

state of being refined: *a person of great refinement*

N216 adjectives : not right [B]

[ALSO ⇒ F65]

wrong [Wa2] **1** not correct: *This sum is wrong. No, you're wrong; she didn't say that. The clock's wrong; it's later than the time it shows.* **2** evil; against moral standards: *Telling lies is wrong/It's wrong to tell lies.* **3** not suitable: *This is the wrong time to make a visit.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

faulty [Wa1] imperfect; having faults; not looking right or working properly: *The radio is faulty; it needs to be repaired. He has a faulty understanding of French history.* **-tily** [adv]

flawed *tech or emot* imperfect: *This diamond is flawed. His character seems good but is flawed by a habit of telling lies.*

defective **1** lacking something necessary; faulty: *He sold us defective machinery.* **2** *tech* lacking one or more of the usual grammatical forms: *'Must' and 'can' are defective verbs with no -ing forms.* **3** (of a person) well below the average in body or esp in mind: *The child is defective, I'm afraid.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

deficient [(in)] having none or not enough of; lacking in: *The food here is deficient in iron. He is deficient in skill and can't do the job.*

anomalous *esp fml & tech* different in some (unsatisfactory) way from what is normal or usual: *His illness is an anomalous condition of the heart.* **-ly** [adv]

N217 nouns : faults and flaws

fault **1** [C] something wrong, esp in how something works or someone behaves; wrong quality: *There's a fault in this building; it isn't safe. He has several faults, but telling lies isn't one of them. The main fault in his work is careless spelling.* **2** [S] responsibility for something wrong or bad that has been done: *It's my fault; I caused all the trouble. It happened through no fault of hers. She was not at fault; don't blame her.*

flaw [C] a small sign of damage, such as a mark or crack, that makes an object not perfect: *There was a flaw in the plate. (fig) There are several flaws in this contract.*

defect [C] something lacking or imperfect; a fault: *The machine is unsafe because of the defects in it. He suffers from a hearing defect.*

deficiency **1** [U] the quality or state of being deficient: **2** [C] a case of this; a lack: *The deficiencies in this plan are very clear and it can't possibly succeed.*

shortcoming [C] *often euph* a fault, usu not too bad: *'We all have our little shortcomings', she said.*

drawback [C (to, of)] *esp emot* a difficulty or disadvantage; something that can cause

trouble: *The only drawback to/of the plan is that it costs too much.*

failing [C] *esp euph or emot* something which makes someone or something else imperfect: *I'm afraid one of his failings is telling lies.*

bug [C] *sl* a fault: *We have had a number of bugs in the machine, but it's working well now.*

N218 nouns : difficulties, problems, and anomalies

difficulty 1 [U] the state or quality of being hard to do or understand; trouble: *I'm having a little difficulty doing this work; can you help me? Did you have any difficulty finding him?—No; no difficulty at all. / No; I found him without difficulty. She did it, but with difficulty.* 2 [C] an example of this; something that causes trouble: *I'm in difficulties over this work; I can't finish in time. He was working under difficulties; it wasn't easy.*

problem [C] 1 a (serious) difficulty that needs attention and thought; a difficult situation: *I've left my money at home.—That's no problem; I can lend you what you need. The unemployment problem in this area is getting worse. It's a problem to know what to do with him when he leaves school; he doesn't seem fit for any kind of job. The car won't start; I don't know whether the problem is in the engine or in the electrical system.* 2 [usu sing] *infml* a person who causes (some special) difficulty: *As a dinner guest Celia is a problem; there are many kinds of food she doesn't eat.*

snag [C] *esp BrE, not fml* a hidden or unexpected difficulty: *There's been a snag. Our plans have hit a snag and we can't go on until it is dealt with.*

hitch [C] *not fml* a difficulty which delays something for some time: *There was a slight hitch in his plans. A technical hitch prevented the lights from working. The meeting went off without a hitch.*

anomaly [C] *esp fml & tech* 1 an unusual irregularity: *The anomaly of his position is that he is very famous but still doesn't make much money.* 2 a person who, or thing that, is different from the usual type

N219 nouns & verbs : mistakes

mistake 1 [C] a wrong thought, act, etc; anything done, said, believed, etc due to wrong thinking or understanding, lack of knowledge or skill, etc: *The teacher found several spelling mistakes in the pupils' written answers. 'You've made too many mistakes', he said; 'you'll have to do the exercise again'. There must be some mistake in this bill; please add up the figures again.* 2 [T1 (for); T6a] to make a mistake about (someone or something): *I mistook her for her sister (= I thought she was her sister).*

Don't mistake what's necessary. They come for doing it. and not giving force to an slightest doubt: That mistake. by mistake less, forgetful, etc: I wrong medicine by her cup of tea by mis not have the slightest you don't improve ; punished; make no mistake about it is no doubt about it: That's the biggest fool

error often *fml* 1 [C] a wrongly or an example: *bank made an error in Jane's fault when she on both sides.* 2 [U] a behaviour or beliefs by human error. *I did A mistake in the map err [IØ] esp lit & old something wrong: He should have gone.*

slip [C] a slight mistake; *I meant to write (over)] infml to make over their names (= names; he made a*

lapse 1 [C] a small failure of memory, esp one that was just a lapse of judgment again. 2 [C] a failure of belief, duty, etc 3 something usu bad that has lapsed once again habits.

