

New

Oxford Dictionary of ENGLISH



DIVERSITY
SERVICES



THE WORLD'S MOST TRUSTED DICTIONARIES

Oxford Dictionary of English

SECOND EDITION, REVISED

FIRST EDITION
EDITED BY

Judy Pearsall
Patrick Hanks

SECOND EDITION
EDITED BY

Catherine Soanes
Angus Stevenson

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.

It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi

Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi

New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in

Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France Greece

Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan South Korea Poland Portugal

Singapore Switzerland Thailand Turkey Ukraine Vietnam

Oxford is a registered trade mark of Oxford University Press

in the UK and in certain other countries

© Oxford University Press 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005

Database right Oxford University Press (makers)

First edition 1998

Thumb index edition first published 1999

Reissued 2001

Second edition 2003

Second edition (revised) 2005

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press,
or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed with the appropriate
reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction
outside the scope of the above should be sent to the Rights Department,
Oxford University Press, at the address above

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Data available

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Data available

ISBN 0-19-861057-2

ISBN 978-0-19-861057-1

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Designed by Andrew Boag, Boag Associates, London

Typeset in Swift and Arial

by Interactive Sciences Ltd.

Printed in Italy by Legoprint S.p.A.

■ a mark on a letter or word to indicate pitch, stress, or vowel quality: *a circumflex accent*. ■ Music an emphasis on a particular note or chord.

3 [in sing.] a special or particular emphasis: *the accent is on participation*.

■ a feature which gives a distinctive visual emphasis to something.

► **verb** /æk'sent/ [with obj.] emphasize (a particular feature): *fabrics which accent the background colours in the room*.

■ Music play (a note or beat) with emphasis.

DERIVATIVES **accentual** adjective.

ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'intonation'); from Latin *accentus* 'tone, signal, or intensity' (from *ad-* 'to' + *cantus* 'song'), translating Greek *prosōidia* 'a song sung to music, intonation'.

accented ► **adjective** **1** spoken with or characterized by a particular accent: *he spoke in slightly accented English*.

2 (of a word or syllable) stressed.

accentor /æk'sentə/ ► **noun** a small Eurasian songbird with generally drab-coloured plumage.

● Family *Prunellidae* and genus *Prunella*: several species, including the duncock.

ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from late Latin, from *ad-* 'to' + *cantor* 'singer'.

accentuate /æk'sentʃə, -tjə-/ ► **verb** [with obj.] make more noticeable or prominent: *his jacket unfortunately accentuated his paunch*.

ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: from medieval Latin *accentuat-* 'accented', from the verb *accentuare*, from *accentus* 'tone' (see **ACCENT**).

accentuation ► **noun** [mass noun] the action or fact of accentuating or of being accentuated.

■ the pattern of relative prominence of syllables in a phrase or utterance.

ORIGIN late 15th cent.: in early use from medieval Latin *accentuatiō(n)*; in later use (early 19th cent.) from **ACCENTUATE**.

accept ► **verb** [with obj.] **1** consent to receive or undertake (something offered): *he accepted a pen as a present* | *she accepted a temporary post as a clerk*.

■ give an affirmative answer to (an offer or proposal): *say yes to*; *he would accept their offer and see what happened* | [no obj.] *Tim offered Brian a lift home and he accepted*.

■ dated say yes to a proposal of marriage from (a man). ■ receive as adequate, valid, or suitable: *the college accepted her as a student* | *credit cards are widely accepted*. ■ regard favourably or with approval; welcome: *the Irish never accepted him as one of them*. ■ (of a thing) be designed to allow (something) to be inserted or applied: *vending machines that accepted 100-yen coins for cans of beer*.

2 believe or come to recognize (a proposition) as valid or correct: *this tentative explanation came to be accepted by the men* | [with clause] *it is accepted that ageing is a continuous process* | [as adj.] *accepted* he wasn't handsome in the accepted sense.

■ take upon oneself (a responsibility or liability); acknowledge: *Jenkins is willing to accept his responsibility* | [with clause] *he accepts that he made a mistake*.

3 tolerate or submit to (something unpleasant or undesired): *they accepted the need to cut overheads*.

DERIVATIVES **accepter** noun.

ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin *acceptare*, frequentative of *accipere* 'take something to oneself', from *ad-* 'to' + *capere* 'take'.

acceptable ► **adjective** **1** able to be agreed on; suitable: *the electoral arrangements must be acceptable to the people*.

■ moderately good; satisfactory: *an acceptable substitute for champagne*. ■ pleasing; welcome: *some coffee would be most acceptable*.

2 able to be tolerated or allowed: *pollution in the city had reached four times the acceptable level*.

PHRASES **the acceptable face of** — the tolerable manifestation or aspect of (something usually considered suspect or immoral): *the film's breezy domesticity is the acceptable face of sentimental guff*.

DERIVATIVES **acceptability** noun, **acceptably** adverb.

ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French, from late Latin *acceptabilis*, from *acceptare* (see **ACCEPT**).

acceptance ► **noun** [mass noun] **1** the action of consenting to receive or undertake something offered: *charges involving the acceptance of bribes*.

■ [count noun] a draft or bill or exchange that is accepted by being signed: *a banker's acceptance*.

2 the process or fact of being received as adequate, valid, or suitable: *you must wait for acceptance into the village*.

3 agreement with or belief in an idea or explanation: *acceptance of the teaching of the Church*.

■ willingness to tolerate a difficult situation: *a mood of resigned acceptance*.

ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from Old French, from *accepter* (see **ACCEPT**).

acceptant ► **adjective** (**acceptant of**) rare willingly accepting (something).

ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from French, 'accepting', present participle of *accepter*.

acceptation /ˌæksep'teɪʃ(ə)n/ ► **noun** a particular sense or the generally recognized meaning (**common acceptation**) of a word or phrase.

ORIGIN late Middle English (originally in the sense 'favourable reception, approval': from late Latin *acceptatiō(n)*, from the verb *acceptare* (see **ACCEPT**). The current sense dates from the early 17th cent.

acceptor ► **noun** a person or thing that accepts something, in particular:

■ Chemistry an atom or molecule which is able to bind to or accept an electron or other species. ■ Physics such an atom forming a positive hole in a semiconductor.

access ► **noun** **1** [mass noun] (often **access to**) the means or opportunity to approach or enter a place: *the staircase gives access to the top floor* | *wheelchair access*.

