

said. **2** natural or reasonable connection, esp in thoughts or words: *Is there any coherence in his arguments?* **in-** [neg]

lucidity clearness in being understood: *She spoke with great lucidity on the subject.*

G42 adjectives : showing ability [B]

good [(at)] having the ability to do something: *He's quite a good driver/writer/singer. She's good at her job, but he's better. She's good with her hands/with children.* **well** [adv]: *He works very well at that job.*

clever [Wa1] good, esp with the hands or body: *He's clever at doing this/clever with his hands.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

able **1** [F3] having the power, skill, knowledge, time, etc necessary to do something: *As I had plenty of money, I was (better/more) able to help her.* **2** [Wa1] clever; skilled: *He's an abler actor than I thought. She's old but still able.* **ably** [adv]: *She did it all very ably.*

competent **1** having the ability or skill to do what is needed: *He isn't a very competent driver.* **2** very satisfactory: *Does he have a competent knowledge of languages? She did a competent job.* **3** [F, F3] esp law having the power to deal with something: *This court is not competent to deal with the case.* **in-** [neg] **-ly** [adv]

capable **1** [(of)] having the ability or the power to do: *She's capable of any crime. Let's see what you're capable of.* **2** [F of] ready for; open to: *That's capable of being misunderstood. Your position is capable of improvement.* **3** able; clever: *He's a capable doctor. She's very capable but not very friendly. My son's capable in history but not in English.* **in-** [neg] **-bly** [adv Wa3]

skilful BrE, **skillful** AmE having or showing skill: *He is a skilful lawyer and uses skilful arguments.*

skilled having or needing skill: *He is a skilled artist.*

talented having or showing talent [⇒ G43]: *What a talented young man he is! She is very talented.*

gifted esp apprec having one or more special abilities; talented: *She's a gifted artist.*

proficient often fml & tech thoroughly skilled; well practised in an art, science, skill, or branch of study: *Her voice isn't of the finest quality, but she is a proficient singer. He is proficient at most games.* **-ly** [adv]

practised usu apprec being skilled through long practice, experience, work, etc: *He is a very practised writer; he knows exactly what he is doing.*

accomplished **1** skilled, clever; good at something but not professional: *She's an accomplished singer.* **2** polite becoming rare skilled in ladylike arts: *She's a very accomplished young woman.*

G43 nouns : ability and talent

ability [U; C often pl] (esp of the mind) the power, knowledge, etc needed (to do something): *She is a person of great ability. He should use his abilities to help others. Her mental ability (= ability to use her mind) is very great.*

skill [U; C] (a use of) practical knowledge and power; ability to do something (well): *She is a writer of great skill. He shows great dancing skill. This is a test of your skill with numbers. You must learn the skill of flying a plane. Reading and writing are two different skills.*

aptitude [U; C (for, in)] natural ability or skill, esp in learning: *He showed great aptitude for/ in painting. She shows an aptitude for writing. The students had to take an aptitude test.*

competence [U] **1** ability to do what is needed; skill: *He drives with competence. She lacks the necessary competence for learning languages.* **2** tech (of courts of law) the ability to act: *This case is beyond the competence of this court.*

know-how [U] infml practical ability or skill; knowing how to do things: *He's good but he lacks the necessary know-how for this job.*

capacity [U] ability, power: *He has a big capacity for enjoying himself/for work. Her capacity for remembering things is interesting. This book is beyond my son's capacity at the moment.*

capability [U; C] ability; practical power: *He has the capability to do the job. She thinks nothing is beyond her capabilities.*

proficiency [U] often fml & tech the state or the quality of being proficient, very able: *Proficiency in several foreign languages is needed for work as a traveller's guide. She shows great proficiency at that work.*

talent **1** [C; U (for)] (a) special natural or learnt ability or skill, esp of a high quality: *She has a talent for drawing, musical/artistic talent* **2** [U] people of such ability: *There was a lack of local talent so the acting club hired an actor from London to take the main part.*

gift [C] a natural ability to do something: *She has the gift of speaking well. He has a gift for music.*

flair [S; U] (a) great natural ability: *He has a flair for this kind of work. She shows flair in everything he does.*

accomplishment [C] polite becoming rare a skill: *Riding is one of his many accomplishments.*

facility **1** [U; S] ability to do or perform something easily: *His facility with languages is amazing. She has a great facility in languages.* **2** [U] the quality of being able to be done or performed easily: *The facility of this piece of music makes it a pleasure to play.*

ease [U] the ability to do something without noticing difficulty: *He did the difficult work with (great) ease.*

resource [U] ability to do and think things: *He showed a lot of resource in helping us.* **resource-**

ful [B] able to get (esp difficult) things done: *She is a very resourceful woman.* **-ly** [adv]

G44 adjectives : not showing knowledge [B]

ignorant 1 precise lacking knowledge: *She's rather ignorant about these things.* 2 infml & loose rude; impolite: *Oh, don't be so ignorant; help the people put on their coats!* **-ly** [adv]
uninformed often euph not knowing much or anything: *We are very uninformed in these matters; please tell us what to do.*
untutored never having been taught: *Sometimes untutored people can have great natural skill.*
ill-taught deprec badly taught, esp in the opinion of the speaker: *These ill-taught people think they know everything!*

G45 adjectives : not showing ability [B]

slow [Wa1] often euph not very clever: *He is a little slow at school, I know.*
stupid [Wa2;F] lacking in power of mind, either by nature or through the influence of something which makes the mind unclear: *I think he was born stupid. I'm sorry, I don't understand; I must be stupid. Forgive me for being stupid, but why are you doing this? He was still stupid with sleep. They had been made stupid by drink.*
awkward (of a person or animal) not good at moving or doing things easily and smoothly: *He's an awkward child; he's always falling down or knocking things over. I'm rather awkward with tools; you do the job.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]
thick [Wa1] esp BrE infml deprec stupid; very slow at learning or understanding: *Try not to be so thick. He is pretty thick, isn't he?*
dumb [Wa1] esp AmE infml deprec thick
backward 1 behind in development 2 sometimes euph not clever: *He's a rather backward child.*
retarded tech backward, esp because of some difficulty of mind or body, or some personal problem: *This is a school for retarded children.*

G46 adjectives, etc : not clever or reasonable

foolish [B] usu deprec 1 unwise; without good sense: *It would be a foolish thing to spend money on something you can't afford. Only a foolish person would do this!* 2 showing lack of thought; stupid; laughable: *There were a lot of foolish answers given to the third examination question.* **-ly** [adv]
silly 1 [Wa1;B] having or showing little judgment; foolish; not serious; not sensible [⇒ N

229]: *Ask a silly question and get a silly answer. It's silly to go out in the rain if you don't have to. The book's title sounded silly but it was really a serious study. Don't be silly!* 2 [Wa1;B] becoming rare weak-minded: *The poor old man is getting rather silly. She's a silly young girl who doesn't know her own mind.* 3 [Wa5;F] infml senseless (in such phr as **knock/bore someone silly**) 4 [C;N] (an inoffensive word for) a silly person: *No, silly, I didn't mean that! What sillies you are!* **-iness** [U]

idiotic [B] emph very foolish; like an idiot [⇒ G48]: *What a really idiotic thing to do!* **-ally** [adv Wa4]

stupid [Wa2;B;N] silly or foolish, either generally or in a certain action: *He's rather a stupid person and it was stupid of him to do that. What stupid behaviour; what a stupid thing to do! Don't pick up that hot plate, stupid!* **-ly** [adv]

clownish [B] foolish on purpose; of or like a clown [⇒ G48]: *He's being clownish again, trying to make people laugh.* **-ly** [adv]

daft [Wa1;B] infml, esp BrE silly; wild; foolish: *What a daft person he is and what a thing to do!* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

absurd [B] 1 against reason or common sense; clearly false or foolish: *That was an absurd statement. Even sensible men do absurd things sometimes.* 2 funny because clearly false or impossible: *What an absurd idea!* **-ly** [adv] **-ity, -ness** [U]

scatterbrained [B] foolish; not (the result of) thinking carefully: *My scatterbrained wife never remembers her keys when she goes out. What a scatterbrained idea!* **scatterbrain** [C] infml a likeable but careless, forgetful, or unthinking person

absent-minded [B] so concerned with one's thoughts as not to notice what is happening, what one is doing, etc (and therefore doing silly things): *Try not to be so absent-minded; you've forgotten everything!* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

brainless [B] esp infml & emot foolish; silly; stupid **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

mindless [B] esp emot stupid, esp in doing bad things **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

