

Helping you choose books for children



opening extract from

Oxford Junior Illustrated Dictionary

written by

Sheila Dignen

published by

Oxford University Press

All text is copyright of the author and illustrator

please print off and read at your leisure.

genre noun (plural **genres**)

A genre is one type of writing. Poetry, adventure stories, and fairy tales are examples of different genres.

gentle adjective **gentler, gentlest**

If you are gentle, you touch something in a kind, careful way and are not rough. *I gave Ali a gentle nudge.*

WORD FAMILY

- **gently** She very gently put the baby bird back in the nest.

gentleman noun (plural **gentlemen**)

a polite name for a man

genuine adjective (say **jen-yoo-in**)

Something that is genuine is real. *Do you think this is genuine gold?*

geography noun (say **jee-og-ra-fee**)

the subject in which you learn about the earth, with its mountains, rivers, countries, and the people who live in them

geology noun

the subject in which you learn about rocks and fossils

**germ** noun (plural **germs**)

A germ is a tiny living thing, that is too small to see. Germs sometimes make you ill if they get inside your body.

get verb **gets, getting, got**

- 1 When you get something, you receive it, buy it, or earn it, and it becomes yours. *What did you get for your birthday?*
- 2 To get means to become. *Are you getting tired yet?*

ghost noun (plural **ghosts**)

the shape of a dead person that some people think they can see

giant noun (plural **giants**)

a very big person, especially in stories

gift noun (plural **gifts**)

a present

gigantic adjective

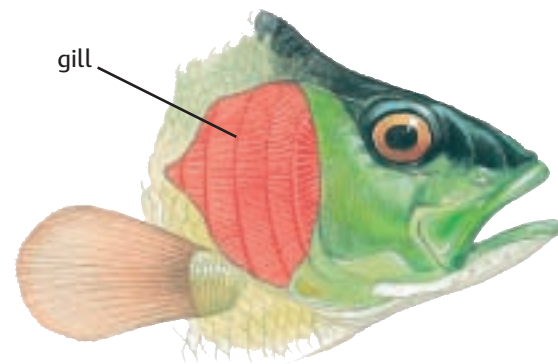
Something that is gigantic is very big. *He lifted the tree with one of his gigantic arms.*

giggle verb **giggles, giggling, giggled**

If you giggle, you laugh in a silly way.

gill noun (plural **gills**)

The gills on a fish are the parts on its sides that it breathes through.

**ginger** noun

a spice with a strong, hot taste

ginger adjective

Ginger hair is a reddish-orange colour.

giraffe noun (plural **giraffes**)

A giraffe is a very tall African animal with a very long neck. Giraffes are the tallest animals in the world, and they use their long necks to reach up and eat leaves off trees.

girl noun (plural **girls**)

a female child

girlfriend noun (plural **girlfriends**)

A boy's girlfriend is the girl he is going out with.

give verb **gives, giving, gave, given**

If you give something to someone, you let them have it.

glad adjective

If you are glad about something, you are happy about it.

Then the crocodile and the monkey and the parrot were very glad and began to sing because they were going back to Africa, their real home.—Hugh Lofting, The Story of Doctor Dolittle

WORD FAMILY

- **gladly** I will gladly help you.

glamorous adjective

Someone who is glamorous looks elegant, rich, and beautiful.

glance verb **glances, glancing, glanced**

If you glance at something, you look at it quickly.

I glanced at my watch. 'Let's get a move on. It's quarter past eight.'—Narinder Dhama, Bindi Babes

glare verb **glares, glaring, glared**

- 1 If you glare at someone, you look at them angrily. *Mr Dempster glared at the two boys.*
- 2 If a light glares, it shines with a very bright light that hurts your eyes.

glass noun (plural **glasses**)

- 1 the hard, clear substance that windows are made of
- 2 a cup made of glass, which you drink out of

glasses noun

two round pieces of glass in a frame, which some people wear over their eyes to help them to see better or to shade their eyes from the sun

**gleam** verb **gleams, gleaming, gleamed**

If something gleams, it shines. *The cat's eyes gleamed in the dark.*

glide verb **glides, gliding, glided**

When something glides along, it moves along very smoothly. *The skaters glided over the ice.*

glider noun (plural **gliders**)

a type of aeroplane without an engine

glimmer verb **glimmers, glimmering, glimmered**

If something glimmers, it shines with a faint light.

glimpse verb **glimpses, glimpsing, glimpsed**

If you glimpse something, you see it for only a few seconds. *I glimpsed an animal in the bushes.*

glint verb **glints, glinting, glinted**

If something glints, it shines or sparkles. *The water was glinting in the moonlight.*

glisten verb **glistens, glistening, glistened**

If something glistens, it shines and sparkles because it is wet. *The grass glistened with dew.*

glitter verb **glitters, glittering, glittered**

If something glitters, it shines and sparkles brightly.

