

asking a lot of money (for his house). The job asks a great deal (of me).

inquire 1 [T1] *fml* to ask: *I inquired his reason for coming.* 2 [T6a, b] to ask: *I inquired what he wanted/whether he would come.* 3 [I0] to ask for information: *I'll inquire about the trains. I don't know the times; I must inquire.*

enquire [T1, 6a, b; I0] *fml* to inquire: *May I enquire how much money you can provide?*

ask after *infml*, also **inquire/enquire after** *fml* [v prep T1 pass rare] to inquire about the health or well-being of (someone): *My mother asked/was asking after you.—Oh, how kind of her! They were enquiring after your health.*

G93 nouns : replying and answering

reply [U; C (to)] speaking, writing, etc in return: *I asked him, but he made no reply. What did you say in reply to his suggestion? We received several replies in answer to our advertisement.*

answer [C] 1 a spoken or written reply, as to a question, request, letter, or polite greeting: *Although I wrote a month ago I've had no answer yet. I said good morning to him but he gave no answer.* 2 a reply in the form of action: *Her answer was a smile. In answer to her shouts people ran to help (her).* 3 a reply to an argument or charge 4 something, at first unknown, which is discovered as a result esp of thinking, using figures, etc: *I gave her all the necessary figures and she found the answer quickly. The answers are all given at the end of the book. The answer (to the sum) was 179.* 5 a piece of (usu written) work to show knowledge or ability, as in an examination: *The teacher asked the pupils to hand in their answers/the answer sheets.*

response often *fml* 1 [C (to)] an answer: *He made/gave no response (to my question). There have been several responses (to our advertisement).* 2 [C; U (to)] (an) action done in answer: *There has been very little response to our call for help.* **in response to** as an answer to: *He opened the door in response to a knock. 'In response to your inquiry . . .'* (in a business letter)

G94 verbs : replying and answering

reply [I0 (to); T5a] to give a reply to (something): *I asked him where to go but he didn't reply. 'Of course not,' she replied. She replied that she was not amused. Have you replied to his letter?*

answer 1 [T1; I0] to give an answer (to); reply (to): *You didn't answer his question. Why didn't you answer? Answer any three questions. I will answer her (letter) today.* 2 [I0 (with)] to do something as a reply (to): *I answered his question with a smile.* 3 [T1; I0] to attend or act in reply to (a sign, such as a telephone ringing, a knock on the door, or a whistle): *I telephoned*

this afternoon but nobody answered (the telephone). 4 [I0 (to); T1] to act or move in reply (to); obey: *The dog answers to his name. The car answered (to) his lightest touch.* 5 [I0; T1] to be satisfactory (for): *This tool will answer (for) (our needs) very well.* 6 [I0; T1] (fig) to be as described in: *He answers (to) the description.* 7 [T1] (fig) to satisfy: *The government just didn't answer our hopes.* 8 [T1; I0] to reply to (a charge or argument): *Well it's time for you to answer (the charge).*

respond often *fml* 1 [I0 (to); T5a] to answer: *I offered him a drink but he didn't respond (to my offer). 'I can't marry you,' she responded sadly.* 2 [I0 (by, to, with)] to act in answer: *He responded (to my suggestion) with a laugh/by laughing.*

G95 nouns : questioning and doubting

question [C] 1 a sentence or phrase which asks for information: *I asked you a question and you didn't reply. No more questions, please; the speaker is tired.* 2 a doubt: *There is no question of his coming. There was some question as to his honesty.* **out of the question** impossible: *Can you go?—No, it's out of the question.*

query [C] a question or a doubt: *Have you any queries about what to do next?*

inquiry also **enquiry** [C] an act or occasion of inquiring: *He has been making inquiries into what you were doing here last month. The inquiry showed that he had taken all the money for himself.*

dispute [U] strong argument; great doubt: *There is no dispute about what happened; we all saw it.*

doubt 1 [C; U, 5, 6a (whether, if, about)] (a feeling of) uncertainty of belief or opinion: *He was troubled by religious doubt/doubts. There is some doubt (as to) whether/(about) whether he will come on time. There's no doubt that he'll come.* 2 [C; U (about)] (a feeling of) mistrust: *He says he can cure me, but I still have my doubts (about him/it).* 3 [U] a tendency not to believe or accept: *His continual doubt makes it hard for him to act.* **in doubt** in a condition of uncertainty: *The result is still in doubt. I'm still in doubt about it.* **without doubt** also **no doubt** it is certain: *John will come on time, without doubt. No doubt he'll come.*

suspicion 1 [U] a the act of suspecting or state of being suspected: *He is under suspicion of theft. There is some suspicion about his actions.* b lack of trust or willingness to accept: *She always treated us with suspicion. The dog smelled the meat with suspicion.* 2 [C] a a feeling of suspecting: *I have a suspicion that he's right.* b a belief about someone's guilt: *The police have not found the thief but they have their suspicions.* 3 [S (of)] a slight amount (of something seen, heard, tasted, etc): *There was a suspicion of tears in her eyes./a suspicion of summer in the air.*

scepticism *BrE*, **skepticism** *AmE* [U] a doubting state or habit of mind; dislike of believing without being certain; doubt: *He has a healthy scepticism about what is said in advertisements. Her scepticism showed on her face when she heard the story.* **sceptic** *BrE*, **skeptic** *AmE* [C] a person who is (habitually) unwilling to believe a claim or promise: *He is a sceptic about politicians' promises.* **sceptical** *BrE*, **skeptical** *AmE* [B (of, about)] of, concerning, or like a sceptic: *His employer looked sceptical when he said he'd been ill the day before. I'm sceptical of/about the team's chances of winning.* **-ly** [adv Wa4]

cynicism [U] a state of mind in which a person thinks that others always have bad or strongly personal reasons for doing things, even when they seem to be good, kind, and unselfish; doubt about people's good, etc acts: *His cynicism is well-known.* **cynic** [C] a person showing cynicism: *Oh don't be such a cynic!* **cynical** [B] of, concerning, or like cynicism or a cynic: *He gave a cynical smile when the rich girl said she planned to help the poor.* **-ly** [adv Wa4]

G96 verbs : questioning and doubting

question [T1, 6a] *genl* to raise doubt about: *I question whether I could have arrived in time. She never questioned his honesty.*

query [T1] to question or raise a doubt about, sometimes by marking (?) on a piece of writing: *I'd like to query several points that you made in your talk.*

dispute 1 [T1] to disagree about; call into question; doubt: *The honesty of his intentions was never disputed.* 2 [T1, 6a, b; I0] to argue about (something), esp angrily and for some time: *They disputed for hours (about) where to go.*

doubt 1 [T1, 5a, 6a (whether, if)] to be uncertain (about): *I doubt the truth of it. I doubt whether it's true. I don't doubt that John will come on time.* 2 [T1, 6a (whether, if)] to mistrust: *I doubt his honesty. I doubt if he's honest. He says he can cure me, but I still doubt him.* 3 [T5a] to consider unlikely: *I doubt that John will come on time. I doubt he'll come now.*

suspect 1 [T1, 5a] to believe to exist or be true; think likely: *We suspected trouble. We suspected that he was lost, even before we were told.* 2 [T1 (of); V3] to believe to be guilty: *They suspect him of murder. They suspected him to be the murderer.* 3 [T1] to be doubtful about the truth or value of: *I suspect his motives (= real reasons for what he does).* 4 [T5a, b] *infrm* to suppose or guess: *I suspect you may be right. I suspect that's true.* **suspect** [C] a person who is suspected of doing something: *The police have several suspects. She was a murder suspect (= They thought she might have murdered or killed someone).*

G97 verbs : contradicting and refuting

contradict 1 [T1; I0] to declare (a person, opinion, something written or spoken) to be wrong or untruthful: *How dare you contradict me! 'Young children should never contradict what their parents say,' she said angrily. Don't contradict!* 2 [T1] (of a statement, action, fact, etc) to be opposite in nature or character to (a statement, action, fact, etc): *The various reports contradict each other. Your actions contradict your declared moral principles.*

refute [T1] *usu fml & tech* to prove a (someone) to be mistaken: *I refuted him easily.* b (a statement) to be untrue: *I refuted his claim that the world was flat.*

