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Fourth Edition

Edited by
Colin McIntosh



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make something, such as a speech or a device, at the time when it is needed without already having planned it: *I hadn't prepared a speech so I suddenly had to improvise.* • *To sleep on, we improvised a mattress from a pile of blankets.* **2** When actors or musicians improvise, they perform without prepared speech or music, making up the play, music, etc. as they perform it: *During certain scenes of the play there isn't any script and the actors just improvise (the dialogue).*

imprudent /ɪmˈpruː.dənt/ **adj** formal unwise, by failing to consider the likely results of your actions: *The report criticizes the banks for being imprudent in their lending.* • **imprudence** /-dəns/ **noun** [U] formal

impudent /ɪm.pjuː.dənt/ **adj** rude and not showing respect, especially towards someone who is older or in a more important position: *an impudent remark/child* • **impudence** /-dəns/ **noun** [U]

impugn /ɪmˈpjuː.n/ **verb** [T] formal to cause people to doubt someone's character, qualities, or reputation by criticizing them: *Are you impugning my competence as a professional designer?*

impulse /ɪm.pʌls/ **noun** **WISH** ▷ **1** Ⓐ [C + to infinitive] a sudden strong wish to do something: *I had this sudden impulse to shout out 'Rubbish!' in the middle of her speech.* **2 on (an) impulse** Ⓒ because you suddenly want to, although you haven't planned to: *'I didn't know you were looking for some new shoes.'* *'Oh, I wasn't – I just bought them on impulse.'* **SIGNAL** ▷ **3** [C] a short electrical, radio or light signal which carries information or instructions between the parts of a system: *an electrical/nerve impulse* **REASON** ▷ **4** [C usually singular] formal something that is the force behind or reason for something else: *a creative/commercial impulse*

impulse buy **noun** [C] something that you buy suddenly and without thinking carefully: *I hadn't intended to get one – it was an impulse buy.* • **impulse buying** **noun** [U] the act of buying something that you had not planned to buy, because you suddenly want it when you see it: *They display chocolates next to supermarket checkouts to encourage impulse buying.*

impulsive /ɪm.pʌl.sɪv/ **adj** Ⓒ showing behaviour in which you do things suddenly without any planning and without considering the effects they may have: *Don't be so impulsive – think before you act.* • *an impulsive man/decision/gesture* • **impulsively** /-li/ **adv**

impunity /ɪmˈpjʊː.nɪ.ti/ Ⓐ /-ə.ti/ **noun** [U] freedom from punishment or from the unpleasant results of something that has been done: *Criminal gangs are terrorizing the city with apparent impunity.*

impure /ɪmˈpjʊə/ Ⓐ /-pjʊə/ **adj** **MIXED** ▷ **1** mixed with other substances and therefore lower in quality: *impure heroin/gold* **BAD** ▷ **2** literary or humorous involving sexual thoughts or behaviour that are wrong or not moral: *She was accused of having impure thoughts about her male students.*

impurity /ɪmˈpjʊə.rɪ.ti/ Ⓐ /-pjʊə.ti/ **noun** **MIXED** ▷ **1** [C or U] the fact that a substance is dirty or lower in quality because it is mixed with another substance, or something that causes this: *Impurities are removed from the blood by the kidneys.* • *The impurity of the water is a health risk.* **BAD** ▷ **2** [U] literary or humorous sexual thoughts or behaviour that are wrong or not moral

imputation /ɪm.pjuːˈteɪ.ʃən/ **noun** [C or U] formal a suggestion that someone is guilty of something or has a particular bad quality: *imputations of dishonesty*

impute /ɪmˈpjʊːt/ **verb**

PHRASALVERB **impute sth to sb** formal **ACCUSE** ▷ **1** to say that someone is responsible for something that has happened, or that something is the cause of something else: *They imputed the error to the lawyer who was handling her case.* **BELIEVE** ▷ **2** to believe that someone or something has a particular characteristic, quality, or meaning: *He arrogantly imputed stupidity to anyone who disagreed with him.*

