

stock [Wa5;A] 1 commonly used, esp without meaning: *stock phrases* 2 kept in stock, esp because of a standard or average type: *stock sizes*

regular 1 [B] a happening often with the same length of time between the occasions: *the regular tick (=noise) of the clock* b happening, coming, doing something, again and again at the same times each day, week, etc: *He has very regular habits. She is a regular customer here. They work regular hours.* c happening every time: *regular attendance at church* d not varying: *The chairs were placed (at) regular distances apart. Drive at a regular speed.* **ir-**[neg] **-ly** [adv] **-ity** [U; C] 2 [B] proper; according to rule or custom: *He knows a lot about the law but he's not a regular lawyer. Sign here, just to make things regular.* 3 [B] *apprec* evenly shaped: *Her nose is very regular.* 4 [Wa5;A] *infml* complete; thorough: *His wife is a regular slave; she always has to bring him tea in bed.* 5 [Wa5; B] *esp AmE* ordinary: *Do you want the regular size or this big one?*

routine 1 [B] (esp of work) ordinary and regular: *routine activities* 2 [U] a regular way of doing things: *one's usual daily routine*

average [Wa5;B] neither more nor less in any way, better or worse, too much or too little, too good or too bad, etc: *He is an average man; there's nothing special about him. She had average success in life. His height is average.* **-ness** [U]

N58 adjectives : ordinary, familiar, and common

ordinary [B] 1 not unusual; common: *He says he's just an ordinary man, living in an ordinary house, with ordinary hopes and fears.* 2 if nothing unusual happens: *In the ordinary way, he is back by five.*

familiar 1 [B (to)] of or like what one knows in ordinary life; generally known, seen, or experienced: *It was a familiar sight.* **un-**[neg] 2 [F with] having a thorough knowledge (of): *I am familiar with that book/tool. It is a story with which everyone is familiar.* **un-**[neg] 3 [B] without tight control; informal; easy: *He wrote in a familiar style.* 4 [B] too friendly for the occasion: *The man's unpleasant familiar behaviour angered the girl.*

everyday [Wa5;A] belonging to ordinary life: *She just talks about everyday matters, nothing interesting.*

commonplace [B] sometimes *deprec* found everywhere or in most places, and therefore not interesting or special: *Such events are commonplace here. She has a rather commonplace face, don't you think?*

common-or-garden [A] *infml* ordinary and well-known and therefore not very interesting: *We just have the usual common-or-garden furniture here. It's just another common-or-garden matter, nothing big.*

plain [Wa1;B] having no unusual, special, or very interesting qualities: *He sat down to a meal of very plain food.*

humdrum [B] too ordinary; without variety or change: *She says she leads a humdrum existence here, never doing anything interesting.*

N59 adjectives : easy

easy [Wa1;B, B3] 1 not causing trouble, hardship, etc: *This is an easy book to read. John is easy to please (=it is not difficult to please him). He is an easy man to get to know. He is easy to get to know.* 2 comfortable and without worry or anxiety: *He has stopped working now and leads a very easy life.* **-ily** [adv] **easy on the ear/eye** *infml* nice to listen to/look at: *My new secretary can't spell, but she's certainly easy on the eye.* **by easy stages** (on a journey) only short distances at a time: *We came home by easy stages, stopping several nights on the way.*

simple [Wa1,3;B,B3] *esp infml* easy: *I'll explain (it) in simple language. She says that doing these calculations is simple/these calculations are simple. It's simple; look, I'll show you how!* **-ply** [adv] **-ness** [U] **-plicity** [U; C]

straightforward [B] 1 expressed or understood in a direct way, without difficulties: *This is a straightforward calculation.* 2 honest; without hidden meanings: *He gave her a straightforward answer.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

N60 adjectives : not easy [B]

difficult 1 [also B3] not easy; hard to do, make, understand, etc: *English is difficult/a difficult language to learn. This poem is difficult to understand. It was very difficult to put the tent up because of the wind.* 2 (of people) unfriendly and always quarrelling; not easily pleased: *She is a difficult child. Don't be so difficult!* **difficulty** 1 [U] the quality of being difficult; trouble: *She had difficulty (in) understanding him. He spoke with difficulty. She did it without much/lany difficulty.* 2 [C often pl] something difficult; a trouble: *I'm in a bit of a difficulty at the moment. Stop raising difficulties; the plan will work!*

hard [Wa1] 1 [also B3] difficult (to do or understand): *There were some hard questions on the examination paper. It's hard to know what he's really thinking.* 2 full of difficulty and trouble: *It's a hard life! He gave me a hard time (=hurt me in body or mind, as in having teeth pulled out or being questioned closely).* 3 [(on)] (of people, punishments, etc) not gentle (to); showing no kindness (to): *You're a hard woman. She was very hard on me (=unkind to me).* 4 a forceful: *Give him a hard push!* b needing or using force of body or mind: *This is hard work.* 5 unpleasant to the senses, esp

because too bright or too loud: *Her hard voice could be heard across the room. She paints her face with hard colours.* **-ness** [U] **be hard on** to wear (something) out easily or quickly: *Children are very hard on their shoes.* **do (something) the hard way** to learn by experience, not by teaching; to act alone and with difficulty **play hard to get** to pretend lack of interest in something/someone so that the person concerned will persuade one **take (some/a few) hard knocks** to have difficulties **take a hard look (at)** to examine in order to make improvements to some old thing, plan, etc **drive a hard bargain** to be firm in making an agreement most profitable to oneself

stiff [Wal] *usu not fml* **1** difficult to do: *This is a stiff job!* **2** too much to accept; unusual in degree: *It's a bit stiff to expect us to go out again at this time of night! The cost is stiff.* **-ness** [U]

tough [Wal] *usu infml* difficult: *This is a tough calculation.* **-ness** [U]

arduous *esp lit, fml & pomp* needing much effort; difficult: *It was an arduous climb. He does not enjoy arduous work.* **-ly** [adv]

awkward causing difficulty: *The piece of wood was an awkward shape and he couldn't cut it properly. That's an awkward question; I'm not sure how to answer it. That's an awkward time; I don't know if I am free to come then. It's a bit awkward for me to come at that time. This is an awkward part of the work; do it carefully.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

N61 adjectives : simple and elementary [B]

simple [Wal,3] having only a few parts and therefore not difficult to understand or needing much care, etc: *Many forms of life are very simple. His system for doing this is much simpler than theirs, and easier to use.* **-ply** [adv] **-ness** [U] **-plicity** [U;C]

primitive **1** simple; roughly made or done; not greatly developed or improved: *Small seashells have sometimes been used as a primitive kind of money.* **2** *deprec* old-fashioned and inconvenient: *Life in this village is too primitive for me; if you want any water you have to pump it up from a well.* **3** of or belonging to the earliest stage of development, esp of life or of man: *Primitive man made himself primitive tools from sharp stones and animal bones. What was the primitive form of that language?* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

early [Wal] belonging to the first and therefore simplest stages of anything: *This is an early example of his art. Early man lived a primitive life.*

elementary **1** *esp fml* (of a question) simple and easy to answer **2** concerned with the beginnings, esp of education and study: *He finished his elementary education at the age of 11. These are elementary exercises for the piano.*

N62 adjectives : not simple and elementary [B]

complex having many esp different parts (and therefore difficult to understand): *This is a complex machine; take care with it. These ideas are complex; I must study them carefully.* **complexity** **1** [U] the state of being complex: *I was surprised by the complexity of the matter.* **2** [C] anything complex: *I don't understand all these complexities.*

complicated *usu deprec* (too) complex: *What a complicated machine; I can't possibly use it! Don't ask me such complicated questions!*

elaborate full of detail; carefully worked out and with a large number of parts: *It is an elaborate machine. The curtains had an elaborate pattern of flowers. She gave us an elaborate description of her new house.* **-ly** [adv]

intricate containing many detailed parts which make it difficult to understand: *It is an intricate idea and would need a lot of intricate work.* **-ly** [adv] **intricacy** **1** [U] the state of being intricate **2** [C often pl] anything intricate: *He doesn't understand the intricacies of the subject.*

involved **1** having related parts which are difficult to understand; complicated: *The reasons are very involved, but the fact is that I can't buy the house after all.* **2** (of people) closely concerned in relationships and activities with others, esp in a personal or sexual relationship: *He's not a very involved person; he seems to have no interests and no friends. He's deeply involved and feels he must marry her because everyone expects it.*

sophisticated **1** complicated; complex: *sophisticated machinery/arguments* **2** having or showing a knowledge of social life and behaviour: *The child is quite sophisticated for his age. She wears very sophisticated clothes.* **sophistication** **1** [U] the state of being sophisticated **2** [C] an example of this

advanced **1** far on in development: *He is spending a year in advanced studies.* **2** modern in ideas, way of living, etc: *Most people find her advanced ideas difficult to accept.*

fancy [Wal] *infml deprec* too complicated; unusual: *I'm tired of all his fancy ideas; I wish he would forget them.*

