

Reading Notes

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1. Words

A

abide

- v.* 1. to accept or bear sth unpleasant
 - I can't abide people who smoke.
- 2. to accept and act according to a law, an agreement, etc.
 - You will have to abide by the court's decision.

accost

- v.* to approach and speak to sb in a way that is rude or threatening
 - He was accosted by three youths in the street.

account

- **hold sb to account:** to make sb responsible for sth

adrift

- adj.* <informal> failing to reach a target
- Many observers wonder whether policymaking is adrift.

advisable

- adj.* that you can recommend as the best thing to do
 - It is advisable to book your tickets in advance.

agitation

- n.* a state of anxiety or nervous excitement
 - The agitation of the people was so great that the government had to take action.

aisle

- n.* a passage between rows of seats in a church, theatre, train, etc.
 - Last month's **clean sweep victory** by Trump means that the critical political fight in 2025 will not be across the aisle, Democrats versus Republicans, but inside the Republican party itself.

allowance

- n.* (i) an amount of money that is given to sb regularly or for a particular purpose; (ii) consideration of a fact when making a decision
- She gets a monthly allowance from her father.
 - **make allowance for sth:** to consider sth when you are making your plans

anaemic

adj. /əˈni:mɪk/ weak and not having much effect

- Gilt investors have been particularly worried that a mix of anaemic growth and persistent price pressures will push the UK into a period of stagflation, where the Bank of England is constrained from cutting rates to support the economy.

annexation

n. /ˌænekˈseɪʃn/ the act of taking control of a country, region, etc., especially by force

- In a further broadside¹ at a traditional ally, Trump said a US annexation of Canada “would really be something”, but would occur through economic force rather than military action.

arouse

- v.* to make sb have a particular feeling or attitude
- The movie aroused great interest in the book.

ascendancy

- n.* the position of having power or influence over sb/sth
- He had been completely under his wife’s ascendancy, so much so that, on dying, he left the place for to her for her lifetime, as well as the larger part of his income; an arrangement that was distinctly [=clearly] unfair to his two sons.

astonishing

adj. very surprising

- It is astonishing that he managed to get away with it.
- <syn> amazing, astounding, surprising

¹ *n.* (fire a broadside at) an aggressive attack in words, whether written or spoke

avail

n. <formal>

- to no avail: His efforts were to no avail.

awestricken

adj. filled with awe

- The awestricken crowd watched as the magician made the elephant disappear.

arrest

- v.*
1. to stop or check the progress of sth
 - Have you ever, when writing a letter, been arrested by the fact that you did not know how to spell a certain word?
 2. to take sb to a police station because they are believed to have committed a crime

B

back

- **on the back of sth:** as a result of sth
 - Many of the men who have risen to power and unimaginable riches on the back of technological innovation assume that American superiority over other countries is as evident as the superiority of the tech sector over the rest of the US economy.

backfire

- v.* to have the opposite effect to the one intended, with bad or dangerous results
- The plan backfired when the weather was too bad for us to go out.

balk

- v.* to be unwilling to do sth or to allow sth to happen
- **balk at sth**
 - Many Europeans will balk at these ideas, dismissing them as impossible.

ballpark

- n.* an area or a range within which an amount is likely to be correct or within which sth can be measured

- This estimate lies in the ballpark of those obtained using the expectations of professional forecasters about credit spreads.

behold

- v.* <old use, literary> to look at or see sb/sth
 - They beheld a bright star shining in the sky.
- **be beholden to:** be responsible for
 - In contrast, managers of an SMA are typically beholden to a single client, and as a result direct outflows are unlikely to cause forced sales.

belie

- v.*
 - to give a false impression of sb/sth
 - Her energy and youthful good looks belie her 65 years.
 - to show that sth cannot be true or correct
 - The evidence belies the defendant's claim of innocence.
 - Government claims that there is no poverty are belied by the number of homeless people on the streets.

betray

- v.* to give information about sb/sth to an enemy
 - Poirot's face did not betray a trace of whether he was disappointed or otherwise. He merely remarked.
 - "It does not matter," said Poirot, not betraying a sign of disappointment.

bite

- v.* to have a strong effect on sb/sth
 - Liability for, say, defamation or infringement of copyright, or for non-compliance with broadcasting standards, would usually bite at the moment the gatekeepers permitted publication or broadcast.
 - The new rules will bite hard on those who break them.
 - The recession is beginning to bite.
 - The new law will bite into the profits of the tobacco companies.

blast

- v.* to criticize sb/sth severely
 - The report blasts the government for failing to protect the environment.

- Speaking in Kyiv earlier on Wednesday, Zelenskyy blasted Trump for pushing “a lot of disinformation coming from Russia”.

blatant

adj. /'blɛɪtənt/ done in an obvious and open way without caring if people are shocked

- Trump and his businesses were found liable in January for committing blatant fraud by vastly inflating the value of core real estate assets.

blot

n. a spot or stain, especially one that is difficult to remove

- The blot on his record was soon forgotten.

v. 1. to make sth dirty or less pure

- <syn> stain, tarnish, disgrace
- The scandal blotted his reputation.

2. to remove liquid from a surface using a piece of paper

3. (blot sth out) to cover or hide sth completely

blow

- **full-blown:** complete

- The fact that even the affluent are scaling back purchases of fine wines, jewellery, watches, and art means that a lot of asset-wealthy consumers are expecting a slow-down and some kind of market correction, even if we don't see a full-blown trade war.

blurt

v. to say sth suddenly and without thinking carefully

- **blurt sth out**

- Annie blurted out the news before I had a chance to stop her.

bonanza

n. a situation from which large profits are made

- That would create a bonanza for wealthy Americans, including the dozen-odd billionaires in his top team.

bring

- **bring sth. to the fore:** to make sth become noticed by people
 - The pandemic has brought the issue of mental health to the fore.
- **bring up:** to mention sth. or start to talk about sth.
 - The report brings up some interesting questions.
- **bring sth to the table** to provide sth that will be a benefit
 - The company has a lot to bring to the table in terms of experience and expertise.

broach

- v.* to mention a subject that is difficult or embarrassing to discuss
 - The subject of pay is always a difficult one to broach.
 - I felt that the moment had now come to broach it. Yet I was a little chary of doing so.

bruise

- v.* /bru:z/ to cause a bruise on sb/sth; to affect sb badly and make them feel unhappy and less confident
 - But his reputation was later bruised by business failures, costly legal feuds and caustic public recriminations.

buoy

- v.* to make sb feel happier or more confident
 - The news buoyed him up.
 - You would do well not to buoy yourself up with any false hopes.

barrage

- n.* a great number of complaints, questions, etc. that are directed at sb very quickly, one after the other
 - Newsom, a Democrat, responded to a barrage of attacks from Donald Trump.

baffle

- v.* /'bæfəl/ to confuse sb completely
 - The meaning of the poem baffled me.
 - She asked me if it was true that there was certain poisons so rare as to baffle detection.

bottle

- **bottle up:** to keep your feelings hidden inside you and not express them
 - By bottling up Vladimir Putin's military resources in Ukraine, Biden may also have contributed to Bashar al-Assad's downfall in Syria.

