
Oxford
Thesaurus of English

SECOND EDITION

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Preface

The word thesaurus comes from the Greek word *thesauros*, meaning ‘storehouse’ or ‘treasure’. This is an apt description, because a thesaurus is a kind of treasure trove of the language, allowing you to explore its richness and variety. By listing groups of words that have similar meanings to each other, a thesaurus offers a choice of alternative words (synonyms) that can be used in place of one that you already have in mind.

Thus a thesaurus helps you to express yourself more accurately and in more interesting and varied ways. It is an invaluable tool for anyone who writes, whether for memos and reports at work, essays and dissertations at school and college, letters to business contacts, friends, or potential employers, or creative writing for a living or for pleasure. A thesaurus can provide the answer when a word is on the tip of your tongue, or it can expand your vocabulary to help you find new ways of saying what you want to. A thesaurus can also help in solving crossword puzzles and with many other word games.

The *Oxford Thesaurus of English*, first published in 2000 and now appearing in its second edition, contains an unrivalled number of alternative and opposite words: well over 600,000 in total. It is the most comprehensive one-volume thesaurus available, including not only everyday words but also unusual and colourful words, specialist terms, and archaic and obsolete terms. There are more than 16,000 entries, arranged A–Z, which means that you only have to go one place to find what you are looking for, and there is no need for a bulky index. For

each of those 16,000 entries, there is an average of 38 alternatives, carefully chosen, sorted, and arranged to help you find the word you need as quickly as possible.

In addition to the standard entries, the *Oxford Thesaurus of English* offers an array of special features designed to enhance the usefulness and accessibility of the book. ‘Choose the Right Word’ panels explore in detail the differences between close synonyms such as *brusque*, *abrupt*, *curt*, and *terse*; the findings presented here, new to this edition, are the result of sophisticated computational analysis of how these words are used in real English, giving the user the fullest and most accurate account available. Also new to this edition are over 1300 Word Links, at 720 entries, to words which are not synonyms but which have another kind of relation to the headword: for example, at *cat* there are terms for the male and female cat (*tom*, *queen*) as well as the adjective relating to cats (*feline*).

Lastly, there is a new Word List section in the centre of the book, offering hundreds of lists covering everything from types of cheese to species of bird and names of dances. These are cross-referenced from within the main text but can also be used independently, ideal for crossword and word-game enthusiasts.

For a quick tour of the main features of the *Oxford Thesaurus of English*, look at ‘How to use this thesaurus’ on pp. xi–xii. The Introduction on the next few pages gives more details on the contents and organization of *OTE* and how to get the most out of it.

How to use this thesaurus

headword

part of speech of headword

example of use

form of the headword for which synonyms are given

noun phrase entered under noun section

phrasal verb entered under verb section

label indicating currency of following synonyms

core synonym

WORD LINKS

list of books
book enthusiast
relating to rare books

bibliography
bibliophile, bibliomane
antiquarian

book See centre pages for list of **Stories** (*Types of Story and Novel*)
noun **1** he published his first book in 1610; **volume**; tome, work, printed work, publication, title, opus, treatise; novel, storybook; manual, handbook, guide, companion, reference book; paperback, hardback, softback; *historical yellowback*.
2 he scribbled a few notes in his book; **notepad**, notebook, pad, memo pad, exercise book, binder; ledger, record book, log, logbook, chronicle, journal, diary, daybook; *Brit.* jotter, pocketbook; *N. Amer.* scratch pad; *French cahier*.
3; (**books**); the council had to balance its books **accounts**, records, archives; account book, record book, ledger, log, balance sheet, financial statement
by the book; he does all his police work by the book **according to the rules**, in accordance with the rules, within the law, abiding by the law, lawfully, legally, legitimately, licitly; honestly, fairly, openly; *informal* on the level, on the up and up, fair and square.
verb **1** Steven booked a table at their favourite restaurant **reserve**, make a reservation for, arrange in advance, prearrange, arrange for, order; charter, hire; *informal* bag; *dated*; engage, bespeak.
2 we booked a number of events in the Wellington Festival **arrange**, programme, schedule, timetable, line up, secure, fix up, lay on; *N. Amer. slate*.
book in; he booked in at the St Francis Hotel **register**, check in, enrol, record/log one's arrival.

article explaining the difference between a confusable pair of words

flaunt or flout?
 It is a common error to use **flaunt** as though it meant the same as **flout**. *Flaunt* means 'display ostentatiously', as in *tourists flaunting their wealth*. *Flout*, on the other hand, means 'defy or disobey (a rule)', as in *timber companies are continuing to flout environmental laws*. Saying that someone *flaunts the rules* is an error due to similarity in sound and to the element of ostentation involved in *flouting* a regulation.

homonym number showing that there are other entries for lead

pronunciation

lead (rhymes with 'bed') **noun** he was removing the lead from the man's chest **bullet**, pellet, ball, slug; shot, buckshot, ammunition.