■ the right or opportunity to use or benefit from something: *do you have access to a computer?* | *awards to help people gain access to training*. ■ the right or opportunity to approach or see someone: *we were denied access to our grandson*.

2 the process of obtaining or retrieving information stored in a computer's memory.

■ [as modifier] denoting broadcasting produced by minority and specialist interest groups, rather than by professionals: *access television*.

3 [in sing.] literary an attack or outburst of an emotion: *I was suddenly overcome with an access of rage*.

► **verb** [with obj.] **1** approach or enter (a place): *single rooms have private facilities accessed via the balcony*.

2 obtain or retrieve (computer data or a file).

ORIGIN Middle English (in the sense 'sudden attack of illness'): from Latin *accessus*, from the verb *accidere* 'to approach' (see **ACCIDE**). Sense **1** is first recorded in the early 17th cent.

accessary ► **noun** & **adjective** variant spelling of **ACCESSORY**.

access charge (also **access fee**) ► **noun** a charge made for the use of computer or local telephone-network facilities.

access course ► **noun** Brit. an educational course enabling those without traditional qualifications to become eligible for higher education.

accessible ► **adjective** **1** (of a place) able to be reached or entered: *the building has been made accessible to disabled people*.

■ able to be easily obtained or used: *making learning opportunities more accessible to adults*. ■ easily understood or appreciated: *an accessible account of his theories*.

2 (of a person, especially one in a position of authority) friendly and easy to talk to; approachable: *he is more accessible than most tycoons*.

DERIVATIVES **accessibility** noun, **accessibly** adverb.

ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin *accessibilis*, from Latin *access-* 'approached', from the verb *accidere* (see **ACCIDE**).

accession ► **noun** **1** [mass noun] the attainment or acquisition of a position of rank or power: *the Queen's accession to the throne*.

■ the action or process of formally joining or being accepted by an institution or group: *the accession of Spain and Portugal to the EU*. ■ the formal acceptance of a treaty or agreement: *accession to the Treaty of Rome was effected in 1971*.

2 a new item added to an existing collection of books, paintings, or artefacts.

■ an amount added to an existing quantity of something.

► **verb** [with obj.] record the addition of (a new item) to a library, museum, or other collection.

ORIGIN late 16th cent. (in the general sense 'something added'): from Latin *accessiō(n)*, from the verb *accidere* 'approach, come to' (see **ACCIDE**).

accessorize (also **accessorise**) ► **verb** [with obj.] provide (a garment) with a fashion accessory: *sequined catsuits were accessorized with cork-heeled shoes*.

accessory ► **noun** (pl. **accessories**) **1** a thing which can be added to something else in order to make it more useful, versatile, or attractive: *optional accessories include a battery charger and shoulder strap*.

■ a small article or item of clothing carried or worn to complement a garment or outfit: *she wore the suit with perfectly matching accessories—hat, bag, shoes*.

2 (also **accessary**) Law someone who gives assistance to the perpetrator of a crime without taking part in it: *she was charged as an accessory to murder*.

► **adjective** chiefly technical contributing to or aiding an activity or process in a minor way; subsidiary or supplementary: *functionally the maxillae are a pair of accessory jaws*.

PHRASES **accessory before (or after) the fact** Law, dated a person who incites or assists someone to commit an arrestable offence (or knowingly aids someone who has committed such an offence).

DERIVATIVES **accessorial** adjective (chiefly Law).

ORIGIN late Middle English: from medieval Latin *accessorius* 'additional thing', from Latin *access-* 'increased', from the verb *accidere* (see **ACCIDE**).

accessory cell ► **noun** Physiology any of various cells of the immune system that interact with T lymphocytes in the initiation of the immune response.

accessory mineral ► **noun** Geology a constituent mineral present in small quantity and not taken into account in identifying a rock.

accessory nerve ► **noun** Anatomy each of the eleventh pair of cranial nerves, supplying certain muscles in the neck and shoulder.

acciaccatura /əˈtʃakəˈtʃoʊrə/ ► **noun** (pl. **acciaccaturas** or **acciaccature**) Music a grace note performed as quickly as possible before an essential note of a melody.

ORIGIN Italian, from *acciaccare* 'to crush'.

accidence /ˈæksɪd(ə)n(ə)s/ ► **noun** [mass noun] dated the part of grammar that deals with the inflections of words.

ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from late Latin *accidentia* (translation of Greek *παρεπόμενα* 'things happening alongside'), neuter plural of the present participle of *accidere* 'happen' (see **ACCIDENT**).

accident ► **noun** **1** an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury: *he had an accident at the factory* | [mass noun] *if you are unable to work owing to accident or sickness*.

■ a crash involving road or other vehicles: *four people were killed in a road accident*. ■ euphemistic an incidence of incontinence by a child or animal.

2 an event that happens by chance or that is without apparent or deliberate cause: *the pregnancy was an accident* | *it is no accident that Manchester has produced more than its fair share of professional comics*.

■ (mass noun) the working of fortune; chance: *nomadic hunters probably ended up on the new continent by accident*.

3 Philosophy (in Aristotelian thought) a property of a thing which is not essential to its nature.

PHRASES **accident and emergency** Brit. a hospital department concerned with the provision of immediate treatment to people who are seriously injured in an accident or who are suddenly taken seriously ill. **an accident waiting to happen** informal a potentially disastrous situation, typically caused by negligent or faulty procedures. **accidents will happen in the best regulated families** proverb however careful you try to be, it is inevitable that some unfortunate or unforeseen events will occur: *problems like these should not occur, but accidents will happen*.

ORIGIN late Middle English (in the general sense 'an event'): via Old French from Latin *accident-* 'happening', from the verb *accidere*, from *ad-* 'towards, to' + *cadere* 'to fall'.

accidental ► **adjective** **1** happening by chance, unintentionally, or unexpectedly: *a verdict of accidental death* | *the damage might have been accidental*.

2 incidental; subsidiary: *the location is accidental and contributes nothing to the poem*.

3 Philosophy (in Aristotelian thought) relating to or denoting properties which are not essential to a thing's nature.

► **noun** **1** Music a sign indicating a momentary departure from the key signature by raising or lowering a note.