C

calamity

n. /kə'læməti/ an event that causes great damage to people's lives, property, etc.

catalyze

- v.* to make a chemical reaction happen more quickly, especially by adding a substance called a catalyst; to make sth happen more quickly
 - With the limits of bilateral support increasingly stark, multilateral development banks will be under growing pressure to show a more proactive, less risk-averse approach to catalyzing private investment.

catapult

- v.* to suddenly increase or improve
 - The company's share price has catapulted.
 - The movie catapulted him to international stardom.
 - Trump's tariffs catapulted economic nationalism to the top of his agenda.

capitulate

- v.* to stop resisting an opponent and agree to their demands
 - The enemy finally capitulated after three days of fighting.

charade

- n.* <C> a situation in which people pretend that sth is true when it clearly is not
 - Or Britain could keep on with the present charade.

choreograph

- v.* /'kɔəriəgrɑ:f/ to design and arrange

- Trump's campaign is enormously skilled at choreographing optics to enhance his message. The iconic fist-pumping imagery of the candidate rising courageously from his near death will suffuse the convention stage.

come

- **come before**

1. to be considered by a court of law
2. outweigh
3. happen or exist before sth else

- A world of rising singledom is not necessarily any better or worse than one filled with couples and families, but it is fundamentally different to what has come before, with major social, economic and political implications.

- **come to the rescue:** to help sb when they are in trouble

command

- v.*
1. to have control of sth
 2. to deserve and get sth
 3. to have a view of sth

- Poirot had placed our two chairs in front of the open window which commanded a view of the village street.

complacent

adj. feeling so satisfied with your own abilities or situation that you feel you do not need to try any harder

- But it is perhaps a question with a complacent implicit assumption. It presupposes that it is possible to watch the watchmen — and all that one needs to do is work out how this is done and by whom.

complicit

adj. involved with others in an illegal activity or wrongdoing

- The government was complicit in the cover-up.

comprehend

v. /ˌkɒmpriˈhend/ to understand sth fully

- I cannot comprehend why he did it.

- <syn> grasp, understand, perceive

contempt

- n.* a strong feeling of disliking and having no respect for sb/sth
- Manning's eyes swept over him with a faint contempt.
 - **contemptuous** [*adj.*]: feeling or showing that you have no respect for sb/sth

contention

- n.*
1. a belief or opinion that you express, especially in an argument
 - The main contention of his speech was that education should be free for all children.
 2. the act of arguing in public
 - The contention between the two sides of the dispute was bitter.

convulsion

- n.* /kən'vʌlʃn/
1. a sudden violent movement of the body caused by strong emotions or pain
 - Mrs. Inglethorp was lying on the bed, her whole form agitated by violent convulsions, in one of which she must have overturned the table beside her.
 - The convulsions were of a peculiar violence terrible to behold.
 2. a sudden violent change in the political situation
 - <syn> upheaval, turmoil, turbulence
 - The country was in the convulsions of a revolution.

coop

- v.* to confine in a restricted and often crowded area
- Too fine a day to be cooped up in the house.

cotton

- v.* to understand or realize sth
- I think he's beginning to cotton on to what's going on.
 - **cotton on** to sth: to begin to understand or realize sth without being told
 - **cotton (up)** to sb/sth: to make an attempt to be friendly to sb

couch

v. /kaʊtʃ/ to say or write words in a particular style or manner

- The report was deliberately couched in very vague terms.
- Her conversation, I soon found, was couched in the telegraphic style.

course

- n.* 1. <C> (course of action) a way of acting in or dealing with a particular situation
- But these were intensive and expensive courses of action that would not cross the minds of normal people.

crestfallen

adj. looking sad and disappointed

- He looked so crestfallen and abashed that I felt quite sorry, though I still thought my rebuke a just and wise one.

cryptic

adj. having a meaning that is mysterious or not easily understood

- John looked puzzled, not quite understanding the portent of this cryptic saying.
- <syn> enigmatic, mysterious, puzzling, inscrutable

culpability

n. the fact of being responsible for sth wrong or illegal; the blame for sth

- The report highlights the culpability of the government in the deaths of the refugees.

colossal

adj. extremely large

- AI also has colossal energy needs. Even with existing levels of electricity usage, the government's target to de-carbonize the grid by 2030 is at the outer bounds of achievability.

covet

vt. <formal> a formal act of giving property or money to sb

- She had long coveted the time to read a book.

countenance

n. <formal> a person's face or facial expression

D

dash

- *v.* to go somewhere quickly; to destroy sth by throwing it against sth hard
 - In a shock move over the weekend, Musk distanced himself from Nigel Farage, dashing the Reform UK leader's hopes that the billionaire would make a large donation to his party in the near future.

daze

- v.* to make sb unable to think clearly or understand what is happening
- **dazed** [*adj.*] <syn> confused, stunned, bewildered, perplexed, disoriented

decorous

adj. /'dekərəs/ polite and controlled

- The decorous behavior of the guests at the wedding was a welcome change from the rowdy behavior at the reception.
- Dr. Wilkins was looking important [=pretentious] and excited, and trying to conceal an inward exultation [=great happiness] under a manner of decorous calm.

deem

- v.* to have a particular opinion about sth/sb; to consider sth/sb in a particular way
 - The light overcoat that I had deemed as a wise precaution against the chill of an early autumn morning.

deference

- n.* behavior that shows that you respect sb/sth
 - A man followed her, a suggestion of deference in his manner.
 - The women wore veils in deference to the customs of the country.

deft

adj. skillful and quick

- The deft waiter never spilled a drop of water as he served the guests.
- <syn> adroit, agile, dexterous, nimble, brisk

delicate

adj. (i) easily broken or damaged; (ii) needing to be dealt with carefully

- The delicate china teacups were a wedding gift.
- **delicate balance**: a situation in which different elements are in the correct or appropriate relationship
- **delicately** [*adv.*]: in a way that is sensitive and careful
 - I wondered how I could have been so unobservant as to overlook this. Here was a clue worth having. Poirot delicately dipped his finger into the liquid, and tasted it gingerly [=carefully].

deplorable

adj. (i) very bad, of poor quality; (ii) deserving strong disapproval

- The deplorable state of the country's economy has led to widespread poverty.
- <syn> lamentable /lə'mentəbəl/

deposition

n. a formal statement, taken from sb and used in court

derail

v. to spoil a plan or an arrangement

- The project was derailed by lack of funds.

derange

v. to make sb mentally ill

- The constant noise deranged him.

dicey

adj. <informal> (i) risky; (ii) unpredictable

- The situation is getting a bit dicey.

dilate

v. /daɪ'lɪt/ to become or make sth become wider, larger or more open

- The pupils of his eyes dilated with fear.

disconcert

- v.* to make sb feel anxious, confused or embarrassed
 - The sudden change of plan disconcerted him.
- **disconcerting** [*adj.*]: making you feel anxious, confused or embarrassed
 - She looked at me in a disconcerting manner.

discretion

- n.* 1. the freedom or power to decide what should be done in a particular situation
 - The law gives judges discretion to decide the sentence.
- 2. the quality of being careful in what you do and say, so that people are not offended
 - The police officer showed great discretion in dealing with the situation.

disposition

- n.* 1. the natural qualities of a person's character
- 2. <C, usually sing.> (to/towards sth) (to do sth) a tendency to behave in a particular way
 - to have/show a disposition towards violence
- 3. the way sth is placed or arranged; a formal act of giving property or money to sb

distinct

- adj.* clearly separate and different (from sth else)
 - His quasi-courtiers are now expressing distinctly different views about how to tackle America's current \$36tn in national debt

ditch

- n.* a long narrow hole dug at the side of a field, road, etc., to hold or remove unwanted water
- v.* to get rid of sth/sb because you no longer want or need it/them
 - The car was ditched in a side street.
- **last ditch**: a final attempt to avoid defeat or failure
 - She underwent a heart transplant in a last-ditch attempt to save her.
 - "This bill should not pass," Musk furiously declared on X, sparking last-ditch negotiations, amid threats of government shutdowns.

draw

- be drawn to sth: be attracted by
- **draw off**: remove, take off
- **draw up**: (i) make a draft of; (ii) stop

dreadful

adj. (i) very bad or unpleasant; (ii) causing fear or suffering.