WORD LINKS

relating to lead
related prefix

plumbic, plumbous
plumb- (e.g. *plumbate*)

list of words, in centre section, for different types of rock

Rocks

See also **Gems Minerals**

sedimentary	breccia	coal	flint
arenite	chalk	conglomerate	ironstone
argillite	chert	diatomite	limestone
	claystone	dolomite	marl ...

peculiar ▶ adjective **1** *something even more peculiar began to happen* **strange**, unusual, odd, funny, curious, bizarre, weird, uncanny, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, untypical, different, out of the ordinary, out of the way; exceptional, rare, extraordinary, remarkable; puzzling, mystifying, mysterious, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable, incongruous, uncommon, irregular, singular, deviant, aberrant, freak, freakish; suspicious, dubious, questionable; eerie, unnatural; *Scottish* unco; *French* outré; *informal* fishy, creepy, spooky; *Brit. informal rum*; *N. Amer. informal* bizarro.
[OPPOSITES] normal, ordinary.
2 *his peculiar behaviour at the airport* **bizarre**, eccentric, strange, odd, weird, queer, funny, unusual, abnorm, idiosyncratic, unconventional, outlandish, offbeat, freakish, quirky, quaint, droll, zany, off-centre; *informal* wacky, freaky, kooky, screwy, kinky, oddball, cranky; *N. Amer. informal* off the wall, wacko; *Austral./NZ informal, dated* dilly.
3 *(informal) I still feel a bit peculiar* **unwell**, ill, poorly, bad, out of sorts, indisposed, not oneself, sick, queasy, nauseous, nauseated, peaky, liverish, green about the gills, run down, washed out; *Brit.* off, off colour; *informal* under the weather, below par, not up to par, funny, rough, lousy, rotten, awful, terrible, dreadful, crummy, seedy; *Brit. informal* grotty, ropy; *Scottish/informal* wabbit, peely-wally; *Austral./NZ informal* crook; *rare* peaked, peakish.
4 *attitudes and mannerisms peculiar to the islanders* **characteristic of**, typical of, representative of, belonging to, indicative of, symptomatic of, suggestive of, exclusive to, like, in character with.
5 *Elena added her own peculiar contribution* **distinctive**, characteristic, distinct, different, individual, individualistic, distinguishing, typical, special, specific, representative, unique, idiosyncratic, personal, private, essential, natural; identifiable, unmistakable, conspicuous, notable, remarkable; *rare* singular.

semicolon marking subdivision of synonym set

label indicating origin of following synonym

label indicating informality of following synonyms

words meaning the opposite of the headword

label indicating that this sense of peculiar is used in informal language

label indicating regional use of following synonyms

number for each sense treated separately

cross-reference to lists of words for different types of rock

rock ▶ See centre pages for lists of **Gems Minerals Rocks**.
 ▶ noun: **1** *a narrow gully strewn with rocks* **boulder**, stone; *Austral. informal* goolie.
2 *a castle built on a rock* **crag**, cliff, tor, outcrop, outcropping.
3 *he was the rock on which his whole family relied* **foundation**, cornerstone, support, prop, mainstay, backbone; tower of strength, pillar of strength, bulwark, anchor, source of protection, source of security.
4 *(informal) she was wearing a massive rock on her fourth finger* **diamond**, precious stone, jewel.
 □ **on the rocks** *(informal)* **1** *Sue's marriage was on the rocks* **in difficulty**, in trouble, breaking down, practically over, heading for divorce, heading for the divorce courts; in tatters, in pieces, destroyed, shattered, ruined, beyond repair.
2 *he ordered a Scotch on the rocks* **with ice**, on ice.