in /ɪn/ **preposition; adv; adj**

▷ **preposition** **INSIDE** ▷ **1** Ⓐ inside or towards the inside of a container, place or area, or surrounded or closed off by something: *Put the milk back in the fridge when you've finished with it.* • *Is Mark still in bed?* • *I got stuck in a traffic jam for half an hour.* • *They live in a charming old cottage.* • *How much is that coat on display in the window (= in the space behind the window of the shop)?* • *I've got a pain in my back.* • *What's that in your hand?* • *I've got something in (= on the surface of) my eye.* • *They used to live in Paris, but now they're somewhere in Austria.* • *He's always looking at himself in the mirror (= at the image of his face produced by the mirror).* • *I never know what's going on in her head (= what she's thinking about).* • *My daughter's in hospital (US in the hospital) having her tonsils out.* • *US Is Erika still in school (= does she still go to school)?* **INTO** ▷ **2** into something: *Come on, we're late – get in the car.* • *Put it in the cupboard.* • *They threw him in the swimming pool.* **PART** ▷ **3** Ⓐ forming a part of something: *He used to be the lead singer in a rock 'n' roll band.* • *There are too many spelling mistakes in this essay.* • *I've been waiting in this queue for ages.* • *What do you look for in a relationship?* • *I can see a future champion in Joely (= I think that Joely might become a champion).* • *Talent like hers is rare in someone so young.* **DURING** ▷ **4** Ⓐ during part or all of a period of time: *We're going to Italy in April.* • *Some trees lose their leaves in (the) autumn.* • *I started working here in 2009.* • *Life in the 19th century was very different from what it is now.* • *Bye, see you in the morning (= tomorrow morning).* • *She was a brilliant gymnast in her youth (= when she was young).* • *How many civilians died in the Vietnam War?* • *This is the first cigarette I've had in three years.* • *I haven't had a decent night's sleep in years/ages (= for a long time).* **5 in between** between the two times mentioned: *I have breakfast at 7.30, lunch at 1.00, and sometimes a snack in between.* **NO MORE THAN** ▷ **6** Ⓐ needing or using no more time than a particular amount of time: *Can you finish the job in two weeks?* • *She could get that essay done in a couple of hours if she really tried.* • *They completed the journey in record time (= faster than ever done before).* **BEFORE THE END** ▷ **7** Ⓐ before or at the end of a particular period: *Dinner will be ready in ten minutes.* • *We'll all be dead in a hundred years so there's no point worrying about it.* • *I'm just setting off, so I should be with you in half an hour.* **EXPERIENCING** ▷ **8** Ⓐ experiencing a situation or condition, or feeling an emotion: *We watched in horror as they pulled the bodies from the wreckage.* • *He's living in luxury in the south of France.* • *She left in a bit of a hurry.* • *You're in great danger.* • *Could I have a word with you in private?* • *Have you ever been in love?* • *Your car's in very good condition, considering how old it is.* **EXPRESSED** ▷ **9** Ⓐ expressed or written in a particular way: *Cheques should be written in ink.* • *She usually paints in watercolour.* • *They spoke in Russian the whole time.* • *He always talks in a whisper.* **RESULT** ▷ **10** Ⓐ used when referring to something that is done as a result of something else: *I'd like to do something for you in return/exchange for everything you've done for me.* • *The*

changes are in **response** to demand from our customers.
 • He refused to say anything in **reply** to the journalists' questions. **ARRANGEMENT** ▷ **11** ③ used to show how things or people are arranged or divided: *We all sat down in a circle.* • The desks were arranged in rows of ten. • Discounts are available to people travelling in large groups. • Sometimes customers buy books in twos and threes, but rarely in larger quantities than that. • Cut the potatoes in two. • People are dying in their thousands from cold and starvation. **AGE/TEMPERATURE** ▷ **12** used when referring approximately to someone's age or the weather temperature: *Nowadays many women are in their late thirties when they have their first child.* • Temperatures will be in the mid-twenties (= about 25 degrees). **INVOLVED** ▷ **13** ③ involved or connected with a particular subject or activity: *I never knew you were in publishing.* • a degree in philosophy • advances in medical science **WEARING** ▷ **14** ③ wearing: *Do you recognize that man in the grey suit?* • Pat can't resist men in uniform. • You look nice in green (= green clothes). **COMPARING AMOUNTS** ▷ **15** used to compare one part of an amount of something with the total amount of it: *Apparently one in ten people/one person in ten has problems with reading.* • UK The basic rate of income tax is 25 pence in (US **on**) the pound. **CHARACTERISTIC** ▷ **16** used to show which characteristic or part of a person or thing is being described: *The new version is worse in every respect – I much preferred the original.* • Are the two bags equal in weight? • She's deaf in her left ear. **CAUSE** ▷ **17** [+ -ing verb] used to show when doing one thing is the cause of another thing happening: *In refusing (= because she refused) to work abroad, she missed an excellent job opportunity.* • The government banned tobacco advertising and, in doing so (= because of this), contributed greatly to the nation's health. **18** in that formal because: *This research is important in that it confirms the link between aggression and alcohol.*

IDIOMS **be nothing/not much/very little in it** informal said when two things that are being compared are the same or very similar: *One house has a slightly bigger garden, but there's really not much in it.* • **in all** ③ with everything added together to make a total: *The bill came to £25 in all.* • **in all honesty/seriousness/truthfulness** said when expressing your opinion honestly, seriously or **TRUTHFULLY**: *In all honesty, I do have some criticisms to make.*

