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Michael Rundell (Editor-in-Chief) and Gwyneth Fox (Associate Editor)

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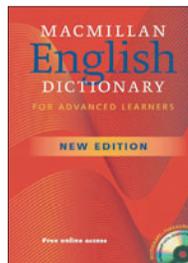


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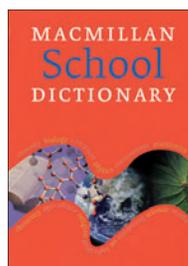
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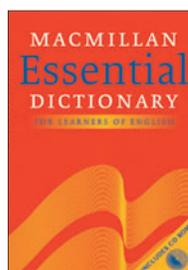
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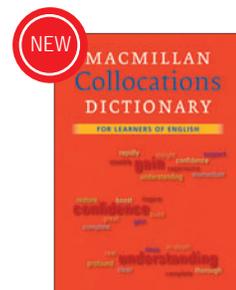
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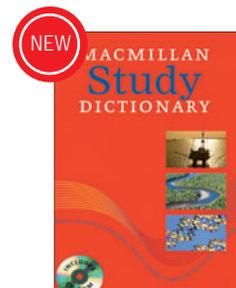
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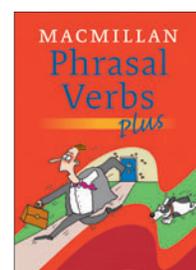
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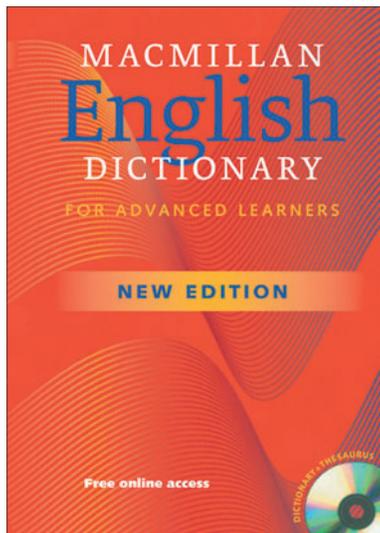
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Macmillan English Dictionary

A1 A2 B1 **B2** C1 C2

UPPER INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED



The second edition of the *Macmillan English Dictionary* contains a wealth of new material, while building on the innovative features that won it two prestigious awards.

The most frequently used 7,500 words in English – the ideal vocabulary size for an advanced learner – are printed in red, graded with stars, and explained with extra detail about how to use them.

MACMILLAN DIGITAL

- ✓ Interactive CD-ROM
- ✓ Resource site - see p 10
www.macmillandictionaries.com
- ✓ Online edition



The *Macmillan English Dictionary* is specially designed to help learners to **understand English, use English** and **be more aware of how English works**.

The many features include:

- Menus to take students straight to the right meaning
- Coverage of subject-specific vocabulary, World English and encyclopedic information
- Clear definitions, using the most common words
- Collocation and metaphor boxes, along with usage notes on style, grammar and varieties of English
- Vocabulary-building sections
- Language Awareness pages on idioms, pragmatics, word formation and much more
- A complete package of unique, carefully researched materials based on a detailed analysis of learners' own writing. Full-page writing sections and 'Get it right' boxes help students to become more confident writers in academic and professional situations. This material has been created following a two-year collaboration with the Centre for English Corpus Linguistics, led by Professor Sylviane Granger, at the Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium.

Collocation

Adverbs frequently used with **comparable**

- broadly, directly, roughly

The Scottish figures are not directly comparable.

Adjectives frequently used with **similar**

- broadly, fairly, quite, remarkably, roughly, somewhat, strikingly

Remarkably similar results have been obtained by studies in the United Kingdom and other countries.

Adjectives frequently used with **same**

- essentially, exactly, much, precisely, quite, roughly

They both contain exactly the same information.

1.3. Using the verbs resemble and correspond

You can use the verbs **resemble** and **correspond** to show that two or more points, ideas, or situations are similar:

It is possible to suggest that the two poets resemble one another.

Her views on capital punishment, immigration, and the trade unions resemble those of the right-wing tabloid press.

The techniques used with normal subjects give estimates that closely correspond to those derived from the clinical literature.

The political weakness of these states corresponded

Training courses operate in rural areas in the same way as in urban areas.

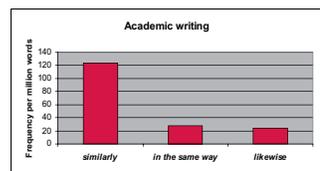
However, it can also be followed by **that** to introduce a clause:

Adverbs describe verbs in the same way that adjectives describe nouns.

The adverb **similarly** can also be used to modify an adjective:

A similarly complex picture emerges from the results in the metropolitan authorities.

Note that the adverb **similarly** is much more frequent than **in the same way** and **likewise**.



