part of a science or art that deals with general principles and methods as opposed to practice; rules or principles for the study of a subject: *The government plans seem good in theory but I doubt if they'll work in practice. He was studying Maoist political theory.* 3 [C] an opinion based on limited information or knowledge: *He has a theory about the girl's murder but I think he's wrong.* **theoretical** [Wa2;B] of, concerning, or like a theory: *This work is still theoretical; we haven't tested anything yet.* -ly [adv Wa4] *Theoretically (= in theory) you're right, but things may not work like that in fact.*

G10 verbs : deducing and concluding [T1]

deduce 1 *precise* to decide from general principles in relation to a particular thing, fact or event: *From the fact that Socrates is a man and the principle that all men are mortal (= will die), we can deduce that Socrates was mortal.*

2 loose to infer: *What do you deduce from what she said?*

induce to decide (general principles) from known facts

infer to draw the meaning (from something): *I infer from your letter that you don't want to see us.*

conclude to decide after thinking, deducing, inducing, inferring, etc: *The judge concluded that the prisoner was guilty.*

draw to make or get by reasoning: *He drew a useful comparison between the two languages. What conclusion can you draw from all this information?*

gather to understand (from something said or done): *I gather she's ill and that's why she hasn't come. I didn't gather much from the confused story she told me. I gather that you mean you don't like it.*

G11 nouns : deducing and concluding

deduction 1 [U; C] the act or action of deducing: *Deduction is important in mathematics.*

2 [C] that which is deduced: *All her deductions were correct. The deduction that he was guilty worried them.*

induction 1 [U] inducing or being induced
2 [C] a way of reasoning, using known facts to produce general laws

inference 1 [U] the act of inferring: *I know this by inference, not from anything he actually said.*
2 [C] the meaning which one draws from something done, said: *He never arrives on time and my inference is that he feels the meetings are useless.*

conclusion [C] a judgment or decision based on deduction, induction, inference, etc: *Do you think the judge can arrive at a satisfactory conclusion with such limited information? What conclusions did you come to/draw/reach?*

G12 verbs : judging, analysing, and criticizing

[ALSO ⇒ K111]

judge 1 [T1, 5, 6b; X (to be) 1, 7; I0] to form or give an opinion about (someone or something): *A man should be judged by what he does, not what he says. She can judge people very well. I judge it (to be) the bigger of the two. How can I judge? I don't know the facts.* **2** [C] one who judges: *Is he a good judge of (people's) character?* [⇒ C202, K194]

assess [T1] to judge the quality or worth of: *He can quickly assess a person's character.* **assessor** [C] one who assesses

weigh up [v adv T1, 6a] *not fml* to (try to) understand; form an opinion about: *I can't weigh him up. She tried to weigh up what he meant. He weighed up all possibilities and chose the simplest solution.*

evaluate [T1] *fml* to judge or calculate the value

or amount of (something): *I can't evaluate his ability without more information.*

appraise [T1] *oftentech* to judge the worth, quality or condition of; work out the value of: *They all appraised the house carefully before offering to buy it.*

review [T1] to consider and judge; to go over again in the mind (events or a situation): *He reviewed the events of the past week and decided what to do next.*

see [X9] *infnl* to judge; consider: *I see him as rather a foolish man.*

call [X1, 7] *infnl* to consider: *I call him a fool. I don't call Russian a hard language. That's what I call dishonest.*

interpret [T1; X1 *as*] to understand the likely meaning of (something): *She interpreted his silence as anger. I'm not sure how to interpret their behaviour.* **2** [T 1] to show the (possible) meaning of (something), esp in art, theatre, etc: *He interprets Shakespeare in a very modern way.*

analyse *also analyze* *AmE* [T1] to examine carefully in order to find out about: *We must analyse our present system before we try to improve it.*

criticize, ise [T1; (I0)] **1** to make judgments about the good and bad points of (someone or something): *Would you like to read and criticize my new book? In his latest article our reporter criticizes the way in which the war is being handled.* **2** to find fault with (someone or something); judge severely: *Although he praised my work in general the minister criticized my methods in this particular matter. Before you start criticizing you should make sure you have no faults yourself.* **critic** [C] **1** a person who is good at forming and expressing judgments **2** a person who (regularly) finds fault with someone or something: *She is one of his strongest critics. She is her own severest critic.*

arbitrate 1 [T1; I0 (between)] to judge (an argument), esp at the request of both sides: *We must get someone to arbitrate (this difficulty). Someone must arbitrate between them.* **2** [T1; I0] to settle (an argument, etc) by together choosing a person to make a decision: *I think we should arbitrate. We should arbitrate industrial disagreements.* **arbitrator** [C] a person chosen by both sides of an argument to examine the facts and make a decision to settle the argument **arbiter** [C] a person or group that has complete control or great influence over actions, decisions, etc: *He is the arbiter here on how people dress.*

G13 nouns : judging, analysing, and criticizing

judg(e)ment 1 [C] an opinion: *I want you to form a judgment of his ability. In my judgment, he can do the job.* **2** [U] the ability to judge correctly: *He has good/weak judgment. She*

makes too many errors (= mistakes) of judgment.

assessment 1 [U] the act of assessing, forming opinions 2 [C] a judgment or opinion: *What is your assessment of this state of affairs?*

valuation 1 [U] the act of evaluating 2 [C] an example or result of this; a careful judgment: *What is your latest evaluation of the situation in that country?*

appraisal 1 [U] the act of working out the value, quality, or condition of something 2 [C] a statement of value, quality, or condition

review [C] an act of reviewing: *After a careful review of what had happened, he decided to change his plans.*

interpretation 1 [U] the act of interpreting 2 [C] a meaning understood from what happens in a play, etc; a meaning of something that a performer shows in music, etc **interpretative** [Wa5;B] of or concerning interpretation.