▷ **adv** **FROM OUTSIDE** ▷ **1** ② from outside, or towards the centre: *Could you bring the clothes in for me?* • The roof of their house caved in during a hurricane. • Cut the pastry into a square and turn in the corners. **2 be in and out of somewhere** informal to often be staying in and receiving treatment in a particular place: *She's been in and out of hospitals ever since the accident.* **AT PLACE** ▷ **3** ③ at home or at work: *When did you get home?* • I never heard you come in. • Mr Ellis isn't in this week. **INSIDE** ▷ **4** within an object, area, or substance: *We've been shut in all day.* • Has the soup got any salt in? **TRANSPORT** ▷ **5** ③ having arrived at the place where people can get on or off: *What time is Roz's flight due in?* **GIVEN** ▷ **6** ③ given or sent to someone official in order to be read: *When does your essay have to be in?* • Remember to get your application in by the end of the week. **COAST** ▷ **7** towards the coast, beach, or **HARBOUR**: *The tide comes in very quickly here and you can soon find yourself stranded.* • We stood watching the ship come in. **COMPLETION** ▷ **8** used to refer to an activity which makes something complete: *Just pencil in the answer unless you're sure it's correct.* • The text is finished, but the pictures will have to be pasted in later. • UK Would you mind **filling** in a questionnaire

about what you watch on television? **SPORT** ▷ **9** If the ball is in during a game of tennis or a similar sport, it has not gone outside the edges of the area on which the game is played: *I won that point, I'm telling you!* *The ball was definitely in!* **10** taking your turn to play, especially taking your turn to hit the ball: *Who's in next for our team?* • It started to rain just as our team was going in to bat.

IDIOMS **be/get in with sb** to be or become popular or friendly with someone: *He's trying to get in with the teachers.* • **in on sth** involved with or knowing about a particular activity or plan: *He seems to be in on everything that happens at work.* • She's trying to **get in** on a research project organized by the university. • **be well in there** UK informal to be likely to experience something good because of a situation you are in: *She's well in there now that she's married her boss's son.*

▷ **adj** informal fashionable or popular: *High heels are in this season.* • The new jazz club seems to be the in place to go at the moment.

-in /ɪn/ suffix used to form a noun which describes an activity in which many people take part: *a sit-in/phone-in*

in- (before l il-, before b, m or p **im-**, before r **ir-**) /ɪn-/ prefix used to add the meaning 'not', 'lacking', or 'the opposite of' to adjectives and to words formed from adjectives: *incomplete/incompletely* • *illegal/illegally* • *impossible/impossibly* • *irregular/irregularly* → Compare **dis-**, **non-**, **un-**

inability /ɪn.ə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (US) /-tɪ/ noun [S or U] ④ lack of ability to do something: [+ to infinitive] *Inability to use a computer is a serious disadvantage when you are applying for jobs.* → Compare **disability**

in absentia /ɪn.æb'sen.ti.ə/, /-ʃi.ə/ adv formal while the person involved is not present: *An Italian court convicted him in absentia for his terrorist activities.*

inaccessible /ɪn.ək'ses.ɪ.bəl/ adj **PLACE** ▷ **1** very difficult or impossible to travel to: *one of the most inaccessible places in the world* • *Some of the houses on the hillside are inaccessible to cars.* **MEANING** ▷ **2** difficult to understand or admire: *Why is opera so inaccessible to so many people?* • I found his lecture completely inaccessible. • **inaccessibility** /ɪn.ək'ses.ɪ'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ noun [U]

inaccuracy /ɪn'æk.ju.rə.si/ (US) /-jə.ə-/ noun [C or U] ④ a situation in which a fact or measurement is not completely correct or exact: *The film is full of historical inaccuracies.* • The inaccuracy of the missiles greatly diminishes their effectiveness.

inaccurate /ɪn'æk.ju.rət/ (US) /-jə.ət/ adj ④ not completely correct or exact, or not able to do something correctly or exactly: *Their estimate of the cost of the project was wildly (= extremely) inaccurate.* • an inaccurate device/weapon • **inaccurately** /-li/ adv

inaction /ɪn'æk.ʃən/ noun [U] formal failure to do anything which might provide a solution to a problem: *The West's inaction has put millions of people at risk of starvation.*

inactive /ɪn'æk.tɪv/ adj doing nothing: *It's bad for your health to be physically inactive.* • The property market remains largely inactive. • **inactivity** /ɪn.æk'tɪv.ɪ.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ noun [U] a period of inactivity • economic/physical inactivity

inadequacy /ɪ'næd.ɪ.kwə.si/ noun **1** [C or U] the fact that something is not good enough or is too small in amount: *Economic growth is hindered by the inadequacies of the public transport system.* • The inadequacy of the budget is likely to cause problems. **2** [U] a

're /r/ (US) /ə/ short form of are: *You're late.*

re- /ri:/, /ri:/, /r-/ prefix **1** used to add the meaning 'do again', especially to verbs: *rebuild* • *re-marry* • *reusable* **2** returning something to its original state: *reafforestation* (= planting new trees in an area where they were previously cut down).