- The weather was dreadful.
- This is a very dreadful disease.

drive

- **be driving at sth**: to be trying to say sth, without saying it directly
 - I wish I knew what they were driving at.

double

- **double down**: to become more determined or continue to believe in a particular course of action, even if it is unsuccessful
 - The EU, too, has been putting new restrictions on Chinese clean energy imports, and is likely to double down on this stance.
 - Biden kept doubling down on the threat Trump posed to democracy, though his team had known for months that democracy did not feature in the top five voter concerns.

downplay

- v.* to make sth seem less important or less bad than it really is
 - The government has been trying to downplay the seriousness of the situation.

dwarf

- v.* to make sb/sth seem small or unimportant
 - America's military presence there has long dwarfed the handful of ships, dog sled patrols and single surveillance plane operated by the Arctic island's security guarantor, Denmark.

disparage

- v.* <formal> to suggest that sb/sth is not important or valuable
 - He never missed an opportunity to disparage his competitors.

drum

- **drum up business/support**: to try to get more business or support

E

emollient

adj. /ɪ'mɒliənt/ making a person or situation calmer in the hope of keeping relations peaceful

- The tone of Denmark's response has been remarkably emollient, even if it has insisted Greenland is not for sale.

engender

- *v.* to be the source or cause of sth
 - The issue has engendered a considerable amount of debate.
 - In a few short years the Chinese government succeeded in undoing much of the goodwill that years of peaceful rise had engendered.

engross

- v.* to take up all the attention or time of sb
 - She was so engrossed in her book that she didn't hear me come in.
 - The book engrossed him so much that he forgot about the time.
- <syn> absorb, engage, rivet

enjoin

- v.* to tell or order sb to do sth
 - Decorum [/dɪ'kɔ:rəm/] and good breeding naturally enjoined that our demeanour should be much as usual, yet I could not help wondering if this self-control were really a matter of great difficulty.

entail

- v.* to involve sth that cannot be avoided
 - The job entails a lot of hard work.
 - John had been hard at work, generally occupying himself with the melancholy duties that a death entails.

entertain

v. to consider or allow oneself to consider

- entertain a shrewd suspicion
- Very few companies would even entertain providing a bond of that size, and the remaining handful will not accept hard assets such as real estate as collateral.

entrench

v. to establish sth very firmly so that it is very difficult to change

- The company has entrenched itself as the market leader.

equable

adj. not easily disturbed or angered; calm and even-tempered

- an equable temperament
- The shock of the events of the last night had upset him temporarily, but his equable poise [*n.* a calm and confident manner with control of your feelings or behavior] soon swung back to the normal.

etiquette

n. the formal rules of correct or polite behaviour in society or among members of a particular profession

- The rules of etiquette are different in different cultures.

euphemistic

adj. / ju:fə'mistik / using or relating to euphemisms

- The term “downsizing” is a euphemistic way of saying “firing people”.
- These sorts of moves, euphemistically known as liability management exercises, have become increasingly common and have grown to represent a large portion of US corporate debt defaults in recent years, and that trend continued in 2024.

event

- **in the event that:** in case

expanse

n. a wide and open area or surface; a stretch

- The expanse of the desert was breathtaking.

explicate

v. /'eksplikeɪt/ to explain sth in detail

- The teacher explicated the poem for the students.
- **inexplicable** [*adj.*]: that cannot be explained

expound

v. <formal> to explain sth by talking about it in detail

- He expounded his ideas on the subject to the students.

exquisite

adj. extremely beautiful and, typically, delicate

- a wild untamed spirit in an exquisitely civilized body
- The exquisite beauty of the landscape is breathtaking.

extricate

v. to escape or enable sb to escape from a difficult situation

- He had managed to extricate himself from most of his official duties.
- Miss Howard was endeavouring to extricate herself from the voluminous mass of veils that enveloped her head.

embolden

- *v.* to make sb feel more confident or courageous
 - Pushing US technological supremacy, in particular, will embolden those in other countries who are already seeking to challenge the grip of big American tech companies.

extortion

n. the crime of getting money from sb by using force or threats

- The gang was involved in drug dealing and extortion.
- **extortion racket**: a criminal activity in which people are forced to give money to criminals or be hurt

F

faint

adj. not strong or clear; slight

- The faint light of dawn was just beginning to show in the sky.
- <syn> dim, dull, weak, feeble, slight, vague, hazy, shadowy, murky, nebulous, obscure, indiscernible, imperceptible, subtle

fall

- **fall short:** Models of investor heterogeneity have successfully been used to explain asset prices in other contexts where representative-agent models fall short.

fathom

v. /'fæðəm/ to understand or find an explanation for sth

- He couldn't fathom out what the man could possibly mean.
- I can't fathom why he said that.

flatline

v. to remain at a stable level with no increase or decrease

- The economy has flatlined for the past three years.
- **flatlining** [*adj.*]: not increasing or decreasing
 - It's a global sell-off, but being compounded in the UK by the toxic combination of a flatlining economy, sticky inflation and a worsening fiscal outlook.

flinch

v. to make a sudden small movement because of pain or fear

- She didn't even flinch when the needle went in.
- **unflinching** [*adj.*]: not showing fear or hesitation
 - The second is that to impose effective regulation against unwilling platforms will require determined, unflinching governmental action and political will — the possibility of which the platforms are now doing what they can to avoid.

forbear

v. to be patient and/or polite, especially when you feel annoyed

- **forbear to do sth:** to avoid doing sth

- **forbearance** [*n.*]: patient self-control; restraint and tolerance
 - Poirot, however, did not seem grateful to me for my forbearance.

formality

- n.* (i) the fact of being done in the correct or proper way; (ii) the fact of being formal; (iii) a formal rule or method
- dispense with formality
 - The formality of the occasion was reflected in the way the guests were dressed.
 - Under the circumstances, I am afraid an inquest can hardly be avoided—these formalities are necessary.

fraught

- adj.* filled with sth unpleasant; causing or feeling worry and anxiety
- But it is fair to say that an already existential election is now considerably more fraught than before.

freeze

- The lake froze solid during the winter.
- The words were frozen on my lips.

fuel

- v.* to make sth, especially a feeling or a situation, stronger
- Gold has become the best performing “Trump trade” in recent weeks, outshining other major asset classes since Donald Trump’s inauguration, as fears of a trade war and a potential hit to global growth fuel demand for the haven metal.

G

gape

- v.* /geɪp/ to look at sb/sth with your mouth open because you are shocked or surprised
- The children gaped at the circus animals.
 - How she would have gaped if she had realized that her “coarse kitchen salt” was strychnine, one of the most deadly poisons known to mankind.

get

- **get by**: to have just enough money to buy the things you need
 - If these tariffs go into full effect, they will raise prices for everything from groceries, to cars, to gas, making it even harder for middle-class families to just get by.

glib

adj. <disapproving> (of speakers and speech) using words that are clever, but are not sincere, and do not show much thought

- He's a glib speaker, but he doesn't really know what he's talking about.

gobble

v. /'ɡɒbəl/ to eat something very quickly, especially making a lot of noise

- The president-elect has been **gobbling up the world's attention**, but he has been less forthcoming about his plans for the world.
- Some see little need to panic about this debt pile, arguing that the dollar's reserve currency status will force global investors to keep gobbling up Treasury bonds.

grudge

n. a strong feeling of anger and dislike for a person who you feel has treated you badly, especially one that lasts for a long time

- She has a grudge against him for not letting her join the club.

v. 1. to be unwilling to give or allow sth

- I grudge every minute I have to spend on this stupid project.