N63 verbs : generalizing, specifying, etc

generalize, **-ise** [T1;I0] to make (things) as general as possible; to talk generally (about): *He generalizes too much.* **generalization**, **-isation** [U;C] the or an act, result, etc of generalizing

particularize, **-ise** [T1;I0] to give the details of (something) one by one: *There were various causes, which I need not particularize now.* **particularization**, **-isation** [U;C] the or an act, result, etc of particularizing

localize [T1] to make or keep something local:
The doctors tried to localize the disease.

specify [T1, 6a, b] to be specific [⇒ N54] about;
to give exact details of (something): *Can you specify exactly what you need?* **specification** [U; C] the act, result, etc of specifying; something specified

normalize, -ise [IØ; T1] 1 to (cause to) be normal; (of relations between countries) to come back to a normal or friendly state: *The enemies were slow to normalize their relations after the war.* **normalization, -isation** [U] the act of normalizing

standardize, -ise [Wv5; T1] to make (something, or a number of things) standard: *English spelling was standardized many years ago.* **standardization, -isation** [U] the act of standardizing

regulate [T1] 1 to fix or control; bring order or method to: *He tried to regulate his habits. Can you regulate the pressure of the tyres? They are a well-regulated family.* 2 to make (a machine, esp a clock or watch) work correctly: *Your watch is always slow; it needs to be regulated.* **regulation** [U] the act of regulating

regularize, -ise [T1] to make lawful and official (a state of affairs that has already gone on for some time): *They had been living together for years and at last regularized the position and got married.* **regularization, -isation** [U] the act of regularizing

simplify [T1; IØ] to make (something) simple or simpler: *We must simplify the work; it is too difficult at the moment.* **simplification** 1 [U] the act of simplifying 2 [C] an example or result of this 3 [C] anything simplified

complicate [T1] often *deprec* to make (too) complex: *Don't complicate life for me!* **complication** 1 [U] the state of being complicated; the action of making something complicated 2 [C often pl] anything complicated: *Why must there always be complications; why can't things be simple?*

elaborate [IØ (on); T1] to add more detail to (something): *Just tell us the facts and don't elaborate (on them).* **elaboration** [U] 1 the action of making something elaborate 2 fuller description of something: *Your idea needs elaboration.*

N64 verbs & adjectives : accustoming, familiarizing, etc

accustom [T1 (to)] to make used to: *He had to accustom himself to the cold weather of his new country. I am accustomed to sleeping out of doors.*

familiarize with, -ise [v prep D1] to inform about; cause to know well: *He familiarized himself with the town. I'd like to familiarize you with what is happening here.*

acquaint with [v prep D1] to make (someone) familiar with (something): *Let me acquaint you with the facts. I have acquainted myself with*

the subject. **be acquainted (with)** 1 often *fml* to have knowledge of: *I am acquainted with the facts already.* 2 to know socially: *We are acquainted; we met at a party last year.*

be familiar with often *fml* to know (well) (how to do, use, etc): *Are you familiar with this work/machine?*

be used to to be familiar with; to have a lot of experience of: *He is used to these things/to looking after himself.*

be accustomed to *fml* to be used to: *He is, I assure you, fully accustomed to such things/quite accustomed to caring for himself.*

get used/accustomed to *usu not fml* to become used/accustomed to: *You must try to get used to the work. He got accustomed to looking after himself.*

N65 verbs & nouns : limiting, restricting, and controlling

limit 1 [T1 (to)] to keep below or at a certain point: *We must limit our spending. We must limit ourselves to an hour/to one cake each.* 2 [C often in comb] the point below or at which something must or should be kept: *This is the limit of our spending; we mustn't spend any more. Is there a speed limit on this road?—Yes; 40 mph.* 3 [the R] *infml* something or someone that causes anger, cannot be accepted, etc: *Oh, he is the limit; what an annoying child!* **limitation** 1 [U] the act of limiting: *They were talking about the limitation of dangerous weapons.* 2 [C] anything which limits: *His bad eyesight is a limitation; there are certain things he can't do because of it. Aren't there any limitations on his spending money?*

restrict [T1 (to)] to keep within limits; keep (to a certain limit): *He restricted himself to (smoking) two cigarettes a day. These laws are intended to restrict the sale of alcohol. The trees restrict the view from this house.* **restriction** 1 [U] the act of restricting: *They talked about the restriction of the money supply, so that people could not spend so much.* 2 [C often pl] anything which restricts: *Are there any restrictions here on what we can do?* **restrictive** [B] (for the purpose of) restricting: *Their government is very restrictive about money leaving the country.*

control 1 [T1] to limit esp by using the law or force: *It is necessary to control the numbers of people coming to these cities; there are too many people there already.* 2 [U (over)] the power or ability to control: *He has control over the whole factory. She has no control over her children at all. The car went out of control (= no one could drive it properly) and hit a wall.* **controls** [P] 1 the apparatus for controlling, driving, etc a vehicle, machine, etc: *She sat at the controls (of the plane).* 2 [(on)] laws, restrictions, etc: *The government has placed/imposed controls on money going out of the country.*

check 1 [T1] *esp emot* to stop or hold back: *The doctors worked hard to check (the spread of) the dangerous disease.* 2 [C (on)] an act of stopping, limiting, or controlling: *We must keep a (close) check on the way he spends our money. The new medicine acted as a check on the (spread of) disease.*

curb 1 [T1] *esp emot* to limit or control: *I wish he would curb his temper (=try not to be so angry).* 2 [C] a thing which curbs something: *They have put/placed a curb on how much money we can spend.*

moderate [Wv4;T1] to limit (something) so as to be less violent, strong, powerful, unacceptable, etc: *Try to moderate your anger/demands/desires.* **moderation** [U] the act of moderating

temper [T1] to moderate or make softer, more pleasant, etc: *She tempered her demands and he was able to accept most of them.*

restrain [T1] *often fml* to prevent or stop (someone from doing something), *esp* forcefully: *If you try to go, you will be restrained. Restrain yourself; you are getting to angry.* **restraint** 1 [U] the condition of restraining or being restrained: *He showed no restraint in what he did.* 2 [C] something that restrains: *If you change this law, you will take away all the restraints on thieves.*

stunt [Wv5;T1] to stop (something or someone) in growth: *If a child smokes cigarettes, it can stunt his growth. The valley was full of stunted trees.*

N66 verbs & nouns : modifying, qualifying, etc

[ALSO ⇨ 120]

modify [T1] 1 to change (something, such as a plan, an opinion, a condition, or the form or quality of something) *esp* slightly: *These plans must be modified if they're to be used successfully. Nothing you say in his favour will make me modify my bad opinion of him.* 2 to make (something, such as a claim or condition) less hard to accept or bear: *The two governments will never reach an agreement unless one or the other modifies its demands.* **modification** 1 [U] the act of modifying: *These plans need modification.* 2 [C] an example or result of modifying: *With the new modifications the car is better than ever.*

qualify [T1] to limit (*esp* the meaning of something stated): *Qualify that statement; it's too strong. Adjectives qualify nouns.* **qualification** 1 [U] the act of qualifying: *Your remark needs qualification; it is too strong.* 2 [C] an example or result of qualifying: *He has made some qualifications to what he said.*

amend 1 [T1; IØ] *lit* to (cause to) become better; improve: *You should try to amend your way of living.* 2 [T1] to make changes in the words of (a rule or law): *They amended the law to meet modern needs.* **amendment** 1 [U] the act of

amending: *This law badly needs amendment.*

2 [C] an example or result of this: *The new amendments to the law were badly needed.*

N67 adjectives : special and remarkable

special [B] not usual or ordinary: *I have a special difficulty; can I tell you about it?* **-ly** [adv]

especial [A] *fml, emph & old use* special: *We have an especial need of help at this time.* **-ly** [adv]

extraordinary 1 [B] very special, strange, etc: *What an extraordinary hat!* 2 [B] more than what is ordinary: *She was a girl of extraordinary beauty.* 3 [Wa5;A] (of arrangements) as well as the ordinary one(s): *The committee meets regularly on Fridays, but there will be an extraordinary meeting next Wednesday.* **-rily** [adv]

signal [A] *lit, fml & pomp* very special and usu good: *It is a signal honour to have you visit us!* **-ly** [adv]

remarkable [B (for)] worth speaking of; unusual: *a most remarkable sunset; She is remarkable for her sweet temper.* **-bly** [adv]