2 Ornithology another term for **VAGRANT**.

DERIVATIVES **accidentally** adverb.

ORIGIN late Middle English (in senses **2** and **3** of the adjective): from late Latin *accidentalis*, from Latin *accident-* 'happening' (see **ACCIDENT**).

accident-prone ► **adjective** tending to be involved in a greater than average number of accidents.

accidie /ˈæksɪdi/ ► **noun** [mass noun] literary spiritual or mental sloth; apathy.

ORIGIN Middle English: via Old French from medieval Latin *accidia*, alteration of **ACEDIA**. Obsolete after

A

Bart¹, Lionel (1930–99), English composer and lyricist. His musicals include *Oliver!* (1960).

Bart² ► abbreviation for Baronet.

bar tack ► noun a stitch made to strengthen a potential weak spot in a garment or other sewn item.

– DERIVATIVES **bar-tacked** adjective.

bartender ► noun a person serving drinks at a bar.

– DERIVATIVES **bartend** verb, **bartending** noun.

barter ► verb [with obj.] exchange (goods or services) for other goods or services without using money: *he often bartered a meal for drawings* | [no obj.] *the company is prepared to barter for Russian oil*.

► noun [mass noun] the action or system of bartering.

■ goods or services used in bartering: *I took a supply of coffee and cigarettes to use as barter*.

– DERIVATIVES **barterer** noun.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: probably from Old French *barater* 'deceive' (see **BARRATRY**).

Barth¹ /bə:θ/. John (Simmons) (b.1930), American novelist and short-story writer noted for complex experimental novels such as *The Sot-Weed Factor* (1960).

Barth² /bə:t, bə:θ/. Karl (1886–1968), Swiss Protestant theologian. His seminal work *Epistle to the Romans* (1919) established a neo-orthodox or theocentric approach to contemporary religious thought which remains influential on Protestant theology.

– DERIVATIVES **Barthian** /bə:θiən/ adjective.

Barthes /bə:t, French bɑʁt/, Roland (1915–80), French writer and critic. Barthes was a leading exponent of structuralism and semiology in literary criticism, while later works were influential in the development of deconstruction and post-structuralism.

Bartholdi /bə:tɔldi, -θɔldi, French bɑʁtɔldi/, (Frédéric) Auguste (1834–1904), French sculptor, known especially for the Statue of Liberty, which was presented to the US in 1886.

bartholinitis /bə:təli'naitis/ ► noun [mass noun] Medicine inflammation of Bartholin's gland, typically accompanied by cysts or abscesses.

Bartholin's gland /bə:təlinz/ ► noun Anatomy either of a pair of glands lying near the entrance of the vagina, which secrete a fluid that lubricates the vulva.

– ORIGIN early 18th cent.: named by Caspar Bartholin (1655–1738), Danish anatomist, as a tribute to his father.

Bartholomew, St /bə:θəlmju:/ an Apostle. He is said to have been played alive in Armenia, and is hence regarded as the patron saint of tanners. Feast day, 24 August.

bartizan /bə:tɪ'zan/ ► noun Architecture a battlemented parapet or an overhanging corner turret at the top of a castle or church tower.

– ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from 17th-cent. *bertisene*, Scots variant of *bratticing* 'temporary breastwork or parapet', from **BRATTICE**; revived and reinterpreted by Sir Walter Scott.

Bartlett pear /bə:tli/ ► noun a dessert pear of a juicy early-ripening variety.

– ORIGIN from the name of Enoch Bartlett (1779–1860), a US merchant who first distributed the pear.

Bartók /bə:tɒk/, Béla (1881–1945), Hungarian composer. His work owes much to Hungarian folk music and includes six string quartets, three piano concertos, and the *Concerto for Orchestra* (1943).

Bartolommeo /bə:tɒlə'meɪo/, Italian [bɑrtolom'ɛo], Fra (c.1472–1517), Italian painter; born Baccio della Porta. He was a Dominican friar and worked chiefly in Florence, where he was impressed and influenced by the work of Raphael.

Barton, Sir Edmund (1849–1920), Australian statesman and jurist, first Prime Minister of Australia 1901–3.

bar tracery ► noun [mass noun] Architecture tracery with strips of stone across an aperture.

bartsia /bə:tɪsɪə/ ► noun a herbaceous plant of the figwort family, some kinds being partly parasitic on the roots of other plants, especially grasses.

■ *Bartsia* and related genera, family Scrophulariaceae: several species.

– ORIGIN modern Latin, named after Johann Bartsch (1709–38), Prussian botanist.

Baruch /bə:roʊk/ a book of the Apocrypha, attributed in the text to Baruch, the scribe of Jeremiah (Jer. 36).

barwing ► noun an Asian bird of the babbler family, with barred feathers on the wings and tail.

■ Genus *Actinodura*, family Timalidae: several species.

barycentric /bə:'sentrɪk/ ► adjective relating to the centre of gravity.

– DERIVATIVES **barycentre** noun.

– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Greek *barus* 'heavy' + **-CENTRIC**.

baryon /'bəriən/ ► noun Physics a subatomic particle, such as a nucleon or hyperon, that has a mass equal to or greater than that of a proton.

– DERIVATIVES **baryonic** adjective.

– ORIGIN 1950s: from Greek *barus* 'heavy' + **-ON**.

Baryshnikov /bə:'rɪ:ni,kɒf/, Mikhail (Nikolaevich) (b.1948), American ballet dancer, born in Latvia of Russian parents. In 1974 he defected to the West while touring with the Kirov Ballet.

baryta /bə:'rɪtə/ ► noun [mass noun] Chemistry barium hydroxide.

■ Chem. formula Ba(OH)₂.

– ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from **BARYTE**, on the pattern of words such as *soda*.

baryte /bə:'rɪt, -'rɪ: (also **barytes** /bə:'rɪtɪz/, **barite**) ► noun a mineral consisting of barium sulphate, typically occurring as colourless prismatic crystals or thin white flakes.

– ORIGIN late 18th cent. (as *barytes*): from Greek *barus* 'heavy' + endings based on Greek *-ites*.

baryton /'bəri:tən/ ► noun an obsolete stringed instrument similar to a bass viol, with additional sympathetic strings, used mainly in 18th-century Germany and Austria.