discrepancy [C; U] a difference of agreement (between two things): *There is a good deal of discrepancies in the battle and yours. says £3; how do you*

oversight [C; U] (a) a notice or do something mistake was the result

boob *sl* 1 [C] an esp fml mistake: *He has boob*

N220 verbs : provide

prove 1 [T1, 5a, 6a] to show that someone did something that there is life on other planets: *prove his theory by evidence. You did it, did to show to be good, Time proved his ability* **substantiate** [T1] *fml* to provide evidence of truth: *what you have just said*

g things

a) way of showing that *believe what you say; I wouldn't demand proof d. Have you any proof at 9 o'clock last night? nds isn't always a proof He says he isn't guilty of that.* **2** [U] the action *rue or a fact: Is life on f proof?* **3** [C] a test or *ner someone or some-) quality, standard of e phr put to the proof): ut to the proof in battle. any proof (= pass any med for it by its makers. of the correctness of a C] geom the reasoning : (theorem) to be true [5] 1 (esp in science or e a statement, support a er more clear: Several e about it. 2 objects e police arrived he had : evidence (= papers, d he was guilty. evi- or proof of/that: There ebody has been living ice of to show signs or ars evidence of having vidence able to be seen : was much in evidence he party. Mr Jones was = could not be found). the action of substan- it you have said needs*

ation, esp of a particular ular way and kept in a tem: *The data that you cal diseases are/is ready n't have enough data to ata is/are not sufficient.*

lar and evident

asy to see, understand, ntrue, etc: *It is clear that t's plain that they are fy [IØ; T1] to (cause to) ore easily understood: nt clarify its position on clarification 1 [U] the an example of this esp to the senses; clear It's evident that you've dent unhappiness made*

nderstand; clear; which : obvious that a boy isn't i elephant. -ly [adv]

apparent *fml* obvious: *It is apparent that he can't be trusted.*

N223 adjectives : fair and just [B]

fair [Wa1] giving each person what he or she should have: *Be fair; that money is mine, not yours. It isn't fair; I should get that money, not him.* **un-** [neg] **-ly** [adv]: *The money was fairly divided among them.*

just **1** fair; in accordance with what is right and true: *He is a very just man and it is a just law. To be just to him, he's always worked hard (even though he is unpleasant).* **2** well-deserved: *You have received a just reward/punishment.* **3** proper; fitting: *The payment is just. It's just that you should be rewarded for your work.* **4** exact: *We must have a just balance between the two of them.* **un-** [neg] **-ly** [adv]: *He was justly punished.* **-ness** [U]

equitable *fml* fair and just: *We must make an equitable division of the money.* **in-** [neg] **-bly** [adv]

balanced having or showing fairness: *He gave a balanced judgment.*

even-handed *often emot* fair and equal; equally balanced: *Justice should be even-handed.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

N224 nouns : fairness and justice [U]

fairness the quality of being fair: *He is well-known for his fairness.* **un-** [neg]

justice **1** the quality of being just; rightness; fairness: *He claimed—with justice, I might add—that he had not received his fair share. I hope you will receive justice. In justice to him, he has done a lot of good work in the past (even though he is unpleasant).* **2** correctness: *The justice of these remarks was clear to everyone.* **3** the action or power of the law: *We must bring these criminals to justice. do justice to someone/do someone justice* to treat someone in a fair way; show the true value of: *To do him justice, he's done some good work (even if he is unpleasant). Your new hat doesn't really do you justice.*

equity **1** *fml* the quality of being equitable: *They shared the work of the house with perfect equity.*

2 *tech* (esp in the law systems of English-speaking countries) the principle of justice which may be used to correct a law, when that law would cause hardship in special cases

N225 nouns : balance and harmony

balance [U] **1** the state in which someone or something stays in position and does not fall over or down: *He managed to keep his balance as he walked along the top of the narrow wall, then just at the end he lost his balance and fell.* **2** the state in which two or more things are

equal in weight, position, power, etc: *In a pair of scales [⇒ H127] the two pans will be in perfect balance when the same weight is in each. (fig) If one large country becomes too strong it upsets the balance of power in the world.* **off balance** ready to fall: *He was thrown off balance when she ran into him.* **on balance** when everything is considered: *I think that, on balance, he is a useful man.*

harmony 1 [U; (S)] a state of agreement (in feelings, ideas, etc); peacefulness: *My cat and dog never fight; they live together in perfect harmony. After their quarrel a new harmony was felt between them.* 2 [U; (C)] the pleasant effect made by parts being combined into a whole: *The harmony of sea and sky made a beautiful picture.* **harmonious** [B] in a state of harmony: *There is a harmonious relationship between the two countries.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U] **unison** [U] 1 the singing of the same note by everybody at the same time (*esp in the phr in unison*) 2 (fig) perfect agreement (*esp in the phr in unison*): *We are all in unison about it.*

accord *fml, euph & pomp* 1 [U] harmony, esp between nations 2 [C *usu sing*] an agreement for peace and friendly relations between nations

accordance [U] *fml* agreement; harmony (*esp in the phr in accordance with*): *In accordance with your wishes the money has been sent to Switzerland. What he did is quite in accordance with the law.*

concord 1 [U] friendly relationship; harmony; complete peace and agreement: *The two tribes had lived in concord for many centuries.* 2 [C] *tech* an agreement, esp a treaty, establishing peace and friendly relations: *Both sides willingly signed the concord which ended the disagreement between them.*

discord [C; U] 1 (a case of) disagreement between people: *A good deal of discord/various discords have arisen in the university over this question.* 2 (*esp in music*) (a) lack of agreement heard when sounds are made or notes played which do not sound well together: *His music has too much discord in it. He played some ugly discords on the piano.* **discordant** [B] full of or showing discord **-ly** [adv]

