

Kk

k¹ *abbr.* 1 kilo-. 2 knot(s). 3 karat. 4 knit.
k² *symb.* 1 kilo-. 2 *Math.* a constant.
k³ *n.* (pl. same or **ks**) a kilometre (we drove 5 k) (cf. км).
K¹ *n.* (also **k**) (pl. **Ks** or **K's**) the eleventh letter of the alphabet.
K² *abbr.* (also **K.**) 1 King, King's. 2 Köchel (catalogue of Mozart's works). 3 (also **k**) (prec. by a numeral)
a Computing a unit of 1024 (i.e. 2¹⁰) bytes or bits, or loosely 1000. **b** 1000 (dollars etc.) (the asking price was 40K).
4 kindergarten. [sense 3 as abbreviation of KILO-]
K³ *symb.* 1 *Chem.* the element potassium. 2 kelvin(s). [sense 1 from modern Latin *kalium*]
ka /ka:/ *n.* in ancient Egypt, the supposed spiritual part of an individual human being or god, which survived (with the soul) after death and could reside in a statue of the dead person.
Kaaba /'ka:əbə, 'ka:bə/ *n.* (also **Caaba**) a sacred building at Mecca, the Muslim Holy of Holies containing the sacred black stone. [Arabic *Ka'ba*]
kabana *n.* (also **cabana**) a thick kind of spicy smoked sausage, usu. eaten cold. [alteration of Polish *kabanos* 'a type of sausage']
kabaragoya /kəbərə'gəʊjə/ *n.* the large monitor lizard *Varanus salvator*, widespread in SE Asia. [Sinhalese]
kabbala var. of CABBALA.
kabochka /kə'boʊtʃə/ *n.* any of several varieties of Asian pumpkin of the species *Cucurbita maxima*. [Japanese]
kabuki /kə'bu:ki:/ *n.* a form of popular traditional Japanese drama with highly stylised song, acted by males only.
 □ **kabuki brush** a type of make-up brush with soft bristles that form a dense, dome-shaped head. [Japanese, from *ka* 'song' + *bu* 'dance' + *ki* 'art']
kachina /kə'tʃi:nə/ *n.* 1 a deified ancestral spirit in the mythology of Pueblo Indians. 2 (in full **kachina dancer**) a person who represents a kachina in ceremonial dances.
 □ **kachina doll** a wooden doll representing a kachina. [Hopi *kachina* 'supernatural', of Keres origin]
kadaitcha /kə'daɪtʃə/ *n.* (also **kurdaitcha**) (among Central Australian Aboriginal groups) 1 (in traditional Aboriginal belief) a malignant spirit of Aboriginal lore. 2 a mission of vengeance. 3 the ritual accompanying this.
 □ **kadaitcha man** a person who undertakes a mission of vengeance. **kadaitcha shoes** shoes made of emu feathers stuck together with blood and worn by the kadaitcha man so that he will leave no tracks when he carries out the sentence on the guilty person. [Arrernte *kwertatye*]
Kaddish /'kædɪʃ/ *n.* 1 a Jewish mourner's prayer. 2 a doxology in the synagogue service. [Aramaic *kaddīš* 'holy']
kadi var. of CADI.
kaffir /'kæfɪə/ *n.* chiefly S.Afr. *offens.* a black African.
 □ **kaffir lily** 1 an ornamental plant of the Iris family, *Schizostylis coccinea*, bearing spikes of flowers resembling gladioli. 2 a southern African amaryllid of the genus *Clivia*, with orange, red, or yellow flowers. **kaffir lime** the SE Asian tree, *Citrus hystrix*, whose fragrant leaves (as well as the rind of the fruit) are used in esp. Thai and Indonesian cooking. [originally = a non-Muslim: Arabic *kāfir* 'infidel' from *kafara* 'not believe']

■ **USAGE** The word *kaffir* was originally simply a descriptive term for a particular ethnic group. Now it is a racially abusive and offensive term, and in South Africa its use is actionable.

kaffiyeh var. of KEFFIYEH.
kafir /'kæfɪə/ *n.* (among Muslims) a person who is not a Muslim. [from Arabic *kāfir* 'infidel, unbeliever': cf. KAFFIR]

