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slight, insignificant, unimportant, minor, trivial, trifling, minimal

▮ **OPPOSITES** considerable, significant

negotiate VERB

- 1 They refused to negotiate with the kidnappers.
bargain, haggle, deal, confer, discuss terms
- 2 negotiating a new contract
work out, agree on, broker (informal) thrash out
- 3 We negotiated our way around the furniture.
get past, get round, manoeuvre round

neighbourhood NOUN

- 1 living in a run-down neighbourhood
area, district, community, locality, vicinity, locale, quarter
- 2 a planet in the neighbourhood of Betelgeuse
vicinity, environs, surrounding area

neighbouring ADJECTIVE

a tour of the neighbouring villages
nearby, bordering, adjacent, adjoining, surrounding, nearest, next-door

neighbourly ADJECTIVE

establishing good neighbourly relations
friendly, amicable, cordial, helpful, obliging, hospitable, sociable
▮ **OPPOSITE** unfriendly

nerve NOUN

- 1 It takes nerve to be a good stunt artist.
bravery, courage, daring, fearlessness, pluck, grit (informal) guts, bottle
- 2 He had the nerve to ask me to leave!
cheek, impudence, audacity, effrontery, impertinence, presumption

nervous ADJECTIVE

Do you get nervous before you go on stage?
anxious, worried, apprehensive,

concerned, uneasy, fearful, edgy, fraught, tense, overwrought, worked up, keyed up (informal) uptight, jittery, twitchy

▮ **IDIOMS** (informal) in a flap, in a state

▮ **OPPOSITES** calm, confident

nestle VERB

a baby nestling in its mother's arms
cuddle, curl up, snuggle, huddle, nuzzle

neutral ADJECTIVE

- 1 It's impossible to remain neutral on this issue.
impartial, detached, uninvolved, disinterested, objective, unbiased, non-partisan
▮ **OPPOSITES** biased, partisan
- 2 a room decorated in neutral colours
dull, drab, colourless, indefinite, nondescript
▮ **OPPOSITES** colourful, vibrant

new ADJECTIVE

- 1 opening a new jar of mayonnaise
fresh, unused, pristine, brand new
▶ Something new and unused is in **mint condition**.
▮ **OPPOSITES** old, used
- 2 Have you read the new issue of the magazine?
latest, current, recent, up-to-date
- 3 I've added a new paragraph to my story.
additional, extra, further, supplementary
- 4 a whole new style of acting
fresh, original, novel, innovative, cutting-edge, state-of-the-art, contemporary
- 5 Flying was a new experience for me.
unfamiliar, unknown, different, alternative, strange
▮ **OPPOSITE** familiar

newly ADVERB

The house has been newly refurbished.
recently, lately, not long ago

news NOUN

Have you heard the news?
information, word, report, bulletin (old use) tidings

next ADJECTIVE

- 1 the house next to the corner
adjacent, closest, nearest, next door
▮ **OPPOSITE** distant
- 2 I'm going to miss the next episode.
following, succeeding, subsequent, upcoming
▮ **OPPOSITE** previous

next ADVERB

I don't know what to do next.
from now on, after this, in future (old use) hereafter
▮ **OPPOSITE** before

nibble VERB

SEE **eat**

nice ADJECTIVE

- 1 That's not a very nice thing to say!
pleasant, agreeable
▮ **OPPOSITES** unpleasant, nasty
- 2 There's a nice distinction between copying and plagiarism.
fine, subtle, delicate, precise

OVERUSED WORD

a nice person

good, kind, pleasant, friendly, agreeable, likeable, amiable, genial, affable, personable, charming, engaging, sympathetic, polite, civil, courteous

The film features a cast of **likeable** characters.

a nice experience, nice feeling

enjoyable, pleasant, good, delightful, satisfying, agreeable, entertaining, amusing, wonderful, marvellous, splendid
Making my own clothes gives me a **satisfying** feeling.

Looking nice

beautiful, attractive, pleasing, lovely, fine, handsome, fetching, striking

You look particularly **fetching** today, Miss Watson.

a nice smell

fragrant, pleasant, sweet, perfumed, aromatic

I prefer a blend of tea with a **fragrant** aroma.

▮ **OPPOSITES** smelly, malodorous

a nice taste, nice food

appetizing, tasty, flavoursome, delicious, delectable, mouth-watering (informal) yummy, scrumptious
Slow cooking will make the dish more **flavoursome**.

nice weather, a nice day

fine, sunny, warm, mild, balmy, dry

If the weather is **fine**, I might venture outside.

▮ **SEE ALSO** good, lovely

night NOUN

Vampires only come out at night.
night-time, dark, the hours of darkness

- ▶ The time immediately after sunset when the sky is still light is **twilight**.
- ▶ The time when twilight ends is **dark** or **nightfall**.
- ▶ A **nightly** event happens every night.
- ▶ A piece of music which conveys the atmosphere of night is a **nocturne**.
- ▶ Animals which are active at night are **nocturnal**.
▮ **OPPOSITES** day, daytime

nil NOUN

The score was nil all at half-time.
zero, nought, nothing, none
▶ A score of nil in cricket is a **duck**.
▶ A score of nil in tennis is **love**.