N226 verbs : balance and harmony

[ALSO ⇒ N330]

balance 1 [T1; IØ] to (cause to) be steady, to (cause to) keep a position and not fall over or down: *He balanced (himself) on top of the narrow wall. Can you balance on your hands?* 2 [T1; IØ] to (cause to) be of equal weight, importance, or influence to (something/each other): *The weight here balances the weight there. The two weights balance (perfectly).*

poise [X9 *usu pass*] to place in such a way as to balance, be steady, etc; to hold (something) esp raised in a *usu* stated position: *The stone was poised in his hand, ready to be thrown.*

poised [Wa5; F3, 9] ready (to do something): *He was poised to go.*

harmonize, -ise [T1; IØ (*with*)] to (cause to) become harmonious or in agreement, balance, etc: *Conditions must be harmonized between our two countries. Her clothes harmonize well with the colours in the room.*

accord [IØ (*with*)] to harmonize; have the same meaning (as): *The two stories don't accord. Your story doesn't accord with his.*

align [T1; IØ] to come, bring, form, make, or arrange into a line or suitable position: *The soldiers were aligned ready for battle. Are these walls properly aligned?* **alignment** 1 [U] the act of aligning: *We must get the walls in (to) proper alignment.* 2 [C] an example of this

match 1 [T1 (*in, for*)] a to be equal to (a person in a quality): *You can't match him in knowledge of wild plants/his knowledge of wild plants.* b to find an equal for: *This hotel can't be matched for good service and food.* 2 [IØ; T1] to be like or suitable for use with (something else): *The curtains don't match the paint. The hat and shoes don't match.* 3 [T1] to find something like or suitable for: *I need some yellow wool like this; can you match it, please?*

correspond [IØ (*with, to*)] to harmonize or match: *Her story of what happened does not correspond exactly with/to his. The house corresponded closely to what he wanted.* **correspondence** *usu fml* 1 [U] the condition of corresponding: *What correspondence is there between the two sets of information?* 2 [C] an example or occasion of this: *The correspondences are interesting; the two sets of information are very alike.*

N227 verbs : justifying and explaining

justify [T1 (*to*), 4] 1 to give a good reason for: *How can you justify your behaviour? 'to justify the ways of God to man' (Milton)* 2 to be a good reason for: *Nothing can justify such behaviour. What can justify doing it?* **justification** [U; C] (a) (good) reason for doing something: *There is no justification for what he did.*

account for [v prep] 1 [T1, 4, 6a; (*to*)] to give an explanation or reason for: *He could not account for his foolish mistake. It is difficult to account for the absence of policemen at the meeting. All the men (= soldiers) are present and accounted for, sir.* 2 [T1, 6a; (*to*)] to give a statement showing how money or goods left in one's care have been dealt with: *He has to account to the chairman for all the money he spends.* 3 [T1] *infml* to kill, shoot, or catch: *I think I accounted for three of the attackers.*

answer for [v prep T1] to give reasons why (something esp unsatisfactory) is so; be responsible for the state of (something): *He must answer for the loss of the money.*

explain [T1, 6a] to give or be the reason for; account for: *Can you explain your stupid*

behaviour? That explains why he's not here. **explain oneself** 1 to make one's meaning clear: *I don't understand what you're talking about. Would you explain yourself a little?* 2 to give reasons for one's behaviour: *Late again, Smith? I hope you can explain yourself.* [also ⇒ G81, 2]

rationalize, -ise [I0; T1] to find reasons for (one's own unreasonable behaviour or opinions): *He tried to rationalize his fears. Stop rationalizing; that's not the real reason for what you did.* **rationalization, -isation** [U; C] the or an act or result of rationalizing; an example of this

N228 nouns : uses, purposes, and ambitions

[ALSO ⇒ I29]

use 1 [U] the act of using or state of being used [⇒ I26]: *His use of English is improving.* 2 [U] the ability or right to use something: *He is old but he has the full use of his mind and body. She was given the use of the library.* 3 [C; U] the purpose or reason for using something: *What use does this tool have/serve? This book has a use as an ornament.* 4 [U] the usefulness or advantage given by something: *Is this book any use? What's the use of worrying?* 5 [U] custom; habit; practice: *There is no law, but we accept that local use has the force of law.* **have no use for (esp a person)** to think of no value; to dislike **in use** being used **of use** esp fml useful: *This machine will be of (great) use to us.* **out of use** no longer used: *That type of machine is out of use. That expression has gone out of use.* **make use of** to use well; take advantage of: *Can you make use of these books?*

utility 1 [U (of)] the degree of usefulness 2 [C often pl] any useful service for the public, such as supplies of water to the home, the bus service, etc

validity [U (of)] the state or condition of being valid [⇒ N211]: *You don't know enough about the subject to question the validity of my statements.*

worthwhileness [U (of)] the state or condition of being worthwhile [⇒ N230], worth doing: *I do not question the worthwhileness of her work; she does very useful work.*

purpose 1 [C] use; effect; result: *Don't waste your money; put it to some good purpose.* 2 [U] steady determination in following an aim: *It's no use deciding to become a doctor if you lack purpose in setting yourself to the necessary studies; you must have a sense of purpose.* 3 [C] an intention or plan; reason for an action: *Did you come to London for the purpose of seeing your family, or for business purposes? The purpose of his life seems to be to enjoy himself.* **a play with a purpose** intended to express the writer's political beliefs, not just to be amusing **answer/fulfil/serve one's/the purpose(s)** to be or do all that is needed: *I haven't got a pen here,*

but a pencil will answer the same purpose. **on purpose** 1 intentionally; not by accident: *I'm sorry I stepped on your toe; it was an accident.—It wasn't. You did it on purpose.* 2 with a particular stated intention: *I came here on purpose to see you.* **to little/no/some/much/good purpose** with little/no/some/much/good result or effect: *You acted to good purpose when you bought that car; it was both good and cheap.* **to the purpose** useful; connected with what is being considered or what is needed: *His remarks about gardening were hardly to the purpose in an argument about farming.*

design [U] purpose; purposeful planning: *Do you think the house was burnt down by accident or by design?*

end [C] esp lit & poet purpose: *What is his end in life; why does he work so hard? When we say 'the end justifies the means' we suggest that any way of getting what you want is all right; that is not necessarily true.*

ambition 1 [U; C] strong desire for success, power, riches, etc: *That politician is full of ambition; one of his ambitions is to become a minister.* 2 [C] that which is desired in this way: *That big house on the hill is his ambition.* **ambitious** 1 [B, B3] having a strong desire for success, power, riches, etc: *He is an ambitious man. He is ambitious to succeed in politics.* 2 [B] showing or demanding a strong desire for success, great effort, great skill, etc: *It's an ambitious attempt; I hope it succeeds.* **un-** [neg] **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

aim [C] the desired result of one's efforts; purpose; intention; ambition: *What is your aim in working so hard? He told me about his aims in life.*

goal [C] esp lit aim; ambition: *His goal in life is to become a great politician/writer/singer.*

point [U] usu not fml & often emph & emot the use or purpose: *What's the point of doing that? There's no point in going there today; no one will be there.*