1.5. Using the preposition like, the conjunction as, and the expression as well

You can also use the preposition **like**, the conjunction **as**, and the expression **as well** to describe similarities.

answer and **answer to**: *I'll give you a definite answer tomorrow.* ♦ *He said nothing in answer to her question, but continued staring out of the window.*

1.1 To answer someone

reply to answer someone: *'I know,' he replied.* ♦ *They got up and walked out before I had a chance to reply.* ♦ *When asked where she was going, she replied that it was none of their business.* ♦ *I asked him how he was, and he replied with a shrug.*

respond to answer something that someone says, especially when they have challenged or criticized you: *'I'm telling you it's not true,' Martinez responded.* ♦ *'Is there anything you would like to do today?' he asked, but she didn't respond.* ♦ *How do you respond to the suggestion that this is all the government's fault?* ♦ **make a response or give a response** I called out to him, but he made no response. ♦ *Being an astute politician, she gave a careful response that completely failed to answer the question.*

Note: **Reply** and **respond** mean more or less the same as **answer**, but are a little more formal, and are used mainly in written English.

retort to answer someone immediately in an angry or humorous way: *'Mind your own business!' she retorted.* ♦ *Democrats retorted that the plan leaves millions of poor Americans out in the cold.*

The **Improve Your Writing Skills** section in the centre of the dictionary gives learners advice on writing in 18 areas that often cause difficulties. These pages deal with vocabulary and grammar problems, present graphs comparing the use of a particular word or phrase by native speakers and learners, and develop the skills they need to write effectively in different professional and academic contexts.

2.1 To argue with someone

quarrel to argue: *I hate quarrelling with you.* ♦ *They're always quarrelling over money.*

have a quarrel *We had the usual family quarrel about who should do the washing up.* ♦ *He'd had another quarrel with Jamie.*

fight to disagree in an angry way about something: *What are you two fighting about now?* ♦ *I don't want to fight over such a trivial matter.*

have a fight *All teenagers have fights with their parents.*

row to have a short noisy argument: *My parents never row.* ♦ *We rowed constantly about everything.* ♦ *He has rowed with everyone in the group.*

have a row *They had a row and he walked out.* ♦ *Our parents were always having rows about money.*

Note: **Row** is used mainly in British English.

bicker or squabble to argue with someone about things that are not important: *The children bickered constantly with each other.* ♦ *They have been bickering for months over the leadership.* ♦ *A group of boys were squabbling over the ball.* ♦ *The other parties are squabbling amongst themselves.*

fall out to stop being friendly with someone because

The **Expand Your Vocabulary** section in the centre of the dictionary – on the themes of movement, communication and emotions – helps learners to choose the right word at the right time, and to use it correctly and idiomatically.

Macmillan English Dictionary 2nd Edition British English

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American English edition

Full coverage of British and American English spelling, pronunciation and meaning

Menus in longer entries take users straight to the right meaning

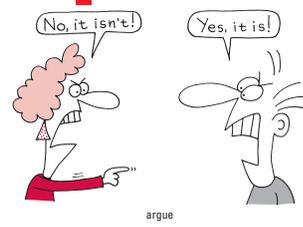
The most important words to be used for writing and speaking are highlighted in red and graded with stars

Clearly labelled subject-specific vocabulary

'Get it right' boxes at individual headwords help learners to anticipate mistakes that they might make and show them how to correct them. These boxes often also highlight common collocations, present alternatives to over-used words and point out the differences between words that are easy to confuse.