– ORIGIN variant of **BARITONE**.

bas /bɑs/ ► exclamation Indian stop; enough: *Bas! Stop pestering me!*

– ORIGIN from Hindi, from Persian.

basal /'beɪs(ə)l/ ► adjective chiefly technical forming or belonging to a bottom layer or base.

basal cell carcinoma ► noun technical term for **RODENT ULCER**.

basal ganglia ► plural noun Anatomy a group of structures linked to the thalamus in the base of the brain and involved in coordination of movement.

basal metabolic rate ► noun the rate at which the body uses energy while at rest to maintain vital functions such as breathing and keeping warm.

– DERIVATIVES **basal metabolism** noun.

basalt /'bæ:slt, -(ə)lt/ ► noun [mass noun] a dark fine-grained volcanic rock that sometimes displays a columnar structure, typically composed largely of plagioclase with pyroxene and olivine.

■ a kind of black stoneware developed by Josiah Wedgwood.

– DERIVATIVES **basaltic** /bə:'sɒltɪk/ adjective.

– ORIGIN early 17th cent. (in the Latin form): from Latin *basaltis* (variant of *basanites*), from Greek *basanites*, from *basanos* 'touchstone'.

basanite /'bæ:snɪt/ ► noun [mass noun] a dark grey or black basaltic rock consisting of plagioclase, augite, olivine, and a feldspathoid.

– ORIGIN late 18th cent.: from Latin *basanites* (see **BASALT**) + **-ITE**¹.

bascinet ► noun variant spelling of **BASINET**.

bascule /'bæskju:l/ (also **bascule bridge**) ► noun a type of bridge with a section which can be raised and lowered using counterweights.

■ a movable section of road forming part of a bascule bridge.

– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: earlier denoting a lever apparatus of which one end is raised while the other is lowered, from French (earlier *bacule*, 'see-saw', from *battre* 'to bump' + *cul* 'buttocks').

base¹ ► noun 1 the lowest part or edge of something, especially the part on which it rests or is supported: *she sat down at the base of a tree*.

■ Architecture the part of a column between the shaft and pedestal or pavement. ■ Botany & Zoology the end at which a part or organ is attached to the trunk or main part. ■ Geometry a line or surface on which a figure is regarded as standing: *the base of the triangle*. ■ Surveying a known line used as a geometrical base for trigonometry. ■ Heraldry the lowest part of a shield.

2 a conceptual structure or entity on which something draws or depends: *the town's economic base collapsed*.

■ a foundation or starting point for further work: *she uses existing data as the base for the study*. ■ [with modifier] a group of people regarded as supporting an organization, for example by buying its products: *a customer base*.

3 a place used as a centre of operations by the armed forces or others; a headquarters: *he headed back to base*.

■ the main place where a person works or stays: *she makes the studio her base* | *your hotel is a good base from which to explore*.

4 a main or important element or ingredient to which other things are added: *soaps with a vegetable oil base*.

■ [mass noun] a substance into which a pigment is mixed to form paint, such as water, oil, or powdered aluminium hydroxide.

5 Chemistry a substance capable of reacting with an acid to form a salt and water, or (more broadly) of accepting or neutralizing hydrogen ions. Compare with **ACID** and **ALKALI**.

■ Biochemistry a purine or pyrimidine group in a nucleotide or nucleic acid.

6 Electronics the middle part of a bipolar transistor, separating the emitter from the collector.

7 Linguistics the root or stem of a word or a derivative.

■ the uninflected form of a verb.

8 Mathematics a number used as the basis of a numeration scale.

■ a number in terms of which other numbers are expressed as logarithms.

9 Baseball each of the four stations that must be reached in turn to score a run.

► verb [with obj.] 1 (**base something on**) use (something specified) as the foundation or starting point for something: *the film is based on a novel by Pat Conroy* | *entitlement will be based on income*.

2 situate at a specified place as the centre of operations: *the Science Policy Review Unit is based at the University of Sussex* | [as adj., in combination **-based**] *a London-based band*.

– PHRASES **get to first base** [usu. with negative] informal, chiefly N. Amer. achieve the first step towards one's objective.

off base informal mistaken. **touch base** informal briefly make or renew contact with someone.

– ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French, from Latin *basis* 'base, pedestal', from Greek.

base² ► adjective 1 without moral principles; ignoble: *the electorate's baser instincts of greed and selfishness*.

2 archaic denoting or befitting a person of low social class.

3 (of coins or other articles) not made of precious metal.

– DERIVATIVES **basely** adverb, **baseness** noun.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *bas*, from medieval Latin *bassus* 'short' (found in classical Latin as a cognomen). Early senses included 'low, short' and 'of inferior quality'; from the latter arose a sense 'low in the social scale', and hence (mid 16th cent.) 'reprehensibly cowardly, selfish, or mean'.

baseball ► noun [mass noun] a ball game played between two teams of nine on a diamond-shaped circuit of four bases. It is played chiefly as a warm-weather sport in the US and Canada.

■ [count noun] the hard ball used in baseball.

baseball cap ► noun a cotton cap of a kind originally worn by baseball players, with a large peak and an adjustable strap at the back.

baseboard ► noun North American term for **SKIRTING**.

baseborn ► adjective archaic of low birth or origin.

■ illegitimate.

base camp ► noun a camp from which mountaineering expeditions set out or from which particular activity can be carried out.

base dressing ► noun an application of manure or fertilizer to the earth, which is then ploughed or dug in.

basehead ► noun US informal a habitual user of free-base or crack.

– ORIGIN 1980s: from a shortened form of **FREEBASE** + **-HEAD**².

base hit ► noun Baseball a fair ball hit such that the batter can advance safely to a base without an error by the team in the field.

base hospital ► noun 1 a military hospital situated at some distance from the area of active operations during a war.

2 Austral./NZ a hospital serving a large rural area.

base jump (also **BASE jump**) ► noun a parachute jump from a fixed point, typically a high building or promontory, rather than an aircraft.

► verb (**base-jump**) [no obj.] perform a base jump.

– DERIVATIVES **base jumper** noun, **base jumping** noun.

– ORIGIN 1980s: base from building, antenna-tower, span, earth (denoting the types of structure used).

