

Definitions based on the *Oxford Basic American Dictionary for Learners of English*.**A**

absence *noun* a time when a person or thing is not there

absent *adj.* not there

advertising *noun* the activity or business of telling people about things to buy

agriculture *noun* keeping animals and growing plants for food

antiques *noun* old things that are worth a lot of money

archaeologist *noun* a person who studies the past by looking at objects or parts of buildings that are found in the ground

architecture *noun* the design or style of a building or buildings

Arctic *noun* the very cold land and countries in the most northern part of the world

armor *noun* metal clothes that people wore long ago to cover their bodies when they were fighting

army *noun* a large group of soldiers who fight on land in a war

arrogance *noun* A person who has arrogance thinks that he or she is better and more important than other people.

arrogant *adj.* A person who is arrogant thinks that he or she is better and more important than other people.

arteries *noun* the tubes in your body that carry blood away from your heart to other parts of your body

ash *noun* the gray powder that is left after something has completely burned

assistant *noun* a person who helps someone in a more important position

asteroid *noun* any of the many small, rocky bodies that go around the sun

astonish *verb* to surprise someone very much

astronomer *noun* a person who studies or knows a lot about the sun, moon, planets, and stars

B

bacteria *noun* very small things that live in air, water, earth, plants, and animals. Some bacteria can make us sick.

banned *adj.* not allowed, or not allowed to happen

bark *noun* the hard surface of a tree

batch *noun* a group of things

batik *noun* (1) a way of printing patterns on cloth using wax on the parts that will not have any color (2) a piece of cloth printed in this way

batteries *noun* things that give electricity. You put batteries inside things like toys, radios, and cars to make them work.

battle *noun* a fight between armies in a war

beautiful *adj.* very pretty or attractive

biome *noun* all the plants and animals that live in a particular place, for example in a forest or desert

blizzard *noun* a very bad storm with snow and strong winds

blog *noun* a personal record that someone puts on their website saying what they do every day and what they think about things

blood *noun* the red liquid inside your body

bodies *noun* objects, such as those in space or on Earth. Moons and planets are bodies in space.

bodyguard *noun* a person or group of people whose job is to keep an important person safe

border *noun* a line along the edge of something

bottled water *noun* water that is sold in a bottle

brief *adj.* short or quick

brilliant *adj.* with a lot of light; very bright

broadcast *verb* to send out sound or pictures by radio or television

butter *noun* a soft yellow food that is made from milk. You put it on bread or use it in cooking.

C

cactus *noun* a plant with a lot of sharp points, which grows in hot, dry places

canal *noun* a path that is made through the land and filled with water so that boats can travel on it

canned food *noun* food that is kept in a can

canvas *noun* a strong, heavy cloth used for making bags, tents, and sails, or for painting pictures on

capillaries *noun* the smallest tubes in the body that carry blood

carbon dioxide *noun* a gas that has no color or smell that people and animals breathe out

carpenter *noun* a person whose job is to make things from wood

cartoonist *noun* a person who draws cartoons

cash *noun* money in coins and bills

castle *noun* a large, old building that was built in the past to keep people safe from attack

catch *verb* to take and hold something that is moving

ceiling *noun* the top part of the inside of a room

cell *noun* the smallest part of any living thing. All plants and animals are made up of cells.

cement *noun* a gray powder that becomes hard like stone when you mix it with water and leave it to dry.

century *noun* a period of 100 years

chemicals *noun* solid or liquid substances that scientists study and use

cinema *noun* (1) a movie theater (2) movies in general

cinnamon *noun* a brown powder that is used to give flavor to sweet foods

citizens *noun* people who belong to a country or a city

city council *noun* a group of people who make the laws of a city and help to govern it

city hall *noun* the government of a city and the offices it uses

clay *noun* a kind of heavy earth that becomes hard when it is dry

coax *verb* to persuade someone to do something by talking to them in a calm and gentle way

coffin *noun* a box that a dead person's body is put in

collapse *verb* to fall down suddenly

combines *verb* joins; mixes two or more things together

comet *noun* a mass of ice and dust that moves around the sun and looks like a bright star with a tail

commerce *noun* the business of buying and selling things

common cold *noun* an illness of the nose and throat. When you have a cold, you often cannot breathe through your nose and your throat hurts.