Extra collocation information based on data from the World English Corpus

Thousands of synonyms and antonyms

ardor /ɑː(r)də(r)/ the American spelling of **ardour**
ardour /ɑː(r)də(r)/ noun [U] 1 very strong feelings of admiration or determination = LOVE: He carried out the task with **ardour**. 2 literary very strong feelings
arduous /ɑː(r)dʒuəs/ adj extremely difficult and involving a lot of effort: an **arduous** task ♦ The journey was long and **arduous**. — **arduously** adv
are¹ /weɪk ə(r), strɒŋ ə(r)/ see **be**
are² /ɑː(r), eɪ(r)/ noun [C] a unit for measuring area in the METRIC SYSTEM. One are is equal to 100 square metres.
area /eɪrɪə/ noun ★★★
 1 subject/activity
 2 part of town/building
 3 part of surface
 4 size of surface
 5 in football
 1 [C] a particular subject, type of activity etc: Mathematics is a subject which has links with all other curriculum areas. ♦ What is your main area of concern? ♦ His particular area of expertise is engineering.
 2 [C] a part of a city, TOWN, COUNTRY etc: Bus services in rural areas are not very good. ♦ I went on a tour of Vancouver and the surrounding area. ♦ +of My family has lived in this area of England for years. 2a, a part of a building, space etc used for a particular purpose: You can park only in designated areas (=places available for this purpose). ♦ Visitors should wait in the reception area. 3 [C] a place on the surface of something such as a part of your body: Be sure to apply sunblock to sensitive areas of your skin.
 4 **area** or **surface area** [C/U] MATHS the amount of space that the surface of a place or shape covers. Area is expressed in square units, such as square kilometres or square miles: The surface area of the screen should be at least one square metre.
 5 **the area** [singular] the PENALTY AREA on a football field: He scored from the edge of the area.
area code noun [C] a DIALLING CODE
arena /sɪˈrɪnə/ noun [C] ★
 1 a large area that is surrounded by seats, used for sports or entertainment: a circus arena
 2 the people and activities involved with a particular subject or activity: Today, businesses must be able to compete in the international arena. ♦ Publishers must move into the electronic arena.
aren't /ɑː(r)nt/ short form 1 the usual way of saying or writing 'are not'. This is not often used in formal writing: We aren't going to Spain this year. 2 the usual way of saying or writing 'am not' in questions: I'm looking thinner, aren't I?
Argentine /ɑː(r)dʒɪˈtɪniən/ adj see Nationalities table
Argentinian /ɑː(r)dʒɪˈtɪniən/ noun [C] see Nationalities table
argon /ɑː(r)ɡɒn/ noun [U] CHEMISTRY a gas that is in the air and that does not produce a chemical reaction when mixed with other substances. It is sometimes used in electric lights.
argot /ɑː(r)ɡəʊ, ˈɑː(r)ɡɒt/ noun [C/U] words that are used by a particular group of people = JARGON: military argot
arguable /ɑː(r)ɡjuːəb(ə)l/ adj 1 if something is arguable, you are not completely certain whether it is true or correct: Whether good students make good teachers is arguable. 2 formal if a fact or statement is arguable, there is evidence that it is true or that people agree with it: The judge held that there was an arguable case of libel.
arguably /ɑː(r)ɡjuːəb(ə)lɪ/ adv ★ used for stating your opinion or belief, especially when you think other people may disagree: This is arguably the best club in town.
argue /ɑː(r)ɡjuː/ verb ★★★
 1 [I] if people argue, they speak to each other in an angry way because they disagree = QUARREL: Those girls are always arguing! ♦ +with Don't argue with me — you know I'm right. ♦ +about/over We used to argue over who should drive. 1a, [I/I] to discuss something with someone who has a different opinion from you: The programme gives people a chance to argue their ideas. ♦ +about/over They are still arguing over the details of the contract.
 2 [I/I] to give reasons why you believe that something is right or true: Successful economies, she argues, are those with the lowest taxes. ♦ +for/against Woolf's report argued for (=supported) an improvement in prison conditions. ♦ +that Reuben opposed the new road, arguing that it wasn't worth spending \$25 million to cut seven minutes off drivers' journey times. ♦ Several people stood up to argue against (=say they do not support) moving the students to the new school.
Collocation
 Adverbs frequently used with **argue** 2
 consistently, convincingly, forcefully, passionately, persuasively, plausibly, strongly
PHRASE **argue sb into/out-of (doing) sth** British to persuade someone to do/not to do something: I've managed to argue her out of going to the match.
 → TOSS2

argument /ɑː(r)ɡjʊmənt/ noun ★★★
 1 [C] an angry disagreement between people = QUARREL: a heated argument (extremely angry disagreement) ♦ without an argument They won't accept higher prices without an argument. ♦ have an argument (with sb) I've had an argument with my girlfriend. ♦ get into an argument (with sb) Every time we visit my family, he gets into an argument with my sister. ♦ +about/over I try to avoid arguments about money. 1a, a discussion or debate between people with different views, opinions etc: win/lose an argument We can win this argument if we present the facts clearly. ♦ +about/over The party is involved in an argument over economic policy.
 2 [C/U] a reason or set of reasons that you use for persuading other people to support your views, opinions etc: The Court of Appeal rejected her arguments. ♦ His main argument is stated in the opening chapter. ♦ +for/against There are powerful arguments against releasing them from prison. ♦ You could make an argument for working shorter hours.
Metaphor
 An argument is like a fight or war, with people attacking each other's opinions and defending their own.
 She tried to defend herself against his attacks on her ideas. ♦ She shot down his argument. ♦ That is an indefensible point of view. ♦ I decided to pursue another line of attack. ♦ We had a big fight last night, and I went home early. ♦ There was a lot of conflict over what to do next. ♦ They clashed over who to appoint. ♦ It was a real battle of wits. ♦ We did battle with the council about the plans. ♦ The crossed swords with them before. ♦ Tom is always the first to leap to her defence.
 → ANGRY, CRITICIZE, IDEA
argumentative /ɑː(r)ɡjuːməntɪv/ adj showing disapproval someone who is argumentative often argues or disagrees with people
argy-bargy /ɑː(r)dʒɪ ˈbɑː(r)dʒɪ/ noun [U] British informal noisy arguments
argyle /ɑː(r)ɡaɪl/ noun [C/U] a pattern on clothing such as socks or scarves, consisting of different coloured diamond shapes

Cross references to related words, phrases and illustrations for developing vocabulary

Over 1,000 illustrated words, many in two colour, with separate full-colour sections

Unique boxes show how many familiar words and phrases have metaphorical meanings

Simple, clear definitions are written using only 2,500 of the most common words

reasonable
for saying that you do not know ned, especially when you think son for it: For some reason, they in.
ason used for emphasizing that ere is a good reason for doing to us before, so give me one good believe him now.
ormal to have a personal reason for doing something that you are not going to discuss with anyone: I suppose she has her reasons for not joining us.
no reason spoken used when you do not want to tell someone why you have done something: 'Why did you ask him that?' 'No reason'.
the reason behind sth the real explanation or cause of something, which is not immediately obvious: The reasons behind his decision were never made public.
→ STAND

Get it right: reason
After reason, use the preposition for, not of:
X The main reason of poverty is unemployment.
✓ The main reason for poverty is unemployment.
X A doctor can't operate if he doesn't know the reason of the illness.
✓ A doctor can't operate if he doesn't know the reason for the illness.