N68 adjectives : strange and peculiar

strange [Wa1] 1 [B] hard to accept or understand; surprising: *It's strange you've never met him. What a strange idea!* 2 [B] not known or experienced before: *The street he stood in was strange to him. He stood in a strange street.* 3 [F to] not experienced (in) or accustomed to: *She is strange to her new duties, but she'll soon learn.* 4 [A] *old use* foreign: *He was a traveller in a strange country.*

odd 1 [Wa1;B] strange; unusual: *He is rather an odd person* 2 [Wa5;A] not part of a pair or set: *Whose is this odd shoe?* 3 [Wa5;A] not regular; occasional: *He does odd jobs in his odd moments. (esp BrE) Life would be very dull without the odd adventure now and then.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

peculiar 1 [B] strange; unusual (*esp* in a troubling or displeasing way): *What a peculiar thing to say. This food has a peculiar taste.* 2 [B] rather mad: *He was always rather peculiar, and now he's become quite mad.* 3 [F] *infml* rather ill: *I'm feeling rather peculiar; I think I'll go and lie down.* 4 [B] *esp old use* special; particular: *I think you'll find this letter of peculiar interest.* 5 [F to] *fml* belonging only (to a particular person, place, time, etc): *It is a way of speaking peculiar to people in this part of the country.* **-ly** [adv]

queer [Wa1;B] 1 *not fml* strange: *What a queer story! It's queer, but I'm sure he knew all about what happened.* 2 *infml* not well: *I'm feeling queer; I think I'll go home.* 3 *infml* mad (*esp* in the phr **queer in the head**): *He has been a bit*

queer for years. There are a lot of queer people there. **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

funny [W1;B] *not fml* strange; unexpected; hard to explain: *What can that funny noise be? It's a funny thing, but I put the book here five minutes ago and now I can't find it. He's a funny sort of person; I don't understand him at all.* **-nily** [adv]: *Funnily enough, I knew what he meant although he didn't speak English.*

curious [B] strange and interesting: *It is a curious fact that he has plenty of money but never works. How curious of her to do that! What a curious thing to do!* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

suspicious [B] 1 having or causing one to suspect [⇒ G96] that someone or something is not right, safe, etc; doubtful or strange: *He looks very suspicious to me, standing there outside the house in the dark.* 2 [(of, about)] feeling suspicion, doubt, etc because something is strange, etc: *I'm suspicious of her; what does she want?* **-ly** [adv]: *He's behaving very suspiciously.*

fishy [W1;B] *sl* suspicious; strange; peculiar: *This is a fishy business; I don't like it!* **-shily** [adv] **-shiness** [U]

quaint [W1;B] interesting and pleasing because strange, unusual, or old: *What a quaint old building!* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

N69 adjectives : very strange and unnatural

weird [W1;B] 1 strange; unnatural: *She watched all the weird happenings in a film about the dead coming to life.* 2 *infml* unusual and not sensible or acceptable: *She has some weird ideas.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

eerie [W2;B] causing fear because strange: *It's eerie to walk through a dark forest at night.* **-rily** [adv] **-riness** [U]

uncanny [W2;B] mysterious; not natural or usual: *It seemed uncanny to hear her voice from the other side of the world.* **-nily** [adv] **-niness** [U]

fantastic [B] very strange: *The painter drew fantastic shapes. What fantastic ideas he has!* **-ally** [adv; W4]

eccentric [B] (of a person or his behaviour) peculiar; unusual; rather strange: *If you go to the palace in tennis shoes, they will think you are eccentric.* **-ally** [adv; W4]

idiosyncratic [B] (of something about, or done by, one person) very peculiar and unusual: *His behaviour has been very idiosyncratic lately.* **-ally** [adv; W4]

monstrous [B] like a monster [⇒ N71]; very unusual, esp in a frightening way; frighteningly large or bad: *What a monstrous creature! It's monstrous to expect us to do this!* **-ly** [adv]

freak [W5;A] (esp of things) unnatural; very unusual: *The country's been having freak weather; it's been very hot during the winter.*

freakish [B] (esp of persons) unusual; unreasonable; strange: *Her behaviour's*

becoming so freakish that I wonder whether she isn't mad. **-ly** [adv]

deviant [B] different from an accepted standard; moving away from the usual: *Deviant children need help. Deviant behaviour may be against the law.*

N70 nouns : special and strange

speciality, also esp AmE **specialty** [C] 1 a special field of work or study: *Her speciality is ancient Greek poetry.* 2 [(of)] a particularly fine or best product: *Fish baked in pastry is the specialty of this restaurant.*

oddity [C] something odd: *That kind of flower is certainly an oddity in this country.*

peculiarity 1 [U] the quality of being peculiar: *Peculiarity of dress may make people laugh at you.* 2 [C] something which is peculiar: *Bad driving is said to be a peculiarity of women. We have got used to his peculiarities of behaviour.*

curiosity [C] someone or something curious: *Her strange way of dressing made her a bit of a curiosity. The little old town is full of curiosities.*

eccentricity 1 [U (of)] the quality of being eccentric: *They laughed at the eccentricity of the mad queen's behaviour.* 2 [C] an example of eccentric behaviour: *They laughed at the mad queen's eccentricities.*

idiosyncrasy [C] 1 a peculiarity of one person: *Liking wild flowers in his garden is his personal idiosyncrasy.* 2 *infml* a peculiar act: *One of their idiosyncrasies was when they camped out in the garden.*

N71 nouns : persons and things which are very strange and unnatural [C]

freak 1 a living creature of unnatural form: *One of the new lambs is a freak; it was born with two tails. At the circus there's a freak with 8 fingers on each hand; you have to pay to see him.* 2 *infml* a person with rather strange habits or ideas 3 a peculiar happening: *By some strange freak, a little snow fell in Egypt a few years ago.* 4 a sudden strange wish or change of mind: *Her idea of having a garden with nothing but blue flowers in it was a freak of fancy.* 5 [C9] *sl* a person who takes a special interest in the stated thing: *He is a film freak.*

monster 1 an animal, plant, or thing of unusually great size or strange form: *That dog's a real monster; I've never seen such a big one. Some modern aircraft are monsters compared with those of 50 years ago.* 2 a creature, imaginary or real, that is unnatural in shape, size, or qualities, and usu with an appearance so ugly as to be frightening: *He read about sea monsters. She dreamt that terrible monsters with flaming eyes and sharp teeth were chasing her through the wood.* 3 [(of)] *derog* a person whose evil qualities or actions are such as to

raise strong feelings of dislike, hatred, fear, etc: *The judge told the murderer that he was a monster, not fit to be called a human being. History tells us of rulers in ancient times who were monsters of cruelty.* 4 [A] unusually large (in size or number): *Have you ever seen such monster vegetables as those growing here? The police were quite unable to control the monster crowds.*

monstrosity *emot* a terrible monster; something very deviant [= N69]; something very ugly or silly: *His plan is a monstrosity! She bought a monstrosity of a hat.*

deviant a person or thing that is different or moves away from an accepted standard: *Sexual deviants often have difficulties with the law. 'The Hope of the Deviant' is the title of a book.*

mutant a living thing which has a quality not the same as any of its parents' qualities but produced by a change in the material of all its cells (a **mutation**)

pervert a person whose sexual behaviour is different from (what is considered) natural

N72 nouns : unusual beings [C]

giant 1 a man who is much bigger than is usual 2 (in fairy stories) a very big, strong creature in the form of a man, but often unfriendly to human beings and very cruel and stupid 3 a person of great ability: *Shakespeare is a giant among writers.*

titán *esp poet* a giant, esp if very powerful

dwarf 1 a person, animal or plant of much less than the usual size: *Their second son is a dwarf. She has several dwarf rose bushes.* 2 any of various small imaginary manlike creatures in fairy stories: *She likes the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.*

pygmy, pigmy 1 a member of a race of very short people 2 any person or animal of much less than usual height 3 a person of no importance, esp with regard to skill or brain power: *He considers himself a great singer, but he's a pygmy when compared with real musicians.*

Size, importance, and availability

N80 nouns : size and quantity

[ALSO ⇒ J65]

size 1 [U] the largeness or smallness (of something): *What size is the box? What size (of) shoes do you take (= wear)? It is not a matter of weight; it's a question of size.* 2 [C] an example or measurement of this: *What sizes of shoes do you have in the shop? He wears a size 8 shoe.*

quantity [U; C] *esp fml* (a statement of) how much (of something) is there, is wanted, etc: *This is a question of quantity, not quality. What quantity of salt do you need? They gave him large quantities of food.*

amount [C] *not usu fml* 1 a quantity: *Large amounts of money were spent on the bridge.* 2 total quantity or sum: *He could only pay half the amount he owed.*

handful 1 [C (of)] an amount that can be held in one hand: *He gave them each a handful of money.* 2 [C (of)] a small number or amount: *They have only a handful of people to help them.* 3 [C] a large amount: *When he was ill his hair came out in handfuls. He threw whole handfuls of money in the air!* 4 [S] *informal* something that causes a lot of difficulties: *Having four small children in the house is quite a handful!*

volume [U; C] *esp tech* an amount produced esp by some kind of (industrial) activity: *The volume of passenger travel on the railways is increasing. Great volumes of smoke came out of the hole.*

mass 1 [C] a quantity or heap of matter: *The ship cut its way slowly through masses of ice.* 2 [C] a large number (of persons or things): *His story is a mass of lies. Her garden is a mass of flowers.*

bulk 1 [U] *emph* size, shape, mass, or quantity: *Great bulk does not always mean great weight.* 2 [C *usu sing*] an unusually large, fat, or shapeless body: *The elephant lowered its great bulk by kneeling.* 3 [the R (of)] the main or greater part: *The bulk of the work has already been done.*

fit [S9] the size, shape, etc by which something fits or does not fit: *These shoes are a good fit; I'll buy them.*