2. to think that sb does not deserve to have sth

- You surely don't grudge her her success?
- Do not grudge me a moment's satisfaction of the eye.

gulf

n. a large difference between two people or groups in the way that they think, live or feel

- President Emmanuel Macron attempted to use charm and personal rapport to smooth the relationship with Trump during his first term in the White House, but often that was insufficient to **bridge the gulf** on issues ranging from the role of Nato to Middle Eastern politics or climate treaties.

ghastly

adj. very frightening and unpleasant, because it involves pain, death, etc.

- Never have I seen such a ghastly look on any man's face.

go

- **go through**

1. to examine or search sth carefully
2. to be accepted, approved, or completed

grip

n. a strong hold

- Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike want to reduce US economic reliance on a strategic rival and weaken China's grip on global clean energy supply chains.

ground

- **lose ground in:** to become less successful or powerful

H

haggard

adj. looking very thin and tired, especially because of great hunger, worry or pain

- As we neared the house, John came out and met us. His face looked weary and haggard.
- <syn> gaunt, drawn, weary
- **haggardness** [*n.*]: <syn> languor, gauntness

hanker

vi. to have a strong desire for sth

- We all hanker for peace.
- Keep quality first, hanker for perfection.

hastily

adv. quickly and with little thought

- He hastily put on his coat and left the house.

heap

- n.* a large pile of sth
 - a heap of stones
- v.* to put things in a large untidy pile
 - She heaped the clothes in a corner of the room.

heap praise on sb: to praise sb very much

hint

- vi.* to suggest sth in an indirect way
 - **hint at:** to suggest sth in an indirect way
 - The attorney-general, who brought the fraud suit, has hinted at seizing his assets.

hush

- v.*
 1. to make sb/sth be quiet or stop talking
 - The teacher hushed the children.
 2. to hide information about a situation because you do not want people to know about it
 - **hush up:** The government hushed up the scandal.

hypocrisy

- n.* the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform; pretense
 - I pass over Alfred Inglethorp, who acted the bereaved widower in a manner that I felt to be disgusting in its hypocrisy.

head

- **head off:** to prevent sth from happening
 - If Meta and X were confident in heading off the regulatory impositions of the EU, Brazil and elsewhere, they would not need to swing behind Trump and the new administration.

hold

- **hold off:** to delay sth
 - May I hold off a few slides to answer your question?

home

- **home in on sth:** to aim directly at sth
 - Investors also homed in on figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that indicated headline annual inflation rose in line with expectations to 2.9 per cent in December.

I

impassive

adj. not showing any feeling or emotion; <syn> emotionless

imperious

adj. expecting people to obey you and treating them as if they are not as important as you

- She had an imperious manner that made it difficult for people to like her.

indecisive

adj. /ˌɪndɪ'saɪsɪv/ not able to make decisions quickly or confidently

- She was very indecisive about what to do next.
- Never, I thought, had his indecision of character been more apparent.
- **indecision** [*n.*]: the state of being unable to make a decision
 - It was really this last named trait of hers which was causing me these pangs of indecision.

indignant

adj. /ɪn'dɪgnənt/ feeling or showing anger and surprise because you think that you or sb else has been treated unfairly

- She was very indignant at the way she had been treated.
- **indignation** [*n.*]: a feeling of anger and surprise because you think that you or sb else has been treated unfairly
 - Poirot waited for her indignation to subside.

indulge

v. to allow yourself to have or do sth that you like, especially sth that is considered bad for you

- She indulged herself with a long, hot bath.

- I indulged in a little retail therapy.
- **indulgences** [*n.*]: the act of allowing yourself or sb else to have or do sth that is considered bad for you
 - She scorns my invincible rejoinder [=reply] that Mr Ferrars died of acute gastritis, helped on by habitual overindulgence in alcoholic beverages.

infatuation

- n.* /ɪnfætʃu'eɪʃn/ very strong feelings of love or attraction for sb/sth, especially when these are unreasonable and do not last long
- strange infatuation of an otherwise sensible woman

infuriate

- v.* to make sb extremely angry
- The decision to close the local hospital has infuriated many people.
 - But Trump's problem is that tax rises for the wealthy will horrify "orthodox" Republicans in Congress. They would also infuriate many of the wealthy entrepreneurs who backed his presidential bid.
- <syn> irritate, enrage

ingenious

- adj.*
1. (of an object, a plan, an idea, etc.) very suitable for a particular purpose and resulting from clever new ideas
 - an ingenious solution to the problem
 2. (of a person) having a lot of clever new ideas and good at inventing things
 - an ingenious designer

innuendo

- n.* /ɪnju'endəʊ/ a remark that suggests sth unpleasant or rude but does not refer to it directly
- The article was full of sexual innuendo.

instinct

- n.* /'ɪnstɪŋkt/ a natural tendency for people and animals to behave in a particular way using the knowledge and abilities that they were born with rather than thought or training
- **instinctively** [*adv.*]: I instinctively followed the direction of his gaze.

interrogate

v. /m'terəgert/ <technical> to obtain information from a computer or other machine

- The result of this exercise is the most accurate empirical trading model in the literature to date, which we then interrogate to reveal the most important drivers of trading activity.

intrigue

v. to make sb very interested and want to know more about sth

- The idea intrigued him.

n. a secret plan

inveterate

adj. /m'vetərət/ having a particular habit, activity or interest that is long-established and unlikely to change

- He is an inveterate smoker.

incommod

v. /,mkə'məud/ <formal> to cause inconvenience to sb

- Tories want growth, but not if it means building things, aligning with Europe, or much exposure to China. Labour wants growth, but not if it incommodes the unions, or leaves people behind or some such NGO press release inanity.

J

jocose

adj. /dʒə'kəʊs/ <formal> humorous or playful

- He was in a jocose mood.

judicious

adj. <formal, approving> careful and sensible; showing good judgement

K

knock

- **take a knock:** to suffer a loss or defeat

- Business confidence has taken a knock in the wake of Reeves' decision to levy a 25bn increase in employer national insurance contributions in the Budget which, coupled with planned increases in the national living wage, will drive up labour costs.
- **knock-on effect:** an indirect result of sth
 - The rise in interest rates will have a knock-on effect on the housing market.

L

land

- **land sb in trouble:** to cause sb to be in trouble

least

- **at the very least:** used to emphasize that sth is the minimum that is possible or likely
 - At the very least, you should apologize.
 - It'll take a year, at the very least.
 - Opposition MPs have signalled they will at the very least have a heated debate before ratifying such a deal.

lie

- v.* to exist or to be found
- The beauty of the place lies in its simplicity.
 - That way lies [=leads to] confusion.

line

- n.*
1. an attitude or a belief, especially one that sb states publicly
 - The government is taking a firm line on terrorism.
 2. a method or way of doing or thinking about sth
 - I don't follow your line of reasoning.
 - There was really no arguing with him if he chose to take that line.

litany

- n.* a long boring account of a series of events, reasons, etc.
- a litany of firm characteristics

lukewarm

adj. <disapproving> (about sb/sth) not interested or enthusiastic

M

make

- **make up**

1. to invent a story, an excuse, etc.
2. to form sth
3. to become friends again after a quarrel
4. to put on make-up

maverick

adj. /'mævərɪk/ behaving independently and differently from other people, and having different beliefs and ideas

- But some maverick economists, such as Michael Pettis, have long dissented from this orthodox view.

methodical

adj. /mə'θɒdɪkl/ done in a careful and logical way

- He was very methodical in his working habits.
- I relinquished the piece of paper, and watched him put it away in his case, with the same methodical care that he bestowed on everything.

mind

- **at the back of one's mind:** in one's thoughts but not as the most important thing

minute

adj. (i) very small in size or amount; (ii) detailed and careful

- minute particles of dust

momentous

adj. very important or serious, especially because there may be important results

- a momentous decision

more

- **more often than not:** most of the time

mount

vt. to organize and begin sth

- One of the largest penalties imposed on a New York corporation, the judgment has deepened the former president's ballooning legal costs, which he is struggling to cover while mounting a campaign for the presidency in November's election.

mainspring

n. <formal> the most important part of sth that makes it work

- the mainspring of economic growth
- The love of music was a mainspring of his life.
- The mainspring of the story is the relationship between the two sisters.