Other words meaning reason
cause the reason that something happens or that you feel a particular emotion: The probable cause of death was drowning. ♦ Fifty years after the war, scholars still disagree about its causes.
excuse a reason you give in order to explain why you did something bad or wrong: She gave some excuse about being too sick to finish her essay.
explanation a fact or set of facts that tells you why something happened: There was no obvious explanation for his sudden disappearance.
grounds a word used in official or legal situations, meaning a good or fair reason for doing something: His repeated violence towards her was given as grounds for divorce. ♦ Permission for the march was refused, on grounds of public safety.
motivation someone's personal reason for doing something: The other runners' times were fast, and that gave me motivation to push even harder.
motive someone's personal reason for doing something, especially something dishonest or illegal: Police are unsure about his motive for the crime.
pretext a false reason you give for doing something in order to hide your real reason: He got into the warehouse on the pretext of making a building inspection.
purpose the goal that you want to achieve: The pu of Tuesday's meeting is to finalize the schedule.

reason¹ /rɪz(ə)n/ verb 1 [I] formal to make a par judgment after you have thought about the fac situation in an intelligent and sensible way: + (tt) reasoned that they would not dare leave before da to have the ability to think in an intelligent way sensible decisions, and form clear arguments.
reason² /rɪz(ə)n/ verb 1 [I] reason sth out a successful way of dealing with something by th about it = THINK OUT
reason with [I] reason with sb] to try to pe someone to do something by explaining why you think it is sensible: It's no use trying to reason with people like that.
reasonable /rɪz(ə)nəb(ə)l/ adj ★★★
1 someone who is reasonable behaves in a sensible and fair way = RATIONAL ≠ UNREASONABLE, IRRATIONAL: I'll come back when you're in a more reasonable mood. ♦ be reasonable Come on, be reasonable — I didn't mean to do it! 1a, used about people's decisions, actions etc: We have taken all reasonable precautions to avoid an accident. 2 if something is reasonable, there are good reasons for thinking that it is true or correct: It's reasonable to

Helpful example sentences, based on real-life spoken and written English, show how and when the word is used

Special boxes for building vocabulary, choosing the right word, British/American differences, and word origins

arrange for an event, meeting etc to take place at a different time = RESCHEDULE: The meeting has been rearranged for Tuesday. — **rearrangement** noun [C/U]
rear-view mirror noun [C] a mirror fixed inside the rear window of a car that the driver see what is happening behind it = picture → C
rearward /rɪə(r)wɔːd/ adj, adv formal in or towards the back of something
reason¹ /rɪz(ə)n/ noun ★★★
1 [C] a fact, situation, or intention that explains why something happened, why someone did something, or why something is true: ♦ for The police asked her reason for her visit. ♦ reason for doing sth Could you explain your reasons for choosing this particular course? ♦ why The reason why so many people caught the disease is still not clear. ♦ + (that) The reason these cars are so expensive is that they are largely built by hand. ♦ for a reason The woman cannot be named for legal reasons. ♦ give a reason Our candidate was rejected, but the council gave no reason for its decision. ♦ for the simple/obvious/good reason that We can't take you all, for the simple reason that there isn't enough room in the car.
Collocation
Adjectives frequently used with **reason** 1
compelling, good, legitimate, logical, main, major, obvious, primary, strong, valid, well-founded, wise
Verbs frequently used with **reason** 1 as the object
cite, explain, give, outline, pinpoint, provide, specify, state
2 [U] a good or clear cause for doing something or thinking something: ♦ for With plenty of orders coming in, there is reason for optimism about the company's future. ♦ reason to do sth It is there any reason to believe that she isn't telling the truth? ♦ there is every reason to do sth (=there are very clear reasons) There was every reason to expect that he would agree. ♦ with reason/not without reason He has refused to pay, not without reason. ♦ have no reason to do sth She has no reason to shout at you. ♦ see no reason/not see any reason (=when there is no obvious reason why something should happen) I can't see any reason for refusing their invitation.
3 [U] a way of behaving that most people accept as sensible: She had reason on her side. ♦ listen to/see reason He finally saw reason and gave me the gun. ♦ reason prevails (=wins) Fortunately, reason prevailed and she did not marry him. ♦ within reason (=according to what is sensible) Let your children have their freedom, within reason.
4 [U] the human ability to think in an intelligent way, make sensible decisions, and form clear arguments: His assessment of the situation is based on sheer emotion, not reason.
PHRASES all the more reason used for emphasizing that what someone has said or done is another reason why they should do a particular thing: 'But some of those kids can hardly read or write!' 'All the more reason why they should get the best education on offer.'
due to/for reasons beyond sb's control used for saying that you are not responsible for something that has happened, especially when you are sorry about it: Due to reasons beyond our control, all flights are suffering delays.
for no (apparent) reason without an obvious cause: Sometimes the dog would bark for no apparent reason.
for one reason or another used for saying that there is more than one reason for something: His travel articles are always, for one reason or another, fascinating.
for reasons best known to himself/herself etc used for saying that you do not understand why someone does something: George, for reasons best known to himself, was wearing a flower in his hair.
for reasons of economy/safety/security etc used for showing why a particular thing is done: The design was changed purely for reasons of safety.