N81 adjectives : big

big [Wa1] 1 [B] of more than average size, weight, force, importance, etc: *How big is it? No bigger than a pin. It's a big elephant/a big mouse. That child is big for his age. The big question is what to do next. He is a big-boned person. Don't cry; you're a big boy/girl now. The big moment has come at last!* 2 [A] (esp of people) doing a great deal of some activity: *He is a big eater/a big spender.* 3 [F; (B)] *esp AmE sl* very popular: *Frank Sinatra is very big in Las Vegas.* -ness [U]

large [Wa1; B] 1 more than usual in size, number, or amount: *He was a large man.* 2 having much room or space: *How large the room is!* -ness [U]

great 1 [Wa1; A; (B)] large in amount or degree: *Take great care. It was a great loss to us all. He has a great deal too much money/power. We have great hopes for her future.* 2 [Wa5; A] (often before another adj of size) big: *That great (big) tree takes away all the light.* 3 [Wa1; A] often *apprec* (of people) unusually

active of the type: *She is a great talker and he is a great listener.* 4 [Wa1;B] usu apprec of excellent quality or ability: *He likes reading about the great men of the past. He was a great king/artist.* 5 [Wa1;A] apprec important: *This is a great occasion!* 6 [Wa1;B;Wa5 as interj] infml splendid; very enjoyable: *What a great idea! I've got the use of a car.—Great!* 7 [Wa5;A] (used in names to mark something important of its type): *The Great Wall of China; the Great Fire of London (1666).* -ness [U]

grand 1 [Wa1;B] (large and) splendid in appearance: *There's a grand view of the mountains.* 2 [Wa1;B] (of people) important or (esp) thinking oneself so: *The king's court was full of nobles and grand ladies. She's too grand to talk to us.* 3 [Wa1;B] infml very pleasant; delightful: *That was a grand party.* 4 [Wa5;A] complete (esp in the phr **the grand total**) 5 [Wa5;A] (used in certain titles): *the Grand Duchy of Lancaster*

N82 adjectives : very big [B]

vast [Wa1] very large and wide; great in size or amount; spreading a great distance: *The vast plains of this country spread for hundreds of miles. He is very valuable to his employer because of his vast experience in the business. The group of actors was brought from New York to London at vast expense.* -ly [adv] -ness [U]

huge [Wa1] 1 very big in size: *He lived in a huge house.* 2 infml very big in the mind's view: *The party was a huge success.* -ly [adv] -ness [U]

immense usu apprec very large: *There has been an immense improvement in his health.* -ly [adv] -sity [U;C] great size: *They were lost in the immensity/immensities of space.*

enormous very large indeed: *It was an enormous house/meal/amount of money. There is an enormous difference between the two countries.* -ly [adv] -ness [U] -mity [U9]

colossal very large in size or quantity: *It was a colossal building/a colossal rate of interest.* -ly [adv]

gigantic unusually large in amount or size: *He made gigantic efforts to save them.* -ally [adv Wa4]

titanic very large and strong: *The titanic forces of the earth can be seen when volcanoes erupt (= explode into activity).* -ally [adv Wa4]

terrific infml 1 very great in size or degree: *He drove at a terrific speed.* 2 very good; enjoyable; admirable: *It was a terrific play/book/party.* -ally [adv Wa4]

prodigious wonderful esp because of size, amount, or quality; very great: *He never forgets anything; his memory is prodigious. He made a prodigious effort.* -ly [adv]

gargantuan esp lit very big: *He ate a gargantuan meal.*

N83 adjectives : very big in special ways

gross [Wa1;B] unpleasantly large and fat, etc: *In his old age he became gross through/from over-eating (= eating too much).* -ly [adv] -ness [U]

massive [B] 1 of great size; strong and heavy 2 (esp of the head) large and solid-seeming 3 (of qualities and actions) great; powerful: *We must make massive efforts to improve things. The government has massive support from the people.* -ly [adv] -ness [U]

voluminous [B] 1 (of containers) very large; able to hold a lot: *She had a voluminous shopping bag.* 2 (of a (part of a) garment) very loose and full; using much cloth: *She wore a voluminous skirt.* 3 often deprec producing or containing much writing: *He is a voluminous writer and has produced a voluminous report.* -ly [adv]

bulky [Wa2;B] 1 having bulk [⇒ N80] esp if large of its kind or rather fat: *The elephant is a bulky animal.* 2 having great size or mass in comparison with weight: *He was wearing some kind of a bulky woollen garment to keep warm.*

large-scale [Wa5;B] happening in large quantities to many people over a wide area, etc: *There has been a large-scale change in what people eat in that country in the last ten years.*

king-size [Wa5;A] not fml (esp of things being sold) very large: *He bought a king-size box of chocolates for her.*

big-time [Wa5;B] not fml relating to the top rank (esp in sport or the amusement business): *Don't worry; you're big-time now.*

mammoth [Wa5;A] esp emot & emph of large size: *It was a mammoth performance, with hundreds of actors. It needs a mammoth effort to move that heavy table.*

giant [Wa5;A] not fml & often apprec (of) large size: *They have built a giant factory just outside the town.*

astronomic [Wa5;B] emph very large; too large to count: *They are asking really astronomic prices for these things now. The distance is astronomic; don't ask me how far!* -ally [adv Wa4]

N84 adjectives : quite big, etc

substantial [B] 1 big enough to be satisfactory: *He gave us substantial help. It was a substantial supply of food.* 2 considerable; important: *He wants to make substantial changes.* 3 solid; strongly made: *It is a substantial desk.* 4 concerning the important part or meaning: *The substantial truth of his report is hidden by his untidy methods of presenting his ideas.* -ly [adv]: *He helped them substantially.*

sizeable, sizable [B] quite large: *She bought a sizeable house outside Birmingham. It's a sizeable garden; he can grow all the vegetables he needs in it.*

considerable [B] *esp euph* (quite) large: *His father left him a considerable amount of money.*
-bly [adv Wa3]: *He helped them considerably.*
fair [Wa5;A] *not fml* (quite) large: *How far is it to the town?—Oh, it's a fair distance. Is it big?—Yes, it's a fair size.* **-ly** [adv]: *Is it big?—Yes, it's fairly big.*

N85 adjectives, etc : not big

small 1 [Wa1;B] little in size, weight, force, importance, etc; not large: *He was a small man, only five feet tall. It's a book written for small children. The girl is small for her age. There was only a small number of people there. It's the smallest shoe size in the shop. The space is big enough only for the smallest of cars.* 2 [Wa5;A] doing only a limited amount of business or activity: *He is a small businessman (= owns a small business). There are many small farmers in the area.* 3 [A] (*esp with nouns marked [U]*) very little; slight: *They had small hope of success. She took small interest in politics.* **-ness** [U] 4 [adv] in a small manner: *He writes so small I can't read it.* **in a small way** modestly; not grandly: *He was in business in a small way at home.*

little 1 [Wa1;A; (B)] small: *There was a little door in the wall. Two little insects were on the glass.* 2 [Wa5;A] short: *I saw her a little while ago.* 3 [B] young: *My little girl (= daughter) is too little to ride a bicycle.* 4 [Wa1;B] not important: *He often forgets the little people who voted him into power.* 5 [adv] to only a small degree: *It is a little known fact that. . .* 6 [adv] *esp poet & pomp* (with verbs of feeling and knowing) not at all: *They little thought that the truth would be discovered. He little cares/Little does he care whether we live or die!* 7 [adv] rarely (*esp in the phr very little*): *I go there very little now.* [⇒ N97]

N86 adjectives, etc : very small

tiny [Wa1;B] very small indeed: *There's a tiny insect on your hand; look! This is the tiniest car I've ever seen.* **-iness** [U]

wee [Wa1;B] *esp ScotE often affec* (very) small: *He's just a wee boy; he's only five.*

teeny also **teeny-weeny** also **teensy-weensy** [Wa1;B] *infml* (used *esp* when speaking to children) very small: *Would you like a teeny bit more to eat?*

minute [Wa2;B] 1 very small, in size or degree: *His writing's so minute that it's difficult to read.* 2 giving attention to the smallest points; very careful and exact: *The teacher wrote a minute report on the pupil's work and behaviour.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

miniature 1 [Wa5;A] (of something copied or represented) very small: *The child was playing on the floor with his collection of miniature farm animals.* 2 [C (of)] a very small copy or

representation of anything **in miniature** very like the stated thing or person, but much smaller: *That little boy is his father in miniature.*

minuscule [Wa5;B] very small indeed: *What minuscule handwriting!*

infinitesimal [Wa5;B] very small indeed **-ly** [adv]: *Atoms are infinitesimally small.*

microscopic [Wa5;B] *often infml* very small: *It's impossible to read his microscopic handwriting.* **-ally** [adv Wa4]