Basel /'bæzl/ German name for **BASLE**.

– ORIGIN late 17th cent.: French, past participle of *dégager* 'set free'.

Degas /ˈdeɪɡɑː/ French *dəga*, (Hilaire Germain) Edgar (1834–1917), French painter and sculptor. An Impressionist painter, Degas is best known for his paintings of ballet dancers.

degas /diˈɡɑːs/ ► verb (degases, degassing, degassed) make or become free of unwanted or excess gas.

de Gaulle /dəˈɡɔːl/ French *də ɡol*, Charles (André Joseph Marie) (1890–1970), French general and statesman, head of government 1944–6, President 1959–69. A wartime organizer of the Free French movement, he is remembered particularly for his assertive foreign policy and for quelling the student uprisings and strikes of May 1968.

degauss /diˈɡɔːs/ ► verb [with obj.] 1 Electronics remove unwanted magnetism from (a television or monitor) in order to correct colour disturbance.

2 historical neutralize the magnetic field of (a ship) by encircling it with a conductor carrying electric currents.

– DERIVATIVES **degausser** noun.

– ORIGIN mid 20th cent.: from DE- + GAUSS.

degeneracy ► noun [mass noun] the state or quality of being degenerate: the degeneracy of later Roman work.

degenerate ► adjective /diˈdʒen(ə)rət/ 1 having lost the physical, mental, or moral qualities considered normal and desirable; showing evidence of decline: a degenerate form of a higher civilization.

2 technical lacking some usual or expected property or quality, in particular:

■ Mathematics (of a type of equation, curve, etc.) equivalent to a simpler type, especially when a variable or parameter is set to zero. ■ Physics (of an energy level) corresponding to more than one quantum state. ■ Physics (of matter) at densities so high that gravitational contraction is counteracted, either by the Pauli exclusion principle or by an analogous quantum effect between closely packed neutrons. ■ Biology having reverted to a simpler form as a result of losing a complex or adaptive structure present in the ancestral form.

► noun /diˈdʒen(ə)rət/ an immoral or corrupt person.

► verb /diˈdʒenəreɪt/ [no obj.] decline or deteriorate physically, mentally, or morally: the quality of life had degenerated | the debate degenerated into a brawl.

– DERIVATIVES **degenerately** adverb.

– ORIGIN late 15th cent.: from Latin *degeneratus* 'no longer of its kind', from the verb *degenerare*, from *degenere* 'debased', from *de-* 'away from' + *genus*, *gener-* 'race, kind'.

degeneration ► noun [mass noun] the state or process of being or becoming degenerate: decline or deterioration; overgrazing has caused serious degeneration of grassland.

■ Medicine deterioration and loss of function in the cells of a tissue or organ: degeneration of the muscle fibres.

degenerative ► adjective (of a disease) characterized by progressive deterioration and loss of function in the organs or tissues.

degenerescence /diˈdʒenəˈres(ə)ns/ ► noun another term for **DEGENERATION**.

– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from French *dégénérescence*, from *dégénérer* 'to degenerate'.

deglaciation /ˌdiːɡleɪʃ(ə)n/ ► noun [mass noun] Geology the disappearance of ice from a previously glaciated region.

deglamorize (also **deglamorise**) ► verb [with obj.] make less glamorous or attractive.

– DERIVATIVES **deglamorization** noun.

deglaze ► verb [with obj.] make a gravy or sauce by adding liquid to the cooking juices and food particles in (a pan in which meat has been cooked).

– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from French *déglaçer*.

deglutition /ˌdiːɡluːˈtʃ(ə)n/ ► noun [mass noun] technical the action or process of swallowing.

– DERIVATIVES **deglutitive** adjective.

– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from French *déglutition* or modern Latin *deglutitiō(n)*, from *deglutire* 'swallow down'.

degradation /ˌdeɪɡreɪˈdeɪʃ(ə)n/ ► noun [mass noun] 1 the condition or process of degrading or being degraded: a trail of human misery and degradation.

2 Geology the wearing down of rock by disintegration. ► ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from Old French, or from ecclesiastical Latin *degradatiō(n)*, from the verb *degradare* (see **DEGRADE**).

degrade ► verb [with obj.] 1 treat or regard (someone) with contempt or disrespect: she thought that many supposedly erotic pictures degraded women.

■ lower the character or quality of: vast areas of natural habitats have been degraded.

2 break down or deteriorate chemically: the bacteria will degrade hydrocarbons.

■ Physics reduce (energy) to a less readily convertible form. ■ Geology wear down (rock) and cause it to disintegrate.

3 archaic reduce (someone) to a lower rank, especially as a punishment.

– DERIVATIVES **degradability** noun, **degradable** adjective, **degradative** adjective, **degrader** noun.

– ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *degrader*, from ecclesiastical Latin *degradare*, from *de-* 'down, away from' + Latin *gradus* 'step or grade'.

degrading ► adjective causing a loss of self-respect; humiliating: the prisoners were subjected to cruel and degrading treatment.

– DERIVATIVES **degradingly** adverb.

degranulate ► verb [no obj.] Physiology (of a cell) lose or release granules of a substance, typically as part of an immune reaction.

– DERIVATIVES **degranulation** noun.

degrease ► verb [with obj.] remove excess grease or fat from.

– DERIVATIVES **degreasant** noun, **degreaser** noun.

degree ► noun 1 the amount, level, or extent to which something happens or is present: a degree of caution is probably wise | [mass noun] a question of degree.

2 a unit of measurement of angles, one ninetieth of a right angle or the angle subtended by one three-hundred-and-sixtieth of the circumference of a circle: set at an angle of 45 degrees. (Symbol: °)

3 a unit in any of various scales of temperature, intensity, or hardness: water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. (Symbol: °)

4 a stage in a scale or series, in particular:

■ [in combination] each of a set of grades (usually three) used to classify burns according to their severity. See **FIRST-DEGREE**, **SECOND-DEGREE**, **THIRD-DEGREE**. ■ [in combination] a legal grade of crime or offence, especially murder: second-degree murder. ■ [often in combination] a step in direct genealogical descent: second-degree relatives.