re¹ /ri:/ preposition formal (especially in business letters) about; on the subject of: *Re your communication of 15 February...*

re² (also **ray**) /reɪ/ noun [S] the second note of the sol-fa musical scale

reach /ri:tʃ/ verb; noun

► **verb ARRIVE** ▷ **1** [T] [I] to arrive at a place, especially after spending a long time or a lot of effort travelling: *We won't reach Miami till five or six o'clock.* • *They finally reached the coast after five weeks sailing.* • *News of his accident had only just reached us.* **2** **reach a decision, agreement, conclusion, etc.** [S] to make a decision, agreement, etc. about something: *She reached the conclusion that there was no more she could do.* • *We'll inform you when a decision has been reached.* • *The jury took four days to reach a verdict.*

Common mistake: reach or achieve?

Warning: choose the right word!

To talk about reaching an aim, especially after a lot of work or effort, don't say 'reach', say **achieve**:

What are the qualities a person needs to reach success?

What are the qualities a person needs to achieve success?

LEVEL ▷ **3** [T] to get to a particular level, especially a high one: *The temperature is expected to reach 30°C today.* • *He's just reached the grand old age of 95.* • *I've reached the point where I'm not going to put up with her criticisms of me any more.* **STRETCH** ▷ **4** [I or T] to stretch out your arm in order to get or touch something: *She's grown so tall that she can reach the door handle now.* • *He reached for the phone and knocked over a glass.* • *The child reached down/out/over and picked up the kitten.* • *He reached his hand out for the money.* • [+ two objects] UK *Can you reach me (down) that book?* **5** [I or T] If an object reaches something, the top or bottom of it touches that thing: *The ladder won't quite reach the top of the wall.* • *She was wearing a dress that reached (to) her ankles.* **COMMUNICATE** ▷ **6** [T] to communicate with someone in a different place, especially by phone or email: *I've been trying to reach you on the phone all day.* **7** [T] to understand and communicate with someone: *He's a strange child and his teachers find it difficult to reach him.*

Common mistake: reach

Remember that in all meanings except 'stretch', **reach** is never followed by 'to'. Don't say 'reach to something', say **reach something**:

Our income reached to \$90 million in 1999.

Our income reached \$90 million in 1999.

IDIOM reach for the stars to want or try to get something that is difficult or impossible to get

PHRASAL VERB reach out to sb **1** to try to communicate with a person or a group of people, usually in order to help or involve them: *The new mayor is reaching out to the local community to involve them in his plans for the city.* **2** to offer help and support to someone: *She set*

up her charity to reach out to the thousands of homeless on the streets.

► **noun DISTANCE** ▷ **1** [U] Someone's reach is the distance within which they can stretch out their arm and touch something: *I like to keep a notebook and pencil within (arm's) reach.* • *The top shelf is within/out of (his) reach.* • *Make sure that you keep all dangerous substances out of the reach of the children.* **2** [U] the distance that can be travelled, especially easily: *We live within (easy) reach of the station.* **3** [S] the length of your arm when you stretch it out: *You've got quite a long reach – can you get that box down from the top shelf for me?* **4** [C usually singular] an act of stretching out your arm: *He made a sudden reach for his gun.* **LIMIT** ▷ **5** [S or U] the limit within which someone can achieve something: *An expensive trip like that would be completely beyond/out of (my) reach* (= I would not have enough money to pay for it). • *After years of saving, the car was at last within (her) reach* (= she had enough money to pay for it). **PART** ▷ **6** **reaches** [plural] a part of a river or part of an area of land: *The expedition set out for the upper reaches of the Amazon.* • *There was little snow on the lower reaches of the ski run.* • *We know very little about the farthest/outermost reaches of the universe.* **b** the highest or lowest levels of an organization: *The news has shocked the upper reaches of the government.*

IDIOM a reach of the imagination the act of trying very hard to imagine something: *It takes (quite) a reach of the imagination to believe that story.*

react /ri:ækt/ verb [I] [S] to act in a particular way as a direct result of something else: *She slapped him and called him names, but he didn't react.* • *The judge reacted angrily to the suggestion that it hadn't been a fair trial.* • *Many people react (badly) to* (= are made ill by) *penicillin.* • *specialized Potassium reacts* (= changes when mixed) *with water.*

PHRASAL VERB react against sth [S] to intentionally do the opposite of what someone wants you to do because you do not like their rules or ideas: *He reacted against everything he had been taught.*

reactant /ri:æk.tənt/ noun [C] specialized a substance that is part of a chemical reaction