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cite, explain, give, outline, pinpoint, provide, specify, state
2 [U] a good or clear cause for doing something or thinking something: ♦ for With plenty of orders coming in, there is reason for optimism about the company's future. ♦ reason to do sth It is there any reason to believe that she isn't telling the truth? ♦ there is every reason to do sth (=there are very clear reasons) There was every reason to expect that he would agree. ♦ with reason/not without reason He has refused to pay, not without reason. ♦ have no reason to do sth She has no reason to shout at you. ♦ see no reason/not see any reason (=when there is no obvious reason why something should happen) I can't see any reason for refusing their invitation.
3 [U] a way of behaving that most people accept as sensible: She had reason on her side. ♦ listen to/see reason He finally saw reason and gave me the gun. ♦ reason prevails (=wins) Fortunately, reason prevailed and she did not marry him. ♦ within reason (=according to what is sensible) Let your children have their freedom, within reason.
4 [U] the human ability to think in an intelligent way, make sensible decisions, and form clear arguments: His assessment of the situation is based on sheer emotion, not reason.
PHRASES all the more reason used for emphasizing that what someone has said or done is another reason why they should do a particular thing: 'But some of those kids can hardly read or write!' 'All the more reason why they should get the best education on offer.'
due to/for reasons beyond sb's control used for saying that you are not responsible for something that has happened, especially when you are sorry about it: Due to reasons beyond our control, all flights are suffering delays.
for no (apparent) reason without an obvious cause: Sometimes the dog would bark for no apparent reason.
for one reason or another used for saying that there is more than one reason for something: His travel articles are always, for one reason or another, fascinating.
for reasons best known to himself/herself etc used for saying that you do not understand why someone does something: George, for reasons best known to himself, was wearing a flower in his hair.
for reasons of economy/safety/security etc used for showing why a particular thing is done: The design was changed purely for reasons of safety.

Collocation
Adjectives frequently used with **reason** 1
compelling, good, legitimate, logical, main, major, obvious, primary, strong, valid, well-founded, wise
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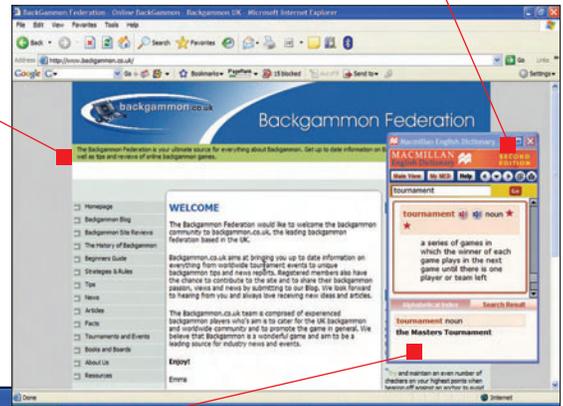
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MACMILLAN English Dictionary
SECOND EDITION

Search: backgammon

backgammon / ˈbæɡ.ɡæ.mən / noun [uncountable]

a game for two people played on a board using two dice and counters (=round pieces) in two colours

background / ˈbæk.ɡraʊnd / noun

1 [countable] the type of family, social position, or culture that someone comes from
 students from very different backgrounds
1a. the type of career, training, or education that someone has had
 His musical background helps him a lot in his job.
background in: We are looking for writers with a background in law.

2 [singular/uncountable] the general situation in which something happens
background of: The talks have been taking place against a background of increasing violence.
2a. information about what has happened in the past that helps you to understand the present situation
 Let me give you a bit of background about myself.
background to: We need to know the background to the case.
background information/knowledge/material: You'll need some background information on the local economy.

3 [countable] the part of a picture or pattern that is behind the main people or things in it. The main person or thing is in the **foreground**
 a red cross on a white background

PHRASE(S)
in the background

Comparing and contrasting 4

Each sentence has two options. Choose the correct word by clicking on it. Click on 'check' when you have finished. To see the answers, click on 'answers'.

Example
 They both did similarly in the same way well in their exams.

