

McGraw-Hill Education

Essential ESL Dictionary

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words**

for Learners of English

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EDUCATION

Essential ESL Dictionary

for Learners of English



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Preface

McGraw-Hill Education: Essential ESL Dictionary for Learners of English is an English dictionary especially designed for students who are studying English at elementary and intermediate levels. Its **approach** guarantees that all of the terms appearing in the subjects that are taught in English are contained in this dictionary, so that any lexical doubt which students may have regarding these subjects can be easily solved by consulting their dictionary. In addition, it contains **40 pages of thematic illustrations** especially designed to help students to learn vocabulary in a significant and contextualized way and to reinforce the key vocabulary and concepts found in their textbooks.

It also has many **usage notes** and **grammar boxes** which explain and clarify the main doubts and difficulties which arise for students in their English language learning process, and is supplied with a large number of illustrations to facilitate lexicon acquisition.

The dictionary also includes a **Conversation guide** which provides the user with examples of common conversations that occur in specific contexts, showing the vocabulary and language structures that students need to learn. This guide will help students to tackle successfully a wide range of communication situations.

User's Guide

This sign indicates the most common words – the first you need to learn.

↑ **breakfast** /'brek.fəst/ [countable noun] The first meal of the day: *I always have breakfast in bed on Sundays.*

Key terms for the study of school courses in English

↑ **calyx** /'keɪ.lɪks/ [countable noun] The sepals which together form the layer that protects a flower in bud: *The calyx is the outer part of the flower.* ■ The plural is "calyces" or "calyxes". ■ Compare with "corolla" (The petals which form the inner envelope of a flower).

Phonetic transcription and pronunciation notes. (All phonetic symbols are listed on page 11.)

↑ **volcano** US: /vɑ:l'keɪ.nəʊ/ UK: /vɒl'keɪ.nəʊ/ [countable noun] A hole where very hot rock comes out: *The volcanoes of the United States are located along the West Coast.* ■ Be careful with the pronunciation of this word! "ca" rhymes with "day". ■ The plural is "volcanoes".

Grammatical category is shown in brackets and not abbreviated. Headwords with different grammatical functions are separated by numbers.

↑ **answer**¹ US: /'ænt.sə/ UK: /'ɑ:nt.sə/ [countable noun] The response to a question: *I've asked you a question and I want an answer.*

answer² [verb] **1** To say something to somebody who has asked you a question: *I asked her about Jim but she didn't answer.* **2 to answer the door** To open the door in answer to a knock or ring: *I had to ring twice before they answered the door.* **3 to answer the telephone** To pick up the telephone in answer to a call: *Can you answer the phone, Mark? I'm in the bathroom.*

Clear and simple definitions separated by a number and with examples

↑ **compass** /'kʌm.pəs/ [countable noun] **1** An instrument that shows direction: *A compass has a pointer that always points north.* **2** A metal or plastic instrument which is used for drawing circles: *If you change the angle of the compass, you can draw circles of different size.* ■ In this use, we also say "compasses". ■ The plural is "compasses". 👁 See page 456.

↑ **stave** [countable noun] The five parallel lines on which musical notes are written in a score: *The music teacher wrote the tune of the song on a stave on the whiteboard.* 👁 See page 460.

Irregular verbs with their forms

↑ **forget, forgot, forgotten** /fə'get/, /fɔ:-/ [verb] Not to remember something: *Don't forget we're having a test on Monday.*

↑ **call**² US: /kɑ:l/ UK: /kɔ:l/ [verb] **1** To attract somebody's attention by shouting: *Somebody called my name from the other end of the room.* **2** To telephone: *I called Jane to invite her to go to the movies with me but she wasn't in.* **3 to be called** To have a name: *What is this animal called in English?* **4 to call collect** On the phone, to ask the person you are calling to pay for the call: *When I was in Europe this summer I called collect every week to talk to my parents.* ■ In British English they say "reverse the charges".
 ▶ **PHRASAL VERBS** • **to call back** To return a telephone call or to call again: *He said he'd call me back when he got home.* • **to call on** To visit: *We'll call on you tomorrow evening.* • **to call off** To stop something that had been planned: *As it was raining, we had to call off the game.*

Clear distinction between idioms and phrasal verbs

↑ **people** /'pi:pl/ [plural noun] More than one person: *How many people shall we invite to the party?* ■ **Be careful!** "People" is a countable noun. We say: "There are many people here". (We don't say: "There is many people here").

Notes to avoid poor translations or incorrect usage

↑ **library** /'laɪ.brər.i, -brɪ/ [countable noun] A place where you can borrow or read books: *The library in our school has all kinds of books.* ■ The plural is "libraries". ■ Compare with "bookstore" (a shop where you can buy books). 👁 See picture at street.

↑ **tooth** /tu:θ/ [countable noun] **1** One of the hard parts in your mouth: *I'm going to have one of my back teeth taken out tomorrow.* **2 tooth decay** The process of going bad of a tooth: *Eating too many candies can cause tooth decay.* ■ The plural is "teeth".

Information about the plural and comparative forms

↑ **big** /bɪg/ [adjective] Large or important: *An elephant is big, a mouse is small.* ■ The comparative form is "bigger" and the superlative form is "biggest".
 👁 See pictures at opposite and a piece of...

chemist's /'kemɪst/ [countable noun] See **pharmacy**. ■ This word is British English.

Notes about British English

viviparous /vɪ'vɪp.ər.əs/ US: /-ə-/ [adjective] Giving birth to live young that have developed inside the body of the mother: *Mammals are all viviparous.* ■ Compare with "oviparous" (born from an egg outside the mother). 👁 See page 427.

Notes with other important information

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