

pledge**NOUN**

- 1 Labour's pledge to spend billions on education
 ▶ promise, undertaking, assurance, commitment, guarantee
 2 She gave her rings as a pledge.
 ▶ surety, security, bond, deposit, bail

pledge**VERB**

They all pledged their loyalty to the Queen.

- ▶ promise, swear, vow, guarantee, undertake

plentiful**ADJECTIVE**

a plentiful supply of fruit
 ▶ abundant, copious, ample, liberal, profuse, generous, lavish, bountiful, prolific, inexhaustible
 OPPOSITES ARE sparse, scarce

plenty**NOUN**

- 1 a time of plenty
 ▶ prosperity, wealth, affluence, opulence, luxury, well-being, comfort
 2 plenty of There is plenty of time before they arrive.
 ▶ a lot of, a great deal of, much, enough, (more informal) lots of, (more informal) heaps of, (more informal) loads of, (more informal) masses of

pliable**ADJECTIVE**

- 1 a pliable material
 ▶ flexible, bendable, pliant, supple, plastic, springy, (more informal) bendy
 AN OPPOSITE IS stiff
 2 a pliable mind
 ▶ adaptable, impressionable, responsive, suggestible, compliant, flexible, tractable, biddable, accommodating
 AN OPPOSITE IS rigid

plight**NOUN**

the plight of the homeless

- ▶ difficulty, predicament, danger, trouble, extremity, quandary, straits

plod**VERB**

- 1 Mary plodded up the path.
 ▶ trudge, tramp, lumber, stomp
 2 It will take hours to plod through the whole book.
 ▶ plough, wade, trawl, labour, persevere, grind on

plot**NOUN**

- 1 He grew vegetables in a plot behind the house.
 ▶ piece of ground, patch, allotment, smallholding, lot
 2 The novel has a complicated plot.
 ▶ storyline, story, outline, action, thread, scenario, narrative
 3 A plot was revealed against the government.
 ▶ conspiracy, intrigue, plan, scheme, cabal, machination

plot**VERB**

- 1 The president's brother was plotting his downfall.
 ▶ plan, scheme, concoct, devise, hatch
 2 He was accused of plotting against the government.
 ▶ conspire, scheme, intrigue
 3 They plotted their course on the map.
 ▶ chart, mark, map

plunder**NOUN**

The army was bent on plunder and murder.

- ▶ looting, robbery, pillage, pillaging, marauding

plunge**VERB**

- 1 The plane plunged to the ground.
 ▶ dive, plummet, fall, hurtle, drop, crash, swoop, nosedive
 2 I plunged into the lake.
 ▶ dive, leap, jump, throw yourself, hurl yourself
 3 He plunged the knife into the man's back.
 ▶ thrust, force, stab, shove, stick, push
 4 She plunged a hand in the water.
 ▶ dip, immerse, submerge, sink

poach**VERB**

The new company was poaching staff from its rivals.

- ▶ steal, purloin, filch, (more informal) pinch, (more informal) nick

pocket**NOUN**

There were some pockets of resistance to the new regime.

- ▶ area, patch, centre, cluster

pocket**VERB**

The management was accused of pocketing all the profits.

- ▶ take, steal, appropriate, help yourself to, take for yourself

podgy**ADJECTIVE**

She looked a bit podgy.

- ▶ plump, chubby, tubby, fat, dumpty, rotund, round, overweight, pudgy

OPPOSITES ARE thin, slim, skinny

poem**NOUN**

He read her some of his poems.

- ▶ verse, rhyme, poetry

NAMES FOR TYPES OF POEM

longer narrative poems: epic, ballad, lay, chanson.

poems for singing: chanson, madrigal, lay, dithyramb (ancient choral hymn), ballad.

laments: elegy.

short pastoral and romantic poems: eclogue, pastoral, georgic, idyll.

short poems and rhymes: lyric, ode, sonnet (of fourteen lines), nursery rhyme, epigram, limerick, clerihew, nonsense verse, lay.

Japanese poems: haiku, tanka.

NAMES FOR POETIC FEATURES

verse, stanza; rhyme, enjambement, free verse, rhythm, couplet, imagery, metre, alliteration (use of similar sounds at the beginning of a sequence of words), assonance (similarity of syllables in words, e.g. stone and cold), simile, metaphor; blank verse (without end-of-line rhymes), concrete poetry (with the meaning echoed by visual patterns in the words).

poet**NOUN**

She wrote stories and was a poet.

- ▶ writer of verse, rhymester, lyricist, lyricist, versifier, bard

poetic**ADJECTIVE**

poetic language
 ▶ expressive, lyrical, poetical, emotive, metrical, imaginative
 AN OPPOSITE IS prosaic

poetry**NOUN**

a book of poetry

- ▶ poems, verses, rhymes

poignant**ADJECTIVE**

a poignant moment of farewell

- ▶ touching, moving, affecting, sad, tender, emotional, pitiful, pathetic, sorrowful

point**NOUN**

- 1 the point of the needle
 ▶ tip, end, sharp end, spike, extremity
 2 points of light
 ▶ spot, speck, dot, fleck
 3 at this point, the door opened.
 ▶ moment, instant, time, stage
 4 I wish they would get to the point.
 ▶ essence, crux, meaning, thrust
 5 a few points of detail
 ▶ detail, item, issue, factor, consideration, particular, facet, feature
 6 She admitted he had some good points
 ▶ characteristic, feature, attribute, aspect, peculiarity, side
 7 There didn't seem much point in staying.
 ▶ purpose, reason, object, aim, goal, advantage, benefit
 8 They could get on the train at a point further up the line.
 ▶ place, position, location, spot, site, locality

point**VERB**

1 point or point to An official pointed the way. He pointed to a picture on the stairs.

- ▶ indicate, point out, draw attention to, show, signal

2 She saw the man was pointing a gun at her.

- ▶ aim, direct, level, train

3 I'll point you in the right direction.

- ▶ direct, guide, lead, steer

point-blank**ADJECTIVE**

1 The gun was fired at point-blank range.

- ▶ close

2 Their request met with a point-blank refusal.

- ▶ blunt, direct, straight, plain, frank, open, explicit, forthright

point-blank**ADVERB**

She told him point-blank that it was over.

- ▶ bluntly, directly, straight, straight out, frankly, openly, plainly, clearly, forthrightly

pointed**ADJECTIVE**

1 He used the pointed end of a stick.

- ▶ sharp, tapered, spiky