complex *adj.* difficult to understand because it has a lot of different parts

concentrate *verb* to give all your attention to something

congested *adj.* so full of something that nothing can move

contest *noun* a game or competition that people try to win

contrast *noun* a difference between things that you can see clearly

convenient *adj.* (1) useful, easy, or quick to do; not causing problems (2) near a place or easy to get to

conversation *noun* a talk between two or more people

core *noun* the central part of an object

corner *noun* a place where two lines, walls, or roads meet

corporate farm *noun* a large farm that is owned and run by a company

countless *adj.* very many

craters *noun* large holes in the ground, caused by something large hitting them

cyclist *noun* a person who rides a bicycle as a sport

D

dead *adj.* not alive now

decide *verb* to choose something after thinking about the possibilities

decrease *verb* to become smaller or less, or to make something smaller or less

dentist *noun* a person whose job is to take care of your teeth

desert *noun* a large, dry area of land with very few plants

destroyed *verb* broke something completely so that you cannot use it again

determine *verb* to discover the facts about something

diameter *noun* a straight line across a circle, through the center

diaphragm *noun* the muscle between your lungs and your stomach that helps you to breathe

dictionary *noun* a book that gives words from A to Z and explains what each word means

difference *noun* the way that people or things are not the same, or the way that someone or something has changed

dinosaur *noun* a big wild animal that lived a very long time ago

disability *noun* a physical or mental condition that means you cannot use a part of your body completely or easily, or that you cannot learn easily

discover *verb* to find or learn something for the first time

discuss *verb* to talk or write about something in a serious way

disease *noun* an illness of the body in humans, animals, or plants

dishonest *adj.* A person who is dishonest says things that are not true, steals, or cheats.

disk *noun* a round, flat object

disorganized *adj.* badly planned; not put in order

disprove *verb* to show that something is not true

dissatisfied *adj.* not pleased with something

distance *noun* how far it is from one place to another place

distrust *verb* to believe that you are not able to trust someone or something

donated *verb* gave something, especially money, to people who need it

drab *adj.* dull and not interesting or attractive

dream *noun* (1) something nice that you hope for (2) pictures or events that happen in your mind when you are asleep

dreary *adj.* dull, boring, or depressing

drop back *phrasal verb* to move into a position behind someone else, because you are moving more slowly

drop by *phrasal verb* to visit someone who does not know that you are coming

drop off *phrasal verb* (drop someone off) to stop your car so that someone can get out; (drop something off) to deliver something, often on the way to somewhere else

drop out *phrasal verb* to leave or stop doing something before you have finished

duplicate *verb* to make an exact copy of something

dwelled *verb* lived or stayed in a place

E

earthquake *noun* a sudden, strong shaking of the ground

editor *noun* a person whose job is to prepare or control a book or a newspaper before it is printed

eighty *adj.* 80

emergency *noun* a sudden, dangerous situation, when people need help quickly

emperor *noun* a man who rules a group of countries (called an empire)

entire *adj.* whole or complete

environment *noun* (1) [the environment] the air, water, land, animals, and plants around us (2) the conditions in which you live, work, etc.

equator *noun* the line on maps around the middle of the world. Countries near the equator are very hot.

equipment *noun* special things that you need for doing something

estimate *verb* to say how much you think something will cost, how big something is, or how long it will take to do something

exaggerate *verb* to say that something seems bigger, better, worse, etc., than it really is

examine *verb* to look carefully at something or someone

excavate *verb* to dig in the ground to look for old objects or buildings that have been buried for a long time

exhale *verb* to let air out of your body by breathing

exhibition *noun* an object or a group of objects that are arranged in a museum or another place so that people can look at them

exotic fruits *noun* fruits that seem strange or interesting because they are grown in other countries

expand *verb* to become bigger or to make something bigger

explore *verb* to travel around a new place to learn about it

export *verb* to sell things to another country

F

fair *adj.* treating people in an equal way or in the right way

famous *adj.* known by many people

farmer's market *noun* a place where farmers sell food directly to other people

fascination *noun* the state of being very attracted to and interested in someone or something

favorite *adj.* Your favorite person or thing is the one that you like more than any other.