1 When Jonathan joined the football team, his brother did in comparison likewise ✓

2 They lived in the same way in because that their parents had done ✓

3 Peter had asthma all his life and his children suffered on the other hand similarly ✓

4 He is known as a careful driver. His wife, similarly by contrast, drives rather dangerously ✓

5 English is a relatively simple language. In comparison Likewise, Welsh is highly complex ✓

6 The introduction is very clear. By comparison On the other hand the conclusion is confused ✓

Score: 5 out of 6

Click on the **thesaurus** button next to every meaning to access a list of synonyms and related word sets

Thesaurus

Social Class and Attitudes to Class (35)

background noun
 the type of family, social position, or culture that someone comes from

beginnings noun
 someone's background, for example the social class that they originally came from, or their first job

beneath adverb, preposition
 if a particular action or activity is beneath you, you think that you are of a higher social class than people who do this

birth noun
 your status or position in society according to your family or the place where you were born

bourgeois adjective
 belonging to the class of people who are educated

background noun
 the type of family, social position, or culture that someone comes from

Social Class and Attitudes to Class (35)

The Upper Class
 (2) From an Upper Class Family (13)
 (2) People From an Upper Social Class (24)

The Middle Class
 (2) From the Middle Classes (7)
 (2) People From the Middle Classes (12)

The Lower Class
 (2) From a Low Social Class (7)
 (2) People From a Low Social Class (19)
 (2) Titles (61)
 (2) Changing Social or Professional Status (45)

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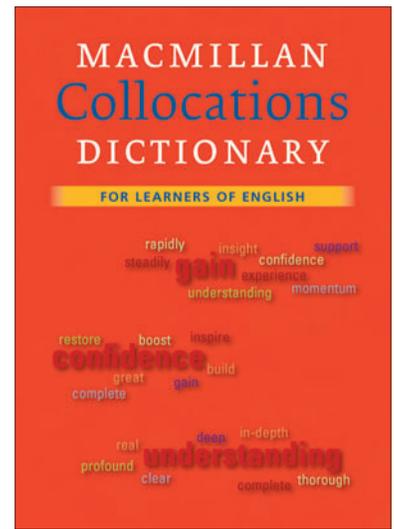
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- Usage boxes with grammatical notes, synonyms and alternative expressions



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Resource site - see p 10
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aspiration 6

enjoyable Whilst it has many positive aspects, alternative medicine also contains some very questionable practices.

range of aspect technical, practical, psychological, social, legal, ethical, social, environmental, spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, security Training focuses on technical aspects of safety.

v+N cover, discuss, explore, encompass, examine, address, highlight, illustrate, investigate, study, focus on, concentrate on, look at, deal with This is a two-day short course covering all aspects of product design.

aspiration N
something you want to achieve

adj+N in a particular area of life **political, spiritual, educational, personal** The KLA also developed uncompromising political aspirations.

for the future, longer-term, long-term My future aspirations are to exhibit my work here and abroad.

Type of aspiration high, lofty, noble, legitimate, vague, low, nationalistic, democratic Shane never really had high aspirations to be famous.

v+N raise, fulfil, realize, meet, achieve, reflect, satisfy, match, share, express, articulate, have, support A third of those interviewed cited a lack of experience as preventing them from achieving their aspirations.

and/or needs, hopes, expectations, ambitions, attainments, dreams, achievements More than 100 high-quality homes and flats are being built to meet the needs and aspirations of residents.

Usage Aspiration is almost always plural in all these combinations.

assassination N
the murder of someone famous or important

adj+N attempted, targeted, political, sectarian, planned Most actual or attempted assassinations in history have been the work of crazy fanatics.

attempt, plan, be behind, be accused of plotting the

work on someone

adj+N indecent, sexual, alleged, serious, violent, unprovoked, physical, brutal, vicious, criminal Police are also investigating another incident of indecent assault on a young girl.

v+N commit, witness, investigate, suffer, report, convict sb of, accuse sb of, arrest sb for, experience, charge sb with Drugs are now often being used to commit sexual assault. They were convicted of common assault and gaoled for three months.

2 a military attack

adj+N intended to cause a lot of damage all-out, full-scale, relentless, direct, massive, devastating, fierce They launched an all-out assault on the enemy.

a particular type of assault amphibious, airborne, military, air, infantry, ground

v+N start an assault launch, mount, plan, lead

not be killed/destroyed in an assault withstand, repulse, repel, resist, survive

be attacked come under, be under

3 strong criticism

adj+N verbal, relentless, ferocious, savage, furious Lenin and his comrades launched a ferocious assault on the economists.

v+N launch, mount, unleash Ricky Gervais has launched a new assault on the state of British comedy, claiming it doesn't match up to American standards.

assault v
attack someone violently

adv+V indecently, sexually, physically, violently, brutally, seriously, viciously, verbally One assistant was physically assaulted.

assemble v
1 bring people or things together

v+N people team, cast, squad, army, coalition, panel

objects/information collection, portfolio, evidence, material, data

adv+V slowly/carefully painstakingly, carefully, gradually He has painstakingly assembled a team of people with great expertise and skills.

quickly/carelessly hastily, quickly, hurriedly, rapidly They hastily assembled a cast for the new play.