analysis 1 [U] the act of analysing something; careful study or examination: *This matter needs careful analysis.* 2 [C] an examination of something together with thoughts and judgments about it: *Write an analysis of the murderer's character.* **analyst** [C] a person who makes an analysis, esp of chemical materials: *He is a chemical analyst.* **analytical** also more tech **analytic** [B] of, concerning, or like analysis or an analysis: *He has a fine analytical mind.* *An analytic study of the matter could help us a lot.* **-(al)ly** [adv Wn4]

criticism 1 [U] the act of forming and expressing judgments about the good or bad qualities of anything, esp artistic work 2 [U] unfavourable judgment; disapproval; the act of finding fault: *The military government intends to stop unfavourable criticism by controlling newspapers and broadcasting.* *If you don't like criticism, you won't like politics.* 3 [C] an article, report, etc giving opinions about the good or bad qualities of something: *He has written several criticisms of that play.* 4 [C] an unfavourable opinion or remark: *Your criticism seems to have offended him.* *That was an unfair criticism.* **critical** [Wa2;B] 1 of, concerning, or like criticism: *He wrote a critical study of the poem.* *He was critical, but helpful at the same time.* **un-** [neg] 2 making unfavourable remarks: *Try not to be so critical of people/about what she wears.* **-ly** [adv Wa4]

critique 1 [U] the art or practice of criticism 2 [C] an article or book criticizing artistic or other work or a person: *Marx's critique of Hegel is well known.*

arbitration [U] the settlement of an argument by the decision of a person or group chosen by both sides: *The government wanted all industrial arguments settled by arbitration.* **go to arbitration** 1 (of a business, group of workers, etc) to give or choose to give an argument to a person chosen by both sides: *The two firms were willing to go to arbitration.* 2 (of an argument) to be given to a person chosen by both

sides: *Since no agreement could be reached the matter went to arbitration.*

G14 verbs & nouns : believing and accepting

believe 1 [T1, 6a] to consider to be true or honest: *I believe you/what you say.* *Believe me, it really happened!* 2 [T5a, b; V3; X1, 7] to hold as an opinion; suppose: *I believe he has come.* *He has come, I believe.* *Has he come?—I believe so.* *I believe he did it.* (old use & lit) *I believe him to have done it.* *I believe him (to be) honest.*

belief 1 [U] the activity of believing: *Belief in God is important to many people.* 2 [C] something which is believed: *A belief in God is important to many people.* *He has many strange beliefs.*

credit [T1, 5, 6a; V4] *emph* to believe: *Do you really credit the government's statement? I can hardly credit that a man in his position would do such a foolish thing! I can't credit her doing such a stupid thing.* **credence** [U] often *fml* acceptance as true; belief: *The newspapers are giving no credence to the government's latest statements.* **credo** [C] a statement of beliefs and principles. [= C321 CREED]

credit with [v prep D1; V4b] to believe (someone or something) to have: *People credit the holy man's bones with great power.* *Please credit me with some sense.*

accept [Wv5; T1] to believe: *I can't accept what he says.* **-ance** [U]

attribute to 1 [v prep D1, 6a; V4] to believe to be the result of: *He attributes his success to hard work/to how hard he has always worked/to working hard.* 2 [D1 *usu pass*] to consider (something) to have been written by (someone): *This tune is usually attributed to Bach.* **attribution** [C; U] the act of attributing: *The attribution of the play to that poet was shown to be wrong.*

ascribe to [v prep D1 often *pass*] esp *fml* to attribute to: *He ascribes his success to hard work.* *No one is sure who wrote the play, but it is usually ascribed to her.* **ascription** [C; U] the act of ascribing: *The ascription of their failure to lack of money is not honest.*

G15 adjectives : believing [B]

believable that can be believed: *Is what he says believable or not?* **un-** [neg] **-bly** [adv Wa3]

credible deserving or worthy of belief or trust: *This is a credible news report.* *After this latest affair he hardly seems credible as a politician.* **-bly** [adv Wa3] **-bility** [U]

credulous too willing to believe, esp without certain proof: *These people are pretty credulous; they'll believe almost anything you tell them.* **in-** [neg] **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U] **credulity** [U] the state of being credulous **in-** [neg]

gullible easily tricked, esp into a false belief: *He is very gullible; he gave money to a strange man who said he lost £5 in the street.* -bly [adv Wa3] -bility [U]

farfetched not fml difficult to believe: *What a farfetched story! His story was pretty farfetched; nobody believed it.*

G16 verbs : expecting, anticipating, and planning

expect 1 [T3, 5a, b] to think (that something will happen): *I expect (that) he'll pass the examination. He expects to fail the examination. Will she come soon?—I expect so.* 2 [T1] to think that (someone or something esp good) will come (used often in the continuous tense): *I'm expecting a letter. I expect him home after 6.* 3 [T1] to believe, hope, and think that one will receive (something considered as one's right): *He expects obedience from his children.* 4 [V3] to believe, hope, and think that (someone will do something): *The officer expected his men to fight well in the coming battle.* 5 [Wv6; T5a, b] infml to suppose; think (that something is true): *Who broke that cup?—Oh, I expect it was the cat. Is he coming?—I expect so.* **to be expected** usual; that one feels sure will happen: *She was 90 years old, so her death was only to be expected.* **expectant** [B] waiting or expecting: *There was an expectant silence as everyone waited for his news.* -ly [adv]: *They waited expectantly.*

anticipate 1 [T1, 4] often fml to expect: *We are not anticipating trouble when the factory opens again. We anticipate (meeting) a lot of opposition to our new plan.* 2 [T1] to do something before (someone else): *We anticipated our competitors by getting our book in the shops first.* 3 [T1, 5, 6a] to see (what will happen) and act as necessary, often to stop someone else doing something: *We anticipated that the enemy would try to cross the river and so seized the bridge. We anticipated where they would cross.* 4 [T1] to prevent (someone) doing something by acting first: *They have anticipated us and seized the bridge.* 5 [T1] to provide for the possibility of (something) happening: *We anticipated their visit by buying plenty of food.* 6 [T1] to make use of, deal with, or consider before the right or proper time: *Do not anticipate your earnings by spending a lot of money.* 7 [T1, 5, 6a; I0] to speak or write (something) before the proper time: *If I told you what is going to happen in the story, I would be anticipating. I won't anticipate the story.*

look forward to [v adv prep T1, 4] to expect to feel pleasure in (something about to happen): *I'm looking forward to my dinner. I'm not looking forward to seeing her again.*

bargain for also esp AmE **bargain on** [v prep T1; V3, 4] not fml to take into account; consider: *I had not bargained for such heavy rain,*

and I got very wet without a coat. I hadn't bargained for John coming/to come, and his arrival surprised me.