WORD LINKS

related prefixes **litho-** (e.g. **lithography**), **petro-** (e.g. **petroleum**)
 related suffix **-lite** (e.g. **hyalite**)
 study of rocks **lithology, petrology, petrography**

words, prefixes, or suffixes with meanings related to that of the headword

article explaining the differences between a group of close synonyms

CHOOSE THE RIGHT WORD

strange, odd, curious, peculiar

These words are all applied to things that are unusual or unfamiliar; they generally also suggest that something is in some way surprising.

- **Strange** is the most neutral term for something that is not expected or is hard to understand or explain (*this is strange behaviour for a left-wing party | he looked at her with a strange expression*). This is the only word of the four that can be used in the expression *strange to say*, as in *I went to see 'Fallen Angels', which, strange to say, is a hit*.
- **Odd** gives a stronger sense that the speaker or writer is perplexed (*do you think it odd that I pay her bills? | they were an odd family*).
- Describing something as **curious** implies that one finds it not only strange or puzzling but also interesting or appealing (*the church has a curious history | the room is filled with a curious mixture of people*). It rarely has the connotation of deviance that the other words can have.
- Something described as **peculiar** is felt to be very strange, even disturbingly so (*he was struck by the peculiar appearance of a group of birds | whoever thought up that joke has a peculiar sense of humour*).

[**OPPOSITES**] tidy; neat.

dishonest ► **adjective** *he is accused of dishonest business practices | a dishonest account of events* **fraudulent**, corrupt, swindling, cheating, double-dealing; underhand, crafty, cunning, devious, designing, treacherous, perfidious, unfair, unjust, disreputable, rascally, roguish, dirty, unethical, immoral, dishonourable, unscrupulous, unprincipled, amoral; criminal, illegal, unlawful; **false**, untruthful, deceitful, deceiving, deceptive, lying, mendacious, untrustworthy; *informal* crooked, shady, tricky, sharp, shifty; *Brit. informal* bent, dodgy; *Austral./NZ informal* shonky; *S. African informal* slim; *Law* malfeasant; *archaic* knavish, subtle, hollow-hearted; *rare* false-hearted, double-faced, truthless.

[**OPPOSITE**] honest.

dishonesty ► **noun** *he lost money as a result of his solicitor's dishonesty* **deceit**, deception, duplicity, lying, falseness, falsity, falsehood, untruthfulness; **fraud**, fraudulence, sharp practice, cheating, chicanery, craft, cunning, trickery, artifice, artfulness, wiliness, guile, double-dealing, underhandedness, subterfuge, skulduggery, treachery, perfidy, unfairness, unjustness, improbity, rascality, untrustworthiness, dishonour, unscrupulousness, corruption, criminality, lawlessness, lawbreaking, misconduct; *informal* crookedness, shadiness, foxiness, dirty tricks, kidology, shenanigans, monkey business, funny business, hanky-panky; *Brit. informal* jiggery-pokery; *N. Amer. informal* monkeyshines; *Irish informal* codology; *Law* malfeasance; *archaic* management, knavery, knavishness.

[**OPPOSITE**] probity.

dishonour ► **noun** *the incident brought dishonour upon the police profession* **disgrace**, shame, discredit, humiliation, degradation, ignominy, scandal, infamy, disrepute, ill repute, loss of face, disfavour, ill favour, unpopularity, ill fame, notoriety, debasement, abasement, odium, opprobrium, obloquy; stigma; *rare* disesteem, reprobation, vitiation.

[**OPPOSITE**] honour.

► **verb 1** *you have betrayed our master and dishonoured the banner* **disgrace**, bring dishonour to, bring discredit to, bring shame to, shame, embarrass, humiliate, discredit, degrade, debase, lower, cheapen, drag down, drag through the mud, blacken the name of, give a bad name to, show in a bad light; sully, stain, taint, smear, mar, blot, stigmatize.

[**OPPOSITE**] honour.

2 (*archaic*) *some girls burned themselves to death after being dishonoured* **rape**, violate, seduce, debauch; assault, sexually assault, sexually abuse; *euphemistic* take advantage of, take away someone's innocence; *literary* ravish, deflower, defile, ruin; *rare* vitiate.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT WORD

dishonour, disgrace, shame, ignominy

See **DISGRACE**.

dishonourable ► **adjective** *he is accused of dishonourable conduct* **disgraceful**, shameful, shameless, shaming, disreputable, discreditable, degrading, debasing, ignominious, ignoble, blameworthy, contemptible, despicable, reprehensible, shabby, shoddy, sordid, sorry, base, low, improper, unseemly, unworthy; unprincipled, unscrupulous, corrupt, untrustworthy, treacherous, perfidious, traitorous, villainous; *informal* shady, crooked, low-down, dirty, rotten, rascally, scoundrelly; *Brit. informal* beastly; *archaic* scurvy, knavish.