Word partners for reaction

bring/provoke/produce a reaction • *gaugel/judge sb's reaction* • *an adverse/angry/negative reaction* • *a favourable/positive reaction* • *a lukewarm/mixed reaction* • *a knee-jerk reaction* • *sb's first/gut/immediate/initial reaction* • *a reaction against/to/towards sth*

reaction /ri:æk.ʃən/ noun **BEHAVIOUR** ▷ **1** [C] behaviour, a feeling or an action that is a direct result of something else: *I love to watch people's reactions when I say who I am.* • *There has been an immediate/widespread/hostile reaction against the government's proposed tax increases.* • *Reactions to the proposal so far have been adverse/favourable/mixed.* **2** **reactions** [plural] someone's ability to act quickly when something happens: *You need to have quick reactions to play these computer games.* **3** [C usually singular] a type of behaviour or opinion that is produced or held with the intention of being different from something else: *Her left-wing views are a reaction against the conservatism of her parents.* **UNPLEASANT EFFECT** ▷ **4** [C] an unpleasant effect resulting from eating particular things or taking particular drugs: *Some people have an allergic reaction to shellfish.* **IN SCIENCE** ▷ **5** [C or U] an occasion when two or more substances react with and change each other: *a*

chemical reaction **NO CHANGE** ▷ **6** [U] disapproving the belief or principle that there should be no social or political change, and the attempt to stop such change from happening: *We must not allow reaction to stand in the way of progress.*

reactionary /riˈæk.ʃən.ɪ/ (US) /-er-/ noun [C] disapproving a person who is opposed to political or social change or new ideas: *Reactionaries are preventing reforms.* • **reactionary** adj *Reactionary forces/elements in the industry are preventing its progress towards greater efficiency.*

reactivate /riˈæk.ti.veɪt/ verb [I or T] to bring or come back into action or use: *The police file was reactivated because of new evidence.* • *The virus can reactivate at any time.*

reactive /riˈæk.tɪv/ adj reacting to events or situations rather than acting first to change or prevent something: *Unfortunately, the police have dealt with the problem of car theft in a reactive rather than a proactive way.*

reactor /riˈæk.tə/ (US) /-tə/ noun [C] (also **nuclear reactor**) a large machine in which atoms are either divided or joined in order to produce power

read /riːd/ verb; noun

► verb (read, read /red/) **UNDERSTAND** ▷ **1** **A** [I or T] to look at words or symbols and understand what they mean: *He spent a pleasant afternoon reading (the newspaper/a book).* • *I read about the family's success in the local paper.* • *It was too dark to read our map and we took a wrong turning.* • *Can you read music?* • *Your handwriting is so untidy I can't read it.* • [+ (that)] *I've read in the newspapers (that) there is a threat of war.* • *Put your plastic card in the slot, and the machine will read it and identify who you are.* • *Some children can read (= have learned the skill of reading) by the age of four.* **2** **A** [I or T] to say the words that are printed or written: *She read (the poem) slowly and quietly.* • [+ two objects] *Their teacher always reads them a story at the end of the day.* • *Children love to have stories read (aloud/out) to them.* **3** **C** [T] to understand and give a particular meaning to written information, a statement, a situation, etc.: *She missed the train because she read 18.30 p.m. as 8.30 p.m. instead of 6.30 p.m.* • *On page 19, for 'Blitish', please read 'British'.* • *If I've read the situation correctly, we should have some agreement on the contract by the end of the week.* **4** [I or T] How you read a piece of writing, or how it reads, is how it seems when you read it: *The letter reads as if (also non-standard like) it was written in a hurry.* • *Her latest novel reads well (= is written in an attractive way).* **5** [T] (especially when communicating by radio), to hear and understand someone: *Do you read me?* • *I read you loud and clear.* **6** **read sb to sleep** to read aloud to someone until they go to sleep: *Every night when I was a child my father used to read me to sleep.* **STATE** ▷ **7** [I] (of something written or printed) to have or give the stated information or meaning: [+ speech] *The start of the American Constitution reads 'We, the people of the United States...'* • *The thermometer is reading 40°C in the shade.* **STUDY** ▷ **8** [I or T] UK formal to study at university or to study for a specialized qualification: *They're both reading history at Cambridge.* • legal *She's reading for the Bar (= studying to become a type of lawyer called a barrister).*

IDIOMS **read sb's lips** to follow the movements of someone's lips in order to understand what they are saying, especially if you are unable to hear them speak: *She read his lips across the busy conference hall - 'Time to go'.* → See also **lip-read** • **read sb's mind** (also **read sb's thoughts**) to know what someone is