intend 1 [T3, 5c; V3] to have it in mind to do: *I've made a mistake, though I didn't intend to.* Yes, we intend to go. (fml) We intend that they should go. 2 [X9. esp for, as; V3 usu pass] to be kept, meant, etc, for: *That chair was intended for you, but she took it. It was intended as a joke. It was intended to be cooked slowly.*

mean [T3, 5c; V3; X9] not fml to intend: *I've made a mistake, though I didn't mean to.* Yes we mean to go. *That chair was really meant for you, not her. It was meant to be cooked slowly.*

plan [T1 (out), 3; I0/(for, on, ahead)] to prepare in advance (for something); to prepare (something); for use etc at a later time: *We've been planning this visit for months. It's all planned (out). She never plans ahead, she just does things suddenly. I'd planned on doing some work this afternoon.* **planner** [C] a person who plans (something)

G17 nouns : expecting, anticipating, and planning

expectation 1 [U] often fml & pomp the act of expecting: *Will he pass the exam?—That's my expectation, yes. She lives in expectation of his letter. It's our expectation that you will do well.*

2 [C] an example of this: *I hope he will live up to (= be equal to) her expectation (of him).*

expectancy [U] the state of expecting: *There was a look of expectancy on their faces when he came in. She waited in expectancy.*

anticipation [U] the act of anticipating: *We waited at the station in anticipation of her arrival. Our anticipation of our competitors meant greater sales for our book.*

plan [C] 1 a (carefully considered way of preparing (something or for something) in advance: *The police have a plan to catch the thief. If you have no plans for tomorrow night perhaps you'd like to come out with me?* 2 any arrangement of parts in a group or system: *They had a seating plan for their guests at dinner. This shop sells plans of the streets of the city. Everything went according to plan (= happened as planned).*

intention [U; C] (an act or result of) intending, planning, hoping, expecting, etc to do something: *It wasn't my intention to make you angry. I had no intention of doing that. She has very good intentions but her plans don't always work.* -al [B] intended -ally [adv] un- [neg]

G18 nouns : reasons and motives

[ALSO ⇒ G 105, N 152]

reason 1 [C (for), C3, 5, 6a why; U3] the cause of an event; the explanation or excuse for an action: *The reason for the flood was all that heavy rain. I have many reasons to fear him. The reason that/the reason why he died was lack*

of medical care. *There is/We have reason to believe that he was murdered.* **2** [C (for), C3, 5] what makes one decide on an action; the cause of an intention: *What is your reason for wanting to enter the country? by reason of fml because of: He escaped punishment by reason of his youth. with reason* (of something said or believed) rightly: *He thinks, with reason, that I don't like him.*

USAGE Some people think that *The reason for my absence was because I was ill* is bad English. It may be better to say: *The reason for my absence was that I was ill.*

motive [C] a cause of, or reason for, an action; that which urges a person to act in a certain way: *In case of murder, the police question the people who might have a motive. The love of money is the only motive that drives him to work so hard. We understood the motive behind his actions. What were his real motives for giving the money to the hospital? motivate* [Wv5; T1] to cause a person to do something by giving him or her a motive for doing it: *What motivates him to work so hard?—He's motivated by the need for more money. motivation 1* [U] the act of motivating **2** [C] an example of this **motivational** [B] of, concerning, or for the purpose of motivating **-ly** [adv]

grounds [P] a reason (esp in the phr **on (the) grounds**): *We have good grounds for thinking that he stole the money. What were the grounds for his leaving? He left on grounds of ill-health/on the grounds that he was ill.*

basis [C (of, for)] the main or most important part, idea, fact, motive, etc: *What is the basis of his argument? On what basis do you suggest spending more money? There is no basis for his opinion that the earth is flat.*

excuse [C; U: (for)] the reason, whether true or untrue, given when asking to be forgiven for wrong behaviour: *Have you any excuse to offer for coming so late? Stop making excuses! That's no excuse. Don't be late again without (good) excuse.*

cause 1 [U] reason: *Don't complain without cause. There's no cause for you to leave; I still love you. There is more cause for you to stay than to go. Is there sufficient cause for you to sell this house?* **2** [C] a reason: *What were the causes of the First World War?*

Incentive 1 [U; C: (to)] the reason which urges greater activity: *His interest gave me (an) incentive and I worked twice as hard. War gives (an) incentive to trade.* **2** [U usu neg] the urge and ability to get things done: *He's got no incentive/little incentive.*

G19 verbs : remembering and reminding

remember 1 [T1 (as), 4, 5, 6; V3] to keep in memory; call back into the mind: *I shall always remember that terrible day. Certainly I posted your letter; I remember posting it. I can't*

remember where she lives/what happened then. Do you remember me/my asking you that same question? I remember him, as (= when he was) a child, playing the piano beautifully. I remember that she wore a green hat. **2** [10; T3] to take care not to forget: *Don't forget to post my letter; please remember!—Yes, (I promise) I'll remember to post your letter.* **3** [T1] to give a present to: *Please, remember the taxi-driver! She always remembers me at Christmas. remember someone to infml* to send someone's greetings to (someone one knows but does not actually love): *Please remember me to your mother. He asked to be remembered to you.*