[**OPPOSITE**] honourable.

disillusion ► **verb** *if they think we have a magic formula, don't disillusion them* **disabuse**, undeceive, enlighten, set straight, open someone's eyes; **disenchant**, shatter someone's illusions, disappoint, make sadder and wiser; *informal* throw cold water on.

[**OPPOSITES**] deceive, fool.

► **noun** *the future held almost certain disillusion* **disenchantment**, disillusionment, disappointment, disaffection, dissatisfaction; a rude awakening.

[**OPPOSITES**] promise, enchantment.

disillusioned ► **adjective** *his experience at the club left him disillusioned* **disenchanted**, disappointed, let down, cast down, downcast, discouraged; disabused, undeceived; cynical, sour, negative, world-weary.

[**OPPOSITES**] trusting, enthusiastic.

disincentive ► **noun** *high interest rates are a disincentive to investment* **deterrent**, discouragement, dissuasion, damper, brake, curb, check, restraint, inhibition; obstacle, impediment, hindrance, obstruction, block, barrier.

[**OPPOSITE**] incentive.

disinclination ► **noun** *they show a disinclination to face up to these issues* **reluctance**, unwillingness, lack of enthusiasm, indisposition, slowness, hesitancy, hesitance, diffidence; loathness, aversion, dislike, distaste; objection, demur, resistance, opposition, recalcitrance; *archaic* disrelish; *rare* nolitium, sweriness.

[**OPPOSITES**] inclination, enthusiasm.

disinclined ► **adjective** *she was disinclined to abandon the old ways*

reluctant, unwilling, unenthusiastic, unprepared, indisposed, ill-disposed, not disposed, not in the mood, slow, hesitant, nervous, afraid; loath, averse, antipathetic, resistant, opposed, recalcitrant.

[**OPPOSITES**] inclined, willing.

disinfect ► **verb** *use bleach to disinfect your kitchen surfaces* **sterilize**, sanitize, clean, cleanse, purify, decontaminate; fumigate; pasteurize; *technical* autoclave; *rare* deterge, depollute, depurate.

[**OPPOSITES**] infect, contaminate.

disinfectant ► **noun** *I swabbed the table with disinfectant* **bactericide**, germicide, antiseptic, sterilizer, sanitizer, cleaning agent, cleansing agent, cleanser, decontaminant; fumigant.

disingenuous ► **adjective** *it would be disingenuous of us to pretend ignorance of our book's impact* **dishonest**, deceitful, underhand, underhanded, duplicitous, double-dealing, two-faced, dissembling, insincere, false, lying, untruthful, mendacious; not candid, not frank, not entirely truthful; artful, cunning, crafty, wily, sly, sneaky, tricky, scheming, calculating, designing, devious, unscrupulous; *informal* shifty, foxy; *humorous* economical with the truth, terminologically inexact; *archaic* subtle, hollow-hearted; *rare* false-hearted, double-faced, truthless, unveracious.

[**OPPOSITES**] ingenuous, frank.

disingenuous or ingenuous?

See **INGENUOUS**.

disinherit ► **verb** *the Duke is seeking to disinherit his eldest son* **cut someone out of one's will**, cut off, dispossess, impoverish; disown, repudiate, renounce, reject, oust, cast off, cast aside, wash one's hands of, have nothing more to do with, turn one's back on; *informal* cut off without a penny.

disintegrate ► **verb 1** *the plane caught fire and disintegrated in the air* | *his empire quickly disintegrated* **break up**, break apart, fall apart, fall to pieces, fall to bits, fragment, fracture, shatter, splinter; rupture, explode, blow up, blow apart, fly apart; crumble, dissolve, collapse, founder, fail, decline, go downhill, go to rack and ruin, degenerate, deteriorate; *informal* bust, be smashed to smithereens; *rare* shiver.

2 *some plastics will take over 400 years to disintegrate* **break down**, decompose, decay, rot, moulder, perish, corrode, deteriorate.