G98 nouns : contradicting and refuting

contradiction 1 [U] a the act of contradicting: *His father punishes contradiction severely.* b the state of being contradicted: *Contradiction makes my teacher angry.* 2 [U] direct opposition between things compared; disagreement (often in the phr **in contradiction**): *There is no contradiction between my behaviour and my principles; they are not in contradiction.* 3 [C] a statement, action, or fact that contradicts another or itself: *There are many contradictions in industrial society. It is a contradiction to say you support the government but would not vote for it in an election.* **contradictory** [Wa5; B] of, concerning, or like a contradiction; serving to contradict: *His two statements are contradictory.*

paradox 1 [C] a statement which seems to be foolish or impossible, but which has some truth in it: *'More haste, less speed' is a paradox.* 2 [C] an improbable combination of opposing qualities, ideas, etc: *It is a paradox that in such a rich country there should be so many poor people.* 3 [C] a statement, idea, or fact that is opposite to what is generally believed to be true: *The idea that the earth is round, not flat, was described in ancient times as a paradox.* 4 [U] the use of such statements in speaking or writing: *a writer who is very fond of paradox* **paradoxical** [B] of, connected with, or like a paradox **-ly** [adv Wa4]

refutation [C; U] (a) proof that something is untrue

G99 verbs : questioning and interrogating

question [T1] to ask (someone) a question or questions: *Can I question you on that point? The questioning went on for hours.*

cross-examine also **cross-question** [T1] to keep asking (someone) questions: *The police are cross-examining him about where he was when*

the murder took place. Stop cross-questioning me!
interrogate [T1] to question for a special purpose, esp at length: *He was interrogated for several hours by the police.* **interrogation** [U; C] the action of interrogating or being interrogated

G100 verbs : asking, requesting, and begging

ask for [v prep T1] **1** to show that one wants (something) by asking to have or get it: *He asked for the book.* **2** (esp in tenses using the -ing form) to behave so as to cause (something bad): *If you climb that mountain in this bad weather you're asking for trouble. When he got into trouble I said, 'You asked for it!'*

request [T1, 5c (of); V3] esp fml to ask for (something) politely (not used with the actual words spoken): *May I request your attention? I requested (of him) that he (should) leave. I requested them to stop making such a noise.*

appeal [I0 (to, for)] to ask strongly for help, support, money, etc: *The speaker appealed to his hearers for silence/help/money. The government is appealing to everyone to save water. The police appealed for anyone with information to come forward and help them. We appealed to be allowed to leave. I don't like appealing, but I need help.*

appeal to [v prep T1] to look to for support, help, etc: *I am appealing to you; please help me!*

beg **1** [T1; I0] to ask humbly for (food, money, or other necessary things): *He lives by begging. He begged (for) money (from people) in the streets.* **2** [T1, 5c; V3; I0, 3] often fml to ask humbly (something not material): *May I beg a favour (of you)? He begged me not to leave. He begged and begged until I agreed to do it. She begged (her mother's) forgiveness.* **3** [T3] fml to allow oneself: *I beg to point out that your facts are not correct.*

beseech [T1; V3] fml & lit to ask eagerly and anxiously: *He besought a favour of the judge. I beseech you to help. Help me, I beseech you! She gave him a beseeching look. -ingly [adv] *She looked beseechingly at him.**

plead **1** [I0] to make continual and deeply felt requests: *She wept and pleaded until he agreed to do as she wished. He pleaded for more time to pay.* **2** [T1] to give as an excuse for an action: *I'm sorry I didn't answer your letter; I can only plead forgetfulness.* **3** [T1] to speak or argue in support of: *He was pleading the cause of the unemployed. Which lawyer is pleading this case in court?*

implore [T1; V3] esp emph to ask (someone) in a begging manner (for something or to do something): *I implored him to help me. I implored his help, but he didn't do anything.*

apply [I0 (for)] to request (something) esp officially and in writing: *I will apply for the job*

tomorrow. You must apply to the minister for permission.

petition **1** [T1 (for); V3] to make a (written) petition to: *They are petitioning their employers for better working conditions. They petitioned the government to reconsider its decision.* **2** [I0 (for), 3] to ask or beg some official body: *The people petitioned to be allowed to return to their island.* **petitioner** [C] **1** a person who makes or signs a petition **2** law a person asking for the ending of his or her marriage

solicit [T1] to beg or appeal for (something); try strongly to get: *He solicits money from everyone he meets. She tried to solicit his advice.*

G101 nouns : requesting

request [C] esp fml a polite demand: *She made a request for help. Her repeated requests that I should play with her annoyed me.* **at someone's request** because someone asked: *I bought it at your request/at the request of my father.* **by request** (of) because asked for (by): *The band are playing by request of the Queen.* **in (great) request** also **much in request** popular; being asked for by many people: *These yellow socks have been much in request lately.* **on request** when asked for: *The band will play on request.*

appeal [U; C] (a) strong request for help, support, money, etc: *His appeal for forgiveness went unanswered. The appeals for money with which to build the new hall were very successful. There was a look of appeal in her eyes.*

plea **1** [C (for)] fml an eager or serious request: *She wouldn't listen to his plea for forgiveness.* **2** [(the) S] an excuse given for doing or not doing something: *He refused the invitation to dinner on the plea of being too busy.*

application **1** [U] the act of requesting, esp officially and in writing: *Tickets may be bought on application to/at the theatre.* **2** [C] such a request: *I wrote five applications for jobs but got nothing.*

petition [C] **1** (a piece or pieces of paper containing) a (respectful) request or demand made to a government or other body, usu signed by many people: *We signed the petition that asked the council for better street lights.* **2** a proper official letter to a court of law, asking for consideration of one's case **3** a solemn prayer to God

G102 verbs : complaining and objecting

complain **1** [I0; T5a] to express (in) annoyance, pain, unhappiness, dissatisfaction, grief, etc; speak or say in an unhappy, annoyed, dissatisfied way: *She is always complaining about something. Stop complaining and eat your dinner!* **2** [I0] to make a usu formal report

about someone or something one considers annoying, wrong, etc: *Our next-door neighbour said he'd complain (about us) (to the police) (if we made any more noise).*

grumble [I0; T5a] to complain, usu in a low unhappy voice: *Oh, stop grumbling! 'They want me to do all the work here,' he grumbled.*

moan also *infrm* **grouse** [I0; T5a] *deprec* to complain; speak or say in a complaining voice: *Stop moaning; you really have nothing to complain about. He's always grouching about the unjust way in which he thinks he is being treated.*

gripe [I0] *infrm* to complain, esp continuously
beef [I0 (about)] *sl* to complain: *Stop beefing about your troubles!*

bitch [I0 (about)] *sl* to complain; speak nastily: *Stop bitching (about him).*

object [I0 (to)] to be against someone or something: *Do you object to smoking? They objected (against him) that his language was bad. I objected because of his bad language at the party. What are you objecting about now?*

G103 nouns : complaining and objecting

complaint [C; U (against)] (an) expression of annoyance, pain, unhappiness, dissatisfaction, grief, etc in speech or in writing: *Do you have any complaints against us? Please read our complaints. If persuasion [⇒ G87] doesn't work, try complaint. He took his complaints to his lawyer.*

moan also *infrm* **grouse** *usu deprec* [C] a complaint, expressed in a voice that has a suffering or discontented sound: *She's never satisfied; she always has some moan/grouse or another.*

gripe [C] *infrm* a complaint or moan: *What gripes have you got today?*

objection [C; U (to, against)] an act or expression of objecting: *Do you have any objection to/against what we are doing?—No, no objection.*

G104 verbs : apologizing and forgiving

apologize, -ise [I0 (to, for)] to express sorrow, as for a fault or causing pain: *I apologized (to her) for stepping on her foot. I apologized at once.*

forgive **1** [D1; T1 (for); I0] to say or feel that one is no longer angry about or wishing to give punishment to (someone) for (something): *'Forgive me', she said; 'forgive the wrongs I've done you.' He forgave her the wrongs she had done him. I'll never forgive you for what you said to me last night. It's best to forgive and forget.* **2** [D1] to say that (someone) need not repay (something): *I lent you that £2.50 a month ago; I'll forgive you the 50p, but I want the £2 back.*

excuse **1** [T1, 4] to forgive (someone) for (a small fault): *Please excuse my bad handwriting/my opening your letter by mistake.*

2 [T1 *usu neg*] to make (bad behaviour) seem less bad: *Nothing will excuse his cruelty to his children.* **3** [T1 (from); (also BrE) D1 *usu pass*] to free (someone) from a duty: *Can I be excused from football practice today? (BrE) Can I be excused football practice today?*

excuse oneself **1** to offer an excuse **2** to ask permission to be absent: *He excused himself from the party. excuse me* forgive me; I'm sorry: *Excuse me; can you tell me the time? He said 'excuse me' when he stepped on my foot.*

pardon [T1; D1 (for)] to forgive; excuse: *Please pardon my carelessness. I hope you will pardon me for disagreeing with you. We must pardon him his little faults.*

let off [v adv T1] *infrm* to excuse, forgive, or allow to go free or unpunished: *All right, I'll let you off this time, but never again! The judge let the man off with a warning not to cause trouble again.*