first-aid kit *noun* a set of medical equipment that you use to help someone who is hurt before a doctor comes

flashlight *noun* a small electric light that you can carry

flood *noun* When there is a flood, a lot of water covers the land.

florist *noun* a person who owns or works in a store that sells flowers

fluid *noun* a substance that can flow; a liquid

food label *noun* information on the outside of a box, can, or bag that tells you about the food inside it

force *noun* power or strength

fragrance *noun* a nice smell

fragrant *adj.* having a nice smell

frame *noun* a thin piece of wood or metal around the edge of a picture, painting, window, mirror, etc.

freight *noun* things that trucks, ships, trains, and airplanes carry from one place to another

freshwater *adj.* not salty; not from the ocean

funnel *noun* a tube that is wide at the top to help you pour things into bottles

G

galaxy *noun* a very large group of stars and planets

garbage collectors *noun* people whose job is to take away the garbage from outside other people's homes

gather *verb* to bring together things that are in different places

generals *noun* very important officers in the army

geography *noun* the study of the earth and everything on it, such as mountains, rivers, land, and people

gifted *adj.* very intelligent, or having a strong natural ability

glides *verb* moves smoothly and quietly

graduate *verb* to successfully complete a high school, college, or university degree

grassland *noun* a large area of open land covered with wild grass

gravity *noun* the force that pulls everything toward the earth

grief *noun* great sadness, especially because of the death of someone you love

grocery stores *noun* stores that sell food and other small things for the home

H

haggle *verb* to argue with someone until you agree about the price of something

haircut *noun* (1) when someone cuts your hair (2) the way that your hair is cut

hatches *verb* When a baby bird, insect, or fish hatches, it comes out of an egg.

headline *noun* the words in big letters at the top of a newspaper story

heart *noun* the part of the body that makes the blood go around inside

hero *noun* a person who has done something brave or good

horizontally *adv.* in a way that goes from side to side, not up and down

huge *adj.* very big

hurricane *noun* a storm with very strong winds

I

ignorance *noun* lack of knowledge or information about something

ignorant *adj.* not knowing about something

ignore *verb* to know about someone or something, but to not do anything about it

immense *adj.* very big

immune *adj.* If you are immune to a disease, you cannot get it.

independence *noun* being free from another person, thing, or country

independent *adj.* not controlled by another person, thing, or country

infect *verb* to give a disease to someone

influenza *noun* an illness like a very bad cold that makes your body sore and hot

ingredients *noun* the things that you use when you make something to eat

inhale *verb* to take air into your body by breathing

inland *adj.* in or toward the middle of a country

inner *adj.* inside; toward or close to the center

intelligence *noun* the ability to think, learn, and understand quickly and well

intelligent *adj.* able to think, learn, and understand quickly and well

interview *noun* a meeting when someone asks you questions about a subject

introduce *verb* (1) to tell an audience the name of the person who is going to speak, perform, entertain, etc. (2) to make somebody begin to learn about something or do something for the first time

introduction *noun* (1) the act of telling two or more people each other's names for the first time (2) the first part of a book or a talk which gives an explanation of the rest of it

investigate *verb* to try to find out about something

invited *verb* asked someone to come to a party, to your house, etc.

itch *noun* the feeling on your skin that makes you want to rub or scratch it

J

jade *noun* a hard, green stone that is used for making jewelry

journalist *noun* a person whose job is to collect and report news for newspapers, television, etc.