G47 nouns : lacking knowledge or wisdom

ignorance [U] lack of knowledge: *Ignorance of the law is no excuse if you break the law.*

stupidity 1 [U] the condition of being stupid: *I don't know if he did it through ignorance or just plain stupidity.* 2 [C] an example of this: *These stupidities must stop; they are costing too much money.*

foolishness 1 [U] the condition of being foolish: *It's just plain foolishness to do that!* 2 [C] an example of this: *Her various foolishnesses when she was young have now been forgotten.*

idiocy 1 [U] the condition of being an idiot [⇒ G48]; emph great foolishness: *What idiocy is*

this? **2** [C] an example of this: *His action yesterday was just another of his many idiocies.*

absurdity 1 [U] the state of being absurd **2** [C] an example of this; an absurd act, thing, or statement: *Life is full of absurdities.*

G48 nouns : persons lacking good sense [C; (you) N]

fool 1 *derog* a person whom one considers to be silly; person lacking in judgment or good sense: *What fool has put the wet paintbrushes on my chair? What a fool I was to think that she really loved me! Don't do that, you fool!* **2** (in former times) a manservant at the court of a king or noble, whose duty was to amuse his master **make a fool of oneself** to behave unwisely and lose people's respect: *He lost his temper in public last night and made a fool of himself in front of everybody. I hear the old doctor has made a fool of himself with a young girl he was treating (= has formed or tried to form a sexual relationship with her).* **make a fool of someone** to trick someone; make someone seem stupid: *The stranger made a fool of the trusting old lady and went off with a lot of her money.* **no fool/nobody's fool** a person who cannot be tricked: *He tried to sell me that old car but I'm nobody's fool; I could see it hadn't got an engine.* **play the fool** to act in a foolish manner: *Schoolmasters don't like boys to play the fool during the lessons.* **more fool you (him, them, etc)** I think you were (he was, etc) a fool to do, accept, expect, etc that: *He picked up a strange cat and it bit him. More fool him; he should have known it would do that!*

idiot 1 [*also* A] *old use* a person of very weak mind who cannot behave or think in the ordinary way: *He is the village idiot. They have an idiot child.* **2** *usu derog* a foolish, stupid person: *Idiot! You've dropped the books!*

dolt *derog* a slow-thinking foolish person

oaf a stupid, ungraceful person esp male: *What oafs those men are!* **oafish** [B] like an oaf **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

ass *informal* a stupid/foolish person: *Don't be such an ass!*

clot *informal, esp BrE* a silly person: *What a clot he is!*

nitwit *also halfwit informal* a silly, foolish person

moron 1 *derog* a very foolish person **2** *tech* a person born with a weakness of mind, whose powers of understanding remain at the level of those of a child between the age of 8 and 12 **moronic** [B] of, connected with, or like a moron; like the behaviour, ideas, etc of a moron; stupid: *That was a pretty moronic thing to do!* **-ally** [adv Wa4]

buffoon a rough and noisy fool: *He was playing the buffoon at the party.*

clown 1 a performer, esp in the circus, who dresses funnily, tries to make people laugh by his jokes, or acts stupidly **2** someone who

behaves like this: *Oh, stop being such a clown!* **clownish** *deprec* like a clown: *Stop that clownish behaviour!* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

nut *sl & deprec* a foolish or mad person: *He's a complete nut!*

crank *informal & deprec* a person with fixed, strange, or foolish ideas, esp on one particular thing: *I'm afraid he's a bit of a crank on such matters as food and health.* **cranky** [Wa1; B] like a crank **-iness** [U]

mug *also sucker informal* a fool, esp one who is easily deceived, esp into buying things of poor quality

G49 verbs : without good sense

fool 1 [10 (*about, around*)] to behave like a fool: *Stop fooling (about)!* **2** [T1] to trick (someone); to make (someone) feel a fool: *He fooled me completely.*

clown [10 (*about, around*)] to behave like a clown; act stupidly or foolishly, esp on purpose: *Stop clowning (about)!* *He started clowning to clown so as to make the children laugh.*

G50 adjectives : relating to a normal mind [B]

normal not mad or unusual in the mind in any way: *These children are quite normal; there is nothing wrong with them in mind or in body.* **-ly** [adv]: *She wasn't behaving normally at all.* **ab-** [neg]: *He began acting in an abnormal way. She was behaving abnormally.*

balanced having a steady, normal mind, character, nature, etc: *He is a very balanced kind of person. Balanced people don't do mad things like that. He's very well-balanced.*

sane [Wa1] **1** *esp tech* healthy in mind; not mad: *He is quite sane; there is no need to treat him like a mad person.* **2** produced by good reasonable thinking; sensible: *They have made some very sane suggestions for changes in the law.* **in-** [neg] **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

G51 nouns : relating to a normal mind [U]

sanity *esp tech* the state of being sane, not mad; the condition which one considers reasonable: *His sanity is not in doubt; he is as sane as you or I. The sanity of their suggestions suggests that we can work well with them.* **in-** [neg]

normality the state of being a normal person: *She has returned to normality after a severe mental illness.* **ab-** [neg]

balance the normal steady state (of one's mind): *He killed her while the balance of his mind was disturbed.*

G52 adjectives : not normal in the mind

mad [Wə1] 1 [B (with)] showing that one suffers from a disease of the brain or disorder of the mind (often in the phrs **go mad**): *She went mad after the death of her son. There's a mad look in his eye: (fig) She is mad with grief.* 2 [B] also tech **rabid** (of a dog) suffering from a disease which causes wild behaviour 3 [B] very foolish and careless of danger: *You mad girl, to go out with no coat on such a cold day!* 4 [F (about, for)] filled with strong feeling, interest, etc: *He's mad about football. I'm mad about you. They're mad for new clothes (= are always buying them).* **drive someone mad** to worry someone enough to make him go mad: *You're driving me mad with the noise you're making!* **like mad** *infml* very hard/fast/loud, etc: *He shouted like mad but they were too far away to hear. They ran like mad to catch the moving bus.*

crazy [Wə1] *infml* 1 [B] mad; ill in the mind: *You're crazy to go out in this weather. The criminal went crazy.* 2 [B] impractical, foolish: *That's the craziest idea I've ever heard!* 3 [F] wildly excited: *I'm really crazy about her.* **-zily** [adv] **-ziness** [U]

crazed [Wə5;B] dangerously mad: *He's crazed; he'll kill somebody if we don't stop him! She had a crazed look on her face.*

insane [B] *esp tech* (of people and their acts) mad: *He was put in a home for insane people. What an insane thing to do!* **-ly** [adv]

deranged [B] put in a state of disorder, *esp* in relation to the mind: *The poor woman's mind has been deranged for many years. She is deranged.*

unbalanced [B] not in a normal state of mind: *She's been behaving in a pretty unbalanced way for some months now. I don't think he's actually unbalanced, but he should see a doctor.*

lunatic [B] *esp emot* completely mad: *That's a lunatic idea!*

raving [B] (up to the point of) talking wildly; *emot* mad: *He's a raving madman. He's raving (mad).*

berserk [B] mad and showing violent anger (*esp* in the phrs **go berserk**): *On hearing the news he went berserk (with anger) and broke several pieces of furniture. He looked berserk with anger.*

nuts [F] *infml* (slightly) mad: *He's been nuts for a long time.*

nutty [Wə1;B] *BrE infml* slightly mad: *What a nutty idea!*

off one's head *infml* quite mad: *He went off his head years ago. You're off your head if you think that!*

off one's rocker *infml* off one's head

out of one's mind *not fml* (completely) mad: *You're out of your mind if you think that!*

morbid [B] (of a person or the mind) unhealthy; not normal; having an unhealthy desire or need to think about death, illness, etc: *He has a*

morbid fear of death. **morbidity** [U] the state of being morbid

G53 nouns : not normal in the mind

madness [U] the state or condition of being mad, all the time or at any time: *Madness is often caused by what happens to a person. It's (an act of) madness to do a thing like that!*

insanity [U] *esp tech* the state of being mad or insane: *His insanity caused him to do some terrible things. It is sheer (= complete) insanity to do that!*

lunacy [U] *esp emot* (complete) madness, *esp* in particular ideas, acts, etc: *What lunacy! That idea is pure/sheer lunacy! He was near lunacy when he did/said that.*

mania 1 [U] disorder of the mind of a very forceful kind, dangerous to others 2 [C (for)] *not fml* a desire so strong that it seems mad: *She has a mania for (driving) fast cars.* 3 [U9] *not fml, tech in comb* a strong unreasonable desire or keenness: *He's got car mania. She suffers from kleptomania (= a desire to steal things)/megalomania (= a desire for great power and importance).*