G105 nouns : apologizing and forgiving

[ALSO ⇒ G18 REASON, EXCUSE, ETC]

apology [C] **1** a statement expressing sorrow for a fault, causing trouble or pain, etc: *I must offer her an apology for not going to her party. I must make an apology to her. Please accept my apologies.* **2** a very poor example of something: *This bit of burnt potato is no more than an apology for a meal.* **apologetic** [B] **1** expressing sorrow for some fault or wrong: *He wrote her an apologetic letter.* **2** (of a person's manner) as if unwilling to cause trouble: *He asked in an apologetic voice if we would mind getting out of his way.*

forgiveness [U] **1** the act of forgiving or the state of being forgiven: *'Ask for God's forgiveness for what you have done, my son,' said the priest. Her forgiveness (of his bad behaviour) made him happy again.* **2** willingness to forgive

pardon [U; C (for)] a forgiveness: *He prayed for God's pardon for his evil deeds.* **b** an act or example of forgiveness **2** [C] *tech* a an action of a court or ruler forgiving a person for an unlawful act or forgiving the act **b** (a paper giving) a freedom from punishment for an unlawful act **I beg your pardon also pardon me polite** **1** please excuse me for having accidentally touched/pushed you **2** please get out of my way as I wish to pass **3 also infrm beg pardon, pardon** I did not hear/understand what you said and would like you to repeat it **4** I'm afraid I disagree with what you have just said: *I beg your pardon, but you are wrong.* **5** (said in a firm unfriendly voice) I'm afraid I think that what you have just said is not true proper

G106 verbs : blaming and accusing

blame [D1 on/for; T1 (for)] to consider (someone) responsible for (something bad): *They blamed the failure on George. They blamed George (for the failure).*

accuse [Wv4, 5; T1 (of)] to charge (someone) with doing wrong or breaking the law; blame: *The police accused him (of murder). He was accused of running away. The angry man gave her an accusing look. The judge asked the accused man to stand up.*

condemn 1 [T1 (as)] to express strong disapproval of (someone or some action): *Most people are willing to condemn violence of any sort (as evil).* 2 [T1 (for)] to judge (a person) guilty: *He was imprisoned and condemned in a day. The court condemned her for her crime.*

3 [Wv5; X9; V3] to state the punishment for (a guilty person), esp a punishment of death or long imprisonment: *The prisoner was condemned to death. The court condemned her to spend all her days in prison. The condemned man spent his last hours praying. A condemned man is a man condemned to death.* 4 [X9; V3] to force (someone) into an unhappy state of affairs: *His bad leg condemned him to a wheelchair. She was condemned to live a life of unhappiness because of her husband's actions.*

5 [Wv5; T1 (as)] to declare (something) officially unfit for use: *Although this house is condemned (as unfit), an old lady still lives here. The council ought to have condemned these houses long ago.* 6 [T1] to show the guilt of (a person): *His evil face condemned him.*

denounce [T1] usu fml 1 to speak or write against (someone or something): *They denounced him (to the police) as a criminal.* 2 to declare publicly and officially the end of (an agreement, esp one between nations): *They denounced the treaty.*

G107 nouns : blaming and accusing

blame [U] 1 responsibility for something bad: *We decided on whom the blame lay. The judge laid/put the blame (for the accident) on them. She was ready to take/bear the blame for what had happened.* 2 bad opinion: *You will bring the blame of others (up) on yourself if you fail in this.*

accusation 1 [U] the act of accusing or of being accused 2 [C] a charge of doing wrong: *The accusation was that he had murdered a man.*

condemnation 1 [U (of)] the act of condemning 2 [C (of)] an example of the act of condemning: *The priest made a bitter condemnation of violence.* 3 [C usu sing] a cause or reason for being condemned: *His evil face was his condemnation.*

denunciation [U; C] usu fml (an) act of denouncing (someone or something): *I won't listen to these denunciations!*

G108 verbs : acknowledging, confessing, and conceding

acknowledge 1 [T1, 4, 5] to agree to the truth of; recognize the fact or existence (of): *I acknowledge the truth of your statement. We will make them acknowledge defeat. They acknowledged that they were defeated. They acknowledged having been defeated.* 2 [T1 (as); X (to be) 1, 7] to recognize, accept, or admit (as): *He was acknowledged (to be) the best player. He was acknowledged as their leader. They acknowledged themselves (to be) have been defeated.* 3 [T1] to show that one is grateful for, as by giving or saying something: *His long service with the company was acknowledged with a present.* 4 [T1] to state that one has received (something): *We must acknowledge his letter.* 5 [T1] to show recognition of, as by smiling or waving: *He walked right past me without even acknowledging me/my existence.*

admit [T1, 4, 5a; I0 (to); V3] to state or agree to the truth of (usu something bad); to confess: *The thief admitted his crime. He admitted to the murder. She admitted stealing. I admit that it was difficult. They admitted him to be mad.*

confess 1 [T1, 4, 5a, 6a; I0 (to)] to admit (a fault, crime, or something wrong): *The prisoner has confessed her crime. I confessed to hating the king. She confessed she'd eaten all the cakes. Did he confess what he did last night? You must confess to all your crimes!* 2 [X (to be) 1, 7] to declare (oneself) to be: *The minister confessed himself guilty/to be a thief.* 3 [T1, 4, 5a, 6a; I0 (to)] tech to make (one's faults) known to a priest or God: *He confessed his desire for sex. Won't you confess and be at peace with God?* 4 [T1] tech (of a priest) to hear the confession of (a person): *The priest confessed 90 people on Saturday morning.* **must/have to confess** to admit: *I must confess I hate this work.*

accept 1 [T1; I0] to take or receive (something offered or given), esp willingly; receive with favour: *I cannot accept your gift. He asked her to marry him and she accepted (him).* 2 [Wv5; T1, (fml) 5] to believe; admit; agree to: *I accept your reasons for being late. She accepts that we must do the work this way.*

adopt [T1] to accept or take (something) and use it for some purpose: *He adopted our plan/suggestion. The local people have adopted new customs from abroad.*

concede 1 [T1, 5; I0; D1 (to)] to admit as true, just, or proper, often unwillingly (often in the phr **concede defeat**): *The government conceded defeat as soon as the election results were known. I'm willing to concede that a larger car would have cost more but I still think we should have bought one. I concede (you) that point, but I still think you're wrong generally. Does he still refuse to concede, even after he's been given all the facts?* 2 [D1 (to); T1] to give as a right; allow; yield: *After the First World War Germany conceded (to) her neighbours much val-*

uable territory (=land). *How much territory did France concede after her defeat in 1815? The leading player conceded 10 points to me at the start of the game, but, even so, he beat me!* **3** [IØ] to admit defeat: *I conceded when I saw I had lost. 'I concede,' he said, and the match was over.*

G109 nouns : acknowledging, confessing, and conceding

acknowledg(e)ment often *fml* **1** [U] the act of acknowledging (often in the *phr* in **acknowledgement of**): *He was given a present in acknowledgement of his work for the business.* **2** [C] something given, done, or said as a way of thanking: *Please accept this payment as an acknowledgement of your work for our business.* **3** [C] a statement, letter, etc saying that something has been received: *He sent us an acknowledgement of our request.*

admission **1** [U] the act of admitting: *By her own admission she committed the crime.* **2** [C] an example of this: *He made an admission of guilt.*

confession **1** [U] the act of confessing **2** [C] an example of this: *He made a confession of murder.*

acceptance **1** [U] the act of accepting or being accepted **2** [C] an example of this: *How many acceptances have we received?* **3** [U] favour; approval: *The suggestion met with everyone's acceptance.* **4** [C] (in business) an agreement to pay

adoption [U; C] the act of adopting: *His adoption of our suggestion pleased us. He suggested an adoption of their plan in part but not completely.*

concession **1** [U] the act of conceding **2** [C] an example of this: *We can make no concessions to people who use force. This low price is a special concession to people who work with us a lot.*

