

How to use the Dictionary

FINDING A WORD OR PHRASE

Words that have more than one part of speech

Words that have the same spelling, but have different parts of speech, are listed separately and given different numbers.

Words that have more than one spelling

If a word is spelt differently in British and American English, the definition and examples are shown at the British spelling, and there is a cross-reference from the American spelling.

If a word has more than one spelling, the different spellings are shown together at the beginning of the entry.

Derived words

Derived words are shown at the end of the entry. These are words that can easily be understood if you know the meaning of the main word. Many of them end in '-ly' or '-ness'.

Compound words

Compound words are treated like ordinary words and listed in alphabetical order as if there were no space or hyphen in them.

Position of idioms and phrases

Idioms and phrases are shown at the first important word of the phrase or idiom. For example *the jury is (still) out on sth* is shown at **jury**. Idioms and phrases are listed with the other senses of the word in frequency order.

Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are listed in alphabetical order after the main verb.

If the phrasal verb has an object, this is shown as **sb** (=somebody) or **sth** (=something). The symbol ↔ means that the object can come before or after the particle. For example **key** something in or **key** in something.

beard¹ /brəd \$ bɜrd/ ●●● [S3] *n* [C]

1 hair that grows around a man's chin and cheeks → **moustache**

2 something similar to a beard, such as hair growing on an animal's chin — **bearded** *adj*

beard² *v* [T] **beard sb (in their den)** to go and see someone who has influence or authority, and tell them what you want, why you disagree with them etc

fa-vor-a-ble /'feɪvərəbəl/ *adj* the American spelling of FAVOURABLE

fa-vour-a-ble BrE, **favorable** AmE /'feɪvərəbəl/ ●○○ *adj*

1 a favourable report, opinion, or reaction shows that you think that someone or something is good or that you agree with them: *favourable film reviews* | *The response has been overwhelmingly favorable.*

2 suitable and likely to make something happen or succeed: *The disease spreads quickly under favourable conditions.* | [+for/to] *a financial environment that is favorable to job creation*

3 if a LOAN, agreement, rate etc is favourable, the conditions of it are reasonable and not too expensive or difficult: *a favourable interest rate* | *the favorable terms of the settlement*

4 making people like or approve of someone or something: *A smart appearance makes a favourable impression at an interview.* — **favourably** *adv*

'gene therapy *n* [U] a way of treating certain diseases by using GENETIC ENGINEERING

gene-tic /dʒə'netɪk/ ●○○ *adj* relating to GENES or GENETICS: *genetic defects* | *each person's genetic make-up* | *genetic research* — **genetically** /-kli/ *adv*: *genetically determined characteristics*

ge-net-ic-ally modified (also **ge-net-ic-ally en-gin-eered**) *adj* (abbreviation **GM**) genetically modified foods or plants have had their genetic structure changed so that they are not affected by particular diseases or harmful insects

ju-ry /'dʒʊəri \$ 'dʒʊri/ ●○○ [S3] [W3] *n* (plural **juries**) [C]

1 a group of often 12 ordinary people who listen to the details of a case in court and decide whether someone is guilty or not: *the members of the jury* | *The jury found him not guilty.* | *the right to trial by jury* | **sit/serve on a jury** (=be part of a jury)

2 a group of people chosen to judge a competition

3 the jury is (still) out on sth used to say that something has not been finally decided: *Is it good value?* *The jury is still out on that.* → **GRAND JURY**

key³ ●○○ *v* [T]

1 AmE *informal* if you key a win for your team, you help it win a game because you play very well: *Abdul keyed the game with three touchdowns.*

2 BrE to prepare a surface so that a covering such as paint will stick to it

key sth ↔ in phr *v* to put information into a computer or other machine, using buttons or a keyboard: *Key in your password and press 'Return'.*

key sth to sth phr *v* AmE

1 to make or change a system so that it works well with something else: *The daycare hours are keyed to the needs of working parents.*

2 if the level, price, or value of something is keyed to something else, it is related to it and they rise and fall at the same time: *Pensions are keyed to the rate of inflation.*