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reader

thinking without them telling you: humorous *'How about a drink, then?'* *'Ah, you read my mind!'* • **read sb's palm** to look at the lines on a person's hand as a way of trying to find out what will happen to them in the future: *In a tent an old gypsy woman was reading palms.* • **read (sb) the riot act** to speak angrily to someone about something they have done and warn them that they will be punished if they do it again • **read between the lines** **C** to try to understand someone's real feelings or intentions from what they say or write: *Reading between the lines, I'd say he isn't happy with the situation.* • **read my lips** informal a slightly rude way of telling someone to listen carefully to what you are saying: *Read my lips. No new taxes.* • **read the runes** UK literary to understand what will happen in the future, by looking at what is happening now: *He was the first of the Eastern leaders to read the runes and make political changes to stay in power.* • **take sth as read** UK to accept that something is true without making sure that it is: *I just took it as read that anyone who applied for the course would have the necessary qualifications.*

PHRASAL VERBS **read sth into sth** to believe that an action, remark or situation has a particular importance or meaning, often when this is not true: *Don't read too much into her leaving so suddenly - she probably just had a train to catch.* • **read sth out** **B** to read something and say the words aloud so that other people can hear: *He read out the names of all the winners.* • **read sth over/through** **B** to read something quickly from the beginning to the end, especially to find mistakes: *I read your proposal through last night and I think we'll agree to it.* • *Always read over your work when you've finished.* • **read up (on/about) sth** **A** to spend time reading in order to find out information about something: *It's a good idea to read up on a company before going for an interview.*

► noun [S] UK **C** the act of reading something: *It's not brilliant but it's worth a read.* • *The book is a good/easy, etc. read.* • informal *Could I have a read of (= can I read) your newspaper?*

readable /riː.də.bəl/ adj easy and enjoyable to read: *It is an excellent and highly readable account of the army today.*

-readable /-riː.də.bəl/ suffix machine/computer-readable in a form that is able to be used by a computer: *Machine-readable passports will permit precise identity-checking.*

readdress /riː.ə.dres/ verb [T] to write a different address on an envelope because the person it is intended for has moved to another place: *We re-addressed all his letters to Australia for years after he had emigrated.*

reader /riː.də/ (US) /-də/ noun [C] **PERSON WHO READS** ▷ **1** someone who reads for pleasure, especially a person who reads a lot: *He's a great/voracious reader (= reads many books).* • *She's an avid reader of historical novels.* **2** someone who reads a particular newspaper or magazine: *We asked our readers to write in and give us their views.* • *She described him as a typical Guardian reader.* **3** specialized a person whose job is to advise a publishing company if a particular book should be published **SIMPLE BOOK** ▷ **4** a book containing a simple story that is designed for children who are learning to read or people who are learning a language: *There are readers at five different levels, from beginner to upper intermediate.* **TEACHER** ▷ **5** specialized a teacher, at British universities, just

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change it or harm it: *In their senseless killing of innocent people, the terrorists have shown their lack of respect for human life.* • *She grumbled that young people today have/show no respect for the law.* 4 [U] the feeling you show when you accept that different customs or cultures are different from your own and behave towards them in a way which would not cause offence: *She teaches the students to have respect for different races and appreciate the diversity of other cultures.* 5 **sb's respects** formal polite formal greetings: *Please convey/give my respects to your parents.* **FEATURE** ▷ 6 [C] a particular feature or detail: *This proposal differs from the last one in many important respects/one important respect.* • *In most respects, the new film is better than the original.*

IDIOMS in respect of sth (also **with respect to sth**) ② in connection with something: *I am writing with respect to your letter of 15 June.* • **pay your respects** formal 1 to visit someone in order to welcome them or talk to them: *We went to pay our respects to our new neighbours.* 2 (also **pay your last respects**) to honour someone after their death, usually by going to their funeral: *Friends and relatives came to pay their last respects to Mr Clarke.* • **with (all due) respect** (also **with (the greatest) respect**) used to express polite disagreement in a formal situation: *With all due respect, Minister, I cannot agree with your last statement.*

▷ **verb** [T] **ADMIRE** ▷ 1 ③ to feel or show admiration for someone or something that you believe has good ideas or qualities: *I deeply respect David for what he has achieved.* 2 **respect yourself** to be proud of your own qualities or achievements **HONOUR** ▷ 3 to treat something or someone with kindness and care: *to respect someone's feelings* • *We should respect the environment and not pollute it.* 4 ② to accept the importance of someone's rights or customs and to do nothing that would harm them or cause them offence: *The agreement will respect the rights of both nations.* • *I would appreciate it if you would respect my privacy.* 5 to accept that something is right or important and not to attempt to change it or harm it: *The president pledged to respect the existing frontiers between the two countries.* 6 to think that it is important to obey a law or rule: *I was always taught to respect the law.* 7 **respect sb's wishes** ② to do what someone has asked to have done: *His children respected his last wishes and held a simple funeral for him.*

respectability /rɪˈspek.tə.bəl.i.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ noun [U] the quality of being considered socially acceptable: *an attempt to gain international respectability* • *The company operates out of modern offices to create an air of respectability.*

respectable /rɪˈspek.tə.bəl/ adj 1 ② considered to be socially acceptable because of your good character, appearance or behaviour: *a respectable young woman from a good family* • *This part of the city has become quite respectable in the last ten years.* 2 ② describes an amount or quality that it is large enough or of a good enough standard to be acceptable: *She earns a respectable salary.* • *The final score was a respectable 2-1.*