N

nettle

v. to annoy or irritate sb

- The constant noise of the machines nettled him.
- <syn> irritate, vex [to annoy or worry sb]

noncommittal

adj. not expressing an opinion or decision

- He was noncommittal about his plans.

notch

- **top-notch:** of the highest quality

nudge

v. to push sb gently, especially with your elbow, in order to get their attention

- But while the specific mechanisms are up for debate, the proliferation of singledom and its role in cratering birth rates shows that while financial incentives and other policy tweaks can nudge birth rates higher, they are labouring against much stronger sociocultural forces.

O

obliterate

- v.* /ə'blɪtəreɪt/ to remove all signs of sth, either by destroying or covering it completely
- I remained by the door, fearing to obliterate any clues.
 - <syn> destroy, wipe out, eradicate

overt

adj. done in an open way and not secretly

- overt hostility / racism
- Making his most overt threat yet to end the war on terms favourable to Moscow, Trump wrote: "A Dictator without Elections, Zelenskyy better move fast or he is not going to have a Country left."

overtax

- v.* to put too much pressure on sb/sth
- The system is overtaxed and underfunded.
 - She overtaxed her strength.

P

pang

- n.* a sudden strong feeling of physical or emotional pain
- a sudden pang of jealousy / guilt
 - As her eyes fell on me, a sudden pang of guilt shot through me.

paralyse

- v.* (i) to make sb unable to think or act in the normal way, especially because of extreme fear or worry; (ii) to make sth unable to function normally
- The country was paralysed by the strike.

pare

- v.* to reduce sth by cutting small pieces from it
- **pare back:** to reduce the size or amount of sth

- Consumer price growth accelerated in November to 2.6 per cent from 2.3 per cent the previous month, prompting investors to pare back hopes for interest rate cuts in 2025.

pent-up

adj. (of a feeling) that cannot be expressed or released

- pent-up anger/excitement
- The pent-up demand for a new iPhone is expected to be huge.

persecute

- v.* to treat sb in a cruel and unfair way, especially because of their race, religion or political beliefs
- persecute sb for sth

pertain

- v.* to exist or to apply in a particular situation or at a particular time
- The laws of physics pertain to both the materials used in their making and the substances and things to be contained, supported, and sheltered.
- Those laws no longer pertain.

petrify

- v.* to make sb feel extremely frightened
- The thought of having to speak in public petrified her.
- He was white as chalk, the candle he held in his shaking hand was sputtering onto the carpet, and his eyes were petrified with terror, or some kindred /'kɪndrəd/ emotion, stared fixedly over my head at a point on the further wall.

physiognomy

- n.* <formal> the shape and features of a person's face
- His physiognomy underwent a complete change.

placid

adj. calm and peaceful with little movement or activity

- The placid surface of the water reflected the clear blue sky.

plague

- v. /pleɪg/ to cause pain or trouble to sb/sth over a period of time
 - overcome the econometric challenges that typically plague regression models with many explanatory variables

play

- v. to behave in a particular way
 - The president-elect has played down the importance of the dollar's value.
- **play into sb's hands:** to do sth that helps sb achieve what they want
- **play out:** to happen or develop in a particular way
 - So the looming \$36tn question is not simply whether the plutocrats or populists will win this fight; it is also whether the bond markets will stay calm while this plays out.
- **foul play:** criminal or violent activity that causes sb's death

pledge

- v. to formally promise to give or do sth
 - The government has given a pledge[n.] that it will not increase taxes.
 - Trump has pledged to make policy changes that could add many trillions more to the debt, while also threatening to weaken the dollar and undermine the independence of the Fed.

plug

- v. to fill or cover a hole with sth
 - I am told that Bessent and others have told Trump that the resulting fiscal hole could be plugged by faster growth, tariff revenue and a \$2tn government spending cut promised by Musk.

plunge

- v. to fall or drop quickly by a large amount
 - The dollar plunged to a 14-year low against the yen.
 - The poor family plunged in sorrow and prostrated with grief.

point

- **to the point:** directly relevant to the subject being discussed
 - The report was brief and to the point.

portent

- n.* a sign or warning that sth, especially sth momentous or calamitous, is likely to happen
- The portents of the future are not good.

power

- **power ahead:** to move forward with great speed or force
 - US carmakers are struggling to sell electric vehicles while the Chinese market powers ahead because their products are inferior.

precarious

- adj.* (of a situation) not safe or certain; dangerous
- The more precarious his situation, the more boats he will burn.

precipitate

- v.* to make sth happen suddenly or sooner than expected, especially sth bad
- The incident precipitated a political crisis.

pre-empt

- v.*
1. to prevent sth from happening by taking action first
 - A Treasury spokesperson said it would not pre-empt the OBR's forecast but meeting the fiscal rules was non-negotiable.
 2. to do sth before sb else can do it
 - The company pre-empted its rivals by launching the product a month early.

prelude

- n.* an action or event that happens before another more important one and forms an introduction to it
- The talks were just a prelude to more substantial negotiations.

pretext

- n.* a reason that you give to hide your real reason for doing sth
- **on the pretext of:** use sth as an excuse for

prim

- adj.* behaving in a way that is too formal and proper
- She was a prim and proper young lady.

probe

- **probe into:** to ask questions or try to discover the truth about sth
 - The police are probing into the cause of the accident.
 - <vn> Musk, the world's richest man and key confidant of US president-elect Donald Trump, is probing how he and his rightwing allies can destabilize the UK Labour government beyond the aggressive posts he has issued on X.

proclaim

- v.* to publicly and officially tell people about sth important; to show sth clearly; to be a sign of sth
 - The president proclaimed a state of emergency.
 - An audible creaking proclaimed the approach of Annie, so I had no time to reply.

prostrate

- adj.*
 1. lying with the front of your body facing downwards
 2. so shocked, upset, etc., that you cannot do anything
 - be prostrated with grief

put

- **put out**
 1. To extinguish: Firefighters quickly put out the fire.
 2. To cause someone inconvenience or trouble
 - **put sb out:** I hope I'm not putting you out by asking you to help.
 - She was very much put out about it.
 3. To make something available to the public: The company put out a new product last month.
 4. To force someone to leave a place: He was put out of the bar for causing trouble.

predicament

- n.* a difficult or unpleasant situation
 - For a corporation in the predicament of Meta this makes perfect commercial sense, even if it does violence to previously expressed sentiments.

perusal

- n.* the action of reading or examining sth carefully
 - I have given your letter a hasty perusal.

R

rampant

adj. (of sth bad) getting worse quickly and in an uncontrolled way

- rampant inflation/corruption
- Unemployment is rampant in the region.

ransack

v. to search a place or container in a violent and careless way

- The burglars ransacked the house, but found nothing of value.

rattle

v. to make sb nervous or frightened

- The sudden noise rattled me.

recapitulate

v. to repeat or give a summary of what has already been said, decided, etc.