USAGE Note the difference between *remember posting the letter* (1) and *remember to post the letter* (2). In the first case the letter is already posted, while in the second case it has not been posted yet.

recall [T1, 4, 5, 6a, b] to remember: *I can't recall his face/seeing him/that he came/where he lives/how to do it.*

recollect [Wv6; T1, 4, 6a, b] to remember (something past): *Do you recollect her name/meeting her/where she lives/how to get there? As far as I (can) recollect, her name is Juliet.*

bring back [v adv T1] *not fml* to cause to return to the memory: *The Beatles singing 'Yesterday' certainly brings that year back/brings back memories (for me).*

bring to mind also call to mind esp emph to remember: *I remember the name but I just can't bring/call him to mind.*

remind [T1; D5; V3] **1** to tell (someone) to remember (a fact, or to do something): *I must write to mother; will you remind me? Remind me to write to mother. She reminded me that I hadn't written to mother. 'You haven't written to mother,' she reminded me.* **2** (of a thing or event) to make (someone) remember (a fact, or to do something): *The sight of the clock reminded me that I was late/reminded me to leave at once. What a big elephant! That reminds me; have you been to India again? remind of* [v prep D1] to make (someone) remember (someone or something) by seeming the same: *This hotel reminds me of the one we stayed in last year.*

G20 verbs : not remembering

forget 1 [T1, 3, 4, 5a, 6a, b; 10] to fail to remember or keep in the memory: *I'm sorry; I've forgotten your name. Don't forget to bring the cases. I'll never forget finding that rare old coin in my garden. I'm sorry; I was forgetting (that) you don't like beans. I forget who it was that said it. I forget where to go. What's her name?—I forget.* **2** [T1] to fail to remember to bring, buy, etc (something): *Don't forget the cases. I've got the meat and potatoes, but I'm afraid I forgot the bread.* **3** [T1; 10] to stop thinking about; put out of one's mind: *They*

agreed to forget their disagreements and be friends again. I'm sorry I broke your teapot.—Forget it. You should forgive and forget. **4** [T1] to fail to give attention to; treat with inattention: *He forgot his old friends when he became rich.* 'Don't forget me,' the little boy said, as his mother was giving out jelly to the other children. **forget oneself** **1** to lose one's temper or self control, or act in a way that makes one look silly: *The little girl annoyed him so much that he forgot himself and hit her.* He so far forgot himself as to leave the table before everyone had finished eating. **2** to act in an unselfish way **not forgetting** also including; and also: *This song has been requested for Bill, Maggie, and little Teresa, not forgetting Fido the dog.*

overlook [T1] to fail to see, notice, or remember: *I'm afraid I overlooked your name; I'll add it to the list immediately.*

leave out [v adv T1 (of)] not to put in; to forget to put in: *He left out several words by mistake. Don't leave me out of the group going to the dance!*

miss [T1 (out)] *infml & genl* to leave out: *Do these ones and miss those others; we'll do them another time. Don't miss me out; I want to come too!*

omit *esp fml* **1** [T1] to leave out: *The teacher omitted the exercises on page 21 of the book.* **2** [T3] *BrE* not to do: *He omitted to tell us when to go.* **omission** **1** [U] the act of omitting **2** [C] an example or result of this; something omitted: *There are several important omissions in his letter to us.*

G21 nouns : memory and reminders

memory **1** [C; U] an ability to remember events and experience: *Memory is a quality which is not highly developed in most animals.* **2** [C (of)] an example of remembering: *One of my earliest memories is of this house. I have a clear memory of his face.* **3** [(the) S9] the time during which things happened which can be remembered: *There have been two wars within the memory of my grandfather.* **4** [C] the opinion held of someone after his death: *We must praise his memory.* **commit something to memory** to learn and remember on purpose **in memory of** as a way of remembering or being reminded of: *in memory of his death* **within living memory** in the time which can be remembered by people now alive **to the best of my memory/my remembrance/my recollection** as well as I can remember; if I remember right: *To the best of my memory, she came on Thursday.*

remembrance **1** [C; U: (of)] *often fml* (a) memory; the state or act of remembering: *Christians eat bread and drink wine in remembrance of Jesus. I have many happy remembrances of our days together.* **2** [C (of)] something kept or

given to remind one: *He gave me his photograph as a remembrance (of him).*

mind [U] *not usu fml* memory: *Please try to keep in mind what he wants. Out of sight, out of mind* (proverb: = If you can no longer see something, you forget it).

recall [U] the power to remember something learned or experienced: *He has total recall; he never forgets anything.*

recollection **1** [U] the act or power of recollecting or remembering anything: *I find recollection difficult; it all happened a long time ago.* **2** [C] an example of this: *His recollections of his childhood are very interesting.* **to the best of my recollection** if I remember right: *To the best of my recollection that happened in 1959.*

reminder [C] something which causes one to remember something else; an action of causing someone to remember: *I saw his book; it was a reminder that I must phone him today. Please give me a reminder this afternoon to phone him. He hasn't paid his bill; send him a reminder.*

G22 adjectives : forgetful

forgetful [B] (of persons) likely to forget: *He's getting old and a bit forgetful.*

oblivious [F (of)] (of persons) not remembering, noticing, seeing, hearing, etc: *He worked on, completely oblivious of everything/of the passage of time.*

G23 nouns : forgetfulness [U]

forgetfulness the state of forgetting or being likely to forget: *His forgetfulness is well known; better tell him again.*

oblivion **1** the state of having forgotten; unconsciousness: *He was tired and sank quickly into oblivion.* **2** the state of being forgotten: *Oblivion is the fate of most writers.*

G24 nouns : fame and distinction

fame [U] the condition of being well-known to many people, esp for a particular reason: *His fame as a film actor made his family very proud of him. All she thinks about is fame and money.*

renown [U] *fml & lit* fame: *He is a scientist of great renown.*

distinction [U] fame, esp for being better than most others at a particular thing: *He served with distinction in the army. She is a person of considerable scientific distinction.*

celebrity **1** [U] the state of being famous; fame: *Many famous people find that celebrity is sometimes inconvenient.* **2** [C] a famous person: *Who's the most well-known celebrity in London?*