Kafir /'kæfɪə/ *n.* a member of a people of the Hindu Kush mountains of NE Afghanistan. [formed as KAFFIR]
Kafkaesque /'kæfkə'seɪk/ *adj.* (of a situation, atmosphere, etc.) impenetrably oppressive, nightmarish, in a manner characteristic of the fictional world of Franz Kafka, German-speaking novelist (d. 1924).
Kafoops *n.* see MRS KAFOOPS.
kaftan /'kæftæn/ *n.* (also **caftan**) 1 a long usu. belted tunic worn by men in countries of SW Asia. 2 **a** a woman's long loose dress. **b** a loose shirt or top. [Turkish *kāftān*, partly through French *caftan*]
kahili ginger /kə'hi:li: 'dʒɪndʒə/ *n.* the herbaceous perennial *Hedychium gardnerianum*, native to India and a member of the ginger family, bearing highly scented yellow and red flowers. [from resemblance of the flower to the Hawaiian *kahili*, the ceremonial feather-standard]
kahuna /kə'hu:nə/ *n.* 1 (in Hawaii) a wise man or shaman. 2 *US colloq.* an important person. [Hawaiian]
kai /ka:/ *n.* NZ *colloq.* 1 food. 2 a meal. [Maori]
kail var. of KALE.
kairos /'kaɪrəs/ *n.* a propitious moment for decision or action. [Greek, = opportunity]
kaiseki /kaɪ'seki:/ *n.* a style of traditional Japanese cuisine consisting of a series of small seasonal dishes. [Japanese, from *kai* (from *kaichu* 'kimono pocket') + *seki* 'stone']
kaiser /'kaɪzə/ *n. hist.* an emperor, esp. the German Emperor, the Emperor of Austria, or the head of the Holy Roman Empire. □ **kaisership** *n.* [in modern English from German *Kaiser* and Dutch *keizer*; in Middle English from Old English *cāesere*, from Germanic adoption (through Greek *kaisar*) of Latin *Caesar*: see CAESAR]
kaitiaki /kaɪ'ti:əki:/ *n.* NZ a guardian or manager. [Maori]
kaitiakitanga /kaɪ'ti:əki:, ʌŋŋə/ *n.* NZ guardianship, stewardship. [Maori]
kaizen /kaɪ'zen/ *n.* a Japanese business philosophy of continuous improvement of working practices, personal efficiency, etc. [Japanese, = improvement]
kaka /'ka:ka:/ *n.* (pl. **kakas**) a large New Zealand parrot, *Nestor meridionalis*, with olive-brown plumage. □ **kaka-beak** the climbing or trailing NZ plant *Clianthus puniceus*, with dusky red pea-flowers, widely cultivated. [Maori]
Kakadu plum /'kæko'du:/ *n.* 1 the small tree *Terminalia ferdinandiana* of the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia. 2 the plum-like fruit of this tree, which has a high concentration of vitamin C. [Kakadu National Park in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory]
kakapo /'ka:kə'pəʊ/ *n.* (pl. **-os**) a large nocturnal flightless New Zealand parrot, *Strigops habroptilus*. [Maori, = night kaka]
kakemono /'kæko'monnoʊ/ *n.* (pl. **-os**) a vertical Japanese wall-picture, usu. painted or inscribed on paper or silk and mounted on rollers. [Japanese, from *kake*- 'hang' + *mono* 'thing']
kaki /'ka:ki:/ *n.* the Japanese persimmon *Diospyros kaki*, native to China and Japan and the kind most often cultivated. [Japanese]
kakka /'kæko/ *n.* var. of CACKER.
kakuro /'kækoʊəs, kə'kʊəroʊ/ *n.* a mathematical puzzle in which players have to insert numbers into a crossword-like grid. [blend of Japanese *kasan* 'addition' + *kurosu*, representing a Japanese pronunc. of *cross*]
Kalaaku /kə'la:ku:/ *n.* & *adj.* • **n.** 1 a an Aboriginal people of the Fraser Range area of southern Western Australia. **b** a member of this people. 2 the language of the Kalaaku. • *adj.* of this people or their language.
kala-azar /ka:lə'zɑ:/ *n.* a tropical disease caused by the parasitic protozoan *Leishmania donovani*, which is

transmitted to humans by sandflies. [Assamese, from *kālā* 'black' + *āzār* 'disease']

Kala Lagaw Ya /'ka:lɑ: 'la:ɡəw 'jɑ:/ *n.* an Aboriginal language of the Torres Strait Islands north of Cape York Peninsula.

kalanchoe /kælən'kovi:/ *n.* any of various succulent shrubs and herbs of the genus *Kalanchoe*, with red, pink, or white flowers in terminal panicles. [modern Latin, from French, ultimately from Chinese *gānlāncǎi*]

Kalashnikov /kə'leʃnɪkɒf, -'lɑ:ʃ-/ *n.* a kind of rifle or sub-machine gun made in Russia. [M.T. *Kalashnikov* (d. 2013), its Russian developer]

Kalaw Kawaw Ya /'ka:lɑ: 'ka:wəw 'jɑ:/ *n.* the language of people of the Torres Strait Islands north of Cape York, including Boigu, Dauan, and Saibai. It is dialect of Kala Lagaw Ya.

kale /keɪl/ *n.* (also **kail**) **1** a variety of cabbage, esp. one with wrinkled leaves and no compact head. Also called *curly kale*. **2** *US colloq.* money. [Middle English, northern form of COLE]

kaleidoscope /kə'leɪdɔː skəʊp/ *n.* **1** a tube containing mirrors and pieces of coloured glass or paper, whose reflections produce changing patterns when the tube is rotated. **2** a constantly changing group of bright or interesting objects. □ **kaleidoscopic** /- skəʊpɪk/ *adj.*

kaleidoscopic /- skəʊpɪkəl/ *adj.* **kaleidoscopically** /- skəʊpɪkəli:/ *adv.* [Greek *kalos* 'beautiful' + *eidōs* 'form' + -SCOPE]

kalends var. of CALENDIS.

kali /'kæli:, 'keɪli:/ *n.* a glasswort, *Salsola kali*, with fleshy jointed stems, having a high soda content. [Arabic *ḡalī* ALKALI]

Kali /'ka:li:/ *n.* *Hinduism* the most terrifying goddess, wife of Siva, often identified with Durga and usu. portrayed as black, naked, old, and hideous, with a protruding bloodstained tongue. [Sanskrit]

Kalkatungu /'kælkɑ: tɒŋu:/ *n.* & *adj.* (also **Kalkadoon**) **•n.** **1** a an Aboriginal people of the Eyre region of west-central Queensland. **b** a member of this people. **2** the language of the Kalkatungu. **•adj.** of the people or their language.