N229 adjectives : useful and sensible

useful 1 effective in use: *That is a useful idea. Money is always useful.* 2 able to help: *He's a useful person to have around.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U] **outlive/outlast its (one's) usefulness** to continue to be present when old and no longer effective in the proper way

helpful able or willing to help or be useful: *She's a very helpful (kind of) person. Try to be more helpful to people. That's a helpful idea.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

handy [W a1] 1 useful and simple to use: *This is a handy little box.* 2 clever in using the hands: *She's handy with her needle.* 3 infml nearby: *The shops are quite handy.* **-iness** [U] **come in handy** to be useful from time to time: *These tools should come in handy some day; let's keep them.*

sensible reasonable; having or showing good sense: *a sensible person/choice* **-bly** [adv]
profitable **1** useful; resulting in advantage: *She spent a profitable day cleaning the house thoroughly.* **2** resulting in money gain: *He has a profitable business selling television and radio sets. attempts to make the business more profitable.* **-bly** [adv] **-ability** [U]

N230 adjectives : practical and purposeful [B]

practical **1** useful in helping to do something: *That's a very practical idea; let's make use of it immediately. She's a very practical person; she's good at cooking and gardening as well as teaching. Come on; try to be more practical and less theoretical [⇒ G9; I71]!* **2** concerned with the way in which things are actually done: *It's a good idea but there may be practical difficulties in doing it.* **im-** [neg] **-ly** [adv Wa4]

pragmatic doing things in the way that seems best at the time or in the particular place, and not necessarily following any general idea about how to do things: *She is a pragmatic person and does things quickly without waiting to discuss how to do them.* **-ally** [adv Wa4]

realistic **1** (of persons) practical because understanding how things are: *Let's have a realistic discussion of our difficulties.* **2** (of things) true to life: *He paints very realistic pictures.* **-ally** [adv Wa4]

down-to-earth *emph* practical; true to life: *Talking won't help, we need down-to-earth action to save us. He spoke in a very down-to-earth way.*

matter-of-fact *not fml* concerned with facts, not imagination; practical, not fanciful: *'Now let's find out what really happened,' he said in his matter-of-fact way.*

utilitarian concerned with practical use; not made for or interested in forms, thoughts, etc: *This equipment is utilitarian, not a work of art.*

empirical (of people or methods) guided only by practical experience rather than by scientific ideas out of books: *They learnt the boiling-point of water by the empirical method; they boiled some and then measured the temperature.* **-ly** [adv; Wa4]

worthwhile *esp emot* worth doing; worth the trouble taken: *She has a very worthwhile job. Her interest makes our efforts worthwhile.*

purposeful **1** directed towards a (special) purpose: *All the cook's actions as she prepared the meal were purposeful; she had no time to waste.* **2** full of or expressing determination: *He's a purposeful young man who knows what he wants to do in life, and will probably succeed in doing it.* **-ly** [adv]

N231 adjectives : not useful, purposeful, etc

useless [B] **1** not of any use: *A coat is useless in*

a hot country. **2** not giving hope of success: *Weeping is useless; action may have some results.* **3** *infml* not able to do anything properly: *You're useless! You've done it wrong again!* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

purposeless [B] having no purpose or meaning: *Though she's rich she doesn't lead (= live) a purposeless existence; she works hard helping the poor and sick.*

aimless [B] having no aim: *He leads a very aimless life/existence; he never does anything worthwhile.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

pointless [B] *esp emph & emot* having no point: *Going there is pointless; it won't help anybody!* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

vain [Wa5;A] *esp lit & emot* without result; useless: *After a number of vain attempts to climb the mountain we were forced to return to camp.* **-ly** [adv]: *He tried vainly to do it.*

futile [B] *often deprec* **1** (of an action) having no effect; unsuccessful; useless: *All his attempts to unlock the door were futile, because he was using the wrong key. Don't waste time by asking futile questions.* **2** (of a person) worthless; of no importance; lacking ability to succeed: *That futile young man does nothing but waste money.* **futility** **1** [U] the condition of being futile **2** [C] something futile

dud *not fml* **1** [Wa5;B] of no use; not able to work (properly): *These matches are dud; they won't light.* **2** [C] a person or thing that is of little use: *He's a dud; he can't help you.*

N232 adjectives : ready and prepared

ready [Wa1] **1** [F (for), F3] prepared and fit (for use): *Is breakfast ready? The letters are ready for the post/ready to be signed. I'm not ready yet. Where are my shoes?* **un-** [neg] **2** [F3] (of a person) willing (to do something): *She's always ready to help.* **3** [A] (of thoughts or their expressions) quick: *She has a ready tongue (= can talk well). He is a man of ready wit.* **4** [F] within reach: *He slept with his sword ready.* **-ily** [adv] **-iness** [U] **make ready** to prepare oneself: *They made ready for the attack.*

prepared **1** [Wa5;B] got ready in advance: *The chairman read out a prepared statement (which he had written before the meeting).* **2** [F3] willing: *I'm not prepared to listen to all your weak excuses.*

N233 adjectives : strong and powerful [B]