K

kneel *verb* to bend your legs and rest on one or both of your knees

knight *noun* a soldier of a high level who rode a horse and fought for his king a long time ago

knit *verb* to make clothes from thick cotton or wool thread (called yarn) using special, long needles

knot *noun* a place where you have tied two pieces of rope, string, etc. together

knowledge *noun* what you know and understand about something

knuckle *noun* one of the parts where your fingers bend or where they join your hand

L

landfall *noun* (1) an arrival on land (2) the contact of a hurricane with a landmass

landscape *noun* everything you can see in an area of land

landslide *noun* a sudden fall of earth, rocks, etc., down the side of a mountain

latest *adj.* the newest or most recent

law *noun* (1) a rule of a country that says what people may or may not do (2) all the rules of a country

layer *noun* something flat that lies on another thing or that is between other things

leopard *noun* a wild animal like a big cat with yellow fur and dark spots. Leopards live in Africa and southern Asia.

live *adj.* to be or stay alive

local *adj.* describing a place near you

lungs *noun* the two parts inside your body that you use for breathing

M

magazine *noun* a kind of thin book with a paper cover that you can buy every week or every month. It has a lot of different stories and pictures inside.

major *adj.* very large, important, or serious

manage *verb* (1) to be in charge of someone or something (2) to do something that is difficult

mansion *noun* a very big house

manta ray *noun* a large, wide, flat fish with a long tail that lives in warm oceans

marine park *noun* an area of water that is protected by the government so that the animals and plants that live there can be safe from humans

mass media *noun* organizations, such as newspapers, television, and radio, that give information and news to large numbers of people

matter *noun* all physical substances, or a substance of a particular kind

mayor *noun* the leader of a group of people who control a city or town (called a council)

members *noun* people who are in a group

meteorite *noun* a piece of rock from space that hits the earth's surface

microscope *noun* a piece of equipment with special glass in it that makes very small things look much bigger

mistake *noun* something that you think or do that is wrong

moon *noun* (1) the big object that shines in the sky at night (2) an object like Earth's moon that moves around another planet

mucus *noun* a sticky substance that is produced in some parts of the body, especially the nose

N

navigate *verb* to use a map or some other method to find which way a ship or other vehicle should go

news conference *noun* a meeting where a famous or important person answers questions from news reporters

newspaper *noun* large pieces of paper with news, advertisements, and other things printed on them

newsreels *noun* short films of news that were shown in movie theaters in the past

niece *noun* the daughter of your brother or sister

O

observatory *noun* a building where scientists can watch the stars, the weather, etc., using special instruments

orbit *noun* the path of a planet or an object that is moving around another thing in space

organic food *noun* food that is grown or made in a natural way, without using chemicals

outer *adj.* on the outside; far from the center

P

package *verb* to wrap something or put something into a box before it is sold or sent somewhere

paintbrushes *noun* brushes that you use for painting

pale *adj.* with a light color; not strong or dark

paleontologist *noun* a person who studies very old, dead animals or plants as fossils

paralyze *verb* to make a person unable to move all or part of their body

parrot fish *noun* a type of fish with bright colors that lives in warm oceans. A parrot fish has a jaw that looks like a bird's beak.

pastels *noun* (1) soft colored chalk, used for drawing pictures (2) colors that are pale and not strong

pastime *noun* something that you like doing when you are not working

patch *noun* a small piece of something that is not the same as the other parts

peasant *noun* a poor person who lives in the country and works on a small piece of land

peel *verb* to take the skin off a fruit or vegetable

perspective *noun* the way of drawing that makes some objects seem farther away than others

petition *noun* a special letter from a group of people that asks for something

photographer *noun* a person who takes photographs, especially as a job

pianist *noun* a person who plays the piano

piece *noun* (1) a part of something (2) one single thing (3) a single work of art, music, etc.

plantation *noun* a piece of land where things like tea, cotton, or rubber grow

playground *noun* an outdoor area where children can play, especially at a school or in a park

port *noun* a city or town by the ocean, where ships arrive and leave

power lines *noun* thick wires that carry electricity

president *noun* (1) the leader of the country in many countries of the world (2) the person with the highest position in an organization or a company

pretty *adj.* nice to look at

printing press *noun* a machine that is used for printing books, newspapers, etc.

process *verb* to treat something, for example with chemicals, in order to keep it, change it, etc.