G25 adjectives, etc : well-known, famous, and noteworthy [B]

well-known [Wa2;(for)] known to many people: *She is well-known for her work with children. He is a well-known writer.*

famous [(for)] usu apprec well-known: *He is famous for his work with animals. She is a famous singer.* **famously** [adv] very well: *How did you enjoy your visit to Italy?—Very much; I got on famously there.* **infamous** [B] deprec famous for bad reasons: *What an infamous man Hitler was!* **-ly** [adv]

celebrated often pomp well-known; famous: *Venice is celebrated for its beautiful buildings. Meet the celebrated author tonight!*

distinguished (appearing) important, or famous for doing something very well: *Her father is a distinguished doctor. Who is that man, the one who looks so distinguished?*

outstanding **1** very important, famous, etc: *He is one of the most outstanding artists of our time.* **2** very good, clever, etc: *This is outstanding work; she is an outstanding student.* **3** easily seen, remembered, etc: *That meeting was an outstanding moment in the history of our country.* **-ly** [adv]

noted (of a person) famous: *He is one of our most noted scientists.*

notable (of a happening) worth noticing, remembering, seeing, etc: *That was a notable meeting.* **-bly** [adv Wa3]

noteworthy worth noticing: *His book on animals is really noteworthy; you should read it.*

recognized, -ised famous as an important person or thing, esp in a particular way: *He is a recognised authority on that subject.*

Knowing and learning

G30 verbs : knowing and being conscious

know [Wv6] **1** [T1, 5a, (b); I0] to have in the mind: *I know (that) that is true. I knew all about it. You can be sure he knows (it) by now. This has been known for a long time.* **2** [T6] to have learnt: *I know how to swim/where to go/how that should be done.* **3** [V3] to accept the fact that (someone or something is): *I know him to be a fool.* **4** [V3, BrE 2] to have seen, heard, etc: *I've known him to run/(BrE) run faster than that.* **5** [T1] to have experienced: *He has known both grief and happiness.* **6** [T1] to have met and spoken to (someone) several times: *I've known him for years.* **7** [T1] to be able to recognize: *He knows good wine when he tastes it.* **8** [I0] to agree: *He's very ill.—Yes, I know.* **there's no knowing** it's not possible to know: *There's no knowing what he will do next.*

be aware [T1 of; T5] often fml & pomp to know: *Are you aware of the difficulty/that there is a difficulty?*

be conscious of [T1] often fml & pomp to know well: *He is conscious of what he must do. Are you conscious of all the trouble you are causing us?*

recognize, -ise **1** [T1] to remember the name, nature, etc of (someone or something), esp when seeing, hearing, etc: *Do you recognize him?—Yes; I do. Can you recognize her from this picture? He recognized his old friend without difficulty, although they hadn't met for years. I could hardly recognize her; she has changed so much!* **2** [T1, 5] to accept (something) as true: *You must surely recognize the danger in/of what you are doing? He now recognizes that he was wrong.* **3** [T1 often pass] to accept (someone or something) officially: *His work has at last been recognized by his fellow scientists (= other scientists). Our government doesn't recognize the government of that country.*

G31 verbs : understanding and realizing

understand **1** [T1; I0] to know or get the meaning of: *Do you understand (this word)? 'I can't understand modern literature', he said.* **2** [T1, 6a] to know or feel closely the nature of (a person, feelings, etc): *I can't understand him when he behaves so badly. I understand how you feel. Who can understand the way another person's mind works? Nobody understands me.* **3** [T5a, b] often fml or polite to learn; have found out (a fact): *I understand you're coming to work for us. I'm coming to work for you.—So I understand. I understood she was married, but I find I was misinformed (= they gave me wrong information).* **4** [T1 (by), 5a; V3; often pass] to take or judge (as the meaning): *What do you understand by the order to move on; where do they want us to go? By 'children' it's understood (that) they mean 14-year-olds. 'Children' is understood to mean 14-year-olds. We understood them to mean that they would wait for us.* **5** [T1 often pass] to add (esp a word) in the mind for completion: *When I say 'come and help', the object 'me' is supposed to be understood.* **make oneself understood** to make one's meaning clear to others, esp in speech **understand one another/each other** to know what is wished, esp to agree: *Now we understand one another, we can make the right changes.* **give someone to understand** fml to cause someone to judge or believe: *He gave me to understand that he would be there by 3; can I have misunderstood?*

comprehend [T1, I0] usu fml to understand: *The child read the story but did not (fully) comprehend its meaning. The ability to comprehend written information is very important in the modern world. He reads but he doesn't comprehend.*

realize, -ise [T1, 5a, 6a] to understand and believe or accept (a fact): *He didn't realize his*

mistake. Do you realize it's Saturday? We realize what a good book this is!

perceive [T1, 5, 6a, b] *esp tech & fml* to become aware of (something) through any of the senses; see, understand, etc: *He was only able to perceive light and colour; he could not see properly. Do you perceive what I mean?*

grasp [T1, 6a, b] *esp emot & emph* to understand: *I didn't quite grasp what she meant. Did you grasp the full meaning of what he said?*

appreciate [T1] **1** to understand fully: *I don't think you appreciate the dangers of this job. Do you appreciate the difference between good wine and excellent wine?* **2** to understand the high worth of: *His abilities were not appreciated in that school.* **3** to understand and enjoy the good qualities of: *A sensitive mouth is necessary to appreciate good wine.*

fathom [T1, 6a, b] to understand (something that is specially difficult, mysterious, etc): *Can you fathom his plan? I just can't fathom her/ what she wants to do.*

follow [T1; I0] to understand (something, esp someone's spoken or written ideas) as one listens or reads: *Can you follow him/his line of thought? Sorry, I just can't follow/I'm just not following.*

see [T1, 6a, b; I0] *infml* to understand: *Do you see what I mean?—Yes, I see. He saw the point of what they were doing. I'm afraid I just can't see why.*

get [T1, 6a, b] *infml & genl* to understand: *Do you get what I mean?—Yes, I get it. He didn't get the point of what they were doing. I'm afraid I just don't get it (= understand).*

dawn on [v prep T1] to become clear to (someone): *It dawned on me at last that he had been telling me lies.*