Trees of diamonds under the earth! Sparkling brighter than frost. Glittering more brilliantly than sun on water.—Anne Fine, The Twelve Dancing Princesses

gloat verb **gloats, gloating, gloated**

If you gloat, you show that you are pleased because you have done well and someone else has done badly.

global warming

noun
the process by which the earth is gradually getting warmer because of pollution in the atmosphere

globe noun (plural **globes**)

a ball with the map of the whole world on it

**WORD FAMILY**

- Something that is **global** happens all over the world.

gloomy adjective **gloomier, gloomiest**

- 1 A gloomy place is dark.
- 2 If you feel gloomy, you feel sad.

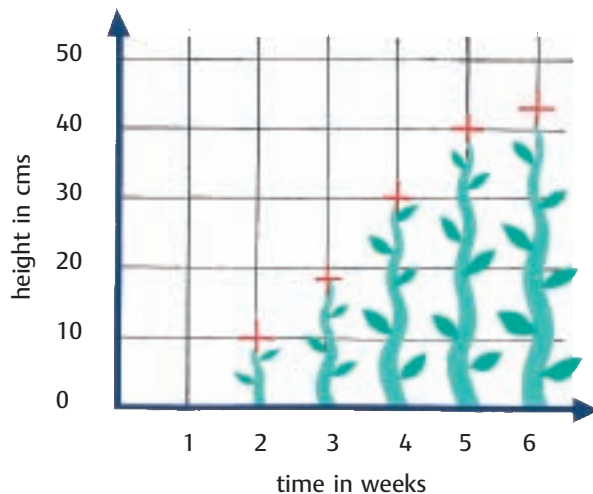
glorious adjective

Something that is glorious is beautiful or magnificent. *It was a glorious summer's day.*

grape noun (plural **grapes**)
a small, soft green or purple fruit that grows in bunches

grapefruit noun (plural **grapefruits**)
a large, sour-tasting fruit that has thick yellow skin

graph noun (plural **graphs**)
a diagram that shows information about something *We drew a graph showing how tall our plant grew.*



graphics noun
pictures or designs, especially pictures that are made on a computer *Some computer games have got brilliant graphics.*

grasp verb **grasps, grasping, grasped**
If you grasp something, you get hold of it and hold it tightly. *She grasped my arm to stop herself from falling.*

grass noun (plural **grasses**)
a green plant that covers the ground and is used for lawns and parks

grasshopper noun (plural **grasshoppers**)
an insect that has long back legs and can jump a long way



grate verb **grates, grating, grated**
When you grate food, you cut it into very small pieces by rubbing it against a rough tool. *Sprinkle the grated cheese over the top of the pizza.*

grateful adjective
If you are grateful for something, you are glad that you have it. *We are very grateful for all your help.*

WORD FAMILY
• **gratefully** He accepted the food gratefully.

grave noun (plural **graves**)
a place where a dead person is buried in the ground

grave adjective **graver, gravest**
Something that is grave is very serious and worrying.

gravel noun
tiny stones that are used to make paths *Her feet crunched over the gravel.*

gravity noun
(in science) the force that pulls things towards the earth

graze verb **grazes, grazing, grazed**
1 If you graze a part of your body, you hurt it by scraping it against something and making it bleed. *I fell over and grazed my knee.*
2 When animals graze, they eat grass. *The sheep were grazing in the field.*

grease noun
a thick, oily substance

great adjective **greater, greatest**
1 Something that is great is very big and impressive. *The edge of the river was lined with great trees, which seemed to get even taller further away.*—Alexander McCall Smith, *The Bubblegum Tree*
2 A great person is very clever and important. *Van Gogh was a great artist.*
3 Something that is great is very good. *It's a great film!*

greedy adjective **greedier, greediest**
Someone who is greedy wants more food or money than they need.

green adjective
Something that is green is the colour of grass.

greengrocer noun (plural **greengrocers**)
someone who sells fruit and vegetables in a shop

greenhouse noun (plural **greenhouses**)
a glass building that people use for growing plants in

greet verb **greet, greeting, greeted**
When you greet someone, you welcome them and say hello to them.

WORD FAMILY
• A **greeting** is something that you say when you greet someone.

grew verb see **grow**

grey adjective (rhymes with day)
Something that is grey is the colour of the sky on a cloudy day.

grid noun (plural **grids**)
a pattern of straight lines that cross over each other to make squares

grill verb **grills, grilling, grilled**
When you grill food, you cook it on metal bars either under or over heat. *We grilled some sausages for tea.*

grin verb **grins, grinning, grinned**
When you grin, you smile in a cheerful way. *The Enormous Crocodile grinned, showing hundreds of sharp white teeth.*—Roald Dahl, *The Enormous Crocodile*

grind verb **grinds, grinding, ground**
When you grind something, you crush it into tiny bits. *The wheat is taken to the mill and ground into flour.*

grip verb **grips, gripping, gripped**
When you grip something, you hold on to it tightly.

gripping adjective
A book or film that is gripping is very exciting.

groan verb **groans, groaning, groaned**
When you groan, you make a low sound because you are in pain or are disappointed about something.