prodigy *noun* a person (especially a child) who is unusually good at something

publisher *noun* a person or company that prepares books, magazines, etc., to be printed and sold

pulse *noun* the beating of your heart that you feel in different parts of your body, especially in your wrist

pumps *verb* forces a gas or a liquid to go in a particular direction

R

radio station *noun* a company that broadcasts programs on the radio or on television

raindrop *noun* one drop of rain

ravine *noun* a small, deep, narrow valley

reins *noun* long, thin pieces of leather that a horse wears on its head so that the person riding it can control it

relief *noun* the good feeling you have when you are no longer worried or in pain

reporter *noun* a person who writes for a newspaper or speaks on the radio or television about things that have happened

rescue worker *noun* a person whose job is to save people from danger

ribbon *noun* a long, thin piece of material for tying things or making something look pretty

rickshaw *noun* a small, light vehicle with two wheels mostly used in some Asian countries to carry passengers. A rickshaw is pulled by someone walking or riding a bicycle.

S

scenes *noun* (1) places where something happened (2) parts of a play or movie (3) what you see in a place

scrape *noun* an injury or a mark caused by rubbing against something rough

scratch *verb* (1) to move your nails across your skin (2) to cut or make a mark on something with a sharp thing

sculptor *noun* a person who makes shapes from materials like stone, clay, or wood

seahorse *noun* a small ocean fish that swims in a vertical position and has a head that looks like the head of a horse

search *verb* to look carefully because you are trying to find someone or something

sea turtle *noun* a large animal with a hard, round shell on its back that lives in the ocean

sedimentary rock *noun* a type of rock formed from sand, stones, mud, etc., that settles at the bottom of lakes or other bodies of water

shading *noun* the use of color, pencil lines, etc., to create light and dark areas of a drawing or painting so it looks real

shapes *noun* what you see if you draw a line around different things; the forms of things

shrimp *noun* a small animal with a soft shell and a lot of legs that lives in the ocean. It turns pink when you cook it.

shrink *verb* to become smaller or to make something smaller

signed *verb* wrote your name in your own way on something

sketch *noun* a picture that you draw quickly

skull *noun* the bones in the head of a person or an animal

sleeping bag *noun* a big, warm bag that you sleep in when you go camping

sleigh *noun* a large vehicle with pieces of metal or wood instead of wheels that you sit in to move over snow. A sleigh is usually pulled by animals.

sloth *noun* a South American animal that lives in trees and moves very slowly

smartphone *noun* a cell phone that is able to do some of the things a computer can do

snorkel *verb* to swim underwater with a short tube that a person can use to breathe through

snowfall *noun* the snow that falls on one occasion, or the amount of snow that falls in a place

social network *noun* a website that allows you to connect with friends, family, and people who share your interests

solar system *noun* the sun and the planets that move around it

soldiers *noun* people in an army

souvenirs *noun* things that you keep to remember a place or a special event

space *noun* (1) a place that is big enough for someone or something to go into or onto (2) an empty place between things (3) the area outside Earth's atmosphere where all the other planets and stars are

spacecraft *noun* a vehicle that travels in space

space probe *noun* a spacecraft without people that collects information and sends it back to Earth

special *adj.* not usual or ordinary; important for a reason

speck *noun* a very small spot, mark, or piece of something

speech *noun* a talk that you give to a group of people

speechless *adj.* not able to speak, for example because you are shocked or very angry

speedboat *noun* a small, fast boat with an engine

spoil *verb* to become bad to eat or drink

squeezes *verb* (1) presses something hard (2) goes into a small space; pushes too much into a small space

stained *verb* left a dirty mark, which is difficult to remove, on something

stars *noun* the small, bright lights that you see in the sky at night

steamship *noun* a ship driven by steam

stitch *verb* to use a needle and thread to repair, join, or decorate pieces of cloth

storm shelter *noun* a place that protects people or animals from bad weather

storm shutters *noun* wooden or metal things that cover the outside of a window to protect it from bad weather

street painter *noun* a person who draws pictures on streets or sidewalks, usually with chalk

street vendor *noun* a person who sells things on a sidewalk or street, especially in a city