G32 verbs : learning

learn 1 [I0; T1, 3, 6b] to gain knowledge (of) or skill (in): *The child is learning quickly. I'm trying to learn French. She is learning to be a dancer. He is learning how to play the drums.*

2 [T1] to fix in the memory; memorize: *You should learn this list of words by tomorrow.*

3 [T1, 5a, b, 6a, b; I0 (of or about)] to become informed (of): *Haven't you learnt the truth? His mother learnt in the newspapers of her son's success. learn one's lesson* to suffer so much from doing something that one will not do it again

acquire [T1] to learn, esp through a plan, over a long time, etc: *She acquired her (knowledge of) French while living in Paris.*

get [T1] *infml & genl* to learn, acquire: *Where did she get that very good knowledge of French?*

gain [T1] *often fml* to learn, acquire (esp something worth knowing): *When she was in France she gained an excellent knowledge of French. He gained all this information from books, not from direct experience.*

pick up [v adv T1] *infml* to learn, usu without hard work: *She picks up foreign languages easily. He picked up a knowledge of these things when he was in the East.*

memorize, -ise [T1, 6a, b] to learn and remember, on purpose: *He memorized the poem/what to do.*

study 1 [T1; I0] to look at, read, or listen to (something) in order to learn: *He is busy studying French. She studied hard for her examinations.* **2** [T1] to examine carefully: *She studied the book/his face with interest. This organization studies social matters.*

G33 verbs : teaching and training

[ALSO ⇒ I 130, ETC]

teach [D1 (to), 5, 6a, b; T1, 4; V3, 4; I0] to give knowledge or skill of, or training or lessons in (a particular subject, how to do something, etc) to (someone): *I teach boys history and my wife teaches girls French. You can't teach an old dog new tricks. John teaches politics to university students. I would rather teach older than younger children. The priest taught the people that they should love their neighbours as themselves. The teacher taught the children why they should love their country. The children should be taught how to read and write. He wants to be taught (to play) cricket. The Bible teaches that we should all love each other. My husband teaches at a local school/(AmE) teaches school locally.*

instruct 1 [T1, 5b; D5b, 6a, b] to give knowledge or information to: *They instructed me in the best way of doing the job. I'll instruct him whether (he needs) to come today or tomorrow.* **2** [V3] to give orders to: *I instructed him to come to work earlier.* **3** [D5, 5b; V3; T1] *law* to advise

educate [T1] to teach, esp to train in the mind or character generally: *She educated her younger daughter at home. He was educated at the local school.*

train 1 [T1; V3; D6 *esp how*] to give teaching or practice, esp in an art, profession, or skill; instruct: *He was trained for the priesthood at a college in Rome. At school they should train young children (how) to be good citizens.*

2 [I0; T3] to be taught or given practice, esp in an art, profession, or skill: *He trained to be a doctor but decided to become a priest instead.*

3 [I0; T1 (for)] to make ready for a test of skill: *Every morning he spends two hours training for the race. Who trains Manchester City football team?*

coach 1 [T1] to train or teach (a person or a group of people), esp for a special purpose, examination, sport, etc; to give instruction or advice to (a person or a group of people): *He coached the football team well. She coaches people for English examination. She coaches people in English.* **2** [I0] to act or be employed in coaching people: *He coaches at our school.*

tutor 1 [T1; (10) (in)] to act as a private teacher to: *He tutored the boy in French.* 2 [T1] to train in obedience: *You really must tutor that horse. Try to tutor your feelings and you won't lose your temper so easily.*

discipline [T1] 1 to train and control firmly: *You must learn to discipline yourself.* 2 to punish in order to train: *She never disciplines her children and they are uncontrollable.* **disciplinary** [Wv5; B] *fml* for the purpose of disciplining: *The teacher took no disciplinary action against the badly-behaved boys and so they behaved even worse.* **disciplinarian** [C] a person who believes in disciplining children, soldiers, etc firmly: *That teacher is a real disciplinarian.*

school [T1 (in)] *esp lit* to teach, train, or discipline (someone): *They schooled him well. She schooled him in crime. He was schooled by life itself.*

civilize, ise [Wv5; T1] to teach certain kinds of arts, sciences, government, etc to (people who do not have such things): *The Romans helped to civilize many European peoples long ago.*

G34 nouns : knowing and realizing

knowledge [U] 1 understanding; the condition of knowing: *He has little knowledge of the facts.* 2 learning; that which is known: *Knowledge is power. She hasn't much knowledge of French.* 3 familiarity with; information about: *My knowledge of Mr Smith is not great. He has a good knowledge of London/Latin.* **bring to (someone's) knowledge** to cause (someone) to know: *The matter was never brought to the knowledge of the minister.* **come to (someone's) knowledge** to become known to/by someone: *The matter never came to the knowledge of the minister.* **to the best of one's knowledge (and belief)** so far as one knows: *I am not quite sure, but to the best of my knowledge his story is true.* **to one's knowledge** so far as one knows: *He isn't there to my knowledge.* **without someone's knowledge** although someone didn't know: *He left home without his wife's knowledge.*

consciousness [U] the state of being conscious and knowing what is happening; understanding: *The man lost consciousness when he fell and hit his head on a stone. He wants people to have a greater consciousness of what life is all about.*

awareness [U] the state of being aware, of being fully conscious: *The animal knew what was happening; its awareness showed in its eyes.*