IDIOM make yourself respectable humorous to put on clothes so that you are in a suitable state to meet someone: *Could you wait a minute while I make myself respectable?*

respectably /rɪˈspek.tə.bli/ adv 1 in a respectable way 2 in a way which achieves a reasonable result: *The*

car performs respectably on the motorway, although it is slightly noisy. • *It is a small-budget film, but it has done respectably at the box office.*

respected /rɪˈspek.tɪd/ adj ② admired by many people for your qualities or achievements: *a highly respected figure/politician/doctor* • *the country's most respected daily newspaper* • *He is very well respected in the business world.*

respector /rɪˈspek.tər/ (US) /-tər/ noun [C] 1 someone who thinks that something is very important: *He is a great respector of tradition.* 2 **be no respector of sth** to treat or affect everyone in the same way: *Air pollution is no respector of national frontiers.*

respectful /rɪˈspek.tʃəl/ adj **ADMIRATION** ▷ 1 ③ showing admiration for someone or something: *'We're so pleased to meet you at last,' he said in a respectful tone of voice.* → Opposite **disrespectful** **HONOUR** ▷ 2 ③ showing politeness or honour to someone or something: *There was a respectful two-minute silence as we remembered the soldiers who had died in the war.* 3 **be respectful of sth** to accept that something is important and not to try to change it or cause offence: *He taught his children to be respectful of other cultures.*

respectfully /rɪˈspek.tʃə.li/ adv **POLITE** ▷ 1 ② in a way that shows you want to be polite or honour someone: *When she was asked if she had any ambition to become prime minister, she respectfully (= politely) declined to answer the question.* • *As the body was carried through the crowd, people drew back respectfully (= to show their respect).* **ADMIRATION** ▷ 2 ② in a way that shows you admire someone or something

IDIOM Respectfully yours a very formal and polite way of ending a letter

respective /rɪˈspek.tɪv/ adj [before noun] ③ relating or belonging to each of the separate people or things you have just mentioned: *Everyone would go into the hall for assembly and then afterwards we'd go to our respective classes.* • **respectively** /-li/ adv In the 200 metres, Lizzy and Sarah came first and third respectively (= Lizzy won the race and Sarah was third).

respiration /ˌres.pɪˈreɪ.ʃən/ noun [U] formal or specialized breathing: *Her respiration was slow and difficult.* • *The diaphragm is the principal muscle of respiration.* → See also **artificial respiration**

respirator /ˌres.pɪˈreɪ.tər/ (US) /-tər/ noun [C] 1 artificial breathing equipment: *Doctors put the patient on a respirator.* 2 a device worn over the mouth and nose to prevent harmful substances from being breathed in: *The firefighters wore respirators to help them breathe in the smoke-filled house.*

respiratory /rɪˈspɪr.ə.tər.i/ (US) /ˌres.pə.ə.tər.i/ adj [before noun] formal or specialized relating to breathing: *Smoking can cause respiratory diseases.*

re'spiratory system noun [C usually singular] the organs which make it possible for you to breathe

respire /rɪˈspaɪər/ (US) /-ˈspair/ verb [I] specialized to breathe

respite /ˈres.paɪt/ noun formal 1 [U] a pause or rest from something difficult or unpleasant: *We worked for hours without respite.* 2 [S] a useful delay before something unpleasant happens: *Their teacher was away, so they had a day's respite before their essays were due.*

resplendent /rɪˈsplend.ənt/ adj literary having a very bright or beautiful appearance: *the queen's resplendent purple robes* • *I saw Anna at the other end of the room, resplendent in a red cocktail dress.* • **resplendence** /-dʌns/ noun [U] • **resplendently** /-li/ adv

respond /rɪˈspɒnd/ (US) /-ˈspa:nd/ verb [I] 1 ② to say or

do something as a reaction to something that has been said or done: [+ speech] To every question, he responded 'I don't know.' • I asked her what the time was, but she didn't respond. • He responded by marching off and slamming the door behind him. • How did she respond to the news? • [+ that] When the tax office wrote to me demanding unpaid income tax, I responded that I had been working abroad since 1998. • The police respond to emergencies (= arrive and are ready to deal with emergencies) in just a few minutes. **2 respond to sth** If diseases or patients respond to treatment, the treatment begins to cure them: It remains to be seen whether the cancer will respond to treatment. • For patients who do not respond to drug treatment, surgery is a possible option.