G110 nouns : promising and guaranteeing

promise **1** [C] a statement, which someone else has a right to believe or depend on, that one will or will not do something, give something, etc: *If you make a promise you must keep it. She broke her promise to me (= She did not keep her promise). She gave me a promise to help. She gave me her promise (that) she would help.* **2** [U; S] expectation or hope (esp of success or of something good or deserved): *The news of the war brings little promise (of peace). The sky contained a promise of rain.* **3** [U] *apprec* signs or reasons for such expectation or hope: *The boy is showing great promise as a footballer.*

pledge [C] **1** a solemn promise or agreement: *They made a pledge to work for the freedom of*

their country. **2** something given or received as a sign of faithful love or friendship: *Take this ring as a pledge of our friendship.*

oath **1** [C; prep U] *usu fml* a solemn promise. *He swore an oath in the name of God. He took an oath to tell the truth. You are under/on oath to tell the truth.* **2** [(the) S] the form of words used in making an oath: *He wrote out the oath.*

word [S] a promise (esp in the *phr* to **give/break one's word**): *He gave his word that he would help. She often breaks her word; don't trust her.*

undertaking [C] often *fml* a promise: *Will you give me an undertaking not to see him again/that you won't see him again?*

guarantee [C] **1** an agreement to be responsible for someone's fulfilling a promise, esp paying a debt: *I give you my guarantee (that) he'll pay.* **2** a formal written declaration of good quality by the maker of an article which makes an agreement to repay or replace it if it is found imperfect within a period of time: *He got a 3-year guarantee with the watch.* **3** something of value given to someone to keep until the owner has fulfilled a promise (esp) to pay: *He gave the bank the papers which proved he owned the land as a guarantee that he would repay the loan.* **4** *infml* something that happens which makes something else certain: *Good habits are a guarantee of good health.* **guarantor** [C] a person who gives a guarantee

warranty [C] a written or printed guarantee: *Can you give me a warranty to cover the next few months of use of this car?*

treaty **1** [C] a (usu formal) agreement between countries in which certain promises, guarantees, etc are exchanged: *The treaty nations have agreed on these matters. They all signed the peace treaty.* **2** [(by) U] esp *tech* an agreement between persons: *The house was sold by private treaty.*

commitment [C] a promise, etc to which one has committed oneself (= which one has agreed to do): *He has a lot of commitments and cannot take on (= accept) any more.*

G111 verbs : promising and guaranteeing

promise **1** [T1, 3, 5a; V3; D1, 5a; IØ] to make a promise to do or give (something) or that (something) will be done: *Do you promise secrecy? I promise to return your car in good condition. She promised him never to lie to him again. They promised that the work would all be finished by next week. She isn't coming tonight—But she promised! I can't give you the book; I've promised it to her.* **2** [T1; D1, 5a] *infml* to say that (something) is certain; to warn (someone) of (something): *He promised his son a beating if he disobeyed him.* **3** [T1, 3; L9] to cause to expect or hope for (something); give promise (of): *That clear sky promises good weather. It promises to be a fine day. He promises well as an actor.* **promising** [B]

having or showing promise: *That girl is a very promising singer.* -ly [adv]

pledge esp lit & emot 1 [T3, 5] to make a solemn promise or agreement: *He pledged never to come back until he found her. They have pledged that they will always remain faithful.* 2 [T1] to give (one's word, etc) at the risk of losing one's honour: *I pledged my word (of honour) that I would never again get into debt.* 3 [T1; X3] to bind (someone) with a solemn promise: *He was pledged to secrecy. They pledged themselves never to tell the secret.* 4 [T1] fml to express a wish for (the health, success, etc of) by or before taking alcoholic drink: *Everyone at the table stood up and pledged the success of the new company.*

swear fml 1 [T3, 5a] to promise formally: *He swore to obey. He swore by his honour/on his father's grave that he would be loyal. He swore he would win.* 2 [T1 (to); I0] to (cause to) take an oath, as in court: *They swore him to silence. The witnesses must swear before speaking.* 3 [T1 (on)] a to take (an oath): *He swore an oath to obey the King.* b to declare the truth of by oath: *He swore his evidence.*

undertake [T3, 5] often fml to promise or agree: *He undertook to improve the working arrangements.*

guarantee 1 [Wv5; T1; X7] to give a promise of quality, payment, or fulfilment about (something or someone): *They guarantee the watch for three years. They give you guaranteed service or your money back.* 2 [T1, 3, 5; D1] to promise (that something will certainly be so): *We can't guarantee your safety if you go alone. I guarantee that you'll enjoy yourself.*

warrant 1 [X (to be) 7; (T1), 5a] to guarantee: *The grower warrants these plants (to be) free from disease.* 2 [T5a; D5a] infml to declare as if certain: *I'll warrant (you) (that) he's back there drinking again.*

commit [T1] fml 1 to promise (oneself, one's property, etc): *He has committed himself to the work; he must now do it.* 2 tech to send: *The prisoner has been committed for trial. They have committed him to a mental hospital; he is not right in the head.*

vouch for [v prep T1] to say that (someone or something) is good, correct, acceptable, etc: *I can vouch for him; he will work well.*

G112 verbs.: swearing and cursing

swear [I0 (at)] to use bad language: *Stop swearing in front of the children. The drunk man stood there, angrily swearing and cursing. Don't swear at me!*

curse [T1] emph to swear at: *The rider cursed his unwilling horse. I'm so angry I could curse the day I met you!* 2 [I0] to swear: *The drunken sailors cursed and swore at passing soldiers.*

damn [T1] to curse at: *It's as likely that he'll damn me as (that he'll) say 'Hello'.*

G113 nouns : oaths and curses

bad/foul language [U] words, usu related to sex, bodily waste and religion, used to express strong feelings, amusement, etc and not usu considered polite: *'Don't use bad language in front of the children!' she said.*

oath [C] an expression of strong feeling using religious or sexual words improperly

curse [C] a word or words used in swearing; a word or words expressing anger, hate, etc: *Listen to his curses; I don't think he likes us!*

swearing [U] the act of using bad language

damn 1 [C] the word 'damn' as a curse: *His speech is full of 'damns' and worse curses.* 2 [S] infml even a small unimportant amount: *I don't care/give a damn what he does. His promise isn't worth a damn.* 3 also (God) **damned** [Wa5; A] sl (used for giving force to an expression, good or bad): *He's a damn fool! It's damn foolish to do that. He ran damn fast. That's damn nice of you!* 4 [interj] sl (an expression of strong anger or disappointment): *Damn!* **damn all** nothing: *He's the most ungenerous person I know; you'll get damn all out of him.*

Well, I'll be damned infml (a strong way of saying): *I'm very surprised.* (God) **Damn it/you/silly fool**, etc sl a strong way of expressing anger, meaning: *May God damn it/you/that silly fool.* etc **I'll be damned if I will** infml (a strong way of saying) *I won't*

blasphemy 1 [U] disrespectful or bad language about God or holy things: *They charged him with blasphemy (against religion).* 2 [C] an example of this: *Their conversation was full of blasphemies.*

G114 verbs & nouns : cursing and damning

curse 1 [T1] to call down God's anger, evil, misfortune, etc, upon (someone): *The priest cursed the hunters for daring to stand on holy ground. The terrorized villagers cursed their violent lord.* 2 [C (on)] a word or sentence asking God, heaven, a spirit, etc, to bring down evil or harm on someone or something: *The tribal chief pronounced a curse on all white men.* 3 [C (on)] the evil or harm called down in this way: *There is a curse on our tribe; our animals die and our crops don't grow. Our tribe is under a curse.* 4 [C] a cause of misfortune, evil, etc: *Foxes can be a curse to farmers. Inequality is the curse of modern society.* **cursed with** to suffer misfortune or great harm because of (someone or something): *My mother is cursed with blindness and difficulty in hearing. We're cursed with bad luck.*

damn [T1] 1 (esp of God) to send to punishment without end after death: *You will be damned to hell for this!* 2 to declare to be very wrong or bad: *The play was bad and the newspapers all damned it.* 3 to ruin or be the ruin of: *With this*

latest foolish action he had damned himself in everyone's opinion.

blaspheme [I0 (against); T1] to speak without respect of or use bad language at (esp God or religious matters): *What a terrible person. He can hardly speak without blaspheming (against God).* **blasphemous** [B] **1** tending to blaspheme **2** (of words, pictures, etc) presenting God or holy things as bad or foolish. **3** (of people) having the habit of speaking against God or things considered holy

G115 verbs : ordering and commanding

order **1** [T5c, (b); V3] tell (someone) what to do, that (something) must be done, etc: *The officer ordered that the men (should) fire the guns/that the guns (should) be fired. He ordered the men to fire the guns. He ordered the guns to be fired.* **2** [T1] to say that (something) should be done or made: *Order an attack! The government has ordered an inquiry into the state of all private schools.* **3** [X9] to tell (someone or something) to go (to the stated place): *If you make any more noise I shall order you out of the hall.* **4** [D1 (for); T1] (of a doctor) to advise (something) as necessary: *The doctor ordered her a month's rest in bed.* **5** [D1 (for); T1; I0] to ask for (something) to be brought, made, etc, in return for payment: *He ordered himself three new suits. Don't forget to order a taxi. Please order some fish for me. I've ordered dinner at the restaurant for 8 o'clock. 'Have you ordered yet, sir?' asked the waiter.*

tell [V3; D6a, b; X9] *genl* to order: *Tell him to go now. Please do as you are told. I told you to get here early, so why didn't you? Don't try and tell me whether I can or I can't!*

say [T3] *not fml* to direct someone: *She says to meet her at the station. It says on the bottle to take a spoonful every 4 hours.*

instruct [T1; V3] *often fml* to order: *I instructed him to come to work earlier. Instruct him in what he must do.*

direct [T1, 5c] *fml* to order: *He directed his men to do it. She directed that it be done at once.*

command **1** [T1, 5b, c; V3; I0] *esp fml* to direct (a person or people), with the right to be obeyed: *The general commanded his men to attack the city. Our leader is not fit to command. She commanded that it be done at once. Who commands here?* **2** [T1] to deserve and get: *His abilities command our respect.* **3** [T1] to be in a position to use or get; have at one's service: *The employers command a great amount of wealth but we have nothing. He can command a high salary.* **4** [T1] to be in a position to control (a city, area, etc): *This fort commands the whole valley.* **commander** [C] a person, esp in a military force, who commands others

boss [T1 (about); (I0)] *infnl & deprec* to order people to do things, esp too much or when one

has no right to do so: *He is always bossing me about and I don't like it!* **bossy** [W1; B] *deprec* liking to give orders to other people: *Stop being bossy! -sily [adv] -siness [U]*

dictate [I0 (to)] *usu deprec* to order: *Stop dictating to me! He likes dictating to people, but nobody obeys him.*

obey **1** [I0; T1] to do what one is told to do: *He told them what to do and they obeyed.* **2** [T1] to follow the order of (someone): *Soldiers must obey their officers.*