G54 nouns : persons who are not normal in the mind [C; (you) N]

madman a male person who is mad: *That madman killed two people. (fig) He drives like a madman; I'm sure he'll have an accident one day.*

lunatic 1 *esp emot* a madman: *He drives like a complete lunatic; he'll kill himself or someone else one of these days.* 2 *formerly* a person who is mad and needs care: *They put him in an asylum (= special home) for lunatics.*

maniac 1 a person (thought to be) suffering from mania of some kind: *I'm sure he's a sex maniac.* 2 *esp emot* a mad person; a wild, thoughtless person: *He drives like a maniac; I'm sure he'll kill somebody one day. She was killed by a maniac.*

imbecile 1 a person of weak mind 2 *derog* a fool or stupid person: *What an imbecile, going out without a coat in weather like that! Imbecile—I told you to take some money!*

crackpot *infml & emot* a mad person: *He is really a crackpot; he has some very strange ideas. What a crackpot idea!*

Communicating, mainly by speaking and talking

G60 verbs : saying, speaking, and telling

say 1 [T1] to pronounce (a sound, word, etc): *What did you say?—I said, 'You're standing on*

my toe!' You must learn to say 'please', young man! **2** [T1, 5a, b, 6a, b; (in questions, with words like **no**, **not**, etc and in subordinate clauses) I0] to express (a thought, intention, opinion, question, etc) in words: *Don't believe anything he says. He said (that) I was standing on his toe. Will it rain?—I should say so/not. Will your party win the election?—I'd rather not say/Who can say?/It's not for me to say! In this letter he says where to meet him, but does not say when. It says in this book that most of the earth is covered by water.* **3** [same as **2**] not fml to show: *What time does your watch say? She was smiling but her eyes said she was unhappy.* **4** [T1, 5 a imper] not fml to suppose: (Let's) say your plan fails: then what do we do? Would you take an offer of, say, £100 for your car? Can you come to dinner, say, 7.30? **5** [Wv6; T3] not fml to direct or instruct someone: *She says to meet her at the station. It says on the bottle to take a spoonful every four hours. it goes without saying not fml* of course, clearly: *It goes without saying that your plans depend on the weather.* **I say** BrE infml **1** (a rather weak expression of surprise, interest, anger, sorrow, etc): *My husband is ill today—Oh, I say! I'm sorry to hear that.* **2** (used to call someone's attention): *I say, isn't it getting late? I say, I've just had a wonderful idea! I wouldn't say no* BrE infml yes please; *I'd like it/some: Have another drink?—Well, I wouldn't say no.* **say** AmE infml (used to express surprise or a sudden idea): *Say, haven't I seen you somewhere before? Say, now I remember! say for oneself/ something* to offer as an excuse or as something in favour or defence: *You're late again: What have you got to say for yourself? She is a stupid person with nothing to say for herself. It is a bad idea with very little to be said for it. say what you like not fml* even though you may not agree: *Say what you like, (but) I think British weather is nice. that is to say* (abbrev i.e.) in other words; expressed another (more exact) way: *Working as hard as before, that is to say not very hard. they say not fml* people say; it's usually thought: *They say that falling in love is wonderful. what do you say? infml* you'll agree, won't you?: *Let's go into business together: what do you say? What do you say we go into business? What do you say to going into business together? you don't say (so)! infml* (an expression of slight surprise) **you said it!** AmE infml you're right; I agree: *Let's go home—You said it! I'm tired.*

speak 1 [I0] to say things; express thoughts aloud; use the voice: *Don't speak with your mouth full of food. He was speaking to a friend when I came along. 'Can I speak, please?' he asked the chairman of the meeting.* **2** [I0] to express thoughts, ideas, etc in some other way: *The book speaks of the writer's childhood. Actions speak louder than words. Everything at the meeting spoke of careful planning.* **3** [I0] to make a speech: *I've invited her to speak at/ to our club on any subject she likes. I hope she'll*

speak (for) about 20 minutes and then answer questions. **4** [T1] to be able to talk in (a language): *We need someone who can speak French. No English is spoken there. She is from a Spanish-speaking country.* **5** [T1] often emph to express or say: *Speak the truth! He was hardly able to speak a word.* **6** [I0 (to)] to be feeling friendly enough to speak: *After their fight they're not speaking (to each other).* **on speaking terms 1** willing to talk and be polite to another, esp after a quarrel: *She and her mother are not on speaking terms after last night* **2** good enough friends to exchange greetings **so to speak** as one might say: *He was up to his neck, so to speak, in debt. speak one's mind* to express one's thoughts directly: *I'm angry and I want a chance to speak my mind to the director. speak volumes* it means a lot: *She only said 'perhaps', but that spoke volumes.*

tell 1 [D1 (to), 5a, b; T1 (of)] to make (something) known in words to (someone); express in words; speak: *Did you tell Aunt Joan the news about Paul? If you tell your secret to Jessie you might as well tell the whole town. John told us he'd seen you in town. I can't tell you how pleased I am to be here tonight. Can you tell me what time the party starts? Good children always tell the truth. I always tell my daughter a story before she goes to sleep. Don't tell me you've missed the train (= I'm worried by the fact that you seem to have missed the train). I'm right, I tell you! (= you can be certain that I'm right)* **2** [T1; V3; D5a, b] to warn; advise: *I told you mother would beat you if she heard you swearing. I told you that man was evil but you wouldn't listen to me. I told you to expect trouble, and now look what's happened!* **3** [D6a, b; X9] to show; to make known: *This light tells you if the machine is on or off. Will you tell me how to do it?* **4** [Wv6; T1, 6a, b] to find out; know: *It's impossible to tell who'll win the next election. How do you tell which handle to turn when the light goes out?* **5** [V3; D6a, b; X9] to order; direct: *Children should do as they're told. I told you to get here early, so why are you late? Don't try to tell me whether I can or not!* **6** [Wv6; T5a, 6a (whether, if), b (whether); X9, esp from, apart; I0] to recognize; know: *It was so dark I couldn't tell it was you. It's difficult to tell Jean from Joan; they look so alike. I can't tell if it's him or not. Which team will win?—Who can tell?* **7** [I0] to be noticeable; have an effect: *Her nervousness began to tell as soon as she entered the room.* **8** [I0] to speak someone's secret to someone else: *If I let you know my secret will you promise not to tell?* **all told** altogether; when all have been taken into account: *There were over 500 visitors all told. tell the time* to read the time from a clock or watch **there is/was/will be no telling** it is/was/will be impossible to know: *There's no telling what will happen if she meets him while she's in this temper. you can never tell also you never can tell* one can never be sure about something because one can easily be

deceived without knowing it **you're telling me**
infml (a strong way of saying) I know this already
relate [T1 (to)] *fml* to tell (esp a story): *He related (to us) the story of his escape from the enemy. Strange to relate, I once shot a lion.*
recount [T1] *esp lit* to tell or relate: *He recounted the story to us as fully as possible.*
name [X1] to give a name to (someone or something), esp in a speech but also in writing: *They named the boat 'The Electra'. The boy was named John.*
call 1 [X1, 7, 9] to say that (someone) is (something): *She called him fat. Call me what you like.* 2 [X1, 7] to consider: *I call him a fool. I don't call Russian a hard language. That's what I call dishonest.* 3 [X1] to name: *We'll call the baby Jean. Let's call the new town Harlow.*

G61 verbs : pronouncing and reciting

[ALSO ⇒ G231]

pronounce [T1; X1; L9] to make the sound of (a language, a letter, a word, etc) (in a particular way): *She pronounces Spanish very well. In the word 'knew' the 'k' is not pronounced; the word is pronounced without the 'k'. In 'chemical' the 'ch' is pronounced /kl/. Try to pronounce (the word/sound) clearly.*
recite 1 [T1; I0 (from)] to say (something), esp from memory or as a list: *He recited (from) the Bible to them.* 2 [T1] *emph & usu deprec* to say strongly, esp as a list: *As usual he began to recite all his complaints to us.*
utter [T1] to make (any sound) with the mouth; *esp emot & emph* speak or say: *The first sound a child utters is usually 'ma'. He didn't utter a word but you could see that he was very angry.*