WORD LINKS

related suffix -lysis (e.g. *hydrolysis, autolysis*)

disinter ► **verb** *his corpse was disinterred and reburied in another grave* **exhume**, unearth, dig up, bring out of the ground, bring to the surface; *rare* disentomb, unbury, ungrave.

disinterest ► **noun 1** *I do not pretend any scholarly disinterest with this book* **impartiality**, neutrality, objectivity, detachment, disinterestedness, lack of bias, lack of prejudice; open-mindedness, fairness, fair-mindedness, equitability, equity, balance, even-handedness, unselfishness, selflessness.

[**OPPOSITE**] bias.

2 (*informal*) *he looked at us with complete disinterest* **indifference**, lack of interest, lack of curiosity, lack of concern, lack of care, lack of enthusiasm, dispassionateness, dispassion, impassivity; boredom, apathy, nonchalance.

[**OPPOSITE**] interest.

disinterested ► **adjective 1** *she is offering disinterested advice* **unbiased**, unprejudiced, impartial, neutral, non-partisan, non-discriminatory, detached, uninvolved, objective, dispassionate, impersonal, clinical; open-minded, fair, just, equitable, balanced, even-handed, unselfish, selfless; free from discrimination, with no axe to grind, without fear or favour.

[**OPPOSITE**] biased.

2 (*informal*) *he looked at her with disinterested eyes* **uninterested**, indifferent, incurious, unconcerned, unmoved, unresponsive, impassive, passive, detached, unfeeling, uncaring, unenthusiastic, lukewarm, bored, apathetic, blasé, nonchalant; *informal* couldn't-care-less.

[**OPPOSITE**] interested.

disinterested or uninterested?

Disinterested is frequently used as a synonym of **uninterested**, meaning 'having or showing no interest in something'. The traditional meaning of *disinterested*, however, is 'not biased; impartial', as in *bankers are under an obligation to give disinterested advice*. *Uninterested* is the preferred word used to mean 'having no interest', as in *he was totally uninterested in politics*.

disjointed ► **adjective 1** *a disjointed series of impressions in her mind* **unconnected**, disconnected, without unity, disunited, discontinuous, fragmented, fragmentary, disorganized, disordered, muddled, mixed up, jumbled, garbled, incoherent, confused, fitful, erratic, spasmodic, patchy,

[**OPPOSITE**] plain.

3 *endearments in florid English* **flowery**, flamboyant, high-flown, high-sounding, magniloquent, grandiloquent, ornate, fancy, baroque, orotund, rhetorical, oratorical, bombastic, laboured, strained, overwrought, elaborate, over-elaborate, overblown, overdone, convoluted, turgid, inflated; *informal* highfalutin, purple; *rare* tumid, pleonastic, euphuistic, aureate, Ossianic, fustian, hyperventilated.

[**OPPOSITE**] plain.

flotsam ▶ **noun** **1** *we were still finding interesting pieces of flotsam on the beach wreckage*, lost cargo, floating remains.

2 *the room was cleared of boxes and other flotsam* **rubbish**, debris, detritus, waste, waste matter, discarded matter, dross, refuse, remains, scrap, lumber, odds and ends; *N. Amer.* trash, garbage; *Austral./NZ* mullock; *informal* dreck, junk; *Brit. informal* grot, gash; *vulgar slang* shit, crap; *Archaeology* debitage; *rare* draff, raffle, raff, cultch, orts.

flounce¹ ▶ **verb** *she rose from the table in a fury and flounced out* **storm**, stride angrily, sweep, stomp, stamp, march, strut, stalk.

[**OPPOSITE**] slink.

flounce² ▶ **noun** *a black suit with a little white flounce at the neckline* **frill**, ruffle, ruff, peplum, jabot, furbelow, ruche, ruching, gather, tuck, fringe; *archaic* purple.

flounder ▶ **verb** **1** *the dragoons were floundering in the boggy ground* **struggle**, thrash, thresh, flail, toss and turn, twist and turn, pitch, splash, stagger, stumble, falter, lurch, blunder, fumble, grope, squirm, writhe.

[**OPPOSITE**] make good progress.

2 *you may find yourself floundering as you try to answer a question you have not really understood* **struggle mentally**, be out of one's depth, be in the dark, have difficulty, be confounded, be confused, be dumbfounded; *informal* scratch one's head, be flummoxed, be clueless, be foxed, be fazed, be floored, be beaten.

3 *more firms are floundering* **struggle financially**, be in dire straits, face financial ruin, be in difficulties, face bankruptcy/insolvency.