N87 adjectives : small in special ways [Wa5]

small-scale [B] happening in small quantities to few people over a limited area, etc: *He runs a small-scale business locally.*

small-time [B] *not fml, often deprec* relating to the lowest rank (*esp in sport or the amusement business*): *'I'm tired of small-time acting!' she said.*

pygmy, pigmy [A] *often tech, humor, or deprec* very small: *They have pigmy elephants in that country. Don't expect his pygmy brain to understand these scientific matters.*

dwarf [A] *sometimes tech* small, less than the usual size: *There is a dwarf apple tree in the garden.*

N88 adjectives : neither big nor small [Wa5]

average [B] not specially big or small: *He is of average height. His height is average.*

medium [A] *often tech* of middle size, amount, quality, value, etc; not great or small: *The room is of medium size. He bought a medium-priced car.*

middling [B] *not fml* that is between large and small in size, degree, etc; that is neither good nor bad in quality, kind, etc: *The house is large, but the rooms are only of middling size. His last book had a middling success. She enjoyed her holiday, though the weather was only middling.*

N89 adjectives : big, esp in importance

major [Wa5;A] greater when compared with others in size, number, or importance: *The car needs major repairs. The play is a major success. There has been a major improvement in his work.*

main [Wa5;A] first in importance or size: *This is a busy main road. Our main meal is in the evening. Note down the main points of the speech. Soldiers guarded the main gates. The main body of walkers got separated from the ones at the back.* **-ly** [adv]: *There were mainly women in the room. He's mainly interested in money.*

principal [Wa5;A] often *fml* main; most important; of highest rank: *The Nile is one of the principal rivers of Africa. The principal need of this village is a pure water supply.* -ly [adv Wa4]: *They are principally concerned with making more money.*

chief [Wa5;A] not *fml* main; principal: *Their chief aim is to make more money. Our chief hope is to help people.* -ly [adv]: *He's chiefly interested in sex.*

senior 1 [B (to)] (esp of people) more important: *He is the senior officer; let's ask him.* **2** [C] a person who is older, or of higher rank, etc (than another): *He is my senior by three years/ in the office.*

superior 1 [Wa5;A] *fml* & *tech* higher in position **2** [Wa5;B (to)] (of people and things) of greater importance, quality, or value, etc: *I want to speak to your superior officer. This is a superior cloth; it's much better than the others.*

3 [C] a person who is higher in position (than another): *He is my superior and I must do what he says.* **superiority** [U] the state of being superior: *The superiority of these goods to the others is easy to see.*

N90 adjectives : small, esp in importance [usu Wa5]

minor [B] less when compared with others, in size, number, or importance: *The car needs a few minor repairs. He has written one or two minor books. There have only been minor improvements in his work.*

lesser [A] not so great in worth, degree, size, etc; smaller: *To go there is the lesser evil/lesser of two evils; to stay here would be worse.*

subsidiary [B (to)] of second importance to the main company, plan, work, etc: *They have a subsidiary factory in the south.*

dependent [B (on)] that depends on: *Success is dependent on the results of this examination. Have you any dependent children?*

subordinate [B (to)] of a lower rank or position: *a subordinate worker. Your wishes are subordinate to the company's aims.*

junior 1 [B (to)] (esp of people) less important: *He spoke to a junior official and got no real help.* **2** [C] a person who is younger or of lower rank etc (than another): *He is my junior by three years/in the office.*

inferior [B (to)] **1** *fml* & *tech* lower in position **2** (of people and things) not good or less good in importance, quality, or value: *inferior work; His work is inferior to mine. He's so clever, he makes me feel inferior.* **inferiority** [U] the condition of being or feeling inferior: *inferiority to others; a sense of one's inferiority.*

negligible [B] very small; too small to be worth bothering about: *It is a negligible amount of money.* -bly [adv]

N91 adjectives & nouns : maximum, minimum, and optimum

maximum [C (of); A] the largest number, amount, etc: *What's the maximum distance you've ever walked? Today we reached the maximum temperature this year. He smokes a maximum of ten cigarettes a day. The lamp will give you the maximum of light. The sound has reached its maximum (= its loudest).*

maximal [Wa5;B] as great as possible: *The plant reaches maximal size in two months.* -ly [adv]

minimum [C (of); A] the least, or the smallest possible, quantity, number, or degree: *This price is his minimum; he refuses to lower it further. He couldn't avoid losing some money in his business, but he kept his losses to a minimum. The minimum pass mark in this examination is 40 out of 100. He couldn't join the police, because he was below the minimum height allowed by the rules.*

minimal [Wa5;B] of the smallest possible amount, degree, or size: *Fortunately, the storm only did minimal damage to the farmer's crops. Her clothing was minimal.* -ly [adv]

optimum [C; A] best or most favourable: *The optimum rainfall for growing rubber is about 100 inches a year. The optimum is 100 inches a year.*

optimal [Wa5;B] relating to the best: *The optimal rainfall is about 100 inches a year. 100 inches is optimal.* -ly [adv]

N92 verbs : growing and getting bigger

[ALSO ⇒ N15]

grow [I0; T1] to (cause to) get bigger: *The plant began to grow (larger and larger). Can you grow any plants here?—No, very little grows here. The little plant grew into a tree. He has grown into a man. As the weeks went on his troubles grew.*

sprout [I0; T1] to (cause to) begin to grow: *The seeds began to sprout. The young tree sprouted leaves. (fig infml) That boy is really sprouting! (fig) The idea sprouted quickly. He began to sprout ideas.*

develop 1 [T1; I0: (from, into)] to (cause to) grow, increase, or become larger or more complete: *It has developed from a seed into a plant. That engine develops a lot of heat. Different conditions develop different sides of a person's character. He has gradually developed a liking for that fruit. A child develops rapidly between the ages of 13 and 16.* **2** [T1] to study or think out fully; present fully: *I'd like to develop this idea a little more fully before I go on to my next point.* **3** [T1] to bring out the possibilities of (esp land or natural substances): *We must develop all the natural substances in our country which can make us rich. Look at all that empty land just waiting to be*

developed! 4 [T1; I0] to (cause to) begin to be seen, become active, or show signs of: *Trouble is developing among the sailors. He seems to be developing an illness.*

spread 1 [T1; I0: (out)] to stretch or extend in space or time: *He stood up and spread (out) his arms. His visits to Canada were spread (out) over five years.* 2 [D1 with/on] to put (a covering) on (a surface): *She spread butter on the bread.* 3 [I0] to extend to cover a larger area: *In the last hundred years the city has spread greatly. The water spread slowly across the ground.*

swell [Wv5 swollen] 1 [I0 (up)] to increase in fullness and roundness: *Her ankle swelled after the fall.* 2 [T1] to increase the size or amount of: *He took a job to swell his pocket/funds (= money).* 3 [T1; I0] (fig) to fill: *Her heart swelled with pride. Pride swelled her heart.* 4 [T1 (out)] to fill, giving a round shape: *The cat's stomach was swelled with milk/swollen with milk.*

inflate [Wa5; T1] 1 to cause to swell with gas, air, etc: *He inflated the plastic ball.* 2 (fig) to feel greater, more important, etc than necessary, desirable, etc: *They are inflated with their own power.*

blow up [v adv T1] *infml* to inflate (def 1): *He blew up the plastic ball. Blow the bicycle tyres up.*

increase [T1; I0] *often fml* to make or become larger in amount or number: *The population of this town has increased. I increased the amount of water to be added during cooking.*

wax *rare* 1 [I0] to grow: *The moon waxes at this time of the month.* 2 [L7] *old use* (of a person) to become (*usu in the phr wax merry/happy*, etc): *He waxed merry as he drank.*

expand 1 [I0; T1: (by, into)] to (cause to) grow larger: *Iron expands when it is heated. He breathed deeply and expanded his chest. The narrow path expanded into a wide road. You should expand this short story by 50 pages.* 2 [I0] (of a person) to become more friendly and willing to talk: *This quiet young man expands only when he is among friends.*

prolong [T1] to make longer: *Some people have tried to find a means of prolonging life.* **prolongation** [U; C] the action or result of prolonging