■ Music a position in a musical scale, counting upwards from the tonic or fundamental note: the lowered third degree of the scale. ■ Mathematics the class into which an equation falls according to the highest power of unknowns or variables present: an equation of the second degree. ■ Grammar any of the three steps on the scale of comparison of gradable adjectives and adverbs, namely positive, comparative, and superlative. ■ a rank in an order of freemasonry.

5 an academic rank conferred by a college or university after examination or after completion of a course, or conferred as an honour on a distinguished person: a degree in zoology.

6 [mass noun] archaic social or official rank: persons of unequal degree.

– PHRASES **by degrees** a little at a time; gradually. **to a degree** to some extent: to a degree, it is possible to educate oneself. ■ dated to a considerable extent: the pressure you were put under must have been frustrating to a degree.

– ORIGIN Middle English (in the senses 'step', 'tier', 'rank', or 'relative state'): from Old French, based on Latin *de-* 'down' + *gradus* 'step or grade'.

degree day ► noun 1 a day on which academic degrees are formally awarded.

2 a unit used to determine the heating requirements of buildings, representing a fall of one degree below a specified average outdoor temperature (usually 18°C or 65°F) for one day.

degree of freedom ► noun each of a number of independently variable factors affecting the range of states in which a system may exist, in particular any of the directions in which independent motion can occur.

degressive /diˈɡresɪv/ ► adjective reducing by gradual amounts.

■ (of taxation) at successively lower rates on lower amounts.

– ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from Latin *degress-* 'descended' (from the verb *degređi*, from *de-* 'down' + *gradī* 'walk') + *-ive*.

degu /ˈdeɪɡuː/ ► noun a rat-like rodent with a long silky coat, found in southern South America.

■ Genus *Octodon*, family Octodontidae: three species.

– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from American Spanish, from South American Indian *deun*.

degust /diˈɡʌst/ ► verb [with obj.] rare taste (something) carefully to appreciate it fully.

– DERIVATIVES **degustation** noun.

– ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *degustare*, from *de-* 'completely' + *gustare* 'to taste'.

de haut en bas /dəˈpɔːt ɒˈbaː/ French *də ɔt ə ba* ► adverb & adjective in a condescending or superior manner: [as adv.] he never addressed his students *de haut en bas*.

– ORIGIN French, 'from above to below'.

de Havilland /dəˈhævɪlənd/, Sir Geoffrey (1882–1965), English aircraft designer and manufacturer. He designed and built many aircraft, including the Mosquito of the Second World War.

dehiscence /diˈhɪs(ə)s/ ► verb [no obj.] technical (of a pod or seed vessel, or a cut or wound) gape or burst open.

– DERIVATIVES **dehiscence** noun, **dehiscent** adjective.

– ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *dehiscere*, from *de-* 'away' + *hiscere* 'begin to gape' (from *hiare* 'gape').

de Hooch /dəˈhuːtʃ/ (also **de Hoogh**), Pieter (c.1629–c.1684), Dutch genre painter. He is noted for his depictions of domestic interior and courtyard scenes.

dehorn ► verb [with obj.] remove the horns from (an animal).

dehors /dəˈɔː, dəˈhɔː/ ► preposition Law other than, not including, or outside the scope of.

– ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from an Old French usage as a preposition (in modern French functioning as an adverb and noun).

Dehra Dun /dɛərəˈduːn/ a city in northern India, capital of the state of Uttaranchal: pop. 447,800 (2001).

dehull ► verb another term for **HULL** 2.

dehumanize (also **dehumanise**) ► verb [with obj.] deprive of positive human qualities: [as adj.] **dehumanizing** the dehumanizing effects of war.

– DERIVATIVES **dehumanization** noun.

dehumidify ► verb (dehumidifies, dehumidifying, dehumidified) [with obj.] remove moisture from (the air or a gas).

– DERIVATIVES **dehumidification** noun, **dehumidifier** noun.

dehusk ► verb [with obj.] remove the husk or husks from (grain).

dehydrate /diˈhaɪd্রেɪt, diˈhaɪd্রেɪt/ ► verb [with obj.] [often as adj.] **dehydrated** cause (a person or their body) to lose a large amount of water: his body temperature was high and he had become dehydrated.

■ [no obj.] lose a large amount of water from the body.

■ remove water from (food) in order to preserve and store it: dehydrated mashed potatoes.

– DERIVATIVES **dehydration** noun, **dehydrator** noun.

– ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from **DE-** (expressing removal) + Greek *hudros*, *hudr-* 'water'.

dehydrocholesterol /diˌhaɪdrəˈkɒləˈstɛrɒl/ ► noun [mass noun] Biochemistry a derivative of cholesterol present in the skin. It can be converted to cholecalciferol (vitamin D₃) by the action of ultraviolet radiation.

■ Chem. formula C₂₇H₄₄O.

– ORIGIN 1930s: from *dehydro-* 'that has lost hydrogen' + **CHOLESTEROL**.

dehydrogenase /diˌhaɪdrəˈdʒenɪz/ ► noun Biochemistry an enzyme that catalyses the removal of hydrogen atoms from a particular molecule, particularly in the electron transport chain reactions of cell respiration in conjunction with the coenzymes NAD and FAD.

– ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from **DE-** (expressing removal) + **HYDROGEN** + **-ASE**.

dehydrogenate ► verb [with obj.] Chemistry remove a hydrogen atom or atoms from (a compound).

– DERIVATIVES **dehydrogenation** noun.

– ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from **DE-** (expressing removal) + **HYDROGEN** + **-ATE** 3.

Deianira /diːəˈnaɪərə/ Greek Mythology the wife of Hercules, who was tricked into smearing poison on a garment thereby causing his death.

de-ice ► verb [with obj.] remove ice from.

– DERIVATIVES **de-icer** noun.

decide /dɪˈsaɪd, diˈsi-/ ► noun the killer of a god.

■ [mass noun] the killing of a god.

– DERIVATIVES **decidual** adjective.

– ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from ecclesiastical Latin *decidita* 'killer of a god', or directly from Latin *deus* 'god' + **-CIDE**.

deictic /ˈdeɪktɪk, ˈdæktɪk/ Linguistics ► adjective relating to or denoting a word or expression whose meaning

- **adjective** relating to the Senoi.
- **ORIGIN** a local name.

señor /seˈnjɔː/ ► **noun** (pl. **señores** /-reɪz/) a title or form of address used of or to a Spanish-speaking man, corresponding to Mr or sir: *he is certain his information is correct, señor.*

- **ORIGIN** Spanish, from Latin *senior* (see **SENIOR**).

señora /seˈnjɔːrə/ ► **noun** a title or form of address used of or to a Spanish-speaking woman, corresponding to Mrs or madam: *Señora Dolores.*

- **ORIGIN** Spanish, feminine of **SEÑOR**.

señorita /seˈnjɔːrɪtə/ ► **noun** a title or form of address used of or to a Spanish-speaking unmarried woman, corresponding to Miss.

- **ORIGIN** Spanish, diminutive of **SEÑORA**.

Senr ► abbreviation for Senior (in names).

sensate /ˈsensɪt-, -sɪt/ ► **adjective** perceiving or perceived by the senses: *you are immersed in an illusory, yet sensate, world.*

- **ORIGIN** mid 17th cent.: from late Latin *sensatus* ‘having senses’, from *sensus* (see **SENSE**).

sensation ► **noun** 1 a physical feeling or perception resulting from something that happens to or comes into contact with the body: *a burning sensation in the middle of the chest.*

- [mass noun] the capacity to have such feelings or perceptions: *they had lost sensation in one or both forearms.*
- an inexplicable awareness or impression: [with clause] *she had the eerie sensation that she was being watched.*

2 a widespread reaction of interest and excitement: *his arrest for poisoning caused a sensation.*

- a person, object, or event that arouses such interest and excitement: *she was a sensation, the talk of the evening.*

- **ORIGIN** early 17th cent.: from medieval Latin *sentatio(n)-*, from Latin *sensus* (see **SENSE**).

sensational ► **adjective** 1 causing great public interest and excitement: *a sensational murder trial.*

- presenting information in a way that is intended to provoke public interest and excitement, at the expense of accuracy: *cheap sensational periodicals.*

2 informal very good indeed; very impressive or attractive: *you look sensational | a sensational view.*

- **DERIVATIVES** **sensationally** **adverb**.

sensationalism ► **noun** [mass noun] 1 (especially in journalism) the presentation of stories in a way that is intended to provoke public interest or excitement, at the expense of accuracy: *media sensationalism.*

- 2 Philosophy another term for **PHENOMENALISM**.
- **DERIVATIVES** **sensationalist** **noun** & **adjective**, **sensationalistic** **adjective**.

sensationalize (also **sensationalise**) ► **verb** [with obj.] (especially of a newspaper) present information about (something) in a sensational way: *the papers want to sensationalize the tragedy that my family has suffered.*

sense ► **noun** 1 a faculty by which the body perceives an external stimulus; one of the faculties of sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch: *the bear has a keen sense of smell which enables it to hunt at dusk.*

- 2 a feeling that something is the case: *she had the sense of being a political outsider | you can improve your general health and sense of well-being.*
- a keen intuitive awareness of or sensitivity to the presence or importance of something: *she had a fine sense of comic timing.*

3 [mass noun] a sane and realistic attitude to situations and problems: *he earned respect by the good sense he showed at meetings.*

- a reasonable or comprehensible rationale: *I can't see the sense in leaving all the work to you.*

4 a way in which an expression or a situation can be interpreted; a meaning: *it is not clear which sense of the word ‘characters’ is intended in this passage.*

- 5 chiefly Mathematics & Physics a property (e.g. direction of motion) distinguishing a pair of objects, quantities, effects, etc. which differ only in that each is the reverse of the other.

■ [as modifier] Genetics relating to or denoting a coding sequence of nucleotides, complementary to an antisense sequence.

► **verb** [with obj.] 1 perceive by a sense or senses: *with the first frost, they could sense a change in the days.*

- be aware of (something) without being able to define exactly how one knows: *she could sense her father's anger rising | [with clause] he could sense that he wasn't liked.*

2 (of a machine or similar device) detect: *an optical*

fibre senses a current flowing in a conductor.

- **PHRASES** **bring someone to their (or come to one's) senses** restore someone to (or regain) consciousness.

■ cause someone to (or start to) think and behave reasonably after a period of folly or irrationality. **in a (or one) sense** by a particular interpretation of a statement or situation: *in a sense, behaviour cannot develop independently of the environment.*

in one's senses fully aware and in control of one's thoughts and words: *sane: would any man in his senses invent so absurd a story?*

make sense be intelligible, justifiable, or practicable. **make sense of** find meaning or coherence in: *she must try to make sense of what was going on.*

out of one's senses in or into a state of madness. **sense of direction** a person's ability to know without explicit guidance the direction in which they are or should be moving. **take leave of one's senses** (in hyperbolic use) go mad.

- **ORIGIN** late Middle English (as a noun in the sense ‘meaning’): from Latin *sensus* ‘faculty of feeling, thought, meaning’, from *sentire* ‘feel’. The verb dates from the mid 16th cent.

sense datum ► **noun** Philosophy an immediate object of perception, which is not a material object; a sense impression.

sensei /senˈseɪ/ ► **noun** (pl. same) (in martial arts) a teacher: [as title] *Sensei Ritchie began work.*

- **ORIGIN** Japanese, from *sen* ‘previous’ + *sei* ‘birth’.

senseless ► **adjective** 1 [often as complement] (of a person) unconscious: *the attack left a policeman beaten senseless.*

- incapable of sensation: *she knocked the glass from the girl's senseless fingers.*

2 lacking common sense; wildly foolish: *it was as senseless as crossing Death Valley on foot.*

- (especially of violent or wasteful action) without discernible meaning or purpose: *in Vietnam I saw the senseless waste of human beings.*

– **DERIVATIVES** **senselessly** **adverb**, **senselessness** **noun**.

sense organ ► **noun** an organ of the body which responds to external stimuli by conveying impulses to the sensory nervous system.

Sensex ► **noun** a figure indicating the relative prices of shares on the Bombay Stock Exchange, calculated on the basis of India's thirty most active and representative stocks.