Kalmuck /'kælmʌk/ *adj.* & *n.* (also **Kalmyk**) **•adj.** of a Buddhist Mongolian people. **•n.** **1** a member of this people. **2** the Ural-Altaic language of this people. [Russian *kalmyk*]

kalpa /'kælpə/ *n.* *Hinduism* & *Buddhism* the period between the beginning and the end of the world considered as the day of Brahma (4320 million human years). [Sanskrit]

kalsomine /'kælsəmaɪn/ *n.* & *v.* (also **calcimine**) **•n.** a kind of white or coloured wash for walls. **•v.tr.** & *intr.* coat or wash with kalsomine. [19th c.: origin unknown]

kaluta /ka:'lu:tə/ *n.* the small marsupial *Dasykaluta rosamondae* found in areas of spinifex in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. [Nyamal *kaluta*]

Kama /'ka:mə/ *n.* *Hinduism* the god of sexual love, usu. portrayed as a beautiful youth with a bow of sugar cane, a bowstring of bees, and arrows of flowers. □ **Kama Sutra** /'su:trə/ an ancient Sanskrit treatise on the art of love-making and varieties of sexual technique. [Sanskrit]

kameez /kə'mi:z/ *n.* (*pl.* same or **kameezes**) a long tunic worn by people from the Indian subcontinent. [Arabic *kamīš*, perhaps from late Latin *camīsta* (see CHEMISE)]

kamikaze /'kæmə'kɑ:zi:/ *n.* & *adj.* **•n. hist.** **1** a Japanese aircraft loaded with explosives and deliberately crashed by its pilot on its target. **2** the suicidal pilot of such an aircraft. **•adj.** **1** of or relating to a kamikaze. **2** reckless, dangerous, potentially self-destructive (*kamikaze kids on roller skates skewing in and out of traffic*). [Japanese, from *kami* 'divinity' + *kaze* 'wind']

Kamilaroi var. of GAMILARAAY.

kampong /'kæmpɒŋ/ *n.* a Malayan enclosure or village. [Malay: cf. COMPOUND²]

Kampuchean /'kæmpu:'tʃi:ən/ *n.* & *adj.* = CAMBODIAN. [*Kampuchea*, native name for Cambodia]

kana /'ka:nə/ *n.* the system of syllabic writing used for Japanese. [Japanese]

kanaka /kə'nækə/ *n. hist.* a Pacific Islander, esp. one kidnapped and forced to serve as an indentured labourer in the sugar and cotton industries of Queensland. [Hawaiian, = man]

Kanarese /,kænə'ri:z/ *n.* & *adj.* (also **Canarese**)

- n.* (*pl.* same) **1** a Dravidian people in West India.
- b** a member of this people. **2** the language of this people.
- adj.* of or pertaining to the Kanarese or their language. [*Kanara* in India]

kanban /'kænbən/ *n.* **1** (in full **kanban system**) a Japanese just-in-time manufacturing system in which parts etc. are ordered on cards. **2** a card used in this system. [Japanese, = billboard, sign]

kanga *n. Aust.* **1** = KANGAROO. **2** *rhyming sl.* on screw a prison warder. **3** = *kanga cricket*. **4** *colloq.* cash. **5** *colloq.* a jackhammer. □ **kanga cricket** a game of cricket with rules and equipment designed for young participants. [abbreviation]

kangaroo *n.* & *v.* **•n.** **1** any of the larger marsupials of the chiefly Australian family Macropodidae, having short forelimbs, a tail developed for support and balance, long feet and powerful limbs, enabling a swift, bounding motion. **2** *Aust.* an Australian, esp. one representing Australia in sport. **3** *Aust.* a Kangaroos the name of the Australian international Rugby League team. **b** Kangaroo a member of this team. **•v.** **1** *tr.* leap like a kangaroo. **2** *intr.* hunt kangaroos. □ **have kangaroos in the** (or **your** etc.) **top paddock** *Aust. colloq.* be crazy or eccentric.

kangaroo apple **1** any of several shrubs of the genus *Solanum* (esp. those also known as GUNYANG) of southern and eastern Australia with purple open flowers and egg-shaped fruit edible when completely ripe. **2** the fruit of this. **kangaroo bar** *Aust.* = BULLBAR. **kangaroo bush** **1** = PUNTY. **2** = sand-hill wattle. **kangaroo closure** *Brit. Parl.* a closure involving the chairperson of a committee selecting some amendments for discussion and excluding others. **kangaroo court** an improperly constituted or illegal court held by strikers etc. **kangaroo dance** *Aust.* an Aboriginal dance in which the movements of a kangaroo are represented. **kangaroo dog** a large dog trained to hunt kangaroos. **kangaroo drive** *Aust.* an operation in which kangaroos are slaughtered. **kangaroo feather** (in the First World War) an emu plume worn on the hats of the Australian Light Horse. **kangaroo fence** *Aust.* a fence made to exclude kangaroos esp. from pastoral properties. **kangaroo fly** *Aust.* any small intensely irritating fly. **kangaroo grass** the tall tussocky perennial Australian grass *Themeda australis*. **kangaroo-hop** *Aust. colloq.*