G116 nouns : ordering and commanding

order [C; by U] an official message telling what to do: *These are your orders; now do the work. It's an order; do it! A soldier who doesn't obey/follow his orders will be in serious trouble. His orders are that you must be home by 10 o'clock (= He ordered this). My orders are to let no one into the building (= I have been so ordered). Give the order now! This road is closed by order of the chief of police.* **orders** *are orders infml* orders must be obeyed **under orders** having received orders: *He is under orders to go to London.*

instruction [C *usu pl*; A] *often fml* an order (to a person or a machine): *You have your instructions; now do the work. Read the instruction book.*

directions [P] orders; information about what to do: *Please follow his directions. The directions on the bottle tell you when to take the medicine.*

directive [C] *fml* an official order: *The government directives must be obeyed/followed.*

command **1** [C] *esp fml* an order: *All his commands were obeyed.* **2** [U] control: *The army is under the King's direct command. You need experience before you get command of an army.* **3** [S; U] the ability of control and use: *He has (a) good command of spoken French.* **at someone's command** ready to obey someone: *I'm at your command.*

commandment [C *often cap*] an esp religious or divine command: *Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments from God.*

dictation [U] *usu deprec* the act of dictating: *I'm not going to work to his dictation!* **dictates** [P] *usu deprec* orders: *I'm not going to obey the dictates of a man like him!*

G117 verbs : calling and inviting

call [T1] **1** to (try to) cause to come by speaking loudly or officially: *Mother is calling me. He called me over/down (from the tree)in (from outdoors). The minister called the union leaders to a meeting. The King called Parliament (together).* **2** to cause to happen by making an official declaration: *The King called an election. The minister called a meeting.* **3** to waken

(someone): *She called me early today. When shall I call you, sir?*

call [v adv T1] **1** to ask to attend: *Call the doctor in; the child is ill.* **2** to request the return of: *The makers have called in some cars with dangerous faults. I'm going to call in the money.*

recall [T1] **1** to call (someone) back: *The government recalled the general after he lost the battle.* **2** to take back: *The car factory has recalled all the cars made in January, because there is something wrong with them.*

summon [T1 (to); V3 often pass] fml to give an official order (to do, come, etc): *He was summoned (in) to the presence of the Queen. She summoned a servant. He summoned his soldiers to fight.*

invite [T1] **1** to ask (someone) to a social occasion: *We invited all our relatives. Why don't you invite me in (to the house)? I've been invited out (= to a home or place outside one's home) out to dinner.* **2** to ask for, esp politely: *Questions were invited after the meeting.*

ask [T1; V3] not fml to invite: *I have asked some friends (for dinner). I have asked them to come (for dinner) (for/to tea). She asked him to her house. I asked her in/up/down for a drink. I asked her (to come) out (for the evening).*

G118 nouns : calling and inviting

call [C] a command to move, come, or do something: *The minister waited for a call to the palace. The call came at 6 o'clock and they went immediately. In the war many people answered the call of duty. He felt a call (from God) to become a priest.*

recall [S; U] the act of recalling or being recalled: *The general's recall surprised us. The recall of the cars made in January caused us a lot of trouble.* **beyond recall** esp lit not/no longer able to be recalled: *They are gone, beyond recall.*

summons [C] an order to appear, esp in court, often written: *He received a summons. They served a summons on him (to appear in court).*

invitation **1** [U] the act of inviting or being invited: *The meeting is by invitation only; you can't just go in.* **2** [C] an example of this: *We have been getting lots of invitations to parties lately. (fig) His words were an invitation to do exactly what they wanted.* **3** [C] a written note inviting someone to something: *Can I see the invitation, please?*

G119 verbs : recommending and supporting

[ALSO ⇒ G88]

recommend **1** [D1 (to); T1 (as, for)] to speak to (someone) in favour of; praise (as being good for a purpose): *Can you recommend me a good dictionary? Can you recommend a good dictionary (to me)? They recommended him for the job/as a good lawyer.* **2** [T4, 5c; V3] to

advise or suggest: *I recommend buying this book/you to buy this book/that everyone (should) buy this book.* **3** [T1 (to)] (of a quality) to make attractive: *This hotel has nothing to recommend it (to travellers) except cheapness.*

commend [T1 (to)] fml **1** to present as being worthy of praise, notice, etc; speak favourably of: *I can commend this man's work to you. Our shop has always been very highly commended. Your behaviour doesn't commend you to me. (fig) Your behaviour doesn't commend itself to me.* **2** to put (someone or something, esp oneself) into the care or charge of someone else: *The dying man commended his soul/himself to God.*

advocate [T1, 4] emph to speak in favour of (esp an idea or plan): *I do not advocate building larger factories.*

sponsor [T1] to speak in favour of (esp a person or plan): *Who is sponsoring this young man? He sponsored the plan at the meeting.*

support [T1] **1** to be in favour of: *The results support my original idea. I support his plan.* **2** to approve of and encourage: *She supports the new political party. I will support him if he suggests change.*

back [T1] infml to recommend; sponsor; support: *I'll back him for the job! He was backed by many important people.*

be (all) for infml to support strongly; be strongly in favour of: *I'm all for that! She is all for telling him what to do.*

G120 nouns : recommending and supporting

recommendation **1** [U; C] (an) act of recommending: *He came to us with very high recommendations.* **2** [C] a quality that recommends: *Her two great recommendations are youth and beauty.*

commendation **1** [U; C] (an) act of commending **2** [C] a special honour: *He got a commendation for bravery in the war.*

advocacy [U9] the act or action of supporting an idea, way of life, person, etc: *She objected to his advocacy of large schools; she preferred small ones.*

sponsorship [U] the condition of sponsoring, taking responsibility for someone or something: *He is under our sponsorship; we recommend him.*

support [U] willingness, ability or action to support someone; encouragement and help: *You have my support in this/in what you plan to do. The results give/lend support to my original idea.*

backing [U] material or moral support or help: *I'll give you my backing when you put your plan to the group. The plan has plenty of backing, and will probably succeed.*

reference [C] **1** a piece of written information about someone's character, ability, etc, esp

when he is looking for employment: *His references show that he's just the man we want! We will lend you the money if you get a banker's reference* (= a note from the bank to say that there is money in your account). **2** BrE also **referee** a person who provides such information: *Ask Dr Smith if he will act as one of your references.*

testimonial [C] **1** a formal written statement of a person's character, ability, willingness to work, etc **2** something given or done as an expression of respect, praise, thanks, etc: *He was given a gold watch as a testimonial after 50 years with the company.*

credentials [P] written proofs of a person's position, trustworthiness, etc: *Never let a stranger into your house until you have seen his credentials.*

G121 verbs : advising and consulting

advise [T1, 4, 5b, c; I0; D5, 5b, 6a, b; V3] to tell (somebody) what one thinks should be done; give (advice): *I advise waiting till the proper time. I will do as/what you advise. I advised her that she should wait. I advised her to wait. I advised her where to stay. So I advised (him).* **advisable** [F] that is advised or thought the best to do; sensible; wise: *It is advisable to leave now/that you leave now.* **advisedly** [adv] after careful thought; purposely: *I'm sure he did it advisedly.* **adviser, also advisor** AmE [C] a person who gives advice, esp one who is often asked for advice, as by a government or business **advisory** [Wa5;B] **1** having the power or duty to advise **2** containing advice rather than orders: *Our report is only advisory because we have no power to act.* **ill-advised** [B] unwise: *You'd be ill-advised to go there.* **well-advised** [Wa2;B] wise: *You'd be well-advised to stay at home today.*

counsel [T1, 4; V3] fml to advise: *I have waited months for news and now you counsel patience! The soldier counselled against travelling at night. I would counsel you not to marry too young.*

consult [T1] to go to (a person, book, etc) for information, advice, an opinion, etc: *Have you consulted your doctor about your illness? I regularly consult a dictionary.*

look up [T1] **1** [v adv] to find and study (something in a book): *Look up his number in the telephone directory* (= book of telephone numbers). *She looked the word up in a dictionary.* **2** [v prep] infml to consult: *Did you look up a dictionary for the meaning of that word?*