- The chairman recapitulated the main points of the report.

receptive

adj. willing to listen to or to accept new ideas or suggestions

- The audience was very receptive to the idea.
- Privately I thought it lucky that he had associated with him someone of a more receptive type of mind.

recount

v. to tell sb about sth, especially sth that you have experienced

- He recounted the story of his life.
- You shall recount to me the affairs whilst I dress.
- <syn> narrate, relate, tell, describe

rein

n. a long, narrow piece of leather that is fastened around a horse's neck and used by the rider to control the horse

- **keep a tight rein on sb/sth:** to control sb/sth very carefully

- **give rein to sth:** to allow sth to develop or grow freely
 - You gave too much rein to your imagination. Imagination is a good servant, and a bad master.

v. to control or limit sth

- **rein sth <– –> in/back**
 - The chief executive of Tesla and SpaceX, who has been appointed by Trump to co-lead a project to rein in US government spending, has taken a keen interest in British politics over the past six months, and made increasingly strident² criticism of Starmer's government.

rejoice

- v.* to feel or show great happiness about sth
- We rejoiced at the news of her safe arrival.

relinquish

- v.* to give up sth such as a responsibility or claim
- relinquish the profession of medicine
 - He was forced to relinquish control of the company.

reprehend

- vt.* /ˌreprɪ'hend/ to reprove or censure severely; to find fault with
- <syn> rebuke, reprimand /'reprɪma:nd/, reproach, reprove
 - As it is, the reprehensible attempted assassination of Trump will have profound reverberations for US democracy.

reprieve

- v./n.* to officially cancel or delay plans to close sth or end sth
- Joe Biden is likely to get at least a temporary reprieve from the internal Democratic debate about whether he should step down as his party's nominee.

resent

- v.* to feel bitter or angry about sth, especially because you feel it is unfair
- She resented being treated like a child.
 - I rather resent his not taking me into his confidence, the more so as I could not *in the least* guess what he was driving at.

² *adj.* aggressive and determined

rescind

- v.* to officially end a law, an agreement, etc.
 - He rescinded dozens of Biden's executive orders relating to everything from advancing racial equity and sanctioning extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank, to strengthening Medicaid and promoting access to voting.

retaliate

- v.* to do sth harmful to sb because they have done sth harmful to you
 - Remember when the EU retaliated against Trump's steel and aluminium tariffs by putting tariffs on motorcycles.
 - He won't personally embrace Trump and will retaliate early and hard in order to generate leverage.
- **retaliatory** [*adj.*]

retard

- v.* to make the development or progress of sth slower
 - The heavy rain retarded our progress.
 - Yet, in Mrs. Inglethorp's case, the symptoms do not manifest themselves until five o'clock the next morning: nice hours! But a heavy meal, taken at about the same time as the poison, might retard its effects, though hardly to that extent.
- <syn> hinder, impede, obstruct, delay

reticent

- adj.* /'retisənt/ not willing to tell people about things
 - It seems incredible that a woman like Mrs. Cavendish, proud and reticent to the last degree, should interfere so violently in what was certainly not her affair.

revulse

- v.* to cause to feel disgust
 - The attempted assassination of Trump revulsed the nation.
- <syn> disgust, repel, repugn /rɪ'pju:n/, repulse

revulsion

- n.* a strong feeling of repugnance or disgust
 - A wave of revulsion swept over me.

- <syn> repugnance, repulsion, disgust, abhorrence, loathing, detestation, odium,

rhetoric

n. /'retərɪk/ speech or writing that is intended to influence people, but that is not completely honest or sincere

- The Ohio senator said the Biden campaign's rhetoric led directly to President Trump's attempted assassination.
- His speech was dismissed as mere rhetoric.
- The president's comments, coming less than two weeks after his return to the White House, marked a sharp escalation in his rhetoric on trade and mean the world's biggest economy is on the verge of imposing tariffs on its most significant trading partners.

roll

- **roll out:** to make a new product, service, etc. available for the first time
 - President Joe Biden rolled out his most recent series of restrictions on Chinese products, including solar panels and electric vehicles, last month.

rueful

adj. feeling or expressing sorrow or regret

- John noticed my surprise at the news of his mother's remarriage and smiled rather ruefully.

ramp

v. to increase quickly in amount or level

- The cost of living has ramped up in recent years.
- Investor demand for ESG funds slowed in 2024 as Republican politicians ramped up their ESG attacks.

rift

n. a serious disagreement between two people or groups

- The rift between the two families was never healed.

S

sarcastic

adj. using remarks that clearly mean the opposite of what you say, in order to criticize sb/sth in a humorous way

- "I'm sure you'll pass with flying colours," he said, his tone heavy with sarcasm.
- <syn> ironic

scatter

- v.* to throw or drop things in different directions so that they cover an area of ground
- The wind scattered the leaves in all directions.
 - "What's the matter?" I asked, sitting up in bed, and trying to collect my scattered thoughts.

scrap

- v.* /skræp/ to decide not to use or do sth that has been arranged or planned
- The government has scrapped plans to build a new hospital.
 - Indeed, this week he demanded the debt ceiling be scrapped.
- n.* a small piece of sth that is left over, especially after sth has been destroyed
- I told him of the scrap of conversation I had overheard.

scramble

- v.* to move or climb quickly but with difficulty, often using your hands to help you; to compete with other people for sth
- scramble up a steep hill
 - During Trump's first term, Beijing scrambled to react.

scribble

- v.* to write or draw sth quickly or carelessly
- He scribbled a note to his wife.
 - <syn> scrawl, jot down

sell

- **sell out**

1. to sell all of the supply of sth that you have; to sell all the tickets for a performance, etc.
2. to betray sb or sth by doing sth that is against their interests
 - Elon is a remarkable individual but on this I am afraid I disagree. My view remains that Tommy Robinson is not right for Reform and I never sell out my principles.

- **sell off**: to sell all or part of a business or industry, often at a low price; fire sale

serendipitous

adj. happening or found by chance in a happy or beneficial way

- The serendipitous discovery of the vaccine was a stroke of luck.

sequel

n. a book, film, etc. that continues the story of an earlier one

- The sequel to the movie is even better than the original.
- The forthcoming spring statement, spending review, and autumn budget will likely be painful sequels to the chancellor's historic inaugural budget.

set

v. to establish sth; to decide on sth

- **set down**: to write sth on paper
 - set down the circumstances/rules
- **set out**: to start a journey or a new activity
 - set out borrowing plans

settle

v. to reach a decision or an agreement about sth; to end a disagreement

- settle a dispute/argument/claim/lawsuit
- **settle down**: to become familiar with a new way of life, job, etc.
 - settle down to the more congenial life of a country squire
 - With the presence of Mr. Ingleshorp /'ɪŋɡəlθɔ:p/, a sense of constraint and veiled hostility seemed to settle down upon the company (*n.* <formal> guests).

shade

n. a small amount of a colour

- **a shade + adj.:** a shade less solid
- The walls were painted in a delicate shade of pink.

shear

v. to cut the wool off a sheep; to cut sth off

- The sheep were shorn of their fleece.
- **be shorn of:** <literary> to have sth important taken away from you
 - Shorn of his power, the deposed king went into exile.
 - Shorn of its medical phraseology and technicalities, it amounted to [*meant*] the fact that Mrs. Inglethorp had met her death as the result of strychnine poisoning.

shine

- **shine through:** to be very noticeable or to have a great effect
 - Different investment styles cause most effects except market liquidity to offset each other in the aggregated sample, while these effects shine through in the disaggregated groups.

shore

v. to support or help sth/sb

- **shore up:** to support or help sth/sb by making it stronger
 - The officials argued they had negotiated far more favourable terms and depicted the deal as a way of broadening the relationship with the US to shore up Ukraine's prospects after three years of war.

showcase

v. to show the best qualities or parts of sth

- This exercise showcases the usefulness of expectations data but does not shed light on return predictability.

sign

v. to write your name on a document to show that you agree with it

- Please sign the contract at the bottom of the page.
- **sign up:** to agree to become involved in an organized activity

- **sign off**

1. to write your name on a document to show that you agree with it
2. to officially approve sth so that it can be done
3. to stop working for a period of time

- Hey, may I know when is your sign off time today?