G62 verbs etc: talking, not talking, and interrupting

talk 1 [I0] to use human words; have the power of speech; make words; speak: *Human beings can talk; animals can't.* 2 [I0] to make words, thoughts, ideas, etc known by means of speech: *I'm talking seriously now! When I'm talking to your father I expect you to be quiet. There's an important matter I want to talk about with you.* 3 [I0] to copy human speech: *Have you taught your bird to talk?* 4 [I0] to express thoughts as if by speech: *People who cannot speak or hear can talk by using signs.* 5 [T1] to speak about: *Let's not talk business now. We talked music all night.* 6 [T1] to express in words: *Talk sense!* 7 [T1] *less common* to be able to speak (a language): *Do you talk French?* 8 [I0] to give information, usu unwillingly: *Have you persuaded the prisoners to talk yet?* 9 [I0] to speak about other people's actions and private lives: *Don't do anything foolish; you know how people talk. I hope you've not been talking about me again.* **talk big**

infml to speak with too much pride in oneself or one's actions; make oneself or one's actions seem more important than they are

converse [I0 (on/about and/or with)] *often fml* to talk informally: *After a year of studying at university I feel able to converse with anyone about anything.*

confer [I0 (together, with)] *esp fml & pomp* to talk: *We must confer soon. They conferred (together) on the matter. They conferred with us about it.*

chat [I0 (away)] *infml* to talk in a friendly, familiar, informal manner: *The two friends sat in a corner and chatted (away) to each other about life in general. I like to chat with her now and then.*

chat up [v adv T1] (esp of men) to make friends by talking to (esp a woman): *He's always trying to chat up the girls.*

fall silent [v adv I0] *esp lit* to stop talking: *When he walked into the room they all fell silent.*

shut up [v adv] 1 [I0] *esp infml* to stop talking: *They all shut up when he walked into the room. Shut up, will you!* 2 [T1] to cause to stop speaking: *Shut these men up, please! The bad news shut them up very quickly.*

clam up [v adv I0] *infml* to become suddenly and fully silent: *She clammed up whenever I mentioned her husband.*

interrupt [T1; I0] to stop (someone speaking, etc) by speaking oneself or doing something noisy, etc: *Please don't interrupt (me) while I'm talking/speaking. They keep interrupting! Their noise interrupted what we were doing.* **interruption** [U; C] the act of interrupting or being interrupted; an example of this: *All the interruptions made him forget what he wanted to say.*

in [adv] (used in verbs of interrupting such as:) **break in** [v adv I0] *infml* to interrupt: *Excuse me breaking in, but I have some news for you. She broke in with some ideas of her own. He broke in on our conversation.*

butt in [v adv I0] *sl often deprec* to interrupt, usu by speaking: *I wish you wouldn't keep butting in to our conversation.*

burst in [v adv I0] *infml, emot & emph* to interrupt suddenly or strongly: *She burst in (on our conversation) with some very bad news.*

chip in [v adv I0 (with)] *infml sometimes deprec* to enter a conversation suddenly with an opinion: *We were talking sensibly until he chipped in with his foolish idea. She chipped in that it was time to go home.*

chime in [v adv I0 (with); T5] *infml* to interrupt or join in a conversation by expressing (an opinion): *He's always ready to chime in with his opinion. She chimed in that it was time to go home.*

into [prep] (used in verbs of interrupting such as:)

break into [v prep T1] *infml* to interrupt: *She broke into our conversation and asked us to help her.*

butt into [v prep T1] *sl often deprec* to interrupt: *Stop butting into our conversations!*

G63 verbs : communicating and informing

[ALSO ⇒ G190]

communicate *fml* 1 [T1] to make (news, opinions, feelings, etc) known: *I don't think that politician communicates his thoughts very clearly.* 2 [I0] to share or exchange opinions, news, information, etc: *Has the Minister of Foreign Affairs communicated with the Americans yet? I can't communicate with them; the radio doesn't work.* 3 [T1] to pass on (a disease, heat, movement, etc): *This one person communicated the disease to the whole town.* 4 [I0 (with)] to join: *Our bedroom communicates with the bathroom.*

contact [T1] to write, telephone, go and talk to, etc (someone): *Contact me when you arrive.*

inform [T1 (of, about); D5a] *often fml* to tell; to give information to: *He informed us (that) he was coming.*

let...know *infml* to pass information to (someone): *I'll let you know about it as soon as I can. He didn't let us know when to come. Don't forget to let me know soon!*

notify [D1 to/of, D5; T1] to tell (someone), esp formally: *She notified us of the meeting. Why weren't we notified in time? He notified the accident to the police. He notified the police of the accident.* **notification** 1 [U] the act of notifying 2 [C] an example of this, esp a piece of paper giving notification

confide [I0 (in); X9] to tell someone (something) as a secret: *Can I confide in you? She confided the matter to me.*

advise [T1; D5, 5b, 6a] *fml* to inform; give notice to: *I have advised her that we are coming. Would you please advise us as to your plans? Will you advise us (of) when the bags should arrive.*

brief [T1 (on)] to tell (someone, esp a lawyer) the necessary information: *He briefed his lawyer on what to do. You must brief me; I don't know what happened.*

G64 verbs : speaking and lecturing

speak to [v prep T1] 1 to talk, esp formally, to (a group of people): *He is speaking to our club next week about his books.* 2 to talk to (someone) about something unsatisfactory that he or she has done: *All right, I'll speak to him about it.*

address *fml* 1 [T1] to speak to: *He addressed the meeting last night.* 2 [X9] to direct (one's speech or writing) to a person or group: *Please address your remarks to the chairman. He addressed himself to the meeting on the subject of employment.* 3 [T1 (as)] to speak or write to (someone): *Don't address me as 'Officer'.*

lecture 1 [I0] to give a lecture [⇒ G65]: *He lectured on biology last night. What's he lecturing on tomorrow?* 2 [I0] to work in a college, university, etc as a lecturer [⇒ I134]: *She lec-*

tures at Glasgow University. 3 [T1] to talk solemnly and at length to: *She lectured us on coming home late every night.*

speechify [I0] *infml often deprec* to make a speech or speeches, esp in a (too) proud, fine-sounding way: *I'm only a simple man and no good at speechifying.*

speak up [v adv I0] speak more loudly: *Speak up, please; I can't hear you.*

speak out [v adv I0] to speak boldly, freely, and plainly: *He was afraid to speak out in case he should lose his job. She spoke out against their real enemies.*

G65 nouns : talk and conversation

talk 1 [C] something which one says, or has prepared to say, to a group of people: *He gave us a very interesting talk on India. I heard his talk on the radio last night.* 2 [C] an occasion of talking, usu seriously: *The two governments had/held talks about their common troubles. I'll have a talk to him about his bad behaviour. She had a talk with him about his plans.* 3 [U] *often deprec* anything that someone says: *Every time I see him it's just talk, talk, talk!* 4 [the R9, esp of] any subject of conversation: *Her sudden marriage is the talk of the street.* 5 [U *often in comb*] a particular way of speech or conversation: *baby talk* (= the way babies talk, or the way adults talk to babies); *shop talk* (= talk about business) 6 [U] empty or meaningless speech: *His threats were just talk; don't worry. My husband's all talk and no action; he has plenty of ideas but never puts them into practice.*

conversation [C; U] (an) informal talk in which people exchange news, feelings, and thoughts: *Mrs Smith spends a lot of time in conversation with her neighbour. I had a long conversation with Paul this morning; he's very nice to talk to informally.*

conference [C] a meeting to talk about some matter of work, government, etc: *He is attending a scientific conference at Leeds University.* **in conference** having a meeting: *Mr Smith can't see you at the moment; he is in conference.*

banter [U] light, joking talk: *The actress exchanged banter with reporters.*

chat *infml* 1 [C] a friendly, informal conversation: *I had a long chat with him about his garden when I last saw him.* 2 [U] the act of chatting: *We need less chat and more work if we're to finish today.*

speech [C] 1 an act of speaking formally to a group of listeners: *He gave/made a speech there last week. We keep records of all their speeches.* 2 the words so spoken: *The minister's speech was sent to the newspapers in advance.* 3 a usu long set of lines for an actor to say in a play: *He learned the speech very carefully.*

address [C] *fml* a speech, esp one that has been formally prepared and made to a group of

people gathered specially to listen: *His address lasted an hour.*

lecture [C] **1** a speech spoken or read before a group of people, esp as a method of teaching at universities, etc. **2** *sometimes deprec* a long solemn warning: *He gave me a lecture on driving carefully. Here comes another of his lectures on how to behave.*

recitation **1** [U] the act of reciting [⇒ G61] **2** [C] an example of this **3** [C] anything, esp a poem, when recited or used for reciting: *Say your recitation. He bought a book of recitations.*

word **1** [C often pl] *infrm* a short speech or conversation: *Can I have a word with you (about him)? I had a few words with her on the subject.*

2 [S] the shortest (type of) statement: *In a word, no. I don't believe a word of what he said. Don't say a word to anyone.*

utterance **1** [U] the act of uttering [⇒ G61] sounds: *Animals have the power of utterance, but not of speech.* **2** [C] *deprec* anything spoken; word: *Don't listen to his utterances; they have little value.*

G66 nouns : monologue and dialogue

monologue, also **monolog** *AmE* [C] **1** a spoken part in a play where one person speaks at length **2** a poem or other piece of writing intended to be spoken on a stage by one person **3** *infrm* a rather long speech by one person that prevents others taking part in the conversation.

dialogue also **dialog** *AmE* [C; U] **1** (a) written conversation in a book or a play: *She can write dictionaries but she can't write good dialogue. Turn to the page with the dialogue between Smith and Brown.* **2** (a) conversation which examines differences of opinion, as between leaders: *At last there can be (a) meaningful dialogue between our two governments.*