extend 1 [L9] (of space, land or time) to reach, stretch, or continue: *The Roman Empire extended to/as far as the Atlantic Ocean. The hot weather extended into October.* 2 [T1] to make longer or greater, esp so as to reach a desired point: *He wants to extend his garden/extend the railway to the next town. The US has greatly extended its influence in world affairs.* 3 [T1] to stretch out to the limit (a part of one's body): *a bird with its wings extended; He refused to take the hand I extended in friendship.* 4 [D1 (to); T1] *fml* to give or offer (help, friendship, etc) to (someone): *She extended a warm welcome to him. She extended him a warm welcome. Government help will be*

extended where it is needed. The bank will extend you credit (= the right to borrow money). 5 [T1 *usu pass*] to cause to use all possible power: *The horse won the race easily without being fully extended.*

enlarge [I0; T1] to (cause to) grow larger or wider: *This photograph probably won't enlarge well. They built three new rooms to enlarge the school. (fig) Travel enlarges the mind.*

magnify [T1] to make (something) appear larger than in reality: *Cells of the body must be magnified several times before they can be seen. (fig) There is no need to magnify your difficulties. He is an official of low rank, though he magnifies his own importance.*

multiply 1 [T1; I0] to increase: *to multiply one's chances of success; Our chances multiplied.* 2 [I0] to breed: *When animals have more food, they generally multiply faster.*

amplify 1 [T1] to make larger or greater 2 [T1] to increase the strength of (something, esp sound coming through electrical instruments) 3 [T1; I0 (on, upon)] to explain in greater detail: *He amplified on his remarks with drawings and figures.*

maximize, -ise [T1] to make as large as possible to increase to the maximum [⇒ N91]: *We must maximize our profits next year.*

add to [v prep T1, 6] to increase by adding one thing to another: *Can you add to what you have paid? Your carelessness adds to our problems.*

augment [T1; (I0)] *usu fml & tech* to make or become bigger, more valuable, better, etc: *He augments his earnings by growing his own food.*

supplement [T1 (by, with)] *fml* to add to: *She supplements her diet/rations (= food) with eggs and fruit from the farm. He supplemented his income by working in the evenings.* **supplementary** [Wa5; B] in the nature or for the purposes of a supplement; added; extra

swamp [T1 *often pass (with)*] to give too much of (something): *We were swamped with letters from people wanting work. They swamped us with work; there was more than we could do.*

exceed [T1] to be greater or do more than: *His ability exceeds hers. The driver was exceeding the speed limit in the town and the police took his name and address.* **exceedingly** [adv] *esp fml* very much: *I'm exceedingly pleased to meet you. It was exceedingly good of you to come!*

dwarf [T1] to make (something) seem small: *That new building is so big that it dwarfs all the others.*

N93 nouns : growing and getting bigger

growth 1 [U] the act of growing: *The garden looks good; there's been plenty of growth this*

year. *The growth of real democracy is slow.*
2 [C *usu sing*] an act or result of growing: *He has a good growth of hair.*

development 1 [U] the act of developing: *'The development of our country is a matter of the first importance,' he said.* **2** [C] an example of this; something new: *What developments have there been in the matter since I left?—No fresh developments.*

spread [C *usu sing*] the amount by which something spreads: *The spread of civilization has been slow.*

expansion [U] the act of expanding: *People have known about the expansion of iron due to heat for a long time. This road needs expansion.*

inflation [U] the act of inflating

extension 1 [U] the act of extending: *They hope for the extension of the road to reach their village.* **2** [C] an example or result of this; anything extended: *He built an extension onto his house. We need an extension of time to pay the money back.*

extent [U] the amount by which something extends or is extended: *Do you know the extent of the damage to the house? To what extent (= by how much) have they changed the law?*

extensive [B] having a great extent: *They have made extensive changes in the law.* **-ly** [adv]

-ness [U]

addition 1 [U] the act of adding, esp of adding numbers together **2** [C] something added: *A newly born child is often called an addition to the family.*

enlargement 1 [U] the act of enlarging **2** [C] an example of this; anything enlarged

increase [C; U] more of anything: *We need increases in money. There has been an increase in the amount of water in the lake. Crime there is on the increase (= increasing).*

increment [C] *fml* an increase, esp in money paid for work done: *He got an increment of £50.*

magnification 1 [U] the act of magnifying **2** [C] an example of this; anything magnified; *tech* the amount by which anything is or can be magnified

multiplication *usu fml* [U] the act or result of multiplying: *The multiplication in the number of rabbits in Australia worried the farmers.*

amplification *usu fml* [U] the act or result of amplifying: *Your remarks will need some amplification by means of drawings or photographs.*

augmentation *usu fml* **1** [U] the act of increasing or of being increased in size or amount **2** [C] that which is added to something; an increase: *He received an augmentation of £2,000 a year.*

supplement [C] **1** an additional amount of something: *She has been ill and must have supplements to her ordinary food.* **2** an additional written part, at the end of a book, or as a separate part of a newspaper, magazine, etc: *The big Sunday papers have colour supplements, often called the Sunday supplements.*

N94 verbs : growing and getting smaller

lessen [I0; T1] to become or make less: *The noise lessened. Lessen the noise, please!*

grow less [v adv I0] to become less: *The noise slowly grew less.*

diminish [I0; T1] to (cause to) become or seem smaller: *His illness diminished his strength. That country's money is diminishing in value. The power of the Crown has increased, is increasing and ought to be diminished (from a speech in Parliament, 1780).*

dwindle [I0 (away)] *often emot* to become smaller and smaller or less and less, *usu* slowly: *The number of people helping us dwindled steadily until there were only four left.*

decrease [T1; I0] to (cause to) become less in size, number, strength, amount, or quality: *Our sales are decreasing. I shall have to decrease your wages.*

decline [I0] **1** to move from a better to a worse position: *His power/health/influence has begun to decline now that he is old. The old man declined rapidly and soon died. That old lady wants to spend her declining years by the sea. Rome reached a position of great power and then slowly declined. 'Standards of quality are declining everywhere,' he said.* **2** *fml* or *lit* to slope or move downwards: *About 2 miles east, the land begins to decline towards the river. The sun was declining in the west.*

wane *rare* [Wv4; I0 (away)] to grow gradually less until becoming nothing: *The moon waned. (fig) Their hopes waned (away).*

shrink 1 [I0; T1] to (cause to) become smaller, as from the effect of heat or water: *Washing wool in hot water will shrink it/make it shrink. Meat shrinks by losing some of its fat in cooking. The value of money shrinks faster in some countries than others.* **2** [L9] to move back and away: *Fearing a beating, the dog shrank into a corner.* **shrunk** [B] having shrunk: *His face looked shrunk from lack of food and sleep.*

deflate [T1] **1** to let air, gas, etc out of: *He deflated the tyres of the car.* **2** (fig) to make (someone) feel smaller, less important, etc than necessary, desirable, etc: *She really deflated him with her nasty remarks about his clothes.*

let down [v adv T1] *infml* to deflate (def 1): *Someone let down my bicycle tyres!*

reduce 1 [T1; (I0)] *often fml* to (cause to) become smaller or less: *He reduced the amount of money they could spend. Her weight needs reducing.* **2** [X9] to cause to do, feel, etc (a stated thing): *He reduced her to tears. Her words reduced him to angry silence.*

minimize, -ise [T1] to make as small as possible; reduce to the minimum [⇒ N91]: *He hopes to minimize the amount of work he does.*

condense [Wv5; T1] to make (esp books, etc) smaller, esp by reducing the number of words: *This is a condensed version of the book; it's*

only half as long as the original book. He condensed his speech to half its original length.

contract [IØ; T1] to (cause to) become smaller, esp in mass: *Metals contract when they lose heat. The animal contracted its body.* **contraction** 1 [U] the act of contracting 2 [C] the shortened form of something, esp a word or phrase 3 [C] an act of contracting

telescope 1 [IØ; T1] to (cause to) become shorter by crushing, as in a violent accident: *The two buses telescoped together killing all the passengers. The railway carriage was telescoped in the accident but luckily there were no passengers inside.* 2 [IØ] to become shorter by one part sliding over another: *This instrument will telescope small enough to fit into this box.*

cut down [v adv IØ (on)] esp infml & emot to reduce: *We must cut down on our spending.*

N95 nouns : growing and getting smaller

diminution fml 1 [U] an act of diminishing 2 [C usu sing] an example of this: *The new law caused a diminution in the power of the Church.*

decrease [U; C] an act or result of decreasing: *Crime is on the decrease in that city. We need a great decrease in the number of deaths on the roads.*

decline [C usu sing] a period or amount of declining, esp as something or someone gets near the end: *Edward Gibbon wrote 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'. There is a sharp decline in interest in sports in our town. She went into a decline and soon died.* **on the decline** declining: *In our town interest in sports is on the decline.*

shrinkage 1 [U] the act of shrinking: *This kind of cloth isn't affected by shrinkage when washed.* 2 [C] (esp fig) an example of this: *There has been a shrinkage in the numbers of people going there.*

deflation [U] the act of deflating

reduction 1 [U] the act of reducing: *The reduction in the numbers of people working in the factory has caused difficulties.* 2 [C] an example or result of this: *They made reductions in the number of people working in the factory.*

condensation 1 [U] the act of condensing: *The condensation of a book like that is difficult.* 2 [C] an example or result of condensing: *I read a condensation of the book.*