1 proceed in short hops or stages (*kangaroo-hopped his way across Australia in a jeep*). **2** (of a car etc.) move forward in jerks (when the clutch is not released evenly). **kangaroo hunt** = *kangaroo drive*. **Kangaroo Island kangaroo** a very large sooty-brown kangaroo restricted to Kangaroo Island off Yorke Peninsula, South Australia. **kangaroo jack** *Aust.* a heavy-duty, lever-action jack. **kangaroo mouse** any small rodent of the genus *Microdipodops*, native to North America, with long hind legs for hopping. **kangaroo paw** **1** any plant of the genera *Anigozanthos* and *Macropodia* with paw-like flowers, esp. *A. manglesii* with red stems and vivid green flowers, the floral emblem of Western Australia. **2** *Aust. colloq.* = repetitive strain injury. **kangaroo rat** **1** *Aust.* = rat-kangaroo. **2** any of several seed-eating hopping rodents of the genus *Dipodomys*, with large cheek pouches and long hind legs, found from Canada to Mexico. **kangaroo route** the route flown (originally by Qantas airline) between Australia (esp. Sydney) and London. **kangaroo shoot** = *kangaroo drive*. **kangaroo steamer** *Aust.* a dish made from kangaroo meat. **kangaroo tail** the flower spike of the xanthorrhoea, which bears a resemblance to a kangaroo's tail; the plant itself. **kangaroo-tail soup** soup made from the meat of the thick kangaroo tail. **kangaroo thorn** the wattle *Acacia paradoxa* with stiff spines on the stems and yellow ball-flowers, often planted as a hedge. **kangaroo tick** *Aust.* any tick having the kangaroo or wallaby as host, the bite of one species severely affecting humans. **kangaroo vine** an evergreen

climbing plant, *Cissus antarctica*, with tooth-edged leaves. [Guugu Yimithirr *ganguru*, 'a large black or grey kangaroo, probably specifically the male of *Macropus robustus*]

kangarooer *n. Aust.* **1** a person who takes part in a kangaroo drive. **2** a person who shoots kangaroos.

kangatarian /kæŋgə'teəri:ən/ *n. Aust.* a person with a largely vegetarian diet who includes kangaroo meat as an environmentally-friendly source of protein. [from KANGAROO, on the pattern of *vegetarian*]

kanji¹ /kændʒi:, 'kændʒi:/ *n.* Japanese writing using Chinese characters. [Japanese, from *kan* 'Chinese' + *ji* 'character']

kanji² /kændʒi:/ *n.* the prickly shrub, *Acacia pyrifolia*, of sandy and gravelly areas in north-western Australia. [Yindjibarndi (and neighbouring languages)]

Kannada /kænədə/ *n.* the Kanarese language. [Kanarese *kannada*]

kanooka /kə'nu:kəl/ *n.* the medium-sized tree *Tristaniaopsis laurina* of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria with yellow flowers and glossy leaves. [possibly transferred use of the Maori *kanuka*, name for the tea tree *Kunzea ericoides*]

kanoon /kə'nu:n/ *n.* an instrument like a zither, with fifty to sixty strings. [Persian or Arabic *kānūn*]

Kantian /kænti:ən/ *adj.* & *n.* •*adj.* **1** of or pertaining to Kant. **2** of or pertaining to Kant's philosophy, esp. his view that the phenomenal world derives its structure from the nature of the mind that perceives it. •*n.* an adherent or student of the philosophical principles or views of Kant. [the German philosopher Immanuel Kant d. 1804 + -IAN]

kaolin /kə'roʊlən/ *n.* a fine soft white clay produced by the decomposition of other clays or feldspar, used esp. for making porcelain and in medicines. Also called *china clay*. □ **kaolinic** /-'lɪnk/ *adj.* **kaolinise** *v.tr.* (also -ize). [French, from Chinese *gaoling*, literally 'high hill', the name of a mountain in Jiangxi province where it is found]

kaon /'kəʊn/ *n.* *Physics* a meson having a mass several times that of a pion. [*ka* representing the letter *K* (as symbol for the particle) + -ON]

kapa haka /kə.pə'ha:kəl/ *n.* **1** a Maori cultural performance group. **2** Maori performing arts. [Maori, from *kapa* 'line' + *haka* 'dance']

kapellmeister /kə'pel maɪstə/ *n.* (*pl.* same) the conductor of an orchestra, opera, choir, etc., esp. in German contexts. [German, from *Kapelle* 'court orchestra' from Italian *cappella* CHAPEL + *Meister* 'master']

kapok /'keɪpək/ *n.* **1** a fine fibrous cotton-like substance found surrounding the seeds of a tropical tree, *Ceiba pentandra*, used for stuffing cushions, soft toys, etc. **2** the tree itself. □ **kapok bush** (or tree) any of several small trees of northern Australia of the genus *Cochlospermum*, bearing fruit containing seeds embedded in soft, cottony fibre. [ultimately from Malay *kāpoq*]

Kaposi /kə'pɔ:si/ *n.* □ **Kaposi's lesion** a purple to dark brown discoloration, smooth or with nodules, appearing on the skin and indicating Kaposi's sarcoma. **Kaposi's sarcoma** a form of cancer involving multiple tumours of the lymph nodes or skin, occurring esp. in people with depressed immune systems, e.g. as a result of Aids. (Abbr.: KS) [M.K. Kaposi, Hungarian dermatologist d. 1902]

kappa /'kæpə/ *n.* the tenth letter of the Greek alphabet (Κ, κ). [Greek]

kaput /kæ'pʊt, kə-/ *predic.adj. colloq.* broken, ruined; done for; dead. [German *kaputt* from French (*être*) *capot* '(be) without tricks in piquet etc.': cf. CAPOT]

karabiner /kærə'bi:nəl/ *n.* (also **carabiner**) a coupling link with a safety closure, used by rock climbers. [German *Karabiner-haken* 'spring hook']

Karajarri /'kɑ:rɑ:dʒeri:/ *n.* & *adj.* (also **Karadjeri**) •*n.* **1** a an Aboriginal people of north-west Western Australia. **2** a member of this people. **3** the language of the Karajarri. •*adj.* of the people or their language.