G122 nouns : advising and consulting

advice [U] opinion given by one person to another on how that other should behave or act: *I asked the doctor for his advice. On his advice I am staying in bed.*

counsel [U] often fml advice: *The King refused to listen to his ministers' counsel and declared war. He kept his own counsel in the matter* (= He gave and took no advice).

consultation **1** [C; U (with) often pl with sing meaning] (an example of) the act of consulting (often in the phr **in consultation (with)**): *The minister of foreign affairs today had consultations with the president of France. Mr Smith is in consultation with his advisors at present. Please call back later.* **2** [C] a meeting held to exchange opinions and ideas: *The employers held a consultation to decide whether to increase their workers' wages.*

G123 verbs : warning and threatening

warn **1** [Wv4;I0;T1.5a;D5a;V3] to tell (of something bad that may happen, or of how to prevent something bad): *I warned him of the danger. She warned them against us. He warned her not to go. I warned her that it would happen. A red warning light flashed.* **2** [T1] to give knowledge (often officially) of some future need or action: *If you warn the police when you go away on holiday they will watch your house.*

warn off [v adv T1] to try to cause to stay away from (a place, etc) by warning: *They warned him off, but he kept going back to the dangerous river.*

admonish [T1] fml to warn, usu gently, esp of possible punishment: *Her mother admonished her for being careless.*

alert [T1] to warn (esp people who are ready to do something): *He alerted us to our danger. Alert the army; the enemy are attacking! The police alerted all road users about the need to go carefully.*

threaten **1** [Wv4, 5; T1 (with)] to express a threat against: *Don't threaten me! I was threatened with a beating unless I obeyed.* **2** [Wv4, 5; T1, 3] to express (a threat) against someone: *The killer threatened to murder me if I didn't obey. Father is threatening a beating if I don't obey.* **3** [Wv4;T1] to give warning of (something bad): *The black clouds threatened rain. There was a threatening silence.* **4** [Wv4;T1] to be a threat against: *Immoral behaviour threatens our way of life.* **-ingly** [adv]

beware [Wv6;I0 (of); T6, esp what] (used in giving or reporting orders) to be careful: *It's getting closer; beware! Beware of the dog. Beware (of) what you do with this dangerous substance. He told us to beware.*

G124 nouns : warning and threatening

warning **1** [U; C (of)] the act of warning or the state of being warned: *They attacked without warning/without giving a warning.* **2** [C (of)] something that warns: *Let that be a warning to you. Take that for a warning of what may hap-*

pen. His life should be a warning to us all. **3** [C (of)] a person who is an example of what not to do: *He's a warning to us all of what happens to people who drink too much.*

alert [C] a warning of danger, etc, esp for people who can do or must know something: *There has been a general alert; the enemy seem to be about to attack. Sound the alert!*

threat **1** [C; under U (of)] an expression of an intention to hurt, punish, cause pain, etc, esp if one's instructions are not obeyed: *I obeyed his order but only under threat of punishment. We did not take their threats seriously.* **2** [C (to) usu sing] a person, thing, or idea regarded as a possible danger: *While the killer goes free he is a threat to everyone in the town.* **3** [C9, esp of, usu sing] (fig) a sign or warning of coming danger: *The clouds brought a threat of rain.*

premonition [C (of)] a feeling that something (esp something unpleasant) is going to happen or will be found to have happened: *He had a strong premonition that his son had been killed in battle.*

forewarning [C (of)] poet & emot a premonition

admonition also **admonishment** [C; U] a usu gentle warning, esp of possible punishment: *She got an admonition for being careless. Admonishment isn't necessary; he is sorry for what he did.*

G125 verbs : accepting, agreeing, and approving

accept [Wv5; T1, (fml) 5] to take as satisfactory, possible, etc: *I accept your plan. She fully accepts his account of how the accident happened.*

agree **1** [Wv5; I0 (to)] to accept an idea, opinion, etc, esp after unwillingness or argument; to approve: *They finally agreed to the plan. We met at the agreed place. My idea was agreed to.* **2** [I0 (with, on); I3, 5] to have or share the same opinion, feeling, or purpose: *She agreed with me. We agreed on the plan. We agreed to leave soon. They agreed that they should ask him. We agreed on a price for the car.* **3** [I0] to be happy together; to get on well together: *They will never agree. They agree together all the time.* **4** [T1] esp BrE to accept (an idea, opinion, etc) esp after unwillingness or argument: *The workers have agreed the government's plan. The government's plan was agreed.*

agree with [v prep T1 no pass] to be in accordance with: *Your story agrees with his in everything except small details.*

concur **1** [I0 (with)] to agree: *I concurred with him in his belief that sex before marriage is wrong. Our opinions on this matter concur.* **2** [I0, 3] to happen at the same time: *Everything concurred to produce the desired effect. Happiness and love do not always concur.*

consent [I0 (to), I3] to agree; give permission:

She tried to persuade her father but he refused to consent. He consented to help the old lady. Did the king consent to your plan? He would never consent to his daughter travelling abroad alone.

assent [I0 (to)] fml to agree to a suggestion, idea, etc: *I won't assent to her plan. Why don't you assent? I assented to listen to her.*

acquiesce [I0 (in)] fml to agree, often unwillingly, without raising an argument; accept quietly: *He acquiesced in the plans his parents had made for him.* **acquiescent** [B] ready to agree without argument: *They are acquiescent people.*

confirm **1** [T1, 5a, 6a] to support; make certain; give proof (of): *Please confirm your telephone message in writing. The King confirmed that the election would be on June 20th. Can you confirm where you were yesterday?* **2** [T1] to give approval to (a person, agreement, position, etc); agree to: *The King confirmed him as minister of foreign affairs. When do you think the President will confirm you in office?*

endorse [T1] **1** to express approval or support of (opinions, actions, etc): *I fully endorse your opinions on this subject.* **2** to write, esp one's name, on the back of (esp a cheque): *The bank clerk asked her to endorse the cheque and then paid her the money.*

approve [T1] to agree officially to: *The minister approved the building plans.* **approve of** [v prep T1, 4; V4] to consider good, right, true, etc: *I don't approve of wasting time.*

applaud [T1] fml & emph to agree strongly with (a person, idea, etc): *They applauded the new plan to save water.*

G126 nouns : accepting, agreeing, and approving

acceptance **1** [U] the act of accepting: *Your acceptance of the plan is expected.* **2** [C] an example of this, esp in the form of letters: *We have had 100 acceptances from all over the world.*

agreement **1** [U] the state of having the same opinion, feeling, or purpose; thinking in the same way: *We are in agreement with their decision. There is very little agreement about what to do.* **2** [C] an arrangement or promise of action, as made between people, groups, businesses, or countries: *You have broken our agreement by not doing the work you promised. The two countries signed an agreement to respect each other's rights.*

concurrence **1** [C] an agreement of opinion: *The concurrence of all three judges was that the man was guilty.* **2** [C] an example of actions, events, etc, happening at the same time: *This is an interesting concurrence of events.* **3** [U] the act of concurring

consent [U] agreement; permission: *Governments should rule only with the consent of the governed. Her parents refused their consent to her marriage.* **age of consent** the age at which

one may lawfully marry or have sex **with one consent** with complete agreement

assent [C; U] *esp fml* agreement: *Once we have his assent we can start.* **with one assent** with the expressed agreement of all **by common assent** by general, often unspoken, agreement

acquiescence [U] quiet or unwilling agreement

confirmation 1 [U] the act of confirming: *We have had government confirmation of the plans.*