[ALSO ⇒ B91]

strong [Wa1] **1** having (a degree of) power, esp of the body: *She is not very strong after her illness. How strong is he?* **2** powerful against harm; not easily broken, spoilt, moved or changed: *He wore strong shoes. She has strong beliefs. He held the door back with his strong arm. The support of the minister puts him in a*

strong position in the election. **3** [E] of a certain number: *Our club is a hundred strong* (= has 100 people in it). **4** violent: *There was a strong wind last night.* **5** powerful or effective: *His was a strong argument. There is a strong smell of cats.* **6** unacceptable: *It's a bit strong to punish them for such a small thing.* **7** (esp of drinks) having a lot of the material which gives taste: *The tea is too strong. Mix my drink strong* (= not with much water). **-ly** [adv]

intense strong (in quality or feeling): *The cold was intense. She felt intense sorrow at/over what had happened.* **-ly** [adv]

dynamic often *apprec* (of people, ideas, etc) full of or producing power and activity: *She is a very dynamic worker. His dynamic ideas helped all of us.* **-ally** [adv; Wa4]

potent **1** (of medicines, drugs, drinks, etc) having a strong and/or rapid effect on the body or mind: *This wine is too potent for me; it makes me feel unsteady.* **2** *fml* (of arguments, reasoning, etc) strongly effective; causing one to agree **3** (of a male) sexually active **4** *lit* or *fml* having great power, esp politically **-ly** [adv]

powerful **1** very strong; full of force: *He is a very powerful swimmer; he has powerful arms and legs. The horse had a powerful kick. It was a powerful army.* **2** of great ability; easily producing ideas: *The great scientist had a powerful brain. Her imagination is too powerful.* **3** strong or great in degree: *Onions have a powerful smell. Electric current is often powerful enough to kill. He wears powerful glasses.* **4** having a strong effect: *The minister made a powerful political speech. This wine is very powerful.* **5** having much control and influence: *Powerful nations sometimes try to frighten weaker ones.* **6** having or using great working or electrical power: *It is a powerful car with a powerful engine.* **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

mighty [Wa1] esp *old use* & *lit* powerful; strong: *He was a mighty man and could lift whole trees.* **-tily** [adv] **-tiness** [U]

arbitrary **1** of power that is uncontrolled and used without considering the wishes of others: *The arbitrary decisions of the factory owners caused anger among the workers.* **2** often *deprec* decided by or based on personal opinion or chance rather than reason: *I didn't know anything about any of the books so my choice was quite arbitrary. Arbitrary statements have little value.* **-trarily** [adv] **-trariness** [U]

N234 adjectives : strong in special ways [B]

sturdy [Wa1] **1** strong and firm, esp in body: *The little boy was running on his sturdy legs. That's a sturdy table.* **2** determined in action: *They kept up a sturdy opposition to the plan.* **-ily** [adv] **-iness** [U]

robust **1** having or showing very good health: *a robust young man.* **2** *euph* & not *derog* (of

jokes, conversation, etc) rather rude; not suited to polite society **-ly** [adv] **-ness** [U]

tough [Wa1] **1** strong; not easily weakened; able to suffer uncomfortable conditions: *Only tough breeds of sheep can live in the mountains. He is a tough fighter.* **2** not easily cut, worn or broken: *This material is as tough as leather. This is very tough cloth.* **3** difficult to cut or eat: *What tough meat this is!* **4** difficult to do; not easy; demanding: *That was a tough lesson/job. We have a tough struggle in front of us.* **5** unyielding; hard: *The government has threatened to get tough with people who try to avoid paying taxes.* **6** rough; violent; disorderly: *They are tough criminals.* **7** *infml* too bad; unfortunate: *Tough luck! It really is tough that it had to happen to you of all people.* **as tough as old boots** **1** very tough: *This meat's as tough as old boots.* **2** very strong: *He's never lost a day's work through illness. He's as tough as old boots.* **3** unable to feel pity, sympathy, etc: *Our teacher's as tough as old boots so we never expect sympathy from her.*

stout [Wa1] **1** strong; thick; too solid to break: *He cut a stout stick to help him walk. He wore stout walking shoes.* **2** often *lit* & *pomp* brave; determined: *She is a stout supporter of the team. He put up a stout defence against them.*

stalwart esp *lit* **1** [B] strong, brave and loyal: *He is a stalwart supporter of the king.* **2** [C] a stalwart person: *He is one of our stalwarts.*

N235 nouns : strength and energy

[ALSO ⇒ B92, H80, N155]

strength **1** [U] the quality of being strong, or degree of being strong: *He can lift heavy weights because of his strength. What is the strength of this material? She has great strength of character.* **2** [U] something providing strength or power: *His personal knowledge is the strength of his argument.* **3** [U] force, esp measured in numbers: *They came in strength to see the fight. They were four men below strength. They need more guns to bring the army up to (full) strength.* **4** [C *usu pl*] a strong quality: *What are his strengths and weaknesses? on the strength of 1* because of: *I bought it on the strength of his advice.* **2** in the likelihood of: *I baked a cake on the strength of their coming.*

intensity [U] **1** the quality of being intense **2** an appearance showing strong feeling: *I was surprised by the intensity of her face as she looked at him.*

dynamism [U] **1** (in a person) the quality of being dynamic: *Harry is bursting with dynamism.* **2** *tech* a system of thought that explains everything in the world as the result of natural forces acting upon each other

potency [U] the quality or state of being potent; power: *He has lost his sexual potency. Medicines not stored away from the air will lose their potency.*

power [U] 1 strength and force, esp of armies, machines, etc: *They have great power over our lives.* 2 ability; authority: *It isn't (with) in my power to help them.*

energy 1 [U] (of people) the quality of being full of life and action; power and ability to do a lot of work: *Young people usually have more energy than the old.* 2 [C often pl with same meaning] the power which one can use in working: *You must apply/devote all your energies to this job* (= to concentrate your energy on it).

might [U] esp old use & lit power; strength: *He was a man of great might. The Greeks faced the whole might of the Persian Empire.*

N236 adjectives : not strong and powerful [B]