karak /'kærək/ *n.* the red-tailed black cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus banksii*, of western and northern Australia, and a small area of the south-east of SA and western Vic. [Noongar]

karakia /kærə'ki:əl/ *n.* NZ a Maori ceremonial incantation; a prayer. [Maori]

karakul /'kærə kʊl, -kəl/ *n.* (also **caracul**) **1** a variety of Asian sheep with a dark curled fleece when young. **2** fur made from or resembling this. Also called *Persian lamb*. [Russian]

karanga /'kæræŋə/ *n.* NZ a Maori ceremonial call of welcome to a marae. [Maori]

karaoke /kærə'oukeɪ, -'ouki:, kəri:-/ *n.* & *v.* •*n.* **1** a sound system with a prerecorded soundtrack of popular music from which the vocal part has been erased so as to allow an individual to sing along with it, usu. in public at e.g. a karaoke club or bar. **2** the pastime of singing to this kind of system. •*v.intr.* perform in this way in a karaoke bar etc. [Japanese, = empty orchestra]

karat US var. of CARAT 2.

karate /kə'reɪ:ti:/ *n.* a Japanese system of unarmed combat using the hands and feet as weapons. □ **karate-chop** *v.tr.* strike (a person) with a sharp, slanting blow of the hand. *n.* (**karate chop**) such a blow. [Japanese, from *kara* 'empty' + *te* 'hand']

karezza /kə'retsə/ *n.* sexual intercourse in which ejaculation is avoided. [Italian *karezza* 'a caress']

kark /kɑ:k/ var. of CARK².

karkalla /kɑ:'kæləl/ *n.* *Aust.* any of several species of pigface, including *Carpobrotus rossii* which has edible fruit. [Kaurna and other South Australian Aboriginal languages *garrgala*]

karma /kɑ:'mɑ:/ *n.* **1** *Buddhism & Hinduism* the sum of a person's actions in previous states of existence, viewed as deciding his or her fate in future existences. **2** *colloq.* a the sum of good or bad luck, viewed as resulting from one's actions; destiny. b a person's spiritual or emotional state. □ **karmic** *adj.* [Sanskrit, = action, fate]

karpe /'kɑ:pi:/ *n.* *Aust.* **1** the parasitic fig tree *Ficus peltocarpa*, that bears edible fruit and has a bark formerly used by Aboriginal people as blankets. **2** the wood of this tree. [Dyirbal *gabi*]

karrabul /kɑ:'ræbʊl/ *n.* the northern nail-tailed wallaby *Onychogalea unguifera* of northern Australia. [Western Desert language *karapurla* or *karapula*]

karri /kæ:ri:/ *n.* (*pl.* **karris**) the tall timber tree of *Eucalyptus diversicolor* of south-west Western Australia, that has a straight, smooth-barked trunk and reaches a height of 70 metres; the wood of this tree (also *attrib.*: *karri* country; *karri* furniture). [Noongar]

karst /kɑ:st/ *n.* a limestone region with underground drainage and many cavities and passages caused by the dissolution of the rock. [German *der Karst*, a limestone region in Slovenia]

kart /kɑ:t/ *n.* a small unsprung motor-racing vehicle with a tubular frame and a rear-mounted engine. [shortening of *go-kart*]

karuna /'kærʊnə/ *n.* *Buddhism* loving compassion. [Sanskrit *karuṇā*]

karyo- /'kæ:ri:ʊv/ *comb. form Biol.* denoting the nucleus of a cell. [Greek *karuon* 'kernel']

karyokinesis /kæ:ri:ʊvə:ni:səs/ *n.* *Biol.* the division of a cell nucleus during mitosis. [KARYO- + Greek *kinēsis* 'movement' from *kinēō* 'move']

karyotype /'kæ:ri:ʊv taɪp/ *n.* the number and structure of the chromosomes in the nucleus of a cell. □ **karyotypic** /-əv taɪpɪk/ *adj.*

kasbah /'kæzba:/ *n.* (also **casbah**) **1** the citadel of a North African city. **2** an Arab quarter near this. [French *casbah* from Arabic *kas(aba)* 'citadel']

kashan /kə'ʃɑ:n/ *n.* a finely woven rug, usually of wool or silk, made in Kashan in Iran.

Kashmiri /kæʃ'mɪəri:/ *adj.* & *n.* •*adj.* of or relating to Kashmir or its people or language. •*n.* **1** a native or

inhabitant of Kashmir. **2** the Indic language of Kashmir. [*Kashmir* in the western Himalayas + -i²]

kashrut /kæʃˈru:t/ *n.* (also **kashruth**) the body of Jewish religious laws concerning the suitability of food, the use of ritual objects, etc. [Hebrew, = legitimacy (in religion)]

kasseri /ˈkæsəri:/ *n.* a mild hard cheese made from ewe's milk, used mainly in cooking. [Greek]

katabatic /kætəˈbætɪk/ *adj.* *Meteorol.* (of wind) caused by air flowing downwards (cf. ANABATIC). [Greek *katabatikos* from *katabainō* 'go down']

katabolism var. of CATABOLISM.

katakana /kætəˈka:nə/ *n.* an angular form of Japanese kana, used esp. for words of foreign origin. [Japanese, literally 'side kana']

Kath /kæθ/ *n.* *Aust. colloq.* (in full **Kathleen Mavourneen**) **1** a very long period of time, esp. an open-ended jail sentence. **2** a habitual criminal. [title of an Irish song, one line of which is 'it may be for years, and it may be for ever']

katharevousa /kæθərəˈvu:sə, kæθəˈrevʊsə/ *n.* the archaized form of modern Greek with many restorations from Ancient Greek (at one time, but since 1976 no longer, the language officially used by the state). [modern Greek *katharevousa* feminine of *kathareuōn* pres. part. of *kathareuein* 'be pure', from *katharos* 'pure']

katharsis /kəˈθɑ:səs/ var. of CATHARSIS.