[**OPPOSITE**] prosper.

flourish ▶ **verb** **1** *rainforests flourish because of the heat and the rain* **grow**, thrive, prosper, grow/do well, develop, burgeon, increase, multiply, proliferate; spring up, shoot up, bloom, blossom, bear fruit, burst forth, run riot; put on a spurt, boom, mushroom.

[**OPPOSITES**] die; wither.

2 *the arts flourished in this period* **thrive**, prosper, bloom, be in good shape, be in good health, be well, be strong, be vigorous, be in its heyday; **progress**, make progress, advance, make headway, develop, improve, become better, mature; evolve, make strides, move forward (in leaps and bounds), move ahead, get ahead, expand; *informal* be in the pink, go places, go great guns, get somewhere.

[**OPPOSITE**] decline.

3 *he flourished the sword at them in a mocking salute* **brandish**, wave, shake, wield, raise, hold aloft; swing, twirl, wag, swish, flap; display, exhibit, flaunt, vaunt, parade, show off.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT WORD

flourish, thrive, prosper

All three words denote a healthy or successful state.

■ **Flourish** and **thrive** both mean 'grow healthily' or 'be successful, active, or widespread', and is used especially of plants, but also of people (either physically or emotionally), animals, businesses, activities, and abstract things such as ideas and movements (*only algae will thrive in such an environment* | *Macedonian religious and cultural life continued to flourish under the Byzantines*). Both are often found in their adjectival forms, *flourishing* and *thriving*, which predominantly have a financial sense (*he joined his father's thriving business*).

■ **Thrive** is also used with *on* in a sense tending towards 'enjoy' (*the kind of plants that thrive on heat and dust* | *he is the kind of person who thrives on arguments*).

■ **Prosper** is used of people and groups of people and refers mainly to material or financial success (*the company has grown and prospered*). Although the adjective *prosperous* is an everyday word, *to prosper* can have a slightly archaic ring.

flourishing ▶ **adjective** *a flourishing economy* **thriving**, prosperous, prospering, booming, burgeoning, successful, strong, vigorous, buoyant; productive, profitable, fruitful, lucrative; growing, developing, progressing, improving, expanding, mushrooming, snowballing, ballooning; *informal* going strong.

[**OPPOSITE**] moribund.

flout ▶ **verb** *retailers have been flouting the law by selling tobacco to under-16s* **defy**, refuse to obey, go against, rebel against, scorn, disdain, show contempt for, fly in the face of, thumb one's nose at, make a fool of, poke fun at; disobey, break, violate, fail to comply with, fail to observe,

contravene, infringe, breach, commit a breach of, transgress against; ignore, disregard, set one's face against, kick against; *informal* cock a snook at; *Law* infract; *archaic* set at naught.

[**OPPOSITE**] observe.

flout or flaunt?

See **FLAUNT**.

flow ▶ **verb** **1** *the water flowed down the channel she had dug* **run**, move, go along, course, pass, proceed, glide, slide, drift, circulate, trickle, dribble, drizzle, spill, gurgle, babble, ripple; stream, swirl, surge, sweep, gush, cascade, pour, roll, rush, whirl, well, spurt, spout, squirt, spew, jet; leak, seep, ooze, percolate, drip.

2 *many questions flow from today's announcement* **result**, proceed, arise, follow, ensue, derive, stem, accrue; originate, emanate, spring, emerge; be caused by, be brought about by, be produced by, originate in.

▶ **noun** *the pump produces a good flow of water* **movement**, motion, course, passage, current, flux, drift, circulation; **stream**, swirl, surge, sweep, gush, roll, rush, welling, spate, tide, spurt, squirt, jet, outpouring, outflow; trickle, leak, seepage, ooze, percolation, drip.

[**WORD LINKS**]

related prefix **rheo-** (e.g. *rheostat, rheology*)
related suffixes **-rrhoea** (e.g. *diarrhoea, logorrhoea*),
-rragia (e.g. *menorrhagia*)

flower See centre pages for lists of **Flowering Plants and Shrubs**

[**Flower Parts**]

▶ **noun** **1** *the shrub produces blue flowers in early summer* **bloom**, blossom, floweret, floret.

2 *a man in the flower of his strength* **prime**, peak, pinnacle, zenith, acme, height, ascendancy, climax, culmination, crowning point, perfection, heyday, springtime, bloom, flowering, salad days.