cognizance [U] *fml & tech* awareness; (proper) knowledge and understanding: *This story is beyond the cognizance of younger children.* **take cognizance of** to take notice of, take into consideration: *The judge has taken cognizance of the new facts in your case.*

comprehension 1 [U] *fml* the act of understanding 2 [U] the ability of the mind to under-

stand: *I'm happy about your son's comprehension of written information; it is good.* 3 [C; U] (in schools) an exercise to test and improve a pupil's ability to understand language: *Comprehension is a good way of learning. She sets her students a comprehension every week.*

realization, -isation [U; S] (an experience of) understanding and believing: *He now has a full realization of what happened. The realization of his guilt came to him at last.*

perception *esp tech & fml* 1 [U] the act of perceiving; the ability to perceive: *His perception is very good.* 2 [C] something perceived; thought: *What are your perceptions of the matter?*

grasp [S; U] *esp emot & emph* understanding: *She has a good grasp of the subject. He has no grasp of the subject at all.*

appreciation 1 [U] judgement, as of the quality, worth, or facts of something: *The teacher's appreciation of his pupil's chances of passing the examination was correct.* 2 [U] the understanding of the good qualities or worth of something: *Their appreciation of the performance was expressed in loud cheers.* 3 [C] a written account of the worth of something: *The pupil wrote an appreciation of the play he had just seen.*

recognition [U] the act of recognizing or being recognized [⇒ G30]: *She showed no signs of recognition; she didn't seem to know us. He received money in recognition of his services. Recognition of that government by ours is not likely.*

G35 nouns : learning and teaching

[ALSO ⇒ I 130, ETC]

learning [U] deep and wide knowledge gained through reading and study: *This school has produced many men and women of great learning. Edinburgh University is a centre of learning.*

teaching 1 [U] the act, occupation, etc of teaching people, esp children: *He has been in teaching for 20 years. People in the teaching profession (= the business of teaching) are usually interested in what their students do in later life.* 2 [C often pl; U] that which is taught, esp the moral, political, or religious beliefs taught by a person of historical importance: *They try to follow Christ's teaching(s).*

instruction 1 [U] the act of instructing; teaching: *He's not yet trained, but still under instruction.* 2 [C often pl] an order (to a person or machine); advice or order to do something

tuition [U] the act of teaching, esp one person, esp privately: *He does a lot of (private) tuition. The tuition fees (= the money to be paid for being taught) are quite high at that college.*

education 1 [U; C usu sing] teaching or the training of mind and character: *All governments spend money on education. She has had a good education.* 2 [U] a field of knowledge

dealing with how to teach effectively: *He trained to be a teacher at a college of education.*

training [U] the action or business of making people ready or getting ready for some occupation, skill, etc: *He is in training now for the big (= most important) race. Training times are shown on the wall.*

coaching [U] the teaching or training of a person or a group of people, esp for a special purpose, examination, sport, etc: *His coaching (of the team) was very good. She needs coaching (in that subject).*

civilization, -isation [U] the act of civilizing, esp over a period of time: *The civilization of the northern European peoples at the time of the Romans took hundreds of years.*

G36 adjectives : knowing and learning [B]

well-informed *genl* knowing many things: *He is a very well-informed person in this matter; ask him to help you. She spoke in a well-informed way about it.*

knowledgeable (of a person) having a good deal of knowledge; well-informed: *He's very knowledgeable about wines. -bly* [adv Wa3]: *He speaks very knowledgeably about wines.*

aware **1** [F (of), F5] having knowledge or consciousness: *Are you aware of the difficulty/that there is a difficulty?* **2** [B9] having knowledge or consciousness of the stated type: *She is very politically/artistically aware. He is a politically aware kind of person.* **3** [B] having or showing understanding of oneself, one's surroundings and other people: *It's nice to be with such an aware person. -ness* [U] [= G30]

cognizant [F of] *fml & tech* aware: *The judge said he was not cognizant of the case.*

learned **1** having much knowledge as a result of study and reading: *He's a learned man.* **2** of, for, or concerning advanced study: *She wrote a learned book on butterflies. -ly* [adv]

knowing (showing that one is) well-informed or provided with the necessary information: *She gave him a knowing look/smile. -ly* [adv] *She smiled knowingly.*

educated [often in comb] having been educated: *An educated person should not behave as he does. She's a well-educated girl. Many self-educated people are very well-informed. He has an educated ear for music.*

trained having been trained; having had the proper training for a subject, job, etc: *He is a trained teacher. He is trained for the job. They are well-trained people.*

polished having had the necessary additional training, or experience which makes one specially good at something: *She is a very polished performer. He gave a polished performance.*

G37 adjectives : good at learning and doing [B]

clever [Wa1] **1** quick at learning and understanding; having a quick, effective, and able mind: *He's a clever boy; he'll do well in life.* **2** skilful, exp at using the hands or body: *She's a clever worker.* **3** being the result of a quick able mind; showing ability and skill: *That's a clever idea. -ly* [adv] *-ness* [U]

intelligent having or showing good mental powers: *All human beings are much more intelligent than animals. un-* [neg] *-ly* [adv]

brainy [Wa1] *informal* clever: *What a brainy fellow he is! -ily* [adv] *-iness* [U]

smart [Wa1] *informal* sometimes deprec clever and quick: *That child is smart; he'll do well in life. Oh yes, you think you're smart, but you aren't! Don't try to be smarter than your friends all the time.*

bright [Wa1] (of a person who is) clever; quick at learning: *She's a bright child. That's a bright idea. -ly* [adv] *-ness* [U]

acute (of the mind or the senses) able to note small differences, as for meaning or sound; working very well; sharp: *With his acute mind he was able to find an answer quickly. -ly* [adv]

apt [Wa2; (at)] clever and quick to learn and understand: *He is an apt student, very apt at understanding difficult ideas. -ness* [U]