kathode var. of CATHODE.

katsuo /ˈkɑ:tsuə/ *n.* the bonito *Katsuwonus pelamis*, important as a food fish in Japan, esp. dried. [Japanese]

katsubushi /kɑ:tsuəˈbuʃi:/ *n.* dried flakes of katsuo, an essential ingredient in Japanese cooking, esp. in dashi (stock). [Japanese]

Kattang var. of GATHANG.

katydid /ˈkeɪtɪːdɪd/ *n.* any of various green grasshoppers of the family Tettigoniidae. [imitative of the sound it makes]

kaumatua /kɑːˈmɑ:tʊə/ *n.* NZ a Maori elder. [Maori]

kauri /ˈkɑ:ri:/ *n.* (*pl.* **kauris**) a coniferous New Zealand tree, *Agathis australis*, which produces valuable timber and a resin. □ **kauri gum** the resin of the kauri tree, used as a varnish. **kauri pine 1** any of three tall coniferous Australian rainforest trees of the genus *Agathis*. **2** the wood of this tree. [Maori]

Kaurna /ˈgɑ:nə/ *n.* & *adj.* (also **Gaurna**) • **n. 1** a an Aboriginal people of the region between the Mount Lofty Ranges and the Gulf of St Vincent, South Australia. **b** a member of this people. **2** the language of the Kaurna. • *adj.* of the people or their language.

kava /ˈkɑ:və/ *n.* **1** a Polynesian shrub, *Piper methysticum*. **2** an intoxicating drink made from the crushed roots of this. [Polynesian]

kawa /ˈkɑ:wə/ *n.* NZ Maori protocol and etiquette observed on a marae. [Maori]

kawakawa /ˈkɑ:wəːkɑ:wə/ *n.* a New Zealand shrub, *Piper excelsum*, of the pepper family, with aromatic leaves, cultivated as an ornamental. [Maori]

kayak /ˈkæɪk/ *n.* & *v.* • **n.** a canoe of a type used originally by the Inuit, made of a light frame with a watertight covering having a small opening for the seat. • *v.intr.* (**kayaked**, **kayaking**) travel by kayak; paddle a kayak. □ **kayaker** *n.* [Inuit]

kayo /keɪˈoʊ/ *v.* & *n.* *colloq.* *v.tr.* (-oes, -oed) knock out; stun by a blow. • *n.* (*pl.* -os) a knockout. [representing pronunciation of KO]

Kazakh /kəˈzɑ:k/ *n.* & *adj.* • *n.* (*pl.* **Kazakhs**) **1** a Turkic people of central Asia, esp. of Kazakhstan. **b** a member of this people. **2** the language of this people. • *adj.* of or relating to the Kazakhs or their language.

kazoo /kəˈzu:/ *n.* a toy musical instrument into which the player sings or hums. [19th c., apparently with reference to the sound produced]

Kb *abbr.* kilobit(s).

KB *abbr.* kilobyte(s).

kbyte *abbr.* kilobyte(s).

kc *abbr.* kilocycle(s).

kcal *abbr.* kilocalorie(s).

kc/s *abbr.* kilocycles per second.

KE *abbr.* kinetic energy.

kea /ˈki:ə, ˈkeə/ *n.* a parrot, *Nestor notabilis*, of New Zealand, with brownish-green and red plumage. [Maori, imitative]

kebab /kəˈbæb, -ˈbɑ:b/ *n.* small pieces of meat, vegetables, etc., packed closely and cooked on a skewer. [Urdu from Arabic *kabāb*]

kecap manis /ketʃəpˈmənəs, -ˈmɑ:nəs/ *n.* a thick sweet soy sauce, esp. used in Indonesian cooking. [Indonesian]

ked /ked/ *n.* any of various bloodsucking flies of the family Hippoboscidae, esp. *Melophagus ovinus*, a wingless flat-bodied fly infesting sheep. [16th c.: origin unknown]

kedge /kedʒ/ *v.* & *n.* • *v. 1 tr.* move (a ship) by means of a hawser attached to a small anchor. **2 intr.** (of a ship) move in this way. • *n.* (in full **kedge anchor**) a small anchor for this purpose. [perhaps a specific use of obsolete *cagge*, dialect *cadge* 'bind, tie']

kedgerree /kedʒəri:, -ˈri:/ *n. 1* an Indian dish of rice, split pulse, onions, eggs, etc. **2** a European dish of fish, rice, hard-boiled eggs, etc. **3 colloq.** a mixture, a jumble. [Hindi *khichri*, Sanskrit *k'rsara* 'a dish of rice and sesame']

keel *n.* & *v.* • **n. 1** the lengthwise timber or steel structure along the base of a ship, airship, or some aircraft, on which the framework of the whole is built up. **2 poet.** a ship. **3** a ridge along the breastbone of many birds; a carina. **4 Bot.** a prow-shaped pair of petals in a corolla etc. • **v. 1** (often foll. by *over*) **a intr.** turn over or fall down; collapse. **b tr.** cause to do this. **2 tr.** & *intr.* turn keel upwards. □ **keelless** *adj.* [Middle English *kele* from Old Norse *kjölr*, from Germanic]

keel² *n.* *Brit. hist.* **1** a flat-bottomed vessel, esp. of the kind formerly used for loading coal ships. **2** an amount carried by such a vessel. [Middle English *kele* from Middle Low German *kēl*, Middle Dutch *kiel* 'ship, boat', from Germanic]

keelback *n.* a harmless Australian snake, *Amphiesma mairii*, which lives close to water, where it feeds exclusively on frogs and the cane toad, whose venom it is immune to. [so named because each scale on the back has a keel]

keelboat *n. 1* a yacht built with a permanent keel instead of a centreboard. **2** a large flat boat used on American rivers.