G67 adjectives : talking a lot, too much, or well [B]

talkative *infrm* tending to talk a lot: *She's a very talkative girl.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

chatty [W1] *infrm* **1** fond of talking: *She's a chatty sort of girl.* **2** having the style and manner of informal conversation: *She wrote them a chatty letter.* **-tily** [adv] **-tiness** [U]

garrulous habitually talking too much, esp about unimportant things **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

loquacious *usu fml, emph, or pomp* liking to talk a great deal: *Yes, he is rather loquacious, isn't he?* **-ly** [adv] **loquacity** [U] the quality of being loquacious

eloquent **1** talking well, so as to persuade, interest, etc: *What an eloquent speaker he is!* **2** persuading in this way: *His eloquent words produced the effect he wanted and people gave money to help him.* **-ly** [adv] **eloquence** [U]

G68 verbs : talking in various ways

whisper **1** [T1; I0] to speak with normal lip and tongue movements and noisy breath, but not with the usual movements in the throat which produce the voice, so that only a person nearby can hear: *Stop whispering in the corner; say whatever it is out loud. She whispered a few words weakly before she fell unconscious.* **2** [I0] (*fig*) (usu of the wind) to make a soft sound: *The wind whispering in the roof.* **3** [X9 (*about*) often pass] to tell (a secret) widely: *His adventures have been whispered through the village/whispered about/whispered everywhere.*

chatter [I0] **1** (of people) to talk rapidly and at length, usu about something unimportant: *Two people annoyed everyone by chattering right through the film. I wish you'd stop chattering on about things you don't understand.* **2** (of certain animals and birds) to make quick speech-like sounds: *The monkeys were chattering (away) in the trees.* **3** (of the teeth) to knock together through cold or fear: *Her teeth were chattering with the cold.* **4** (*fig*) (of machines) to make a noise of this kind: *Machine guns chattered in the distance.*

natter [I0 (*away, on*)] *BrE infml* to talk continuously about unimportant things; chatter: *They nattered (away) all afternoon and never did any work. They kept nattering (on) about silly things.*

babble **1** [I0] to talk foolishly or in a way that is hard to understand: *During his fever he babbled without stopping.* **2** [T1] to express by babbling: *She babbled her thanks in a great hurry.* **3** [T1 (*out*)] to repeat foolishly; tell (secrets): *He babbled the secrets (out) to his friends.* **4** [I0 (*away*)] to make continuous sounds, like a baby learning to speak: *The baby babbled (away) for hours.* **5** [Wv4; I0] to make continuous sounds, like a stream running gently over rounded stones: *The water babbled past/along.*

blab [I0; T1 (*out*)] *sl* to tell (a secret), usu foolishly: *Here come the police; someone must have blabbed. He blabbed out everything they wanted to know.*

mumble [T1, 5; I0] to speak (words) unclearly: *What did you say? Stop mumbling! The old woman mumbled a prayer.*

mutter [T1, 5; I0] to speak (usu angry or complaining words) in a low voice, not easily heard: *He muttered a threat. She kept (on) muttering to herself.*

G69 nouns : talking in various ways

whisper **1** [C] whispered words **2** [C *usu sing*] (*fig*) a soft, windy sound: *the whisper of the wind in the roof* **3** [U] the type of sounds made by the throat when whispering

chatter [U] **1** rapid informal unimportant conversation: *I dislike chatter when I'm trying to work.* **2** a rapid knocking sound made by teeth,

machines, etc; the rapid speech-like sounds made by certain animals and birds: *The chatter of typewriters could be heard outside the room.*

natter [S] BrE *informal* an informal conversation, esp about unimportant things

babble 1 [U] childish, disordered, or foolish talk: *Stop that babble at once!* 2 [S] a confused sound of many people talking at once: *A babble of voices came from the room.* 3 [U] speech that is hard to understand because of its speed and pronunciation 4 [U; S] a sound like that of water running gently over rounded stones

mumble [S] the sound of mumbling: *All I could hear through the door was a mumble of voices.*

mutter [S] the sound of muttering: *the mutter of angry voices*

G70 verbs : remarking and expressing

remark 1 [T5a] to say (not in answer to anything): *He remarked that it was getting late. 'It's getting late,' he remarked.* 2 [T1, 5] *formal* & *old use* to notice: *I remarked her absence of hair/that she had no hair.*

comment [I0; T5a] to make a remark; give an opinion: *The king refused to comment on the election results. She commented that it was time to go home.*

observe [T5a] *often formal* to make a remark; to say: *He observed (to her) that the meal was excellent.*

express [T1, 6a] to show (a feeling, opinion, or fact) in words or in some other way: *She expressed her thanks. The prices are expressed in both dollars and pounds. I can't express how grateful I am. She tried to express her opinion/feelings, but couldn't.*

air [T1] *often deprec* to express (opinions, etc): *He began to air his ideas about crime and punishment. She airs her views on sex to anyone who'll listen.*

word also phrase [X9] to express or put into words: *How would you like me to word this invitation? I don't like the way this note is phrased.*

put [X9] *informal* & *gent* to express or word: *I'm not sure how to put my plan to you. Let's put it like this: I want to help you.*

compliment [T1 (on)] to praise someone with a compliment: *He complimented her on her new dress.* **complimentary** [B] 1 expressing praise, etc **un-** [neg] 2 given free, out of kindness, for business reasons, etc: *complimentary tickets for the theatre*

G71 nouns : remarking and expressing

remark 1 [C (about, on)] a spoken or written opinion: *Don't make/pass rude remarks about her appearance.* 2 [U] *formal* notice: *Her absence of hair could hardly escape remark/was worthy of remark.*

comment [C; U] (an) opinion, explanation, or judgment written or spoken about an event, book, person, state of affairs, etc: *What comments have you on/about my son's behaviour? I read your comments on his new book but disagree with them. Her behaviour at the dance caused a lot of comment. Do you buy your newspaper for its political comment? There's no comment I can make on this matter. No comment (= I don't want to say anything about it).*

observation [C] a remark, often descriptive: *His clever observations (about people's behaviour) at the party made them laugh.*

expression 1 [C; U] (an act of) expressing: *They greeted him with many expressions of pleasure. A government should permit the free expression of political opinion. He's not educated enough to give expression to all his thoughts.* 2 [U] the quality of showing or performing with feeling: *She has a beautiful voice, but doesn't sing with much expression.*

compliment [C] an expression of praise, admiration, respect, etc: *You did well! — Thanks for the compliment. He's always paying her compliments; he thinks she's wonderful.*

aside [C] 1 a remark in a low voice not intended to be heard by everyone present 2 a remark or story told during a speech but which has no part in the speech: *His speech was uninteresting but he made many amusing asides.* 3 words spoken by an actor to those watching the play and not intended to be heard by the other characters

G72 verbs : stating and affirming

state 1 [T1, 5, 6a, b] *often formal* to say, express, or put into words, esp formally: *State your name and address. This book states the case for women's rights very clearly. You're asked to state what you know about this matter. I'd like to state that I have never seen this woman before.* 2 [Wv5; T1] to set in advance; fix; specify [⇒ N63]: *Theatre tickets must be used on the stated date.*

attest *formal* & *rare* 1 [T1, 5, 6a] to declare solemnly: *I attested the facts. I attested that he was with me at the time of the crime. I attested what I had seen.* 2 [T1] to be or give proof of: *His success attests his ability.* 3 [T1] to show to be true by signing as proof that one was present: *I attested the agreement that the two businessmen made with each other.* 4 [T1] to make (somebody) promise to tell the truth, as in court **attest to** [v prep T1] *formal* to be or give proof of: *His success attests to his ability.*

declare 1 [T1; X1, 7] to make known publicly or officially, according to rules, custom, etc: *Our government has tonight declared war on Ruritania. Jones was declared the winner of the fight. The young prince declared himself king before anyone could stop him. I declare Alvin B. Schiff elected!* 2 [T1, 5a; X (to be) 1, 7; L9]

to state or show (one's view) with great force so that there is no doubt about the meaning: *He declared his position. He declared (that) he was right. He declared himself (to be) a member of the party. They declared themselves (to be) for/against the plan. They declared for/against the plan. (lit) His actions declared him (to be) an honest man.* **3** [T1] to make a full statement of (property for which money may be owed to the government): *He declared his new Swiss watch when he returned to Britain and had to pay £5. Have you anything to declare?* **declare oneself** to state clearly one's point of view or intentions **declarable** [Wa5;B] that should/must be declared: *Have you any declarable goods?*

assert 1 [T1, 5; X (to be) 1, 7] to state or declare forcefully: *She asserted her ideas loudly and clearly. He asserted that he was not guilty. She asserted her belief that he was not guilty. She asserted the charge to be incorrect.* **2** [T1] to make a claim to; defend in words: *He angrily asserted his rights.* **3** [T1] to show, esp forcefully, the existence of: *He asserted his control by making them stop talking.*

affirm 1 [T1, 5] to declare (usu again or in answer to a question): *He affirmed his love for her. He affirmed that he was telling the truth.* **2** [I0] to promise to tell the truth in a court of law, but without mentioning God or the Bible in the promise: *He said the Bible meant nothing to him and that he chose to affirm rather than to swear.*

pronounce [T5; X (to be) 1, 7] **1** to declare as one's opinion after consideration: *Everyone pronounced the dinner to be very good. He pronounced himself too tired to go any further. The doctor pronounced the man dead.* **2** *fnl* to state or declare officially or with ceremony: *At the end of the marriage ceremony the priest said, 'I now pronounce you man and wife.'*