2 come together in a group

n+V crowd, congregation, team, crew, guests, army, throng A large crowd assembled and waited in see if there were any survivors.

adv+V hastily, hurriedly, spontaneously, quickly The following day, news of his resignation prompted another mass meeting, which assembled spontaneously.

assembly N
a group or meeting of people

v+N hold an assembly hold, convene, call, stage The great national assembly was held in August.

elect an assembly elect, elect sb to The assembly was elected in 1992. Only 10 women were elected to the assembly.

attend an assembly attend, go to, come to We attended assemblies at two of the schools.

end an assembly dissolve, suspend, abolish The Pope was afraid, and Dec. 18, 1451, he sent a bull to Cardinal Cesarini dissolving the assembly.

speech to an assembly address, speak to, report to, present sth to The Secretary of State accepted an early invitation to address the Assembly. Consider whether any changes are needed and report to the Assembly. The document presented to the Assembly in mid-December is based on incomplete data.

N+V meet, sit The Assembly meets today in a state of concern and confusion.

adj+N regional, legislative, unselected.

Headwords in red

Examples show the collocations being used in context

Notes to give you specific grammar information

Notes to tell you about alternative ways of saying something

Definitions for each new meaning of the headword

Relationship between headword and collocate made clear

leadership, position, role Upon retiring he embarked upon a couple of coaching stints in Greece before assuming his current position in 2001.

assumption N
something you consider likely to be true

adj+N basic, fundamental This book challenges basic assumptions about road travel and calls on the government to step in before it is too late.

false, false, mistaken, incorrect, faulty, questionable, erroneous Policy has often been based on the false assumption that adults learn foreign languages in the same way that a child learns its native tongue.

reasonable Is this a reasonable assumption for me to make, do you think?

v+N make an assumption make Probably the most important assumptions made in the projections are about future levels of migration.

question an assumption challenge, question, test, examine There is plenty of scope for challenging long-held beliefs and questioning assumptions about the right way to do things.

not accept an assumption contradict, reject Even if we reject this assumption, he is right that there are two clear ways to explain the phenomena.

N+V underlie, underpin, be based on Dave critically evaluated the assumptions underlying this approach.

You can also say What you do or decide something 'on the assumption that'. We accepted the proposal on the assumption that they would pay the start-up costs.

assurance N
1 a statement made to remove doubt about something

v+N ask for assurance seek, want, demand, require There are around ten countries from whom we are seeking such assurances.

give assurances give, provide, offer The procedures and equipment should be monitored with sufficient frequency to provide assurance that the process is working well.

get assurance welcome, accept, have, obtain, receive We welcome their assurance that the document does not represent University policy.

adj+N in writing spoken written, verbal They have given a written assurance that introducing the new working arrangements will not mean a reduction of staff.

strong categorical, absolute, repeated, unconditional They gave an unconditional assurance that the law would be changed.

not convincing bland Bland assurances that all work is carried out with integrity and objectivity will not suffice.

2 the fact of being very confident or certain

adj+N great, complete, quiet, calm To add to an excellent technique, she moves beautifully and dances with charm and calm assurance.

astonishment N
very great surprise

adj+N utter, great, utmost, complete, absolute Raymond was staring at us in absolute astonishment.

v+N express, cause In legal circles throughout the world, the recognition of the rebel forces caused great astonishment and was condemned.

n+of+N gasp, exclamation, look, expression It was a comment that caused gasps of astonishment around the chamber.

v+in+N gasp, stare, gaze, watch We both stood gazing in astonishment.

astute ADJ
good at judging situations and people quickly

adv+ADJ in a particular way **politically, commercially, tactically, financially, technically, psychologically** We pride ourselves on being commercially astute, responsive and approachable.

v+ exceptionally, very, remarkably, particularly He is a very astute player and tactically really aware.

ADJ+ person businessman, observer, businesswoman, investor, politician James was an astute businessman who rose to become a leading figure in Darwin at that time.

action observation, move, analysis There are many astute observations about the human condition.

asylum N
the right to stay somewhere

v+N ask for asylum seek, apply for He left a good business in England.

give asylum grant, give We will continue to give asylum to genuine refugees and never play politics with immigration.

refuse asylum refuse, deny He has been in England for four months and has already been refused asylum and is in the process of appeal.

adj+N political, temporary She claimed political asylum on her arrival in the country.