respondent /rɪˈspɒn.dənt/ (US) /-ˈspɑːn-/ noun [C]
1 specialized a person who answers a request for information: In a recent opinion poll, a majority of respondents were against nuclear weapons. **2** legal in a court case, the person who a PETITION (= a formal letter to the court asking for a particular action) is made against, especially in a DIVORCE case: She divorced the respondent on the grounds of unreasonable behaviour.
 → Compare **co-respondent**

response /rɪˈspɒns/ (US) /-ˈspɑːns/ noun **1** [C or U] an answer or reaction: Responses to our advertisement have been disappointing. • Her proposals met with an enthusiastic response. • I looked in her face for some response, but she just stared at me blankly. • Management have granted a ten percent pay rise in response to union pressure. **2** [C] any of the parts sung or said, in some religious ceremonies, by the people in answer to the parts said or sung by the priest

Word partners for response

draw/elicit/evoke/provoke a response • get/have/ receive a response • an encouraging/favourable/good/positive response • an angry/negative/poor response • a direct/quick/rapid response • sb's immediate/initial/instinctive response • sb's response to sth • in response to sth

response time noun [C or U] the amount of time that a person or system takes to react or to deal with something: The ambulance service is trying to reduce delays in response time.

responsibility /rɪˈspɒn.sɪˈbɪl.ɪ.ti/ (US) /-ˈspɑːn.səˈbɪl.ə.ti/ noun **DUTY** **1** [C or U] something that it is your job or duty to deal with: [+ to infinitive] It's her responsibility to ensure the project finishes on time. • She takes her responsibilities as a nurse very seriously. **2** have responsibility to be in a position of authority over someone and to have a duty to make certain that particular things are done: Who has responsibility here? • Jenny, you have responsibility for clearing up the room after the class. **3** have a responsibility to sb to have a duty to work for or help someone who is in a position of authority over you: The company says it cannot cut its prices any more because it has a responsibility to its shareholders. **BLAME** **4** [U] blame for something that has happened: Terrorists have claimed responsibility for (= stated that they caused) yesterday's bomb attack. • The minister took/accepted full responsibility for (= admitted that he was to blame for) the disaster and resigned. **GOOD JUDGMENT** **5** [U] good judgment and the ability to act correctly and make decisions on your own: He has no sense of responsibility. • The job carries a lot of responsibility (= it involves making important decisions).

IDIOM act/do sth on your own responsibility formal to act without being told to by someone in authority

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rest

Common mistake: responsibility

Warning: Check your spelling!

Responsibility is one of the 50 words most often spelled wrongly by learners.

Word partners for responsibility (DUTY)

have a responsibility • responsibility falls on sb • share responsibility • abdicate/avoid/shirk responsibility • a big/heavy/huge responsibility

Word partners for responsibility (BLAME)

accept/bear/shoulder/take responsibility • admit/claim responsibility • full/total responsibility • responsibility for sth

responsible /rɪˈspɒn.sɪ.bəl/ (US) /-ˈspɑːn-/ adj **DUTY** **1** be responsible for sb/sth/doing sth **2** to have control and authority over something or someone and the duty of taking care of it or them: Paul is directly responsible for the efficient running of the office. • Her department is responsible for overseeing the councils. **2** be responsible to sb/sth to be controlled by someone or something: In Australia, the prime minister and the Cabinet are responsible to the House of Representatives.

Common mistake: responsible

The correct preposition to use after **responsible** is **for**.

Don't say 'responsible of/about something', say **responsible for something**:

We are all responsible of our own decisions.

We are all responsible for our own decisions.

BLAME **3** be responsible for sth/doing sth **3** to be the person who caused something to happen, especially something bad: Who is responsible for this terrible mess? • Last month's bad weather was responsible for the crop failure. **4** hold sb/sth responsible to blame someone or something: He held me personally responsible whenever anything went wrong in the project. **5** be responsible for your actions to be in control of yourself so that you can fairly be blamed for your bad actions: The defendant was depressed and therefore not fully responsible for her own actions. **GOOD JUDGMENT** **6** having good judgment and the ability to act correctly and make decisions on your own: a hard-working and responsible employee • Let's stay calm and try to behave like responsible adults. • Many big companies are now becoming more responsible about the way they operate. → Opposite **irresponsible** **7** A responsible job or position involves making important decisions or doing important things. • responsibly /-bli/ adv

Common mistake: responsible

Warning: Check your spelling!

Responsible is one of the 50 words most often spelled wrongly by learners. Remember: the correct spelling ends in 'ible', and not 'able'.

responsive /rɪˈspɒn.sɪv/ (US) /-ˈspɑːn-/ adj making a positive and quick reaction to something or someone: a responsive engine • a responsive audience • She wasn't responsive to questioning. • The disease has proved responsive to the new treatment. → Opposite **unresponsive** • responsively /-li/ adv • responsiveness /-nəs/ noun [U]

rest /rest/ verb; noun

verb **STOP** **1** [I or T] to (cause someone or