- **give sign of:** to show that sth is happening or is likely to happen

- Suddenly, I realized that Alfred Inglethorp was not with us—that he alone had given no sign of his presence.

slip

v. to put sth somewhere quickly and quietly

- Anna slipped the letter into her pocket.

sober

adj. /'səʊbə(r)/ serious and sensible

- The sobering reality is that the US is now the world's largest debtor nation.

v. to make sb become serious or think carefully about sth

- Poirot was sobered at once.

solicitous

adj. being very concerned for sb and wanting to make sure that they are comfortable, well or happy

- He was always solicitous about the welfare of his family.

sought-after

adj. in great demand, usually because it is rare or of very good quality

- The sought-after prize is a \$1,000 scholarship.

spot

v. to see or notice a person or thing, especially suddenly or when it is not easy to do so

- spot the murderer right off

- **spot on:** exactly right; completely accurate

- Bannon's argument about popular anger is spot on.

spring

- v. to appear or develop quickly and/or suddenly
 - The idea for the novel sprang out of his interest in African mythology.

squeeze

- v. to put pressure on sth/sb, especially in order to extract liquid
 - Bannon believes that the recent assassination of a healthcare executive shows that there is now so much anti-elite anger that it would be political suicide for Trump to squeeze the middle class while favouring the rich.

standards

- However, the nomination of a convicted felon and family connection is highly unusual even by the standards of recent American diplomatic appointments.

stave

- v. /steiv/ to prevent sth bad from happening for a period of time
 - **stave off**
 - Out-of-court manoeuvres seeking to stave off bankruptcy also increased last year, outnumbering bankruptcies by about two to one, according to Fitch Ratings.

stir

- v.
 1. to mix a liquid or other substance by moving an object such as a spoon in a circular pattern
 2. to move, or to make sth move, slightly; to move, or to make sb move, in order to do sth
 - A noise stirred me from sleep.
 - Their complaints have finally stirred him into action.
 3. to make sb excited or make them feel sth strongly
 - She was stirred by his sad story.
 4. (of a feeling or a mood) to begin to be felt
 - A feeling of guilt began to stir in her.
 5. to try to cause trouble
- **stirring** [*n.*]: (of sth) the beginning of a feeling, an idea or a development
 - She felt a stirring of anger.

stock

- **take (a) stock of:** to think carefully about a situation or event and form an opinion about it, so that you can decide what to do
 - I took stock of the situation and decided to leave.

straight

- **a straight month/year:** a complete month/year
 - The UK economy contracted for a second straight month in October and failed to grow in the third quarter.

stricture

n. a rule or law that is very strict and that must be obeyed; a strong criticism

strike

- **strike sb as adj.:** to give someone a particular impression or to seem to someone in a certain way
 - He strikes me as very intelligent.
- **strike a note:** express opinions or feelings, e.g., strike a romantic/wrong note
 - Let me strike a note of hopefulness; this job will not be as hard as you think.

subside

v. /səb'saɪd/ to become calmer, quieter or less intense

- The intense interest aroused in the public by what was known at the time as "The Styles Case" has now somewhat subsided.

surmise

v. to guess or suppose sth without having enough evidence to be certain

- From the looks on their faces, I surmised that they had had an argument.

n. an idea or opinion that you get from what you know or from what you see

- I have a certain talent for deduction, and Dr. Bauerstein's manner had started a flock of wild surmises in my mind.

sweep

- **sweep over:** to spread quickly over an area; idea, emotion, etc. to affect a person or a group of people
 - A foreboding of the future swept over me. Nothing tangible as yet — but a vague premonition of the way things were setting.
- **sweeping** [*adj.*] having an important effect on a large part of sth
 - US's federal debt shot up after sweeping tax cuts by Donald Trump in 2017 and huge stimulus spending during the pandemic.

stick

- **stick up for:** to support or defend sb/sth

stem

- v. to stop sth that is flowing from spreading or increasing
 - Beijing has taken some measures to stem the flow of ingredients for fentanyl, known as precursor chemicals,

subvert

- v. to try to destroy or damage an established system or government
 - What Vance did was to subvert the ideas of freedom, democracy and shared values that have underpinned the western alliance for 80 years.

T

take

- **take an axe to sth:** to destroy sth completely
- **take sb into confidence:** to tell sb sth that you have been keeping secret
- **take sth with a grain of salt:** to be suspicious of sth that you are told
- **be taken aback:** to be very shocked or surprised

talk

- **talk sb into sth:** to persuade sb to do sth
 - He added Zelenskyy, whom he described as “a modestly successful comedian”, had “talked the United States of America into spending \$350 Billion Dollars, to go into a War that couldn’t be won”.

tally

v. to match or agree with sth

- And that little curious fact, that possibly paltry little detail that will not tally, we put it there.
- Her report of what happened tallied exactly with the story of another witness.
- <syn> match up

tantamount

adj. /'tæntəmaʊnt/ having the same bad effect as sth else

- If he resigned it would be tantamount to admitting that he was guilty.

thrash

- **thrash out:** to discuss sth thoroughly until you reach an agreement
 - <syn> hammer out, iron out
 - It also leaves crucial questions such as the size of the US stake in the fund and the terms of “joint ownership” deals to be thrashed out in follow-up agreements.

throng

n. a large crowd of people

v. to move in a large crowd

- The streets were thronged with people.

toll

n. <C, usually sing.> the amount of damage or the number of deaths and injuries that are caused in a particular war, disaster, etc.

- **take toll on:** to have a bad effect on sb/sth

track

- **keep track of sth:** to continue to be informed about sth
- **on track to do sth:** likely to do sth
 - As of December, insured losses from natural catastrophes were on track to exceed \$135bn in 2024, according to Swiss Re

trade

- **trade off:** The survey design trades off asking quantitative questions about moments that are crucial for macro-finance theory with keeping the questions sufficiently simple that they can be answered by nonspecialists.

trajectory

n. /trə'dʒktərɪ/ the curved path of sth that has been fired, hit or thrown into the air

- US fiscal burden was on an unprecedented trajectory, risking a crisis of the kind that sparked a run on the pound and the collapse of Truss's government in the UK in 2022.

trumped-up

adj. invented and intended to deceive

- The charges against him were trumped up.

trying

adj. difficult to deal with

- It was a trying time for us all.
- The reaction after a shock is always trying, and I think we were suffering from it.

tumultuous

adj. /tjuː'mʌltʃuəs/ involving a lot of change and confusion and/or violence

- 2025 is set to be a challenging, tumultuous year for businesses and investors in the green transition.

turn

- **turn out:** to happen in a particular way or to have a particular result
 - The election turned out to be a disaster for the party.
- **turn over:** to turn sth upside down
 - I had been turning over the idea of going to the party all week.

twinge

- n.*
1. a sudden sharp pain in a part of your body
 2. (of sth) a sudden short feeling of an unpleasant emotion
 - a twinge of guilt
 - I experienced a sharp twinge of disgust, as I thought of Alfred Inglethorp's liberality [*the quality of being generous or respectful*] with another woman's money.

truculence

n. /'trʌkjələns/ the quality of being aggressive and eager to argue or fight

- Beijing's truculence and bald assertion of entitlement strengthened the hand of China hawks in both the US and the EU, and sowed doubt among former China supporters.