grocer noun (plural **grocers**)
someone who sells tea, sugar, jam, and other kinds of food in a shop

groom noun (plural **grooms**)
1 a person who looks after horses
2 another word for a bridegroom

groove noun (plural **grooves**)
a long, narrow cut in something

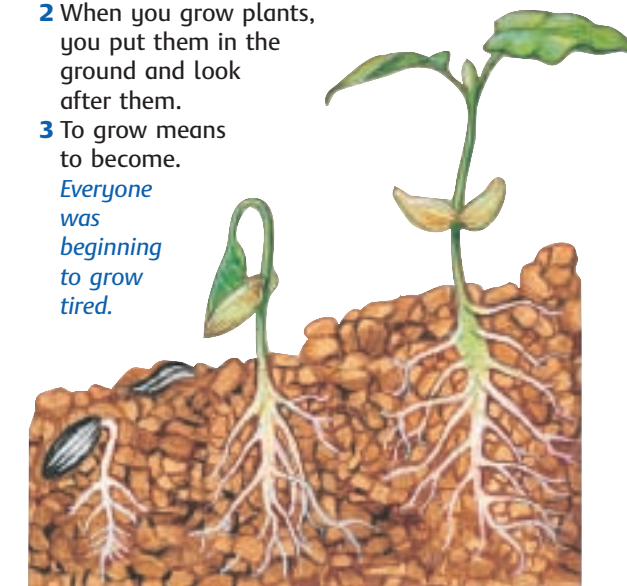
grope verb **gropes, groping, groped**
If you grope around, you try to find something by feeling for it with your hands because you cannot see. *I groped for the door in the dark.*

ground noun (plural **grounds**)
1 The ground is the earth.
2 A sports ground is a piece of land that people play sport on.

ground verb see **grind**

group noun (plural **groups**)
1 a number of people, animals, or things that are together or belong together *There was a group of children standing by the ice cream stall.*
2 a number of people who play music together *What's your favourite pop group?*

grow verb **grows, growing, grew, grown**
1 To grow means to become bigger. *My aunt looked at me and said, 'My! Haven't you grown!'*
2 When you grow plants, you put them in the ground and look after them.
3 To grow means to become. *Everyone was beginning to grow tired.*



growl verb **growls, growling, growled**
When an animal growls, it makes a deep, angry sound in its throat.

Explore: Words we use too much

When you read your writing, look out for words that you use over and over again. Try to think of alternatives. This list will give you some ideas, but you may want to look at the *Oxford Junior Illustrated Thesaurus* for more. Before you choose a different word, check that it has the right meaning for your sentence.

word	other words you could try	
and	also, as well, of course, furthermore, moreover	
angry	furious, cross, bad tempered, annoyed, mad	
bad	bad person	wicked, evil
	bad food	rotten, mouldy, terrible
	bad dog	naughty, disobedient
	bad at tennis	hopeless, useless, terrible
	bad knee	injured, sore
because	so, therefore, since, consequently, hence, if... then	
but	however, in contrast, although, and yet, on the other hand, whereas	
good	good work	thorough, neat, accurate, careful, excellent
	good art	impressive, brilliant, excellent, wonderful
	good day	nice, pleasant, enjoyable
	good children	well-behaved, polite, quiet, happy
lovely	lovely clothing	pretty, beautiful, unique, gorgeous
	lovely food	delicious, tasty, wonderful
	lovely person	kind, pleasant, charming, polite
nice	nice picture	pretty, beautiful, lovely, stylish, gorgeous
	nice person	friendly, kind, thoughtful, sympathetic, pleasant, polite
	nice weather	lovely, pleasant, beautiful, warm, sunny, glorious, wonderful
said	bellowed, called, complained, cried, declared, groaned, moaned, mumbled, screamed, snarled, whispered, yelled	
then	next, later, after that, soon, meanwhile, secondly, before	
went	walked, ran, fled, crept, marched, scuttled, strolled, tiptoed, scuttled	

Explore: Words we easily confuse

word	meaning	example
to	when you go to a place, you go there	We're going to Spain this year.
too	also or more than you need	He is coming too . Don't eat too much.
two	the number 2	There will be two of us.
its	belonging to it	The cat was eating its food.
it's	short for <i>it is</i>	It's raining today.

Explorer tip: To decide which you need, think about the question: can I turn it into *it is*? If you can, you need to write *it's*, if you can't, you should write *its*.

there	in that place	Go over there .
their	belonging to them	They have lost their homework.
they're	short for <i>they are</i>	They're going home now.
loose	not tight	My tooth is loose .
lose	If you lose something, you can't find it.	Where did you lose your jumper?
than	compared with another person	I am shorter than you.
then	or thing after that	We'll do some work and then we'll have a story.
whose	belonging to which person	Whose jumper is this?
who's	short for <i>who is</i>	Who's reading next?
your	belonging to you	Have you got your coat?
you're	short for <i>you are</i>	You're looking well today.