[ALSO ⇒ B93]

weak [Wa1] 1 not strong enough to work or last properly a (of parts of objects): *A weak wall like that can't hold up this house.* b (of organs of the body): *He has a weak heart.* 2 not strong in character: *He is too weak to defend his rights.* 3 not as well as usual in body esp after illness: *His legs felt weak. My head was weak after drinking the wine.* 4 containing mainly water: *I don't like weak tea.* 5 not reaching a good standard: *His work is rather weak.* -ly [adv] -ness [U]

fragile 1 easily broken or damaged: *This old glass dish is very fragile; it's in a very fragile condition.* 2 easily destroyed; not likely to last: *Their happiness was very fragile.* 3 a slight in body or weak in health: *The old lady looks very fragile.* b usu humor not in a good condition of health and spirits; weak: *'I'm feeling rather fragile this morning', he said; 'I must have drunk too much (alcohol) last night'.* fragility [U] the condition of being fragile

frail [Wa1] weak, esp because old and/or ill: *His health is frail. Her arms looked very frail and she couldn't lift the box.* -ty [U] frailty [U] the condition of being frail

feeble [Wa1, 3] 1 very weak: *His body grew feeble as the illness got worse.* 2 very unsatisfactory: *What a feeble story; do you expect me to believe it?* -bly [adv] -ness [U]

puny [Wa1] usu deprec small and weak; poorly developed: *She was a puny child, with puny little arms and legs, the result of lack of proper food. Puny man looks out at the universe.*

rickety weak in the joints and likely to break: *He was pushing a rickety old cart.*

impotent 1 having no power: *'Your army is impotent against mine!' he laughed.* 2 [Wa5] (of a male) sexually inactive -ly [adv]: *They watched impotently while he took the money.*

N237 verbs & nouns : strengthening and concentrating

strengthen 1 [I0] to gain strength: *His body*

slowly strengthened. 2 [T1] to make strong or stronger: *He strengthened the city walls.*

intensify [I0; T1] to become or to make more intense, stronger, more effective, etc: *The sound intensified. He intensified his demands for more money.*

intensification 1 [U] the act of intensifying 2 [C] an example or amount of this

shore up [v adv T1] to strengthen or give support to (something weak or in danger of falling); strengthen; keep from failing or falling: *The government took action to shore up farm prices. His foolish plans are shored up with even weaker arguments.*

reinforce [T1] to strengthen by adding materials: *She reinforced the coat by sewing pieces of leather on the elbows. (fig) He will reinforce the argument with facts.*

reinforcement [U] the act of strengthening by adding materials: *Her reinforcement of the coat was a success.*

concentrate 1 [L9; X9] to (cause to) come together in or around one place: *Industrial development is being concentrated in the south of the country. The crowds concentrated in the centre of the town near the royal palace.* 2 [T1] tech to strengthen by reducing the per cent of water in a solution (= a mixture of some substance and water) 3 [I0; T1; (on, upon)] to keep or direct (all one's thoughts, efforts, attention, etc): *I'm never able to concentrate so early in the morning. Unless you concentrate more on your work you'll be dismissed! She concentrated all her efforts upon succeeding at work.*

concentration 1 [U] the act of concentrating or being concentrated: *The concentration of industry in the south of the country angered the people in the north. His concentration is very good; when he is working he never hears anything else.* 2 [C usu sing] an act of bringing people, forces, etc together: *There has been a concentration of enemy forces near the river.*

focus 1 [in, out of U; C] the point where lines of light meet; the point at which the eye can see or an apparatus, etc can show a picture clearly: *The group of people was not in focus/was out of focus, so the photograph was not clear.* 2 [(the) U (of)] (fig) the part of great interest or activity: *The older part of the city was the focus of the trouble.* 3 [T1] a to bring to a focus: *The piece of glass focused the sunbeams on the paper, which began to smoke. (fig) He focused his mind on his work.* b to arrange (the glass in an apparatus) so as to obtain a clear picture: *You must focus the camera before you try to take a picture.* c to make (a picture) clear by doing this: *Did you enjoy the cinema?—No, the film wasn't properly focused.* 4 [I0 on] to be focused on: *The camera focused on the horse.* 5 [I0] infml to think clearly: *I'm tired; I just can't focus at all.*

exert [T1] to use (strength, skill, etc): *She couldn't open the door, even by exerting all her strength. My wife's been exerting a lot of pres-*

my job. Lord Rosendale
uence to help you. **exert**
ort: He never exerts him-

t of exerting: A certain
rtion is needed to keep
n example of this; effort:
eless; the door wouldn't

you may. **3** past of **can** def **3**: She could be very
unfriendly sometimes when she felt like it.

Fullness, heaviness, thickness, stiffness, roughness, etc

N250 adjectives : full

rengthening;

ause to) be weak in form,
illing down the next door
all. The illness weakened
weakens the sufferer. She
ss grew worse. **2** [IØ] to
ied: She asked so many
ve weakened and let her

ss] to make (someone)
'ed by his long illness.
ake (a liquid) weaker or
other liquid with it): He
oil. The water will dilute
'rength of the army was
untrained men. **dilution**
ig or the state of being

often pass] **1** to weaken
ig water: Waiter, this
en watered down! **2** (fig)
of (something): His poli-
n watered down so as not

make weak: That long
strength/his will to live.

/s : strength and

power, skill, knowledge.
ssary (to do something):
he isn't able to.—No; he
ftime/money, I was able
better/more able to help
st year. **enable** [V3] to
someone) (to do some-
rabled him to go for a
enablement [U]

be able to: Is he able to
(fml) No; he cannot.—
e can do it and so can I. I
ild be able to) do it, and I
not fml may: Can I go
u can. **3** be (able to) by
ry unfriendly sometimes

t of **can** def **1**: He could
't do it now. Could she
. **2** polite be allowed to;
I go now, please?—Yes;