G73 nouns : stating and affirming

statement 1 [C] *often fnl* something that is stated; a written or spoken declaration esp of a formal kind: *Do you believe the witness's statement? The penalty for making false statements to the tax officer can be severe. This writer makes a lot of foolish statements; he doesn't know his subject well at all. The minister is under pressure to make an official statement.* **2** [U] expression in words: *The details of the agreement need more exact statement.*

declaration 1 [U] the act of declaring: *The declaration of the winner of the election took place last night.* **2** [C] an example of this: *His words were (like) a declaration of war. There were many declarations against the war.*

assertion 1 [U] the act of asserting **2** [C] a forceful statement or claim: *He repeated his assertions that he was not guilty.* **assertive** [B] marked by or making assertions: *You couldn't*

fail to notice that assertive young man. **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

affirmation 1 [U] the act of affirming **2** [C] something affirmed, esp a solemn declaration in a court of law to tell the truth: *He made an affirmation that what he said was the truth.*

pronouncement [C] an official statement: *They waited for the government to make its pronouncement on housing.*

attestation 1 [U] the act of attesting **2** [C] a declaration or statement that the maker promises to be true

ultimatum [C] a statement of conditions to be met, esp under threat of force, as when one nation threatens war unless another agrees (*often in the phr give one's ultimatum, give someone an ultimatum*): *Their ultimatum threatened war.*

G74 verbs : claiming and announcing

claim 1 [T1; I0] to ask for or demand (a title, property, money, etc which one does not yet possess) as the rightful owner or as one's right: *The King of France claimed the Spanish crown as his by right. Did you claim on the insurance after your car accident?* **2** [T1] to call for; deserve; need: *This difficult document claimed all our attention for several weeks.* **3** [T1] to take (a title, property, money, etc) as the rightful owner: *Passengers should claim their property as soon as they leave the plane. Lost property which is not claimed in three months is sold.* **4** [T3, 5a] to declare to be true, esp in the face of doubt, disagreement, opposition, etc: *He claims to own that car but I don't believe him/it.*

allege [T1, 5, 5b] *fnl* to state or declare without proof or before finding proof: *The newspaper alleges that the man was murdered but they have given no proof. So they allege, but have they any proof?* **allegedly** [adv Wa5] according to statements made without proof: *Allegedly he killed his wife.*

aver [T1, 5] *fnl* to state forcefully; declare: *He averred that he had never seen her before.*

announce 1 [T1, 5] to make known publicly: *The government announced that they would pay their debts. They announced the date of their wedding in the newspaper.* **2** [T1] to state in a loud voice (the name of a person, etc on arrival, etc, as of people at a party or aircraft at an airport): *Will you announce Mr and Mrs Smith, please? British Airways announce the departure of their Flight 123 to Edinburgh.* **3** [T1] to read (news) or introduce (a person or act) on the radio, television, stage, etc **4** [T1, 5] (*fig*) to make clearly known: *The bright flowers and warm winds announced that spring had come.*

intimate [T1, 5b] *fnl* to make known, esp indirectly; suggest: *He intimated a wish to go by saying that it was late. He intimated that he wanted to go.*

G75 nouns : claiming and announcing

claim [C] **1** a demand for something as one's by right: *The government would not even consider his claim for money.* **2** a right to something: *The prince had a claim to the Russian crown.* **3** a statement of something as fact: *The government's claim that war was necessary was mistaken.* **4** something claimed, esp an area of land **5** a sum of money claimed, esp from an insurance company: *Did you get that claim you asked for?*

allegation **1** [U] the act of alleging: *Allegations against other people won't help him now.* **2** [C] *fml* a statement that charges someone with doing something bad or criminal but which is not supported by proof: *Can you provide proof to support these allegations? He made allegations of cruelty unsupported by proof.*

announcement **1** [U] the act of announcing or being announced: *The announcement of the names of the winners in the competition will take place tomorrow.* **2** [C] an example of this; something announced: *He heard several announcements about what would happen, both on radio and television. (fig) The bright flowers were an announcement that spring had come.*

intimation *fml* **1** [U] the act of intimating **2** [C] an example of this, esp when written: *We received no (written) intimation of his intentions.*

G76 verbs : repeating [T1]

say . . . **again** [*also* T5] to say for a second or third etc time: *Let me say (once) again that I think we can help you. He kept saying it again and again.*

repeat [*also* T5] *esp fml* to say (something) again, for a second or further time: *He repeated his question.*

reiterate *fml & pomp* to repeat: *Please be good enough to reiterate your point.* **reiteration** [U] the action of reiterating

restate to state (something) again, either as before or in a slightly different (and better) way: *He restated his position more clearly/strongly.*

re-phrase to say (something) again in a different or better way: *Re-phrase the question, please.*

re-express to express (something) again, usu in a different (and better) way: *I think you should re-express that point.*

G77 verbs : insisting and emphasizing

insist **1** [T5a; I0] to declare firmly (when opposed): *He insisted that she was wrong. Please, I must insist!* **2** [T5c; I0 (*on*)] to order (something to happen): *She insisted on him*

going. You must come; I insist (on it). I insist that you come.

demand [T1, 3, 5c; I0] to claim as if by right, to ask or ask for and not take 'No' for an answer: *I demand my rights/my money! I demanded his name/a clear answer. The letter demands £10,000 for your daughter's life. I demand to know the truth! I demand that he (should) go there at once! 'What is the meaning of this?' he demanded. I'm not just asking; I'm demanding.*

stress [T1] to give a sense of importance to (a certain matter): *He stressed the need for careful spending if they were not to find themselves without money.*

emphasize, -ise [T1] to place emphasis (on); stress: *The band emphasized the beats in the music to show that it was a marching tune. The teacher emphasized the importance of care in crossing the road.*

underline [T1] **1** to mark (one or more words) by drawing a line underneath esp to show importance or to give force: *The example sentences in this book were first underlined by hand to tell the printer to print them in italics.* **2** (*fig*) to give force to (an idea, feeling, etc which has been expressed or shown): *His refusal to go underlined his dislike of the place.*

rub in [*v adv* T1] (*esp in the phr rub it in*) *infrm* often *deprec* to emphasize or keep repeating something: *All right, I understand, but I don't like it; don't rub it in!/stop rubbing it in!*

point up [*v adv* T1] to add to, show the qualities of, or make clearer: *The writer has pointed up his story with an effective use of local scenery.*

highlight [T1] to pick out or take (something) as an important point; to throw attention on to: *His sister's refusal highlighted his offer to help.*

G78 nouns : insisting and emphasizing

insistence [U] the act of insisting: *His insistence on seeing her annoyed us all.*

demand [C] an act of demanding a claim: *The workers' demand for higher wages seems reasonable. (fig) This work makes great demands on my time. The demand for change has a lot of popular support.*

stress [U] a sense of special importance (*esp in the phr lay stress on*): *The speaker laid stress on the importance of the new laws to women and children.*

emphasis [C; U (*upon, on*)] special force given to certain words, ideas, or details, in speaking, writing, drawing, etc, to show that they are particularly important: *That textbook places/lays/puts a special emphasis on grammar. 'Surely you're not coming?' he said, with great emphasis on 'you' (= he said the word slowly, loudly, and clearly).*

G79 verbs : overstating and understating

exaggerate [Wv5; I0; T1] to say or believe more than the truth or what is necessary (about); to make (something) seem larger, better, etc than in reality: *We mustn't exaggerate the danger. She has an exaggerated idea of her own beauty (= She thinks she is more beautiful than she is). He always exaggerates; don't believe everything he says. -dly [adv]: He is exaggeratedly proud of his position.*

overstate [T1] to state more strongly than is usual or acceptable, etc, making things appear better, worse, or more important than they really are (*esp in the phr overstate one's case*): *People won't believe you if you overstate your case.*

pile on [v adv T1] (*esp in the phr pile it on*) *infrm* to exaggerate or overstate: *He tells great stories about life when he was young, but I think he piles it on a bit, don't you?*

understate [T1] to state less strongly than is usual or acceptable, etc, making things appear better, worse, or less important than they really are: *Don't understate what you've done; tell us the facts.*