string *noun* very thin rope that you use for tying things

sugar cane *noun* a tall tropical plant with thick stems that sugar is made from

suit *noun* a set of clothing worn for a particular activity

supplies *noun* things that people need, such as food, medicine, or fuel

surface *noun* (1) the outside part of something (2) the top of water

swallowed *verb* made food or drink move down your throat from your mouth

system *noun* a group of things or parts that work together

T

taiga *noun* a forest that grows in wet ground in far northern parts of Earth

take after *phrasal verb* (take after someone) to be or look like an older member of your family

take apart *phrasal verb* (take something apart) to separate something into the different parts it is made of

take down *phrasal verb* (take something down) (1) to remove a structure by separating it into the pieces it is made of (2) to write something that someone says

take in *phrasal verb* (take something in) to understand what you see, hear, or read

take over *phrasal verb* to get control of something or responsibility for something

take up *phrasal verb* (take up something) to use or fill time or space

talented *adj.* having a natural ability to do something well

teamwork *noun* the ability of people to work together

telescope *noun* a long, round piece of equipment with special glass inside it. You look through it to make things that are far away appear bigger.

temperate forest *noun* a forest in a part of the world that is not very hot and not very cold

terrible *adj.* very bad

texture *noun* the way that something feels when you touch it

thief *noun* a person who steals something

three-dimensional *adj.* having length, width, and height

thunderstorm *noun* a storm with a lot of rain, thunder, and flashes of light (called lightning) in the sky

tomb *noun* a place that is often underground where a dead person's body is buried

tornado *noun* a violent storm with a very strong wind that blows in a circle

tourist *noun* a person who visits a place on vacation

trachea *noun* the tube in your throat that carries air to the lungs

treasure *noun* a collection of gold, silver, jewelry, or other things that are worth a lot of money

tripped *verb* hit your foot against something so that you fell or almost fell

tropical rainforest *noun* a forest in a hot part of the world where there is a lot of rain

trunk *noun* the part at the back of a car where you can put bags and boxes

tsunami *noun* a very large wave in the ocean, usually caused by the sudden strong shaking of the ground (called an earthquake)

tubes *noun* (1) long, thin pipes for liquid or gas (2) long, thin, soft containers with a hole and a covering (called a cap) at one end

tuna *noun* a large fish that lives in the ocean and that you can eat

tundra *noun* the large, flat, Arctic regions of northern Europe, Asia, and North America where no trees grow and where the soil below the surface of the ground is always frozen

turn back *phrasal verb* to return the same way that you came

turn down *phrasal verb* (turn something down) (1) to say "no" to what someone wants to do or to give you (2) to make something produce less sound or heat by moving a switch

turn in *phrasal verb* (turn something in) to give your work to a teacher

turn on *phrasal verb* (turn something on) to move the handle or switch that controls something so that it starts

turn over *phrasal verb* to move so that the other side is on top; to move something in this way

turn up *phrasal verb* (turn something up) to make something produce more sound or heat by moving a switch

U

uniform *noun* a special type of clothing that some people in the same job, team, etc., wear

unique *adj.* not like anyone or anything else

universe *noun* (the universe) Earth and all the stars, planets, and everything else in space

unusual *adj.* If something is unusual, it does not often happen or you do not often see it.

V

vanilla *noun* a substance from a plant that gives a taste to some sweet foods

varnish *noun* a clear paint with no color, which you put on something to make it shine

vast *adj.* very big

veil *noun* a piece of material that a woman puts over her head and face

veins *noun* the small tubes in your body that carry blood to the heart

vertically *adv.* in a way that goes straight up and down, not side to side

victim *noun* a person or thing that is hurt, damaged, or killed by someone or something

virus *noun* a living thing that is too small to see but can make you sick

volunteer *noun* a person who says that he or she will do a job without being forced or without being paid

W

washable *adj.* Something that is washable can be washed without being damaged.

(the) Web *noun* the system that makes it possible for you to see information from all over the world on your computer

website *noun* a place on the Internet that you can look at to find out information about something

weigh *verb* (1) to measure how heavy someone or something is using a machine (2) to have or show a certain weight

wheat *noun* a type of grain that can be made into flour

whole *adj.* complete; with no parts missing

whole food *noun* food that is considered healthy because it is in a simple form and does not contain any chemicals

worries *verb* feels that something bad will happen or has happened