full 1 [Wa2;B (of)] (of a container) filled with
liquid, powder, etc. as near to the top as is
convenient in practice: *They brought us out a
pot full of steaming coffee. Do you want a full
cup of tea, or half a cup? You haven't drunk any
of your tea; your cup's still full. Why does
grandmother always give you the fullest glass of
orange drink? It's rude to speak with your
mouth full (= while you are eating). This bag of
flour is only half full (= contains half the
amount that it can hold). (fig) My heart's too
full for words (= my feelings are too deep for
me to express them). Don't fill my cup too full.*
2 [Wa5;A;F (of, with, up)] (of a container)
filled to the top; holding as much as possible:
*You can't put any more liquid into a full bottle.
After the storm, the holes in the road were full of
rainwater. The bath's full up; someone forgot to
turn off the water. The drawer was full up with
old clothes. (fig) When he heard of his son's
wonderful success, his cup was full (= he was
contented; he had everything he could wish
for).* **3** [Wa2;A;F (up)] (of a space) containing
as many people, objects, etc. as possible;
crowded: *The train's full (up); there are no
seats left at all. I don't like travelling on a full
train. As this page is now full, I can't write any
more. The doctor has a very full day before him.*
(= he has work to do all the time). **4** [F of]
containing or having plenty (of): *The field was
full of sheep feeding on the new grass. This
work's full of mistakes; I've never seen work
more full of mistakes. Her eyes were full of
tears. Every time they meet us, they're full of
complaints about something.* **5** [Wa1;A;F
(up)] infml well fed, often to the point of dis-
comfort; satisfied: *I can't eat any more; I'm full
up. You ought not to go swimming on a full
stomach.* **6** [Wa1;B] complete; whole: *The full
truth of the matter can never be told. He's been
working here for a full year. Please write down
your full name and address. She's never
enjoyed a full measure of happiness (= as much
happiness as she deserved). This medical book
is very full on (= deals very thoroughly with)
the subject of children's diseases, but less full on
how to prevent them. She rose to her full height
(= stood up very straight and proudly). My
foot caught in the step, and I fell full length
(= flat on the ground). He was lying full length
on the bed (= stretched out). He has led a full
life (= has had every kind of experience); his
life has been full. The tennis player gave the ball*

the full treatment (= hit it as hard as possible. **7** [Wa5;A] the highest or greatest possible: *He drove the car at full speed through the town. Only a very good student can obtain full marks in such a difficult examination. Up on the hill, the full force of the wind can be felt. The hunting dogs were in full cry after the fox. The horsemen were riding over the plain at full gallop* (= as fast as they could). **8** [F of] **a** having the mind and attention fixed only (on); thinking and talking of nothing else (except): *Some people are too full of their own troubles to care about the difficulties of others. She's always full of herself. She's always full of her own importance. He's full of his coming journey to America. b* overflowing (with a feeling, quality, etc): *The children were full of excitement at the thought of their holiday. 9* [Wa1;B] (of a part of a garment) wide; flowing; fitting loosely: *This coat doesn't fit you well; it's too full in front. This dress has a full skirt. 10* [Wa1;B] (of a shape, a body or its parts) **a** often *apprec* round; rounded; fleshy: *Her face was full when she was younger; now it's much thinner. The woman had full round breasts. The moon's full tonight. b* *euph* fat: *This shop sells dresses for the fuller figure. 11* [Wa1;A] *apprec* (of colour, smell, sound, taste or substance) deep, rich and powerful: *He likes wine with a full body* (= having strength or substance). *This fruit hasn't got a really full flavour; it needs more sun on it. 12* [Wa1;F of] *lit* having had one's share and more: *He died in 1900, full of years and honours* (= after a long life in which he was greatly honoured) **13** [Wa5;A] possessing all the rights or qualities of the stated position: *Only full members of the club are allowed to vote at meetings. 14* [adv] very; quite (in the phr *full well*): *They knew full well that he wouldn't keep his promise. 15* [H] straight; directly: *The ball struck him full on the chest. The sun shone full on her face. fully* [adv] **1** [Wa5] quite; at least: *It's fully an hour since he left. 2* completely; altogether; thoroughly: *I don't fully understand his reasons for leaving. Is she fully satisfied with the present arrangement? She is a fully trained nurse.*

full up [Wa5;F] *not fml* completely full or filled: *The bus is full up; let's go.*

loaded [B] filled, esp with things: *The car is loaded; it's a fully loaded car, full of books, clothes and so on. He carried a loaded gun.*

laden *esp tech* **1** [B (with)] heavily loaded: *It was a heavily laden ship. The bushes were laden with fruit. 2 [F with] (fig) deeply troubled: *He was laden with sorrow.**

packed [B] (of a room, building, etc) crowded; full of people: *The hall was packed for the meeting last night. The speaker addressed a packed hall.*

crowded [B] **1** completely full; filled with a crowd: *They got onto a crowded bus, after walking in the crowded streets. 2* uncomfortably close together: *The passengers were crowded on the bus.*

occupied [Wa5;B] (of rooms, etc) full; being used: *That room is occupied; let's use this one.*

N251 adjectives : complete

[ALSO ⇒ N50]

complete **1** [B] with nothing missing or left out; fully finished: *The work is now complete; we can have a holiday. in- [neg] 2 [B] all of: *He read the complete book. 3 [A] very great: *It was a complete surprise to me to learn what she did. This is complete nonsense; I can't understand any of it! -ly* [adv] **-ness** [U]**

absolute [B] **1** *emph* complete: *He is a man of absolute honesty. You must have absolute trust in me. 2* having complete power: *An absolute ruler can do just as he pleases. -ly* [adv] **-ness** [U]

total [Wa5;B] *emph* full, complete: *The work was a total success/failure. The man is a total stranger to me! -ly* [adv]: *What he said is totally untrue!*

entire [Wa5;A] *often fml* complete: *He was there the entire morning. She bought an entire set of Shakespeare's plays. I am in entire agreement with you. -ly* [adv] **-ty** [U]

thorough **1** [B] complete in every way: *They made a thorough search of the house. 2* [Wa5;A] being fully or completely (the stated thing): *He is a thorough fool! The play was a thorough success. 3* [B] careful with regard to detail: *She is a thorough worker. -ly* [adv]: *After a hard day's work I feel thoroughly tired.*

utter [Wa5;A] *emot & emph* complete: *He is an utter fool and talks such (utter) nonsense* (= things which do not make sense)! **-ly** [adv]: *She must have been utterly mad to have done that!*

exhaustive [B] *often fml* thorough; dealing completely with a subject: *She will make an exhaustive study of it. He made exhaustive inquiries about her. -ly* [adv] **-ness** [U]

radical [B] (of changes) thorough and complete: *He made some radical improvements in the work. -ly* [adv; Wa4]

sweeping [B] **1** including many things: *They have sweeping plans for change. 2* not careful or correct in detail; too general: *What a sweeping statement to make!*

thoroughgoing [B] very thorough; complete in every way: *He is a thoroughgoing fool! The changes were really thoroughgoing.*

far-reaching [B] having effects on many things; sweeping: *They made far-reaching changes in the laws.*

outright **1** [Wa5;A] complete: *We won an outright victory. 2* [adv] completely: *He's been paying for that house for years; now he owns it outright. 3* [adv] completely and clearly: *She won outright. 4* [adv] completely and without delay: *be killed outright 5* [adv] (completely and) openly: *Tell him outright just what you think.*