3 *the flower of the nation's youth* **best**, finest, top, pick, choice, choicest, prime, cream, prize, treasure, pearl, gem, jewel, the jewel in the crown, the crème de la crème, first class, elite, elect; *informal* the tops.

[**OPPOSITE**] dregs.

[**WORD LINKS**]

relating to flowers **floral**
related prefixes **flor-** (e.g. *floriated*), **antho-** (e.g. *anthophilous*)
fear of flowers **anthophobia**
seller of flowers **florist**

flowery ▶ **adjective** **1** *flowery patterns* **floral**, flower-covered, flower-patterned.

2 *his flowery language made no impression* **florid**, flamboyant, high-flown, high-sounding, magniloquent, grandiloquent, ornate, fancy, baroque, orotund, rhetorical, oratorical, bombastic, laboured, strained, overwrought, elaborate, over-elaborate, overblown, overdone, convoluted, turgid, inflated; *informal* highfalutin, purple; *rare* tumid, pleonastic, euphuistic, aureate, Ossianic, fustian, hyperventilated.

[**OPPOSITE**] plain.

flowing ▶ **adjective** **1** *she pushed back her long flowing hair* **loose**, hanging loose/free, unconfined; limp, flaccid, floppy.

[**OPPOSITES**] stiff; curly.

2 *the new model will have soft, flowing lines and no hard edges* **sleek**, streamlined, trim, aerodynamic, smooth, clean, uncluttered, unfussy; elegant, graceful; *technical* faired.

[**OPPOSITE**] jagged.

3 *he writes in an easy, flowing style* **fluent**, fluid, free-flowing, effortless, easy, natural, smooth, unbroken, uninterrupted, continuous, graceful, elegant.

[**OPPOSITES**] stilted; halting.

fluctuate ▶ **verb** **1** *the size of harvest fluctuates from year to year* **vary**, differ, shift, change, alter, waver, swing, oscillate, alternate, rise and fall, go up and down, see-saw, yo-yo, be unstable, be unsteady.

[**OPPOSITE**] be steady.

2 *she fluctuates between wanting to go and being afraid of going* **vacillate**, hesitate, waver, falter, veer, swing, sway, oscillate, alternate, teeter, totter, hover, see-saw, yo-yo, go from one extreme to the other, vary, change one's mind, be in two minds, be ambivalent, be indecisive, be unsure, be undecided; *Brit.* hum and haw, haver; *Scottish* swither; *informal* shilly-shally, dilly-dally, blow hot and cold, pussyfoot around, sit on the fence, wobble.

fluctuation ▶ **noun** *a natural fluctuation in the earth's temperature* **variation**, shift, change, alteration, swing, movement, oscillation, undulation, alternation, rise and fall, rising and falling, see-sawing, yo-yoing, instability, unsteadiness.

[**OPPOSITE**] stability.

flue ▶ **noun** **duct**, tube, passage, channel, canal, conduit, shaft, air passage, airway, vent, well; funnel, chimney, chimney stack, smokestack; pipe, pipeline, outlet, inlet.

fluency ▶ **noun** **1** *a job that calls for verbal fluency* **eloquence**, articulacy,

Poisonous Plants and Fungi

aconite	dog's mercury	lucky bean	privet
baneberry	fly agaric	manchineel	the sickener
belladonna	fool's parsley	meadow saffron	spurge laurel
black bryony	foxglove	mezereon	stavesacre
buttercup	greater celandine	monkshood	thorn apple
cowbane	hellebore	naked boys	upas (tree)
deadly nightshade	hemlock	naked ladies	water dropwort
death cap	henbane	oleander	water hemlock
desert rose	Indian poke	panther cap	white snakeroot
destroying angel	laburnum	poison ivy	wolfsbane

Poisonous Substances and Gases

aconitine	diazomethane	paraquat
afterdamp	diborane	parathion
Agent Orange	digitain	Paris green
aldrin	digoxin	perchloric acid
allyl alcohol	dioxane	perchloroethylene
ammonia	endrin	phenol
antifreeze	ethylene oxide	phosgene
arsenic	fluorine	quinine
arsine	formaldehyde	rat poison
atropine	hydrocyanic acid	ricin
bleach	hydrogen cyanide	rotenone
blisters gas	hydrogen sulphide	santonin
bromine	hyoscyamine	sarin
cacodyl	iodine	solanine
cacodylic acid	lewisite	strophanthin
carbon disulphide	lindane	strychnine
carbon monoxide	mercuric chloride	sulphur dioxide
caustic soda	methanol	tartar emetic
chlordan	muscarine	tetrodotoxin
chlorine	nerve gas	turpentine
coniine	nitric acid	veratrine
curare	nitrogen dioxide	warfarin
cyanic acid	osmium tetroxide	white spirit
cyanide	ouabain	zinc chromate
cyanogen	oxalic acid	