G80 nouns : overstating and understating

exaggeration 1 [U] the act of exaggerating, of saying or believing more than the truth or what is necessary: *To say she is the most beautiful girl in the country is just exaggeration.* 2 [C] an example of this: *It's an exaggeration to say she is the most beautiful girl in the country.*

overstatement [U; C] the act of overstating: *Be careful; the overstatement of your case could harm your position.*

understatement [U; C] the act of understating: *British humour often contains understatement(s).*

G81 verbs : explaining and describing

[ALSO ⇒ I 43]

explain [I0; T1, 5a, 6a, b] to give the meaning of (something); to make (something) clear, by speaking or writing: *I don't understand this; please explain. The lawyer explained the new law (to us). He explained how to use the telephone. Explain what this word means. She explained that she was a foreigner. explain oneself* to make one's meaning clear: *I don't understand what you're talking about; would you explain yourself a little? [⇒ N 227]*

account for [v prep T1, 4, 6a] to explain or give a reason for: *He could not account for his foolish mistake. It is difficult to account for the absence of policemen at the meeting.*

describe 1 [T1, 6a, b] to give a picture in words of: *He described the man/place/event. Try to*

describe exactly what happened before the accident. 2 [T1] *tech* to draw the shape of: *He described a circle within a square.* 3 [T1] (*fig*) to move in the shape of: *The falling star described a long curve in the sky.* **descriptive** [B] 1 [Wa5] that describes: *descriptive writing* 2 that describes well: *It's the most descriptive writing I have ever read. Your words are very descriptive; I understand exactly. -ly [adv] -ness [U]*

define [T1] 1 to explain the exact meaning of (a word, phrase, etc): *This book defines many words. Can you define 'life' for me?* 2 to make (something) clear and see to understand: *He defined the matter very well.* **definitive** [B] 1 serving to define or as a means of defining 2 the best, most useful, etc of a usu stated kind: *He wrote the definitive book on the subject. -ly [adv]*

put across also **put over** [v adv T1] to cause to be understood; explain: *He puts it across very well, he almost convinces me.*

G82 nouns : explaining and describing

explanation 1 [U] the act of explaining, giving meanings, or making (something) clear: *Explanation isn't always easy.* 2 [C] an example of this: *Can you give us an explanation of what you did? His explanation of the new law was very interesting.*

description 1 [U] the act of giving a picture in words: *Description isn't always simple.* 2 [C] an example of this: *He gave us a description of the man/place/event.*

account [C] a written or spoken report; a description, explanation, or story: *She gave them an account of what happened in her own words. Their two accounts are very different.*

definition 1 [U] the act of defining 2 [U] the clearness of something, esp when seen, drawn, or heard: *The drawing lacks definition.* 3 [C] an example of defining; an explanation of the meaning of (something): *This book is full of definitions.*

G83 verbs : discussing and debating

talk about [v prep T1, 6] to talk (with someone) on a particular matter: *Let's talk about the job/ what to do/where to go.*

discuss [T1, 6a, b] to talk about (something with someone) from several points of view: *She refuses to discuss the matter with him. The women were discussing hats. We discussed what to do and where to go.*

argue 1 [I0; T1, 5] to present reasons for or against (something), esp clearly and in proper order: *He argues well. They argued the case for hours. He argued that she should not go.* 2 [I0 (*against; about/over and/or with*)] to reason strongly in defence of one's opinions and in opposition to those of others: *He's always*

ready to argue (about politics) (with me). He argued (with her) (over the new plan). He's always arguing against my ideas. **3** [T5, 5b] to give reasons to prove or try to prove: *The scientist argued that his discovery had changed the course of history. So he argued, but I don't believe him.* **4** [T1 into or out of] to persuade by showing reasons for or against, often with strong feeling: *She argued him into/out of his decision.* **arguable** **1** [B] able to be supported with reasons: *It is arguable that the criminal is a necessary member of society.* **2** [B] doubtful in some degree: *That their decision was the best one is arguable.* **in-** [neg] **-bly** [adv Wa3]

debate **1** [10; T1] to argue about (something) usu in an effort to persuade other people: *We debated until the bar closed. I debated (upon/about) the question (with Mary). I debated with Mary (upon/about the question).* **2** [T1] to consider in one's own mind the arguments for and against (something): *I debated the idea in my mind until I fell asleep.* **debatable** [B] **1** able to be debated: *The matter is debatable; let us meet again next week.* **2** doubtful in some degree: *That their decision was the best one is debatable.* **-bly** [adv Wa3]

have it out *infrm* to discuss something fully and openly: *Look, let's talk about it; we must have it out, then we'll feel better.*

G84 nouns : discussing and debating

discussion **1** [U] the act of discussing: *They find discussion (of the subject) difficult.* **2** [C] an example of this: *Let's have a discussion about it/on the matter. These radio discussions aren't very interesting.*

argument **1** [C] a reason given to support or disprove something: *There are many arguments against smoking.* **2** [U] the use of reason to persuade someone: *We should try to settle this problem by argument, not by fighting.*

debate **1** [C] a usu public meeting or situation in which a question is talked over by at least two people or groups, each expressing a different point of view: *There will be a long debate in Parliament before the new law is passed. The national debate on how the country should be run became boring.* **2** [U] formal public argument: *The use of prisons has become a matter of debate.*

G85 verbs : convincing and reassuring

convince [T1 (of); V3; D5] to cause (someone) to believe or feel certain; to persuade (someone): *It took many hours to convince John of his wife's guilt. We convinced Anne to go by train rather than plane. It's going to be hard to convince my wife that we can't afford a new car.*

assure [D5a; T1 (of)] to try to cause (someone) to believe or trust in something; to promise; to

try to persuade: *I assure you that this medicine cannot harm you. He assured us of his ability to work.*

reassure [T1 (about, of); D5] to comfort and make (someone who is anxious or uncertain) free from fear or uncertainty: *Let me reassure you that all is going well.* **-ingly** [adv]

G86 nouns : convincing and reassuring

conviction [C; U] (a) very firm and sincere belief: *I always try to act in accordance with my convictions. I speak in the full conviction that our cause is just. From the way she spoke you could tell she was speaking from conviction.* **carry conviction** to be likely to cause belief; be likely to persuade: *If your arguments carry conviction many people will support you.* **open to conviction** ready to listen to a person's opinions and be persuaded by them if they seem right: *I've never supported your political party but I'm open to conviction.*

assurance **1** [U] also **self-assurance** strong belief in one's own ability and powers: *The businessman had great assurance and people trusted him quickly. The teacher lacked assurance in front of his class.* **2** [C (of), C5 often pl with same meaning] a trustworthy statement; promise: *He gave me his assurance that he would come. In spite of all his assurances, he did not come.*

reassurance **1** [U] the act of reassuring **2** [C often pl with same meaning] an example of this: *She won't believe it in spite of all our reassurances.*

G87 verbs : persuading and coaxing

[ALSO ⇒ F 27]

persuade **1** [T1 (of); D5a] to cause to feel certain: *She was not persuaded of the truth of his statement. I can't persuade myself that this is the right thing to do.* **2** [T1; V3] to cause ((not) to do something) by reasoning, arguing, begging, etc: *Try to persuade him to let us go with him. Nothing would persuade him. None of us could persuade him out of his stupid plans. (fig) He persuaded the piece of wood into the little crack (= made it go into it gradually).* **persuasion** [U; C] (an) act of persuading: *She tried persuasion to get him to do it.* **persuasive** [B] for the purpose of, or able to, persuade: *She can be very persuasive when she wants to.* **-ly** [adv]

dissuade [T1 (from)] to persuade not to do something: *Can't I dissuade you (from doing these silly things)? Nothing would dissuade her; she went.* **dissuasion** [U] the act of dissuading

coax **1** [T1] to persuade (someone) by gentle kindness or patience: *I coaxed him into taking me to the theatre. She coaxed me out of my depression. He coaxed her to take her medicine.*

2[X9] to obtain by gently persuading: *I coaxed a kiss from the little girl.*
get round [v prep T1] *infml* to persuade (someone) to accept one's own way of thinking: *Father doesn't want to let us go, but I know I can get round him.*

brainwash [T1 (into)] *infml & derog* to cause (someone) to change beliefs by means which are not limited to reason or force: *After several months in prison with very little sleep and talking only to the enemy he was brainwashed into joining them. (fig) Don't let all those television advertisements brainwash you into buying that soap.* **brainwashing** **1** [U] the act or action of brainwashing **2** [C] an example of this: *He received a brainwashing from them.*

indoctrinate [T1 (with)] *usu deprec* to put ideas into (someone's mind); *tech* to brainwash: *They have those beliefs because they have been indoctrinated since childhood.* **-tion** [U]