N+ seeker, claim, applicant, application Violet is an asylum seeker who fled her native land after her husband and brother were murdered.

atmosphere N
the mood that exists in a place

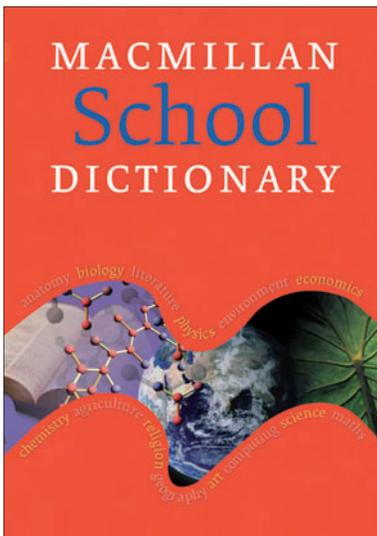
adj+N friendly, friendly, homely, convivial, intimate, cosy, warm A dedicated area especially for children enhances the welcoming and friendly, family atmosphere.

pleasant; making you feel relaxed relaxing, laid-back, peaceful, relaxed, informal With its laid-back atmosphere and very reasonable prices, Broadmead ski resort is an ideal family winter destination.

exciting lively, electric, vibrant Everyone enjoyed the lively atmosphere and good food.

unpleasant claustrophobic, tense The lush photography and extreme close-ups add to the effective claustrophobic atmosphere.

v+N create/add to an atmosphere create,



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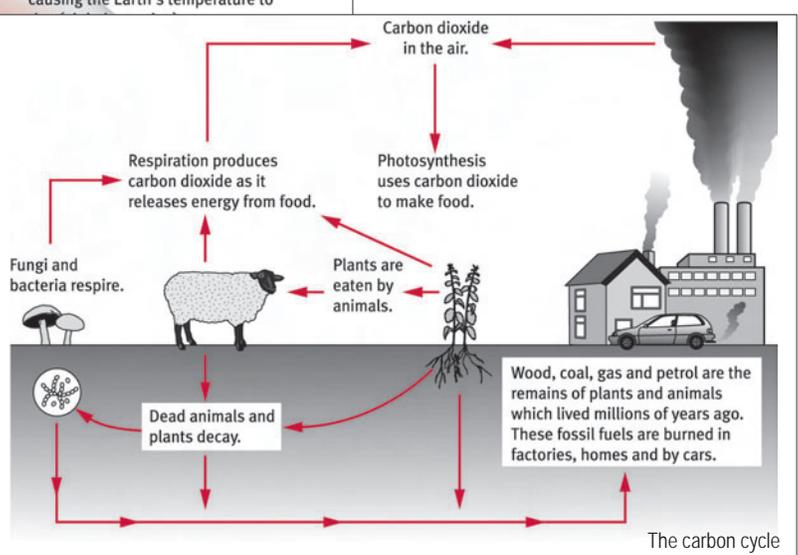
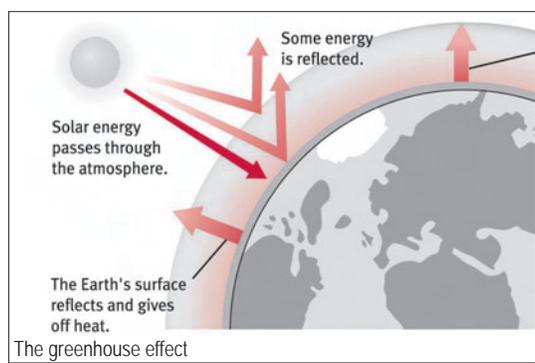
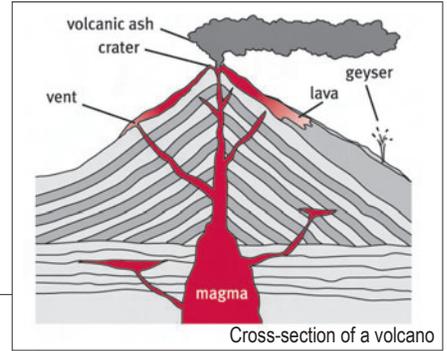
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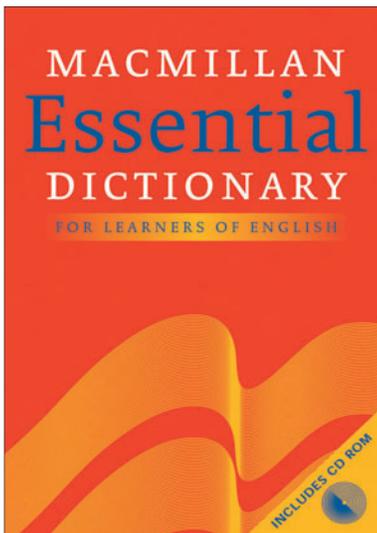
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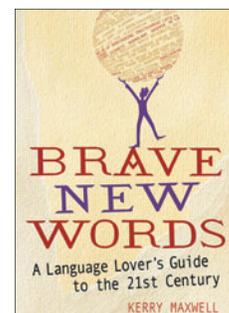


Brave New Words

A Language Lover's Guide to the 21st Century

Kerry Maxwell

An introduction to more than 200 of the latest additions to the ever-expanding English language, from the author of the Macmillan Dictionary website's BuzzWord. Entries include *denture venturer* (the older adventure traveller), *blamestorming* (using a meeting to discuss who is responsible when something has gone wrong) and *al desko* (eating at your desk at work due to immense workloads). This is an excellent cultural commentary on both changes in the English language and life in the 21st century. It provides a fun gift, and an interesting talking point.



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