2 [U; C] (a) proof; something that confirms: *Your news was confirmation for my beliefs.*

endorsement [U; C] the act or action of endorsing: *The committee's decision has not yet received the chairman's endorsement.*

approval 1 [U] the act of approving **2** [U; (C)] official permission

G127 verbs : rejecting, refusing, and denying

reject [T1] not to accept, *esp* for use: *They have rejected his plan. Don't reject this idea straightaway; think about it.*

disagree [I0] **1** (of people) to have different opinions; quarrel slightly: *Bill and I often disagree but we're good friends. I disagree with him about/as to/on what we ought to do.* **2** (of statements, reports, etc) to be unlike: *These two reports of the accident disagree.*

dissent [I0] to disagree; refuse to agree: *I dissent altogether (from such an unwise idea).*

refuse [I0; T1, 3; D1] not to accept or do or give: *He asked her to marry him but she refused (to marry him). She refused his offer. She refused him even a kiss.*

turn down [v adv T1] *infml* to reject or refuse: *She turned him down; she won't marry him. They turned down his plan; they won't use it.*

pass up [v adv T1] *infml* not to accept, do, have, etc: *He passed up a good chance to go to France with the local football team and he's sorry now.*

decline [T1, 3; I0] to refuse, *usu* politely; be unwilling: *We asked them to come to our party, but they declined (the invitation). The minister declined to make a statement to the newspapers.*

deny 1 [T1, 4, 5; V3] to declare untrue; refuse to accept (as true, as a fact): *Can you deny the truth of his statement? He denied it to be the case/that it was the case. He denied telling me/that he had told me.* **2** [T1] to disclaim connection with: *Don't tell me he has denied his country and his principles!*

G128 nouns : rejecting, refusing, and denying

rejection [C; U] (a case of) rejecting or being rejected: *She had a feeling of rejection; no one wanted her. I've had so many rejections I've stopped trying to help him.*

reject [C] something rejected for use, sale, etc:

The factory sells some of its better rejects cheaply, but throws most of the rejects away.

disagreement 1 [C; U] the fact or a case of disagreeing: *There has been serious disagreement between the two political parties over this question. Bill and I have been having a few disagreements lately.* **2** [U] (of statements, reports, etc) unlikeness; disagreeing: *There is some disagreement between these two statements.* **in disagreement** in the state of disagreeing: *I am in total disagreement with you as to the value of your plan. The two sets of figures are in disagreement.*

dissent [U] disagreement; difference of opinion: *When I asked for agreement there was no dissent.*

refusal [C; U] (a case of) refusing: *My offer met with a cold refusal. Refusal was impossible; I had to do what they asked. (the) first refusal (the) right of deciding whether to buy something before it is offered to other people: If you sell your house will you let me have (the) first refusal?*

denial 1 [U] the act of denial **2** [C] an example of this: *No one accepted his angry denials.*

G129 verbs : shouting and screaming

[ALSO ⇒ F247]

shout 1 [I0] to use one's voice loudly: *Why are those people shouting? He shouted with joy.* **2** [T1 (out)] to tell by shouting: *He shouted a warning. She shouted out the news.*

call 1 [T1; I0 (out)] to shout, speak, or say in a loud clear voice: *He called for help. They called for an hour but no one heard them. The fisherman called (out) to the men on the shore. Are they still calling?* **2** [T1] to speak (a list): *He called the numbers. Please call out the names of all the people.* **3** [I0; T1] **a** (of an animal) to make the usual cry to (another animal): *The birds were calling (each other).* **b** to signal to (someone or something) with typical sounds: *The drums were calling.* **c** to attract: *The sea is calling him.*

exclaim [T1; I0] to say something suddenly and loudly: *She exclaimed that she wouldn't do it. 'I won't do it!' she exclaimed.*

cry [I0 (for); T1 (out)] to call loudly; shout: *The trapped woman cried out for help. 'Run! Run!' cried the citizens as enemy soldiers entered the city.*

cheer 1 [I0] to shout, *esp* because of happiness, special interest, etc: *The people cheered when their leader arrived. 'We won the game!' he shouted, and we all cheered.* **2** [T1] to do this for (someone or sometimes something): *They cheered him as he went to fight. The people cheered the passing car, hoping that it would win the race.*

scream 1 [I0] to cry out loudly on a high note, as in fear, pain, great excitement or anger, or sometimes laughter: *She screamed (with terror) when she saw the man with a gun. They*

screamed for help/screamed with laughter at the good joke. (fig) The wind screamed down the chimney. The birds screamed at the approaching cat. **2** [T1, 5 (out)] to say or express in this way: 'Help!' she screamed. He screamed that he was dying. He screamed (out) a warning not to touch the electric wire. **3** [T1, 5 (out); (I0)] (fig) to draw attention, as by such a cry (to): The newspapers screamed (out) the news in large letters. **4** [I0 (about)] to complain loudly or excitedly: He was screaming about the loss of their powers under the new law. **5** [I3 (out)] also **scream for** [T1] to demand; to be in great need (of): The whole political system screams (out) for change. Haven't you finished the report? The chairman is screaming to have it.

shriek 1 [I0; T1] to cry out on a very high note, as in terror or pain: 'Leave me alone!' she shrieked. They were all shrieking with laughter. (fig) He could hear the shrieking of the terrible wind.

screech [I0; T1] **1** esp emot to scream on a very high, unpleasant note: 'Stop it!' she screeched. Birds were screeching in the trees. **2** a (of machines, esp tyres and brakes) to make a noise like this: The car screeched to a halt/stop. **b** to cause (brakes) to make a noise like this: The driver screeched to a stop.

bellow 1 [I0] to make the loud deep hollow sound typical of a bull **2** [T1, 5; I0 (with), (out)] to shout (something) in a deep voice: He bellowed (out) with excitement/pain. He bellowed (out) his orders. He bellowed (out) that he was hurt.

yell 1 [I0 (at)] to make a loud cry or shout, as of fear or excitement: Don't yell at me like that! **2** [T1 (out, at)] to say or shout loudly: He yelled (out) orders at everyone.

squeal [I0] to make a long very high sound or cry: He heard the squealing tyres/pigs. The children squealed with delight.

G130 nouns, etc : shouting and screaming [C]

[ALSO ⇒ F246]

shout an act of shouting: I can hear shouts; who is it? He gave a loud shout to warn them.

cry an act of crying out: He could hear the cries of a man in pain/of animals. She gave a loud cry of fear.

exclamation 1 an act of exclaiming: He gave a loud and angry exclamation. **2** a word such as 'oh' that is used when exclaiming

call 1 a shout or cry, usu with a purpose: They heard a call for help. **2** the special cry of an animal: The call of this bird is very loud. **3** an instrument which makes a sound like the cry of, and which attracts, a bird or animal: When hunting ducks he always uses a call.

cheer an act of cheering: They gave a great cheer. Three cheers for the winner!

hurray also **hurrah** [also interj] a shout of joy,

welcome, happiness, etc: 'Hurray!' they cried. (lit) They gave a loud hurray/hurrah.

scream 1 a sudden loud high cry expressing anger, pain, fear, or sometimes laughter: Her loud screams could be heard for miles. (fig) I heard the scream of the circular saw [⇒ H142] as it cut the log. **2** [S] esp BrE/sl a very funny person, thing, joke, etc: She thought it was a scream when I fell off my chair, but I failed to see the joke.

shriek a wild high cry (as of pain or terror): They heard her shrieks and came running to help.

screech a very high unpleasant sound (as) of screeching: The forest seemed full of monkeys' screeches. A screech of brakes made us look to see what had happened in the street.

bellow an act of bellowing: His bellows were very loud.

yell 1 a loud cry, as of fear or excitement **2** AmE a cheer or cry of fixed words or sounds, esp one shouted to encourage a school team

squeal a long very high cry or noise: I could hear squeals of delight from the children. There was a squeal of tyres turning the corner at high speed.

G131 verbs : difficulties in speech

stutter [I0; T1] to speak with difficulty in producing sounds, esp habitually holding back the first consonant: 'C-come and h-h-help me,' he stuttered. **-ingly** [adv] **stutterer** [C] a person who stutters

stammer 1 [I0] to speak with pauses and repeated sounds, either habitually or because of excitement, fear, etc **2** [T1 (out)] to say while doing this: He stammered his thanks. **-ingly** [adv] **stammerer** [C] a person who stammers

lisp [I0; T1 (out)] to speak or say with /s/ sounds which are not clear, esp when the tongue is placed on the teeth, making the /s/ seem like /θ/

G132 nouns : difficulties in speech [C usu sing]

stutter the fault of stuttering in speech: He spoke with a stutter.

stammer the fault of stammering in speech: She speaks with/has a stammer.

lisp the fault in speech of lisping: She speaks with a lisp.