G88 verbs : suggesting and implying

[ALSO ⇒ G119]

suggest **1** [T1, 4, 5a, c, 6a, b] to say or write (an idea to be considered): *I suggest bringing (that) we bring the meeting to an end.* **2** [T1] to cause to come to the mind: *The sight of the birds suggested a new idea for flying machines.* **3** [T1] to bring (itself) to the mind: *An idea suggested itself.* **suggestive** [B (of)] causing someone to think or believe something, often about sex: *He said something highly suggestive about the girl's behaviour. Her actions were suggestive of fear.* **-ly** [adv]

propose [Wv5] **1** [T1, 4, 5c] to suggest; put forward for consideration: *I propose a short rest before we continue the work. I propose that we have half an hour's rest.* **2** [T1, 3, 4; (10)] to form (as) (a plan or intention); intend: *I propose to go to London tomorrow.*

put forward [v adv T1] *not fml* to propose: *He put forward a plan for the committee to consider.*

put . . . to [v prep D1, 5] *infml* to suggest to: *Let me put my plan to you. I put it to you that you can't win the game!*

hint [I0; T1, 5a] to suggest indirectly: *She hinted (to him) that she was dissatisfied with his work. She hinted (to him) her dissatisfaction with his work.* **hint at** [v prep T1] to suggest indirectly: *He hinted at her foolishness. She hinted at the possibility of more money.*

imply [T1, 5a, b] to suggest without expressing in words: *Her refusal to answer implies her guilt. His manner implies that he would like to come with us.*

get at [v prep T1] (*usu in questions*) *not fml* to imply; hint at: *I don't understand; just what are you getting at?*

insinuate [T1, 5a] *fml usu deprec* to imply; hint: *I don't know exactly what you are insinuating but I don't like it. He seemed to insinuate that you got the money unlawfully.*

entail [T1] to make necessary as a means or result of getting something else: *He needs a bigger house and this will entail getting more money.* **entailment** [U] the condition of entailing or being entailed

G89 nouns : suggesting and implying

suggestion **1** [U] the act of suggesting: *Force won't work; try suggestion and persuasion.*

2 [C] something suggested: *We could change our plans and leave early; but that's only a suggestion.* **3** [S (of)] a slight sign: *Her face held a suggestion of anger.* **4** [U] a way of causing an idea to be accepted by the mind by indirect connection with other ideas: *Advertisers use suggestion to sell goods when they show babies and beautiful girls using their products.*

proposal **1** [U] the act of proposing: *Everyone stood politely during the proposal of the president's health. The proposal of a short rest period met (with) everyone's approval. The proposal that we should rest for a while was a good one.* **2** [C often pl] a plan or suggestion offered: *He made proposals for a new system of street lighting. There were several proposals that we should rest more frequently.*

proposition **1** [C] an unproved statement in which an opinion or judgment is expressed: *It is a reasonable proposition that new rules on the speed of cars should be made, but it is an arguable proposition that all drivers will obey them.* **2** [C] a suggestion, (business) offer, arrangement, or settlement (*often in the phr make someone a proposition*): *The firm has made me a proposition; it wants me to act as its adviser on trading possibilities in Europe.* **3** [S9] *infml* a person who or thing that must be dealt with, considered with regard to the difficulty or chance of success, etc: *Getting over these snow-covered mountains isn't a practical proposition (= is not a matter that is possible) in winter. Be careful in dealing with him; he's a nasty proposition, who always gains the advantage by some clever trick.* **4** [C] (*esp in the phr make someone a proposition*) *euph* a suggested offer to have sex with someone, *esp* with a woman

hint [C] **1** a small or indirect suggestion: *I know it's a secret, but can't you give me a hint (of what it is)?* **2** a small suggestion: *I kept looking at my watch, but she couldn't take the hint (that I wanted to leave). You don't have to ask me to leave; I can take a hint.* **3** (*fig*) a small sign: *There's a hint of summer in the air, although it's only May.* **4** [*often pl*] useful advice: *His hints helped me a lot in my work.*

innuendo **1** [C] *often deprec* a hint: *She is always making little innuendoes about how rich her family are.* **2** [U] *lit* the use of hints and implications: *The poem is full of political innuendo.*

implication **1** [U] the act of implying; indirect suggestion: *We can get his meaning by implication, not directly.* **2** [C] an example of this;

something, esp a possibility or difficulty, that one learns indirectly: *What are the implications of his decision? The implication that I was refusing unnecessarily made me angry.*

insinuation [U; C] act of insinuating: *I don't like his insinuations that I got the money unlawfully!*

G90 verbs, etc.: mentioning and quoting

mention 1 [T1, 5] to tell someone about (something) in a few words, spoken or written: *He mentioned their interest in flowers. He never mentioned that he's already been there.* 2 [T1] to say the name of: *He mentioned a useful book. She never mentions the son she lost. Soon after going abroad with the army he was mentioned in despatches (= honoured for bravery).* **not to mention (something/the fact that)** and in addition there's . . . : *They have three dogs to find a home for, not to mention that cat and the bird.* **Don't mention it** polite There's no need for thanks; I'm glad to help: *Thanks very much.—Don't mention it.*

refer to [v prep] 1 [T1] to mention; speak about: *Don't refer to that lady as a cow!* 2 [T1] to look at for information: *If you don't know what this word means, refer to the dictionary.* 3 [T1] to concern; be directed towards: *The new law does not refer to land used for farming.* 4 [D1 (back)] to send (someone or something) to (usu someone else) for decision or action: *The shop referred the complaint (back) to the makers of the article.*

raise [T1] often fml to mention or refer to: *Can I raise this matter with you now/at our next meeting?*

allude to [v prep T1] fml to speak of (someone or something) indirectly: *She did not say Mr Smith's name, but it was clear she was alluding to him. What are you alluding to?*

bring up [v adv T1] to raise, introduce, or mention (a subject): *I'm sorry to bring this matter up again, but I must have an answer soon. She says she will bring it up at the next meeting.*

quote 1 [T1; I0] to repeat in speech or writing another (supposedly powerful) person's words: *He quotes (from) the Bible to support his own wishes. Don't quote me on that! Oh, stop quoting!* 2 [T1] to mention in order to add power to one's own point of view: *I quote Bill, who always holds parties in the afternoon. He quoted the case of the man whose wife went with him to Alaska.* 3 [D1 (to); T1] to give (a price): *I can quote you a price lower than anyone else's. The value of the pound was quoted regularly.*

cite [T1] 1 to mention (a passage written or spoken by someone else or the person who wrote or spoke such a passage): *It's no use citing the Bible to someone who doesn't believe in it.* 2 [usu pass] to make a formal statement

that (someone) is worthy of praise: *The soldier was cited by the king for his bravery.*

according to [prep] (used esp in quoting) following the words of: *According to her he is a fool. According to the Bible, Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. If you go according to the map you'll find the street easily.*

G91 nouns: mentioning and quoting

mention 1 [U] the act of mentioning: *He made no mention of his wishes.* 2 [C usu sing] a short remark: *I thought he would talk about the importance of rest after an operation, but he never gave it a mention.* 3 [C usu sing] not fml a naming of someone, esp for honour: *He was given a mention in the list of helpers.*

reference [C; U (to)] 1 (a case of) mentioning: *Did you hear all those nasty references to me that Janet kept making?* 2 (a case of) looking at for information: *Keep this dictionary on your desk for easy reference.* **in/with reference to** in connection with

quotation 1 [U] the act of quoting: *Some speakers do a lot of quotation from books.* 2 [C] an act of quoting: *His speeches are full of quotations.* 3 [C] something quoted: *Can you get me some good quotations from that writer? What's the latest quotation on the pound?*

allusion [U; C (to)] the act of speaking of something indirectly, or something spoken or written of indirectly, esp while speaking or writing about something else: *His allusions to our failures were unnecessary.*

citation 1 [U] the act of citing: *'Such citation of the Bible proves nothing,' he said.* 2 [C] a short passage taken from something written or spoken by someone else: *People who write dictionaries sometimes use citations to show the meaning of words.* 3 [C] a formal statement of a person's qualities, esp bravery in battle: *He got a presidential citation for his bravery in the war.*

G92 verbs: asking and inquiring

ask 1 [T1, 6a, b; D1, 6a, b; I0] to call on (a person) for an answer (to); request (information) from someone: *Ask him! I asked who he was/where to go. Ask him his name. He asked her a question. (fml) He asked a question of her. She asked about his health. Did you ask (him) a question?* 2 [T1, 3, 5c; V3; I0 (for)] to make a request for or to: *She asked his advice/him for advice. They asked to go for a walk. I asked that I (should) be allowed to see her. She asked him to wake her at 6 o'clock. She asked for his advice. She asked to be woken at 6 o'clock. She asked (for permission) to go. Don't ask (me) for money! Has anyone asked for me at the office?* 3 [T1 (for, of)] to demand (something, such as a price); expect: *He is*