N96 determiners & adverbials, etc : much, many, etc

much 1 [det] (usu in neg sentences and questions) great in quantity, amount, degree: *I haven't got much interest in cooking. I don't have very much time.* 2 [det] (in all types of sentences, expressing amount): *How much time have we got? I have too much work to do.* 3 [adv Wa5] (usu in neg sentences and questions)

a often: *I don't read much because I don't have the time.* b to a great degree: *I don't like that idea much. (esp fml) I'm much surprised to hear that. Much to my surprise/displeasure she forgot our meeting (= surprising/displeasing me greatly by that).* 4 [adv Wa5] (in all types of sentences in the phrs **how much?** **too much**, **very much**, expressing amount): *How much do you like him?—I like him very much. I've been walking too much in the hot sun.* 5 [adv Wa5] (with compar & superl) by a large amount: *It was much worse than I thought.* 6 [adv Wa5] by a large degree: *She is much the quickest worker.* 7 [adv Wa5] nearly: *In most ways she is much the same as usual. Today was much like yesterday.* 8 [adv Wa5] **much more/less** and even more/less so: *I can hardly bear to walk, much less run.* 9 [pron] (esp in neg sentences or questions) a large quantity, amount, etc: *Some was lost, but much was saved. We haven't seen much of you (=you haven't visited us) recently. Much of the work is already finished. I borrowed the book but I haven't read very much (of it) yet.* **not much good at** not very good at: *He's not much good at games.* **not up to much** not very good or well: *The film's not up to much, although the actors are good. I don't feel up to much after my cold.* **not much of a** not a very good: *It's not much of a day for a walk (= bad weather).* **as much again** twice the amount: *I got £10 but he got as much again!* **I thought as much** I expected that (esp something bad): *So they found out he's been cheating. I thought as much.* **as much as one can do** the most possible **without so much as** not doing or saying even so little as: *She went off without so much as telling me.* **this/that much** the particular amount or words: *I'll say this much, he's a good worker (although I don't like him personally).* **too much for** having too many difficulties; too hard for: *Climbing the smallest hill is too much for her since her illness.* **as much as** the amount that: *When you cook meat, there's never as much as when you bought it.*

more 1 [adv Wa5 (than)] (used for forming the compar of most adjectives and adverbs that have more than two syllables, and of many that have only two): *His illness was more serious than the doctor first thought. I asked him if he could explain the matter more simply. The first question is more difficult than the second.* 2 [adv Wa5 (than)] to or in a greater degree; for a longer space of time: *He'll never be a good games player if he doesn't practise more. He seems to care more for his dogs than for his children. Surprisingly, her face had more the appearance of anger than pleasure.* 3 [adv] again (in the phrs **any more**, **once more**, **no more**): *The old man stays in his village now; he doesn't travel any more (= any longer). The teacher said he'd repeat the question once more. The ship sank below the waves, and was seen no more (= no longer, never again).* 4 [U] a greater amount, quantity, part, etc (esp in the phrs **more than**, **even more**): *As he grows older,*

he spends more of his time in bed. He owns more of this land than any other member of his family. He already owns half the land; now he wants even more. I've got more than you. **5** [U] an additional amount, quantity, part, etc: I've given you all you asked for; what more d'you want? Have you had enough to eat, or would you like some more?—Yes; give me some more of that cake. If you stay at that hotel, you'll have to pay a little more. He'd like to know more about the young man his daughter wishes to marry. Tell me more! (= I'm interested in what you say) **6** [pron] a greater number of people or things (esp in the phrs **more than, even more**): Many people support the government, but more are against it. How many rooms are there in this house?—More than in mine. **7** [det] a greater number or amount of: There are more cars on the road in summer than in winter. **and what is more** also and more importantly, seriously, etc: You've come late for school and what's more you've lost your books. **more and more** to or in a degree that continues to increase; increasingly: As time went on, he found it more and more difficult to support his family. **more than a little** pomp or fml very: If you tell your father what you've done, he'll be more than a little angry. **no more** neither: He can't afford a new car, and no more can I. **no more . . . than** in no greater degree . . . than: He's no more fit to be a minister than a school-boy would be. **the more . . . , the more/less** to the degree that . . . , to an equal/less degree: The more angry he became, the more she laughed at him. The more difficult the questions are, the less likely I am to be able to answer them. **more than meets the eye** additional things which make the matter less simple than it appears: There's more in her refusal than meets the eye; I think she's trying to hide something. **see more of someone** to meet someone again, or more often: He liked the girl and thought he'd like to see more of her. **the more . . . , the more/less** by the amount that . . . , by a greater/less amount: The more he gives his children, the more they want. The more I see of him, the less I like him.

most 1 [(the) det] greatest in number, quantity, or degree: The money should be shared among those who have (the) most need of it. The youngest of his children takes (the) most interest in his lessons. The storm did most damage to the houses on the edge of the cliff. (= those houses were damaged more than others). Which is most—10, 20, or 30? **2** [det] nearly all: He's visited most countries in Europe. Most English words form their plural by adding s. **3** [adv Wa5] (forming the superl of adjectives and adverbs with more than one syllable): Which do you think is the most comfortable hotel in this town? All the questions were difficult, but which did you think was most difficult? **4** [adv Wa5] in the greatest or highest degree; more than anything else: What people most like about the doctor is his kindness. I like all kinds

of books, but most of all I like books about history. You can help me most by preparing the vegetables for dinner. **5** [adv Wa5] (used for giving force) a (to an adjective) very: He thanked his host for a most enjoyable party. It's most dangerous to play with explosives. **b** (to an adverb) quite; very: Whatever happens, I shall most certainly attend the meeting. He'll most probably sell the house and go and live with his daughter. **6** [adv Wa5] esp infml AmE almost: He plays cards most every evening. Most everyone in this small town possesses a car. **7** [the R] the greatest amount: We tried to stop the house burning down, but the most we could do was to save some of the pictures and furniture. **8** [pron] the greatest number, quantity, part, etc; nearly all: Most of the children in this school come from poor homes. Most of his time is spent travelling. A few people were killed in the fire, but most were saved. **at (the) most/at the very most** not more than (the stated amount): She's at most 25 years old. It'll take an hour, at the very most, to drive home **for the most part** nearly completely; mainly; in almost all cases or respects: Summers in the south of France are for the most part dry and sunny. I agree for the most part with what you say. **make the most of** to get the best use or greatest gain from: Make the most of your free time; don't waste it in sleep. He doesn't do well because he doesn't make the most of his ability. **Make the most of your appearance/yourself, and people will find you attractive.**

many 1 [det] a great number of: How many letters are there in the alphabet? Were there many people at the play? You have too many books on that shelf. There are so many that I can't choose. (fml) Many people would like to take holidays abroad. He ate three cakes in as many seconds (= one a second). **2** [pron] a great number: Take more apples; I don't want many for myself. How many are there? He ate three and said he could eat as many again (= three more). **3** [P of] a great number: Not many of us will pass the examination. Many of us will live to see great changes. **a good/great many** infml a large number **many a man, hour, etc** many men, hours, etc **one, two, three, etc too many** one (etc) more than is needed **many's the time, day, etc that** there have been many times, days, etc **one too many for (somebody)** clever enough to beat **the many** (only compared to **the few**) the large numbers of people who possess little

a lot genl & infml **1** much: I like it a lot. **2** (used with of) a large number: A lot of people come here.

a number of some; many: He knows a number of people here.

numerous [B] fml being very many: I spoke to him about it on numerous occasions (= often).

majority [(the) GC (of)] the greater number (of persons, things, etc); more than half: The majority (of the people) want/wants peace.

very [Wa5] **1** [adv] (used to make a statement

stronger or to emphasize an adjective): *It is very hot today. He drives very fast. She's very pretty, isn't she? He is looking very much better now. It is his very own car.* **2** [A] this (person, thing, etc) and no other: *You are the very person I wanted to meet. The very idea of doing it angered him.* **3** [A] (used to emphasize a noun): *It happened at the very beginning/end of the meeting.*

indeed [adv Wa5] **1** (used after **very** + adjective to make the meaning even stronger): *The crowds were very large indeed.* **2** often derog (used to show surprise and interest): *Did he, indeed?*