Communicating, mainly by reading and writing, printing and publishing, radio and television

G140 verbs, etc : reading things

read 1 [I0; T1] (often with **can**) to understand (language in print or writing): The child can

read is reading quite well now. He reads well for a six-year-old. I like reading in bed. He read the book last week. **2** [Wv6;T1] to understand (something printed or written): He can read music. She read the map. I can read French but I can't speak it. (fig) I can read your thoughts (from your face). **3** [D1 (to); L9, esp to; T1 (aloud)] to say (printed or written words) esp to give pleasure to others: She read the children a story. The teacher read the poem aloud to the class. **4** [I0; T1, 5, 6b] to get (the stated information) from (print or writing): They read about the murder. They read the account of the murder in the paper. They read that the murderer had been caught. She read how to make pastry. **5** [L9] (of something written) to influence people (in the stated way): Her letters always read well/always read as if she copied them from books. **6** [T1] BrE to study (a subject at university level): John's reading history/law at Oxford. **7** [L1, 9] (of written words) to be or mean when said: The name reads 'Benson' not 'Fenton'. The two copies read the same/differently. **8** [T1] (of measuring instruments) to show: The thermometer reads 33 degrees. **9** [T1] fml (to a person, with please) understand the stated printed or written words to mean: For £50 please read £15. Please read £50 as £15. £50 was read (as) £15. **10** [S] esp BrE infml an act or period of reading: Can I have a read of your paper? **11** [S9] esp BrE infml something (of the stated kind) to be read: It's not great literature but it's a very good read. **read oneself/someone to sleep** to make oneself/someone go to sleep by reading **reader** [C] **1** a person who reads or is reading **2** a book which helps a person (esp a child) to learn to read

browse **1** [I0] to read here and there in books: He was browsing through the bookcase when I came in. **2** [S] a period of time spent in browsing: While you were out I had a good browse through your books.

skim [T1; I0 (through, over)] to read quickly to get the main ideas: Skimming (through a book) can sometimes be useful. He skimmed the pages for what he wanted.

scan [T1; (I0)] to look over the whole of (something, esp a book, newspaper, etc), esp quickly to get the main ideas: She scanned the book for his name, but couldn't find it.

read aloud/out loud to read and speak what is read at the same time: He read the letter aloud/out loud. Read out loud, please!

G141 verbs, etc : writing and typing

write **1** [T1; I0] to make (marks that represent letters or words) by using a tool held in the hands, esp (in modern times) with a pen or pencil on paper: Many people still can't read or write. Write the word. **2** [T1] to express and record in this way: He wrote his name. She is writing her report now. **3** [T1; I0] to be a writer

(of books, plays, etc): He writes for the stage. Charlotte Brontë wrote 'Jane Eyre'. **write out** [v adv T1] **1** to write in full: He wrote out the report. **2** to write (something formal): She wrote out a cheque/receipt.

scribble **1** [I0; T1] to write (meaningless marks): The child can't write but she loves to scribble with a pencil. **2** [T1] to write carelessly or in a hurry (usu something that is hard to read): Let me scribble a note to the milkman before we go. There was a scribbled signature at the bottom of the letter but I couldn't make it out.

scrawl [T1] to write in a careless, irregular, awkward, or unskilful way, usu covering more space than necessary: He scrawled his signature at the bottom of the letter. There was a name scrawled on the wall.

print [T1; I0] to write (something) using the square, unjoined letters used in books: Most children learn to print before they learn proper handwriting. Please print the address clearly in capital letters. [⇒ G173]

compose [T1; I0] to write (music, poetry, etc): This musician has composed a lovely piece of music.

inscribe [T1 often pass] **1** to write by marking into a surface: His name was inscribed on the metal plate beside the door. **2** to write (a name) in a book, esp when giving it as a present or on a special occasion

transcribe [T1; I0] fml to put (something) into a written form: Have you transcribed his speech yet?

pen [T1] *pomp* to write, esp with a pen: He penned a letter to his friend.

pencil [T1] to draw, write, or mark with a pencil: Please pencil (your note) at the side of the page.

type [T1 (out); I0] to print on paper by using a typewriter [⇒ G152]: She typed (out) the letter carefully. It's easy to learn to type.

jot [T1 (down)] to write quickly, esp without preparation: He jotted (down) some notes for the talk he was going to give. **jotting** [Cusu pl] a rough note: Here are a few jottings I've made for the talk tonight.

note [T1] to write as a note; to write in a short form: He noted the points on a piece of paper.

sign [T1; I0] to write (one's name) on a piece of paper, etc: Sign here, please. He signed his name at the bottom of the page. **signature** [C] the special way one writes one's name, esp for letters, official papers, etc: Put your signature here and here, please.

autograph **1** [T1] to sign (a letter, statement, book, etc) with one's own name to show that one is the writer: Will you autograph your new book for me? **2** [C] a person's own writing done by hand, esp his signature written in this way: May I have your autograph, sir?

annotate [Wv5; T1] to add short notes to (a book) to explain certain parts: An annotated edition of the book is a copy with notes. **annotation** **1** [U] the writing of notes **2** [C] a written note, esp on the pages of a printed book

spell 1 [D1; T1 (with)] to name in order (the letters) of (esp a word): *My name is spelled S.M.Y.T.H. Do you spell judgement with an e?* 2 [T1 no pass] (of letters in order) to form (a word): *B.O.O.K spells 'book'.* 3 [I0] to form words (correctly) from letters: *You must learn to spell. The children can't spell well.* 4 [T1] (fig) to add up to (a result); mean: *His disapproval spells defeat for our plan.* **spell out** 1 to write or say (a word) letter by letter 2 (fig) to explain in the plainest or most understandable way: *He spelt out the government's plans in a speech.* **spelling** 1 [U] the action or proper way of forming words from letters: *Her spelling has improved. I'm no good at spelling.* 2 [C] an ordered set of letters forming a word: *a word for which British and American spellings are different* **speller** [C] 1 a person who spells or can spell: *The child is a good speller.* 2 a book which helps in teaching spelling

G142 verbs : composing and editing

[ALSO ⇒ G162]

compose [T1; I0] to put (ideas) into writing: *I'm trying to compose a letter; please don't make so much noise.*

edit [T1; I0] to prepare (the writings of some other person) to go into a newspaper, book, etc: *He edited her article, making as few changes as possible. Stop editing now, please.*

draft [T1] to make a draft of: *He drafted a speech. The new laws were drafted last year.*

rewrite [T1] to write (something) again in a different and more suitable way, esp to make (it) better: *I don't like this; rewrite it. He rewrote the article carefully.*

reword [T1] to write or say in different words, esp better or more suitably: *Reword this; as it is, our readers won't like it.*

rework also **reshape** [T1] to write or develop (one's material, ideas, etc) in a second, better form: *If you rework this a bit, it'll be a lot better.*

re-do [T1] genl to rewrite, reword, or rework (something)

write up [v adv T1] 1 to write (again) in a complete and useful form: *I'll write up my notes and let you have a copy.* 2 to write a report on (goods, a play, etc), esp giving a good judgement: *He wrote the play up in the local newspaper.*

G143 verbs : writing things down

[v adv T1]

write down 1 to record in writing (esp what has been said): *Write your idea down while it is clear in your mind. She wrote down what he said.* 2 [X1] (fig) to describe as: *They wrote him down as a lazy worker.*

scribble down to write down in a scribble [⇒ G145], carelessly or (too) quickly: *She scribbled the name down on a piece of paper.*

jot down to write down quickly in a short form: *He jotted some points down for the talk he was to give that evening.*

note down to write down, usu carefully and esp in the form of notes: *He noted down what he had to do next day on a piece of paper.*

take down genl to write down, esp as asked: *She took down the various points and then prepared a written report of what had been said.*

put down genl to write down: *Let me put down your telephone number before I forget it. Put your plan down on paper, please.*

get down very genl & infml to write down in some way: *Get your ideas down on paper and let me have them as soon as possible!*

set down to write down clearly: *He set his ideas down on paper and sent them to us.*

mark down to put down on paper as marks of some particular kind: *He marked the results of the games down (on paper).*

G144 verbs : removing written things

[T1]

rub out [v adv] not fml to remove (something, esp a pencil mark) from paper, etc: *He rubbed out what he had written. The teacher rubbed out what he had written on the blackboard.*

erase often fml to rub out: *He erased his mistakes with a rubber. (fig) She tried to erase the memory from her mind. He erased the recording from the tape [⇒ K50].*

delete to take, rub, strike, or cut out (something written or printed): *If you delete 50 words, we can put the whole story on one page. Delete his name from the list of members.* **deletion** 1 [U] the act of deleting; the state of being deleted 2 [C] something deleted: *The page contained several deletions.*

G145 nouns : reading and writing

reading 1 [U] the activity of reading: *Reading is an important part of work in a school.* 2 [C] something (to be) read: *He prepared some readings from the books he liked best.*

writing 1 [U] the activity of writing: *Writing is his life.* 2 [C; U] written work: *That's a good piece of writing. His writings are now famous.* 3 [U] handwriting: *I can't read the doctor's writing.*

handwriting [U] 1 writing done by hand 2 the style or appearance of such writing by a particular person: *She has very neat handwriting.*

calligraphy [U] (the act of producing) beautiful writing by hand: *Calligraphy was once the most important subject in Chinese schools.*

scribble 1 [C often pl with sing meaning] a meaningless mark written on paper: *The child made scribbles on the wall.* 2 [S] a way of writing which is careless and hard to read: *His writing is nothing but a scribble.* 3 [C] an unimportant