keelhaul /ˈki:lho:l/ *v.tr.* **1 hist.** drag (a person) through the water under the keel of a ship as a punishment. **2 joc.** scold or rebuke severely.

keelson /ˈki:lson/ *n.* (also **kelson** /ˈkelsən/) a line of timber fastening a ship's floor-timbers to its keel. [Middle English *kelswyn*, perhaps from Low German *kielswin*, from *kiel* KEEL¹ + (probably) *swin* SWINE used as the name of a timber]

keen *adj.* **1** (of a person, desire, or interest) eager, ardent (*a keen sportsman*). **2** (foll. by *on*) much attracted by; fond of or enthusiastic about. **3** (of the senses) sharp; highly sensitive. **4** intellectually acute. **5** **a** having a sharp edge or point. **b** (of an edge etc.) sharp. **6** (of a sound, light, etc.) penetrating, vivid, strong. **7** (of a wind, frost, etc.) piercingly cold. **8** (of a pain etc.) acute, bitter. **9** (of a price) competitive. **10 colloq.** excellent. □ **keenly** *adv.* **keenness** *n.* [Old English *cēne*, from Germanic]

keen² *n.* & *v.* • *n.* an Irish funeral song accompanied with wailing. • **v. 1 intr.** utter the keen. **2 tr.** bewail (a person) in this way. **3 tr.** utter in a wailing tone. □ **keener** *n.* [Irish *caoine* from *caoinim* 'wail']

keep *v.* & *n.* • *v.* (*past* and *past part.* **kept**) **1 tr.** have continuous charge of; retain possession of. **2 tr.** (foll. by *for*) retain or reserve for a future occasion or time (*will keep it for tomorrow*). **3 tr.** & *intr.* retain or remain in a specified condition, position, course, etc. (*keep cool; keep off the grass; keep them happy*). **4 tr.** put or store in a regular place (*knives are kept in this drawer*). **5 tr.** (foll. by *from*) cause to avoid or abstain from something (*will keep you from going too fast*). **6 tr.** detain; cause to be late (*what kept you?*). **7 tr.** a observe or pay due regard to (a law, custom, etc.) (*keep one's word*) **b** honour or fulfil (a commitment,

undertaking, etc.). **c** respect the commitment implied by (a secret etc.). **d** act fittingly on the occasion of (*keep the sabbath*). **8 tr.** own and look after (animals) for amusement or profit (*keeps bees*). **9 tr.** a provide for the sustenance of (a person, family, etc.). **b** (foll. by *in*) maintain (a person) with a supply of. **10 tr.** carry on; manage (a shop, business, etc.). **11 a tr.** maintain (accounts, a diary, etc.) by making the requisite entries. **b tr.** maintain (a house) in proper order. **12 tr.** have (a commodity) regularly on sale (*do you keep buttons?*). **13 tr.** guard or protect (a person or place, a goal in football, etc.). **14 tr.** preserve in being; continue to have (*keep order*). **15 intr.** (foll. by verbal noun) continue or do repeatedly or habitually (*why do you keep saying that?*). **16 tr.** continue to follow (a way or course). **17 intr.** **a** (esp. of perishable commodities) remain in good condition. **b** (of news or information etc.) admit of being withheld for a time. **18 tr.** remain in (one's bed, room, house, etc.). **19 tr.** retain one's place in (a seat or saddle, one's ground, etc.) against opposition or difficulty. **20 tr.** maintain (a person) in return for sexual favours (*a kept woman*). **•n.** 1 maintenance or the essentials for this (esp. food) (*hardly earn your keep*). 2 charge or control (is in your keep). 3 hist. a tower or stronghold. **□** for **keeps colloq.** (esp. of something received or won) permanently, indefinitely. **how are you keeping?** how are you? **keep at** persist or cause to persist with. **keep away** (often foll. by *from*) 1 avoid being near. 2 prevent from being near. **keep back** 1 remain or keep at a distance. 2 retard the progress of. 3 conceal; decline to disclose. 4 retain, withhold (*kept back \$50*). **keep one's balance** 1 remain stable; avoid falling. 2 retain one's composure. **keep bum to mum** *Aust. colloq.* (usu. as a purported instruction given by coaches to players of Australian Rules football the night before the game) abstain from sexual intercourse. **keep cup** a reusable cup for takeaway coffee etc. **keep down** 1 hold in subjection. 2 keep low in amount. 3 lie low; stay hidden. 4 manage not to vomit (food eaten). 5 continue in; hold down (*keep down a job*). **keep one's feet** manage not to fall. **keep one's hair on** see **HAIR**. **keep one's hand in** see **HAND**. **keep in** 1 confine or restrain (one's feelings etc.). 2 remain or confine indoors. 3 keep (a fire) burning. **keep in with** remain on good terms with. **keep nit** see **NIT**. **keep off** 1 stay or cause to stay away from. 2 ward off; avert. 3 abstain from. 4 avoid (a subject) (*let's keep off religion*). **keep on** 1 continue to do something; do continually (*kept on laughing*). 2 continue to use or employ. 3 (foll. by *at*) pester or harass. **keep open house** provide general hospitality. **keep out** 1 keep or remain outside. 2 exclude. **keep tabs on** see **TAB**¹. **keep to** 1 adhere to (a course, schedule, etc.). 2 observe (a promise). 3 confine oneself to. **keep to oneself** 1 avoid contact with others. 2 refuse to disclose or share. **keep together** remain or keep in harmony. **keep track of** see **TRACK**¹. **keep up** 1 maintain (progress etc.). 2 prevent (prices, one's spirits, etc.) from sinking. 3 keep in repair, in an efficient or proper state, etc. 4 carry on (a correspondence etc.). 5 prevent (a person) from going to bed, esp. when late. 6 (often foll. by *with*) manage not to fall behind. **keep up with the Joneses** strive to compete socially with one's neighbours. **keep wicket** see **WICKET**. **□** **keepable** *adj.* [Old English *cēpan*, of unknown origin]

