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small device which you drag across a flat surface to control the position of a cursor on a computer screen

mousetrap *NOUN* a trap for catching and killing mice

moussaka *NOUN* a Greek dish consisting of layers of minced meat and aubergine with a cheese sauce

mousse *NOUN* 1 a creamy light pudding of fruit or chocolate whipped with cream or egg white 2 a savoury dish of meat or fish purée mixed with cream and shaped in a mould 3 a frothy creamy substance used for styling the hair

moustache *NOUN* a strip of hair growing on a man's upper lip

mousy *ADJECTIVE* **mousier, mousiest** 1 Mousy hair is light brown and not pretty. 2 A mousy person is quiet and shy; often used to suggest that someone is not interesting.

mouth *NOUN* 1 the opening in the face through which food is taken into the body and from which sounds are made 2 the place where a river enters the sea 3 the opening of something hollow or enclosed, such as a cave, horn, etc. 4 (*INFORMAL*) talkativeness or impudence

mouth *VERB* 1 to form words with the lips, usually without saying them aloud 2 to say something without really feeling or understanding it > **mouth off** (*INFORMAL*) to talk in an opinionated or abusive way

mouthful *NOUN* 1 an amount of food you put in your mouth 2 a long or awkward word or phrase that is difficult to say

mouth organ *NOUN* a small musical instrument played by passing it along the lips while blowing or sucking air; a harmonica

mouthpiece *NOUN* 1 the part of a musical instrument or other device that you put to your mouth 2 someone who speaks on behalf of another person or an organization

mouthwash *NOUN* a liquid for cleansing the mouth or for gargling

movable *ADJECTIVE* able to be moved • *model soldiers with movable arms and legs*

movable feast *NOUN* a religious feast day that changes from year to year, such as Easter

move *VERB* **moves, moving, moved** 1 to change in position or posture; to make something do this 2 to go in a certain direction; to make something do this 3 to change your job or the place where you live 4 to make progress • *The work moves slowly.* 5 to provoke a strong feeling in someone, especially sorrow or sympathy • *They were deeply moved by the story.* 6 to prompt or motivate someone to do something • *What moved him to act in this way?* 7 to propose an item for discussion and decision at a meeting 8 to take prompt action • *We need to move quickly.* 9 to live or be active in a particular group • *They moved in the same circles.* 10 to make a move in a board game 11 to cause the bowels to empty > **move in** to take possession of a new house or other property > **move over** (also **up**) to change position and make room for someone else

> **mover** *NOUN*

move *NOUN* 1 the act or process of moving 2 a player's turn to move a piece in a board game 3 an action done to achieve a purpose • *Our next move will be to approach the headteacher.* > **get a move on** (*INFORMAL*) to hurry > **make a move** 1 to take action 2 to leave > **on the move** moving from one place to another; making progress

movement *NOUN* 1 an act of moving or being moved 2 a group of people working together to achieve something • *the peace movement* 3 a change or development • *the movement towards more flexible working hours* 4 (*MUSIC*) each of the main divisions of a symphony or other long musical work 5 > **movements** *PLURAL NOUN* A person's movements are what they were doing and where they were going over a particular period. 6 the moving parts in a mechanism, especially a clock or watch

movie *NOUN* (*CHIEFLY NORTH AMERICAN*) a cinema film

moving *ADJECTIVE* making someone feel strong emotion, especially sorrow or pity • *It was a very moving story.*

mow *VERB* **mows, mowing, mowed or mown** to cut down grass or a cereal crop with a machine or a scythe > **mow someone down** to kill people with a vehicle or a gun

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portmanteau *NOUN* **portmanteaus** or **portmanteaux** a large travelling bag made of stiff leather that opens into two equal parts [from French *porter* 'to carry' and *manteau* 'coat']

portmanteau word *NOUN* a word made from the sounds and meanings of two other words, e.g. *brunch* from *breakfast* and *lunch*

portrait *NOUN* **1** a picture of a person or animal **2** a page of text that is taller than it is wide **3** a description in words or on film
➤ **portraitist** *NOUN*

portray *VERB* **1** to make a picture of a person or scene **2** to describe or show a person or thing in a particular way • *The queen is portrayed as a lonely and pathetic character.* ➤ **portrayal** *NOUN*

Portuguese *ADJECTIVE* to do with or coming from Portugal

Portuguese *NOUN* the language of Portugal, also spoken in Brazil ➤ **the Portuguese** Portuguese people

SPELLING

Portuguese has -u- before and after the -g-.

Portuguese man-of-war *NOUN* a sea animal with stinging tentacles

pose *NOUN* **1** a position in which someone stands or sits for a portrait or photograph **2** a way of behaving that someone adopts to give a particular impression

pose *VERB* **poses, posing, posed** **1** to take a position for being painted or photographed for a portrait; to put someone in this position **2** to behave in a showy or unnatural way in order to impress other people **3** to pretend to be someone • *The man was posing as a police officer.* **4** to put forward or present something • *The increasing costs pose a major problem.*

poser *NOUN* **1** a puzzling question or problem **2** a poseur

poseur *NOUN* a person who behaves in a showy or unnatural way in order to impress other people

posh *ADJECTIVE (INFORMAL)* **1** very smart; high-class • *a posh restaurant* **2** upper-class • *a posh accent* [origin unknown: it is often

thought to come from the first letters of the phrase *port out, starboard home*, which referred to the side of the ship where the most comfortable cabins were (because they were away from the heat of the sun) on the route between Britain and India; but this story is not the true origin]

posit *VERB* to propose something as a fact or a basis for argument

position *NOUN* **1** the place occupied by a person or thing **2** the correct or usual place for something • *The chair is out of position.* **3** a person's place in a race or competition **4** the way in which a person or thing is placed or arranged • *She was in a sitting position.* **5** a situation or set of circumstances • *They explained the position to us.* **6** a situation in relation to other people or things • *I am in no position to argue with you.* **7** a policy or point of view • *He has made his position very clear.* **8** a job or paid employment **9** rank or status; high social standing • *a family of position*

position *VERB* to place something or someone in a certain position • *She positioned herself at the top of the stairs.*

positive *ADJECTIVE* **1** agreeing; giving the answer 'yes' • *Their reply was a positive one.* **2** definite; leaving no room for doubt • *There is positive proof of their guilt.* **3** holding an opinion confidently • *I am positive that was George.* **4** looking at the best or most hopeful aspects of a situation • *Throughout her illness she tried to remain positive.* **5** constructive and helpful • *She made some positive suggestions.* **6** involving the presence of what is being tested for or searched for • *The result of her pregnancy test was positive.* • *They tested positive for TB.* **7** (said about a number or quantity) greater than zero **8** containing or producing the kind of electric charge opposite to that carried by electrons **9** (said about a photographic image) having the light and shade or colours of the original scene or subject **10 (GRAMMAR)** describing the basic or primary form of an adjective or adverb (e.g. *big, quickly*) as distinct from the comparative (*bigger, more quickly*) or superlative (*biggest, most quickly*)

➤ **positiveness** *NOUN*

positive *NOUN* **1** a photograph or film in which the light and dark parts or colours appear as in the original scene or subject **2** a good or encouraging quality or aspect of a

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