U

ubiquitous

adj. seeming to be everywhere or in several places at the same time; very common

- The instantly ubiquitous photo of him pumping his fist against the backdrop of the stars and stripes will become the emblem of his campaign.

unctuous

adj. /'ʌŋktʃuəs/ friendly or giving praise in a way that is not sincere and which is therefore unpleasant

- The unctuous, self-satisfied tone of his voice

undercurrent

n. a feeling or influence that is not easily noticed but may have a strong effect

- There was an undercurrent of hostility between them.
- There was an undercurrent of intergenerational tension in an important report on the workplace culture of the US's largest audit firms last month.

undermine

v. to make sth, especially sb's confidence or authority, gradually weaker or less effective

- It is not only unhelpful in solving its own problems, but also undermines the normal economic and trade co-operation between China and the US.

underpinning

n. a set of ideas, reasons, etc. that form the basis of sth

- The reality is that the financial underpinnings of Russia's war economy increasingly look like a house of cards — so much so that senior members of the governing elite are publicly expressing concern.

unleash

- v.* to suddenly let a strong force, emotion, etc. be felt or have an effect
- There is no telling what his death would have unleashed.

V

vehement

adj. /'vi:əmənt/ showing very strong feelings, especially anger

- He suddenly became very vehement and started shouting at me.
- I confessed that I was surprised by Lawrence's attitude. He was so seldom vehement about anything.
- <syn> forceful, passionate, intense, fierce, violent

versed

adj. /vɜ:st/ having a lot of knowledge or experience of a particular subject

- He's well versed in the art of negotiation.
- <syn> knowledgeable, expert, skilled, proficient

view

- **in view of:** in consideration of
 - in view of the worldwide notoriety which attended it
- **with a view to:** with the aim of
 - with a view to making a profit

voluble

adj. /'vɒljʊbl/ talking a lot, and with enthusiasm, about a subject

- She was a voluble and enthusiastic speaker.
- Her volubility, which I remembered of old, had lost nothing in the intervening years, and she poured out a steady flood of conversation, mainly on the subject of the forthcoming bazaar³ which she was organizing and which was to take place shortly.

³ *n.* /bə'zɑ:(r)/ a street or an area of a town where there are many small shops

voracious

adj. /və'reɪʃəs/ wanting or eating large amounts of food

- He has a voracious appetite.
- AI's voracious appetite for electricity has been one of the most significant themes in clean energy.
- <syn> insatiable, ravenous, gluttonous

W

wane

v. to become weaker in strength or influence

- Consumer demand has waned as the Covid-19 pandemic stimulus ebbed, hitting companies that rely on discretionary consumer spending particularly hard.

way

- **go a long way to:** to help very much
 - That goes a long way to explaining why many of the world's largest luxury companies have underperformed recently.

wear

- <wore, worn>
- **wear away:** to disappear or to make sth disappear gradually
 - This cycle has worn away trust and confidence in the US's reliability as a partner and ally.

weigh

v. to consider sth. carefully, especially before making a decision

- The judge will weigh the evidence before reaching a decision.
- **weigh in on:** to give an opinion on sth
 - Elon Musk, owner of the site, X, on which these statements were posted, was quick to weigh in on a conspiracy about how the shooter could have got so close: "Either extreme incompetence or it was deliberate," Musk wrote.
- **weigh on:** to make sb feel worried or unhappy

- The persistently elevated cost of goods and services is weighing on consumer demands.
- **weigh up**: to think carefully about the advantages or disadvantages of a situation before making a decision

wiggle

- v.* to twist and turn your body from side to side
- **wiggle out of sth**: to avoid doing sth that you should do by using clever excuses
- **wiggle room**: the freedom to make small changes in sth in order to make it more effective or acceptable
 - <syn> headroom, latitude, leeway
 - Increases in government debt yields have since put that budgetary wiggle room under threat.
 - The Treasury is expecting a fresh round of official forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility in March, which will include a new estimate of the amount of wiggle room the government has against its self-imposed fiscal regime.

Y

yarn

- n.* a long story
- We had a good yarn about old times.

2. Description

Useful words

- Increase a lot: leap, soar, surge, rocket
- Increase slightly: edge up, inch up, nudge up
- Decrease a lot: plummet, plunge, tumble, crash
- Decrease slightly: edge down, dip, ease off, fall back, slip back,

Examples

- The S&P 500 closed 1.8 per cent higher, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite leapt 2.5 per cent. Those gains marked stocks' best day since November 6, the day after the US election.
- Markets had dipped in recent weeks as investors scaled back expectations of Federal Reserve rate cuts in anticipation of president-elect Trump's economic policy, which some fear will be inflationary.
- Hong Kong's Hang Seng index, which had risen as much as 3.3 per cent in early trading, shed some of its gains to close up 2.7 per cent, while the offshore renminbi strengthened slightly to Rmb7.32 and oil prices edged down about 1 per cent.
- Traders and investors say a more gradual approach to tariffs than previously feared has lifted the currencies of countries or regions with large exports, such as the euro.

3. Idioms

1. **bargining chip**: sth that you are prepared to risk in order to gain an advantage
 - By taking such actions, Beijing is previewing its capabilities and creating future bargaining chips.
2. **blind alley**: a situation that does not lead to any useful result
 - I could have told him from the beginning that this obsession of his over the coffee was bound to end in a blind alley, but I restrained my tongue.
3. **a free hand**: freedom to do what you want, give sb a free hand
4. **have the whip hand**: control
5. **leave no stone unturned**: try every possible course of action in order to achieve sth
6. **purse strings**: financial resources
7. **ripple effect; knock-on effect**: a situation in which one event causes a series of other events to happen
 - Governments are incentivized to keep premiums low and to shoulder more of the risk — leaving them exposed to catastrophic events that could generate massive public liabilities, with ripple effects for markets.
8. **a snowball's chance in hell**: no chance at all
 - There isn't a snowball's chance in hell that Canada would become part of the United States.

9. **a storm in a teacup**: make a fuss of
10. **put spanner in the works (of)**: to do sth that prevents a plan or activity from succeeding
11. **be hand and glove with sb**: to be very friendly with sb
12. **tete-a-tete**: a private conversation between two people
13. **No smoke without fire**: there is usually some truth in rumors and accusations
14. **in duty bound to do sth**: to be morally or legally obliged to do sth
15. **go against the grain**: to be or do sth that is different from what is usual or expected
16. **head start**: an advantage that you have over other people in sth because you started it or began doing it before them

4. Sentences

- As one looked out over the flat Essex country, lying so green and peaceful under the afternoon sun, it seemed almost impossible to believe that, not so very far away, a great war was running its appointed course.
- Occasionally she referred to her husband over a question of days or dates, his watchful and attentive manner never varied. From the very first I took a firm and rooted dislike to him, and I flatter myself that my first judgments are usually fairly shrewd.
- Very few bonding companies will consider a bond of anything approaching that magnitude.
- But there are other reasons that luxury has lost its lustre, notable among them the pervasive feeling that economic insecurity may be around the corner, despite buoyant markets.
- The “lipstick index,” a term coined by beauty titan Leonard Lauder, posits that when purchases of small luxury items like a new cosmetic go up, a recession is imminent. In 2024, beauty was one of the few luxury categories with positive growth, as consumers sought out that small splurge.
- Xi is open to negotiations because he wants some breathing room on the economic front, so China can marshal its forces for a long-term competition.
- Beijing remains concerned that Trump’s team will focus on deeper economic decoupling, regime change in China and support for Taiwan independence, all as means to contain and destabilize China.
- A recent paper published by the Carnegie Endowment warned that, given Chinese producers’ superior scale and cost-efficiency in crucial parts of the clean energy supply chain, these trade measures “could result in a deeper and abrupt decoupling that is hugely disruptive at a critical time”.

5. Random Collection

- N objects together: pair – trio – quartet – quintet
- Quantifier
 - grain: a grain of truth/salt/sand/strychnine
 - twinge: a twinge of guilt/disgust