N97 determiners & adverbials : not much, many etc

little [det; pron; U] (of mass nouns) not much; not enough: *The little I have is not worth giving. I have very little (money, food, etc) left. I understood little of what he said. She has so little time to enjoy herself. I had little difficulty in finding the house (= I found it easily).* **little by little** gradually

a little **1** a small amount, but at least some: *She had a few eggs and a little milk left. Give me a little of that wine. Would you like some more cake?—Just a little, thank you. I had a little difficulty in finding the house (= it wasn't so easy to find the house). She speaks a little French; not much. Does she speak any French?—A little.* **2** a short time: *He came back after a little. Can't you stay a little longer? In a little over 10 years life in that city was very different. Let's walk for a little.* **3** also *infrm* **a little bit** to some degree; rather: *I was a little annoyed. It's a little bit silly, isn't it!*

few [det; pron; Wa1;GU] not many; not enough: *Few people came. How few?—Very few indeed. I have very few (chocolates) left. Few of the children were tired. There are so few that I can't give you one/any. She has so few chances to enjoy herself. There were no fewer than a hundred cars there (= There were 100, or more, cars there.) Which of you has the fewest mistakes? There were too few machines for the work. We are many and they are few. For the last few years he has been abroad. **few and far between** rare; not happening often: *Holidays are few and far between.* **the few** (compared to **the many**) the small number of people with special needs or desires: *Only the few are likely to enjoy this music.**

a few a small number, but at least some: *She had a few eggs and a little milk. There are only a very few left. I'm keeping a few for him. Let's invite a few friends to come with us. Here are a few more chocolates. Can you stay for a few days longer? quite a few, also *emph* **a good few** several; more than a few: *Quite a few of us were worried. You'll have to wait a good few weeks for more!**

less [(than)] (comp of **little**) not as much: *I have some bread, but he has less. There is less time*

than I thought. She wanted to do more for you; she certainly couldn't do less (than she did). (ironical) He couldn't possibly have done less than he did (= He did almost nothing).

least (*superl of little*) **1** the smallest in size, amount, degree, measure, etc: *He has the least money of us all. He was the least surprised of us all.* **2** slightest: *He's not the least bit worried.* **3** [the U] the smallest thing, amount, degree, etc: *Giving him food was the least we could do. at least* if nothing else: *The food wasn't good, but at least it was cheap.* **at (the) least** not less than: *It costs at least 5 pounds. At the least, it costs 5 pounds.* **least of all** especially not: *I don't want anyone to come, least of all him!*

minority [GC *usu sing*] **1** the smaller number (of persons, things, etc); less than half: *A minority of the people want/wants war.* **2** a group of people, things, etc that is smaller than others: *Black people are a minority in the United States.*

N98 determiners & pronouns : some and any

a [det] (*an before a vowel sound*) **1** one in particular: *He bought a bottle of wine.* **2** any one (of a number): *We need a new house; this one is too small for us now that we have children.* **3** *genl* one: *Can I have a piece of cake/a pound of butter, please?* **4** for each (one): *It costs 10p a pound (= for each pound).* **5** (with someone's name) one whom I have not met before: *There is a Mr Jones to see you, sir.* **6** (with someone's name) someone of the same kind as: *What is the chance of a second Einstein?*

some **1** [det] a certain amount or number of: *Have some (more) wine. He bought some cakes. Some people came to see her. He had to wait some time before he came. Would you like some (more) bread?—Yes, I'll have some/a little more, thanks.* **2** [det] quite a large amount of: *He has been waiting here (for) some time.* **3** [det] *infrm* a very good: *I really enjoyed myself; that was some party!* **4** [det] *infrm* a very bad: *Some party that was; I didn't enjoy myself at all!* **5** [det] not known or important (*esp in the phr some . . . or other*): *I read it in some book or other. Some fellow told me; I can't remember who/his name.* **6** [pron (of)] a number or amount: *Some of the men came. She gave some of the meat to the cat. Can I have some, please?*

several **1** [det] more than two but fewer than many: *I know several people named Green. I make several visits each year to London.* **2** [Wa5;A] *esp old use and fml* (with plural nouns) of the stated people or things; separate; respective: *They stated their several opinions one at a time. They shook hands and went their several ways.* **3** [Wa5;A] *lit* various; different: *The walls were built at several times by different people.* **4** [pron] a few but not many; some: *Several of the apples are bad and several more have worm holes.*

any 1 [det] one or some of whatever kind; every: *Any child would know that. Ask any man you meet. Come any time you want (to).* **2** [det; pron (of)] one or more others; one or more among: *Have you any (other) books besides these? Do you want any of these?—Yes; I'd like some. Have you any bread?—Yes; a little./Yes; plenty.*

N99 adverbs, etc : scarcely, hardly, and only [Wa5]

only 1 [adv] and nothing more; and no one else: *Only five minutes more, please! Ladies only (notice). Only ladies can come in here. He only sits and looks out of the window. It was something known only to us. He saw only five men. Only five of the men did he see. It is made from fresh fruit only. Not only he but the whole family went. I saw him only yesterday (= and no longer ago). Only a doctor can do that.* **2** [conj] but, esp **a** (before limiting conditions): *You may go, only come back early.* **b** (before unfortunate events): *He wants to go, only he can't.* **c** also **BrE only that** (before the reason why something will probably not happen): *I'd do it with pleasure, only I'm too lazy. He'd succeed, only he's rather lazy.* **if only** (expressing a strong wish to desire): *If only she would come! If she would only come!*

only too very: *I'm only too happy to come. It was only too true, I'm afraid.*

only just 1 almost not: *I've only just enough money. They only just caught the train. He was only just able to walk.* **2** just a moment before: *They've only just (now) arrived! We'd only just got home when he called.*

just [adv] **1** not fml only: *He's just a boy; he can't do all that work. She just stood there, saying nothing.* **2** almost not; to the amount needed, but not more than: *The falling tree just missed the house. I need just another hour to finish the work.* **3** almost (at once); very soon: *He was just leaving when you came. We left just after they did. She was just about to write to them.* **4** a short time ago: *He has just arrived from London.* **5** not fml exactly: *Tell me just what you did, no more. This book is just right for him.* **6** without a doubt: *The trip was just wonderful!*

hardly [adv] **1** almost not; with difficulty: *I could hardly wait to hear the news. I could hardly speak for laughing.* **2** only just; not really: *I hardly know the people I work with. I've hardly finished; I can't come out.* **3** not at all; not really: *I can hardly ask him directly for more money. This is hardly the time for buying new clothes; I've only got just enough money for food. You can hardly blame me if you didn't like the place, as you were the one who begged me to take you there. It's hardly fair to punish the child when she didn't know she was doing wrong.* **4** (in time) only just: *We'd hardly arrived before we had to go back.* **5** almost not: *I hardly ever go out these days (= never).*

You've hardly eaten anything. You've eaten hardly anything (= nothing). Hardly anybody likes him, because he's so rude (= nobody).

scarcely [adv] often fml **1** almost not: *She spoke scarcely a word of English. I really couldn't lend him £10; I scarcely know him!* **2** esp pomp (almost) certainly not: *Did you go in a taxi?—Scarcely that; I hadn't any money even for a bus. You could scarcely have found a better person for the job than Miss Winkle.*

barely [adv] **emph** hardly; just and no more: *He was barely able to walk.*

N100 adverbials : too, also, besides, etc [adv Wa5]

too 1 [(for, 3)] (before adjectives and adverbs) more than enough; to a higher degree than is necessary or good: *You're going (much) too fast; slow down! This dress is (a bit) too small (= not big enough) for me; I'll have to get a bigger one. If the coffee's too hot, leave it to get cool. There's been (far) too little rain lately and the crops are dying through lack of water. It's too soon (for us) to tell whether you'll be found guilty or not. It's too hot a day to work. He's too much of a coward (= too cowardly) to fight.* **2** (not at the beginning of a clause) in addition; as well: *I can dance and sing too. I can dance; I can sing too. (compare: I can't dance; I can't sing either). When I told her I'd been to Paris too! (= as well as London, Rome, etc) she was very jealous. Have you been to Paris too? (= as well as me) It snowed yesterday; in July too!* **3** infml esp **AmE** indeed; so: *I won't do it—You will too!* **only too** very: *I'm only too pleased to be able to help you.*

as well (not at the beginning of a clause) not fml too: *He's going and I'm going as well.*

as well as in addition to (being): *He was kind as well as sensible. As well as walking he likes fishing and shooting.*

also more fml **1** as well; too: *Were you at the film? I was also there.* **2** in addition: *As well as seeing the film I also went for a meal.* **not only X but (also) Y** both X and Y: *It was not only colourful but (also) noisy.*

additionally fml as one more (person, thing); too: *Additionally, we want you to come. He said, additionally, that you should come.*

in addition (to) fml additionally: *In addition, we want you to come. You are to come in addition to the others.*

moreover often fml & **emph** in addition (to that which has been stated); also: *The price is too high, and moreover, the house isn't in a suitable position.*

besides 1 in addition; also: *I don't want to go, (and) besides I'm tired. This car belongs to Smith, and he has two others besides. I don't like those blue socks; what have you got besides?* **2** [prep] in addition to: *There were three others present at the meeting besides us.*

by the way (introducing a new subject or one