N252 determiners, etc : all

[ALSO ⇒ J14]

all 1 [determiner] (shows the complete amount or quantity of, or the whole of an uncountable noun): *Not all food is good to eat. We worked hard all year.* 2 [determiner] (includes every similar or separate part of a group of countable nouns): *All children want presents on their birthdays. Please answer all questions on this list.* 3 [determiner] the greatest possible amount of: *The doctor came with all speed.* 4 [determiner] every; any: *We have lost all hope. He is a good musician beyond all doubt.* 5 [determiner] (being influenced or controlled by or as if by the stated characteristic, quality, or body organ): *I am listening carefully; I'm all ears. I can't play the piano today; I feel awkward and am all thumbs.* 6 [predeterminer] the complete amount or quantity of; the whole of: *He ate all his food. He ate it all. We walked all the way. We worked hard all last year. All that I have I will give.* 7 [predeterminer] every member or separate part of; everyone of: *All his children are girls. All questions must be answered. You must answer them all. They must all be answered.* 8 [predeterminer] every member or separate part taken together: *All the angles of a square are equal.* 9 [adv; H] altogether; completely; wholly: *The table was all covered with papers. I am all in favour of your suggestion. She sat all alone.* 10 [adv] to a very great degree; so much; much: (in the phr **all the**): *If we get help the work will get finished all the sooner. You will feel all the better for talking about it.* 11 [adv] for each side: *The score at the football match was three all; neither side won.* 12 [pron] everybody, everything, or everyone: *All of the food. All of the boys. All enjoyed themselves. We all had fun. He gave all he had. The laws apply to all. I have done it all. The doctor did all he could for the sick man. I brought all of them.* 13 [U] rare everything one possesses or considers valuable: *She gave her all for the good of the political party.* 14 [comb form] consisting or made only of (as in **all-wool**): *This is an all-wool dress.* 15 [comb form] of, for, or concerning the whole of: *It was an all-England football team. of all people* infml surprisingly; out of all the people who might be expected to be present, to be able to help, to be suitable, etc: *He knows I dislike him and yet he asked me, of all people, to help him. To see George, of all people, in the Ritz Hotel!* **all along** infml all the time: *I knew that all along.* **all but** almost; nearly: *I am all but ready.* (**not**) **all there** infml (not) having a good quick mind **all the same** infml even so; anyway: *You say the bridge is safe; I shall take care all the same.* **all the same to** infml not making any difference or causing any worry to: *If it's all the same to you; I'll turn the radio off. It's all the same to me whether you stay or go.* **all told** making the total; altogether: *There were 60 people at the party all told.* **all up** (with) infml at an end;

ruined: *It's all up with him now his business has failed.* **all in all** infml considering everything; on the whole, generally: *All in all we had a good time.* **and all** infml and everything or everybody: *All the fish may be eaten, head, tail, bones and all.* (**not**) **at all** (not) in any way: *I do not agree with you at all. Do you feel ill at all? Do you feel at all ill?* **for all** in spite of: *They could not open the box for all their efforts.* **for all one knows, cares, etc** infml as far as one knows, cares, etc: *For all I know he may well be innocent, but I really don't care.* **in all** making the total; altogether: *There were 60 people at the party in all.* **it was all one could do** (**not**) to infml it was very difficult (not) to: *It was all I could do not to laugh at his serious speech. It was all I could do not to cry.* **not at all** (an expression used in reply to an expression of thanks): *Thank you, it was very kind of you.—Not at all.* **not so/as good, cold, fast, etc as all that** infml not so very good, cold, fast, etc **once** (and) **for all** for the last time; finally: *Once and for all I must ask you to be quiet.*

whole 1 [Wa5;B] not divided into any parts: *He wanted the whole cake for himself.* **-ness** [U] 2 [Wa5;A] not less than all of: *Let's go there for the whole week. He told us the whole truth.* 3 [C usu sing (of)] the complete amount, thing, etc; all: *They walked over the whole of that area. He wants the whole of the cake for himself. We can't treat the group as a whole, but must pay attention to each member.* **wholly** [adv] fully: *I am wholly in agreement with you. It's a wholly new experience for us.* **as a whole, on the whole** generally: *The country as a whole is peaceful. On the whole I like his plan.*

lot [the GU (of)] infml all: *Did you do all the work/read all the books?—Yes; I did/read the lot.—Yes; the lot.* (usu deprec) *He told the lot of them to go; he didn't want to see them again.*

N253 adjectives : full-scale and wholesale

full-scale [Wa5] 1 [B] (of a model, drawing, copy, etc) of the same size as the object represented: *He made a full-scale model of an elephant, but he couldn't get it out of the room.* 2 [A] large; making use of all known facts, information, etc: *He's writing a full-scale history of 19th-century France.* 3 [A] (of an activity) of not less than the usual kind; not shortened, lessened, etc in any way; total: *The quarrel between the two countries nearly developed into a full-scale war.*

whole-hearted [B] with all one's ability, interest, etc: *You have my whole-hearted attention.*

wholesale [B] in too large, unlimited numbers: *They made a wholesale rush from the burning cinema. They gave us presents wholesale.*