- **ORIGIN** 1990s: blend of **SENSITIVE** and **INDEX**.

sensibility ► **noun** (pl. **sensibilities**) [mass noun] 1 the quality of being able to appreciate and respond to complex emotional or aesthetic influences: *sensitivity: the study of literature leads to a growth of intelligence and sensibility.*

- (sensibilities) a quality of delicate sensitivity that makes one liable to be offended or shocked: *the scale of the poverty revealed by the survey shocked people's sensibilities.*

2 Zoology, dated sensitivity to sensory stimuli.

- **ORIGIN** late Middle English (denoting the power of sensation): from late Latin *sensibilitas*, from *sensibilis* ‘that can be perceived by the senses’ (see **SENSIBLE**).

sensible ► **adjective** 1 done or chosen in accordance with wisdom or prudence; likely to be of benefit: *I cannot believe that it is sensible to spend so much | a sensible diet.*

- (of a person) possessing or displaying prudence: *he was a sensible and capable boy.*

2 (of an object) practical and functional rather than decorative: *Mum always made me have sensible shoes.*

- 3 archaic readily perceived; appreciable: *it will effect a sensible reduction in these figures.*

■ (sensible of/to) able to notice or appreciate; not unaware of: *we are sensible of the difficulties he faces.*

- **DERIVATIVES** **sensibleness** **noun**, **sensibly** **adverb**.

– **ORIGIN** late Middle English (also in the sense ‘perceptible by the senses’): from Old French, or from Latin *sensibilis*, from *sensus* (see **SENSE**).

sensillum /senˈsɪləm/ ► **noun** (pl. **sensilla** /senˈsɪlə/) Zoology (in arthropods and some other invertebrates) a simple sensory receptor consisting of a modified cell or small group of cells of the cuticle or epidermis, typically hair- or rod-shaped.

- **ORIGIN** early 20th cent.: modern Latin, diminutive of Latin *sensus* ‘sense’.

sensitive ► **adjective** 1 quick to detect or respond to slight changes, signals, or influences: *the new method of protein detection was more sensitive than earlier ones | spiders are sensitive to vibrations on their web.*

- easily damaged, injured, or distressed by slight changes: *the committee called for improved protection of wildlife in environmentally sensitive areas.*

2 (of photographic materials) prepared so as to respond rapidly to the action of light: ■ (of a market) unstable and liable to quick changes of price because of outside influences.

- 3 having or displaying a quick and delicate appreciation of others' feelings: *I pay tribute to the Minister for his sensitive handling of the bill.*

■ easily offended or upset: *I suppose I shouldn't be so sensitive.*

3 kept secret or with restrictions on disclosure to avoid endangering security: *he was suspected of passing sensitive information to other countries.*

- **noun** a person who is believed to respond to paranormal influences.

– **DERIVATIVES** **sensitively** **adverb**, **sensitiveness** **noun**.

– **ORIGIN** late Middle English (in the sense ‘sensory’): from Old French *sensitif*, -ive or medieval Latin *sensitivus*, formed irregularly from Latin *sentire* ‘feel’. The current senses date from the early 19th cent.

sensitive period ► **noun** Psychology a time or stage in a person's development when they are more responsive to certain stimuli and quicker to learn particular skills.

sensitive plant ► **noun** 1 a tropical American plant of the pea family, whose leaflets fold together and leaves bend down when touched. A common weed of sugar cane, it has become naturalized throughout the tropics.

- *Mimosa pudica*, family Leguminosae.
- 2 informal a delicate or sensitive person.

sensitivity ► **noun** (pl. **sensitivities**) [mass noun] the quality or condition of being sensitive: *a total lack of common decency and sensitivity | [in sing.] he has a sensitivity to cow's milk.*

- (sensitivities) feelings liable to be offended or hurt: *sensitivities: the only rules that matter are practical ones that respect local sensitivities.*

sensitize (also **sensitise**) ► **verb** [with obj.] (often **sensitize someone/thing to**) cause (someone or something) to respond to certain stimuli: *make sensitive: the introductory section aims to sensitize students to the methodology of the course.*

- make (photographic film) sensitive to light: *the kit sensitizes any 35 mm film in hours.*
- make (an organism) abnormally sensitive to a foreign substance: *the workers had been immunologically sensitized to the enzyme.*

– **DERIVATIVES** **sensitization** **noun**, **sensitizer** **noun**.

sensitometer /ˌsensɪˈtɒmɪtə/ ► **noun** Photography a device for measuring the sensitivity of photographic equipment to light.

sensor ► **noun** a device which detects or measures a physical property and records, indicates, or otherwise responds to it.

- **ORIGIN** 1950s: from **SENSORY**, on the pattern of **motor**.

sensorimotor /ˌsens(ə)rɪˈmɔːtə/ ► **adjective** Physiology (of nerves or their actions) having or involving both sensory and motor functions or pathways.

sensorineural /ˌsens(ə)rɪˈnjuːr(ə)l/ ► **adjective** Medicine (of hearing loss) caused by a lesion or disease of the inner ear or the auditory nerve.

sensorium /senˈsɔːrɪəm/ ► **noun** (pl. **sensoria** /-rɪə/ or **sensoriums**) the sensory apparatus or faculties considered as a whole: *virtual reality technology directed at recreating the human sensorium.*

- **DERIVATIVES** **sensorial** **adjective**, **sensorially** **adverb**.

– **ORIGIN** mid 17th cent.: from late Latin, from Latin *sens-* ‘perceived’, from the verb *sentire*.

sensory ► **adjective** relating to sensation or the physical senses; transmitted or perceived by the senses: *sensory input.*

- **DERIVATIVES** **sensorily** **adverb**.

– **ORIGIN** mid 18th cent.: from Latin *sens-* ‘perceived’ (from the verb *sentire*) or from the noun **SENSE** + **-ORY**².

sensory deprivation ► **noun** [mass noun] a process by which someone is deprived of normal external stimuli such as sight and sound for an extended period of time, especially as an experimental technique in psychology.

sensual /ˈsensjuəl-, -ʃuəl/ ► **adjective** of or arousing gratification of the senses and physical, especially sexual, pleasure: *the production of the ballet is sensual and passionate.*

- **DERIVATIVES** **sensualism** **noun**, **sensualist** **noun**.

S

VOWELS: a cat ɑː arm ɛ bed ɛː hair ɔː ago ɔː her ɪ sit ɪ cosy ɪː see ɒ hot ɔː saw ʌ run ʊ put uː too ʌɪ my