Poker Hands

royal flush	full house	straight	2 pairs
straight flush	flush	3 of a kind	1 pair
4 of a kind			

Police Officers and Forces

askari	community police officer	drug/drugs squad	lieutenant marshal
assistant chief constable	constable	faujdar/faujdar	master-at-arms
bomb squad	constabulary	flying squad	Met
Bow Street Runner/Officer	crime squad	fraud squad	military police (MP)
cadet	deputy chief constable	Garda/Gardai	military policeman/policewoman (MP)
captain	desk sergeant	gendarme	Mountie
carabiniere/carabinieri	detective chief inspector	gendarmerie	murder squad
chief (of police)	detective chief superintendent	Gestapo	NKVD
chief constable	detective constable	GPU	NYPD (New York Police Department)
chief inspector	detective inspector	havildar	pointsman
chief superintendent	detective sergeant	Homicide	police constable
CID (Criminal Investigation Department)	detective superintendent	inspector	police
commander		investigating officer	department
commissaire		Keystone Kops	port police
commissioner		KGB	
		LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department)	

provost	Securitate	special constable	SWAT team
provost guard	security police	SS	Sweeney
provost marshal	sepoy	Stasi	Texas Ranger
redcap	sergeant	station sergeant	transport police
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	snatch squad	strike force	trooper
roundsman	SOCO (scene-of-crime officer)	superintendent	vice squad
Scotland Yard	special	Sûreté	Vopo
secret police			woman police constable

Political Philosophies and Systems

See also **Government**

absolutism	federalism	neo-Marxism	state socialism
anarchism	imperialism	pluralism	statism
anarcho-syndicalism	individualism	plutocracy	syndicalism
authoritarianism	laissez-faire	populism	technocracy
Bolshevism	leftism	republicanism	Thatcherism
collectivism	Leninism	rightism	theocracy
communism	liberalism	situationism	the third way
conservatism	libertarianism	social democracy	timocracy
democracy	Maoism	socialism	Titoism
egalitarianism	Marxism	Sovietism	totalitarianism
Eurocommunism	meritocracy	Stalinism	Trotskyism
fascism	monarchism	state capitalism	utilitarianism
	nationalism		Utopianism

Porcelain

See **Pottery and Porcelain**

Pottery

Types of Pottery and Porcelain

Arita	(Royal) Doulton	lustreware	Seto ware
barbotine	(<i>trademark</i>)	maiolica	Sèvres
basalt	Dresden china	majolica	slipware
biscuit (ware)	earthenware	Martinware	spatterware
bisque ware	faience	Meissen	Spode (<i>trademark</i>)
black-figure ware	famille jaune/noire/rose/verte	Ming	Staffordshire ware
bone china	graniteware	Minton (<i>trademark</i>)	stone china
Capo di Monte	greenware	Nabeshima ware	stoneware
Castleford ware	grooved ware	Parian ware	terracotta
celadon	Halaf ware	pearlware	terra sigillata
champlevé	Imari	Peterborough ware	Toft ware
Chelsea ware	ironstone	queensware	transferware
Chün	Iznik ware	raku	Wedgwood (<i>trademark</i>)
cloisonné	jasper/jasperware	red-figure ware	willowware (Royal)
Coalport	Kakiemon ware	Rockingham ware	Worcester (<i>trademark</i>)
creamware	Kutani ware	Samian ware	
Crown Derby		Satsuma ware	
delft			

Poultry

See **Fowl**

Prayers

act of contrition	collect	Hail Mary	paternoster
Agnus Dei	Confitéor	Kaddish	requiescat
Amidah	Creed	Kiddush	rogation
Ave Maria	decade	Kol Nidre	salat
benedicite	doxology	Kyrie (eleison)	Salve Regina
benediction	Gloria	Litany	secret
Benedictus	grace	miserere	shahada/shahadah
bidding prayer	Habdalah/Havdalah	namaz	suffrages
blessing		Our Father	