subtle [Wa1] **1** very clever in noticing and understanding **2** clever in arrangement: *That's a subtle plan.* **3** delicate, hardly noticeable, and esp pleasant: *It is a subtle taste. There are subtle differences between the two things.*

ingenious **1** (of people) clever at making or inventing things **2** (of things) cleverly made; original *-ly* [adv]

clear-sighted [Wa2] having a sharp mind; clever: *A clear-sighted politician would have avoided such difficulties.*

astute clever and able to see quickly something that is to one's advantage: *He is a very astute lawyer. -ly* [adv] *-ness* [U]

shrewd [Wa1] **1** clever in judgement, esp of what is to one's own advantage: *He is a shrewd buyer who gets good value for money. She is a shrewd lawyer who knows all the tricks.* **2** well reasoned and likely to be right: *That was a shrewd guess! -ly* [adv] *-ness* [U]

brilliant very clever: *He is one of our most brilliant minds/mathematicians. -ly* [adv]: *She did the work brilliantly.*

G38 adjectives : showing good sense [B]

wise [Wa1] having or showing good sense, cleverness, the ability to understand what happens and decide on the right action: *She made a wise decision; she went away. un-* [neg] *-ly* [adv]

judicious having or showing good judgment; wise, esp in deciding things: *He made a judicious choice.* **in-** [neg] **-ly** [adv]

prudent sensible [⇒ N229] and wise; careful to consider one's advantage, esp by considering possible difficulties, unpleasantness, etc: *It's prudent to wear a thick coat when the weather is cold. She's a prudent girl; she plans everything carefully. Don't make a quick decision; be prudent.* **im-** [neg] **-ly** [adv]

cautious careful; taking great care: *Cautious people don't take chances.* **in-** [neg] **-ly** [adv]

thoughtful thinking very carefully before doing anything and therefore wise and helpful: *He always behaves in a thoughtful way.* **-ly** [adv] **ness** [U]

ill-advised, well-advised [⇒ G121 ADVISE]

G39 nouns : intelligence and wisdom

intelligence [U] (good) ability to learn and understand: *There is no doubt about his high intelligence. He took an intelligence test and did very well.*

brains [U] *infrm* the ability to think: *He's got a lot of brains. Brains is more than just education.*

subtlety **1** [U] the quality of being subtle: *the subtlety of his argument* **2** [C often pl] a subtle idea, thought, or detail: *These subtleties are too difficult for me.*

ingenuity [U] skill and cleverness in making or arranging things: *She showed great ingenuity in getting a meal ready so quickly.*

genius **1** [U] great ability, esp in producing works of art: *There's genius in the way this is painted/written.* **2** [S] (sometimes unpleasant in effect) a special ability: *She has a genius for finding mistakes in my work.* **3** [C] a person of great/special ability: *He's no genius but he writes well. These men were all geniuses.*

brilliance [U] great intelligence: *Her brilliance at mathematics is well-known. He showed brilliance in doing the work so quickly and so well.*

wisdom [U] the quality of being wise: *You showed wisdom in doing what you did. People often gain wisdom with age.*

sense [U] often *infrm* wisdom: *She showed a lot of sense when she said that. There's no sense in going out; it's raining.*

prudence [U] sense and wisdom; care to consider one's advantage, esp by considering possible difficulties, unpleasantness, etc: *His prudence with money is one of the best things about him.*

caution [U] carefulness; the act of paying attention or of taking great care: *Lack of caution causes many road accidents.*

tact [U] careful or wise behaviour which shows or suggests that one understands the feelings of another person: *She didn't want to go, but he used a lot of tact to get her to go.* **tactful** [B] having or showing tact: *Be tactful with her; don't say anything to annoy her.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness**

[U] **tactless** [B] having or showing no tact: *Don't be so tactless with her.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

diplomacy [U] tact, esp used in order to stop arguments, make people agree, etc **diplomatic** [B] having or showing diplomacy: *He was very diplomatic when he asked her to help.* **-ally** [adv] **Wa4**

G40 adjectives : able to be understood [B]

understandable that can be understood: *His anger is understandable; I would be angry if I was/were him!*

comprehensible *usu fml* that can be (easily) understood: *One often finds a writer's book more comprehensible if one knows about his life and the time when he was alive.* **in-** [neg] **-ibly** [adv **Wa3**] **-ibility** [U]

intelligible able to be understood: *She doesn't speak intelligible English.* **un-** [neg] **-bly** [adv **Wa3**]

perceptive of, concerning, or having perceptions: *He is a very perceptive person and asks very perceptive questions.* **-ly** [adv]

perceptible able to be perceived: *There has been no perceptible change in temperature.* **im-** [neg] **-ibility** [U] **-bly** [adv **Wa3**]

clear [**Wa1**] **1** (of ideas, sounds, writing, people, etc) easily understood, heard, seen, read, etc: *He writes very clear articles on politics. Is what I have said clear to you?* **2** (esp of the mind or a person) thinking without difficulty; understanding well: *He is a clear thinker. His mind was clear even though he was very ill.* **3** certain: *She seems very clear about her plans.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

coherent (esp of thought, speech, ideas, etc) easily understood because well connected: *His speech wasn't at all coherent; at first, I couldn't follow/understand it.* **in-** [neg] **-ly** [adv]

lucid very easy to understand: *She writes in a lucid, pleasant way.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

G41 nouns : understanding [U]

understanding [*also S*] ability to understand, esp in a helpful way: *Try to show some understanding (of her difficulties) (towards her). He has a good understanding of French/of her difficulties. He listened with understanding to what he said.*

comprehension *fml* ability to comprehend or understand: *I am not worried about his comprehension of our difficulties, but I am worried about his understanding. Comprehension of a foreign language is not always easy.*

clarity *sometimes fml* clearness in thinking, writing, etc: *The clarity of his thought surprised them. She writes with great clarity.*

coherence **1** clearness in thinking, speaking, etc: *There wasn't much coherence in what he*