keeper *n.* 1 a person who keeps or looks after something or someone. 2 a custodian of a museum, art gallery, etc. 3 **a** = GAMEKEEPER. **b** a person in charge of animals in a zoo. 4 **a** = WICKETKEEPER. **b** = GOALKEEPER. 5 a fruit etc. that remains in good condition. 6 a bar of soft iron across the poles of a horseshoe magnet to maintain its strength. 7 **a** a plain ring to preserve a hole in a pierced ear lobe; a sleeper. **b** a ring worn to guard against the loss of a more valuable one.

keeping *n.* 1 custody, charge (*in safe keeping*). 2 agreement, harmony (esp. *in or out of keeping*). **□** **keeping place** *Aust.* an Aboriginal cultural and community centre which has the primary purpose of 'keeping' the culture preserved.

keepsake *n.* a thing kept for the sake of or in remembrance of the giver.

keet /ki:t/ *n.* *Aust.* = LORIKEET. [abbreviation]

kef /kef/ *n.* (also **kif** /kɪf/) 1 a drowsy state induced by marijuana etc. 2 the enjoyment of idleness. 3 a substance smoked to produce **kef**. [Arabic *kayf* 'enjoyment, well-being']

kefalograviera /ˌkefələʊˌgraviːˈeɪrə/ *n.* a creamy and very rich cheese made from the milk of goats or ewes. [Greek]

keffiyeh /keˈfiːjeɪ/ *n.* (also **kaffiyeh**) a headdress worn by Arab men, consisting of a square of fabric fastened by a band around the head. [Arabic *keffiyā*, *kufiyya*, perhaps from Late Latin *cofea* COFF]

keftedes /kefˈteɪdiːz/ *n.pl.* small meatballs made with spices, herbs, and onions. [Greek]

keg *n.* 1 a small barrel, esp. for beer. 2 a pressurised metal barrel with a valve at one end, used to store and dispense beer or other carbonated drinks. **□** **keg beer** beer supplied in a keg, to which carbon dioxide has been added. [Middle English *cag* from Old Norse *kaggi*, of unknown origin]

keirin /ˈkiːrɪn/ *n.* & *adj.* **•n.** a single event in keirin racing. **•adj.** of or pertaining to this form of racing. **□** **keirin racing** *Cycling* a track race of usu. 2 km in which 8–10 cyclists jostle for position as a motorcyclist sets the pace in the first laps, and then sprint for the finish after the motorcyclist leaves them. [Japanese]

keister /ˈkiːstə/ *n.* *US colloq.* 1 the buttocks. 2 *dated* a suitcase, satchel, handbag, etc. [19th c.: origin unknown]

kellick /ˈkelɪk/ *n.* (also **killick**) 1 a heavy stone used as an anchor by small craft. 2 a small anchor. [17th c.: origin unknown]

kelly /ˈkeliː/ *n.* *Aust.* 1 see **NED KELLY**. 2 a crow. 3 one whose behaviour is supposed to resemble that of Ned Kelly. 4 (also **Kelly**) *orig. propr.* an axe. **□** **Kelly country** a district in north-east Victoria in which Ned Kelly and his brothers were active as bushrangers. [*Kelly*, Irish surname]

keloid /ˈkiːlɔɪd/ *n.* fibrous tissue formed at the site of a scar or injury. [Greek *khēlē* 'claw' + *-oid*]

kelp *n.* 1 any of several large broad-fronded brown seaweeds esp. of the genus *Laminaria*, suitable for use as manure. 2 the calcined ashes of seaweed formerly used in glass-making and soap manufacture because of their high content of sodium, potassium, and magnesium salts. [Middle English *cūlp(e)*, of unknown origin]

kelpfish *n.* any of several marine fish having the habit of lying among seagrasses.

kelpie *n.* 1 a breed of shorthaired Australian sheepdog (named after the imported Scottish collie called *Kelpie*, in the 1870s the progenitor of the breed). 2 *Sc.* a water spirit, usu. in the form of a horse, reputed to delight in the drowning of travellers etc. [perhaps from Scottish Gaelic *cailpeach*, *colpach* 'bullock, colt']

kelson *var.* of **KEELSON**.

kelt /kelt/ *n.* a salmon or sea trout after spawning. [Middle English: origin unknown]

Kelt *var.* of **CELT**.

kelter *var.* of **KILTTER**.

kelvin *n.* the SI unit of thermodynamic temperature, equal in magnitude to the degree celsius. (Abbr.: **K**) **□** **Kelvin scale** a scale of temperature with absolute zero as zero, and the triple point of water as exactly 273.16 degrees. [named after Lord *Kelvin*, British physicist d. 1907]

Kembla Grange *n.* (also **Kembla**) *Aust.* *rhyming sl.* change: see *small change*. [the name of a racecourse near Wollongong in NSW]

kemiri /kəˈmɪəriː/ *n.* = CANDLENUT. [Bahasa Indonesia]

kemp *n.* coarse hair in wool. **□** **kempy** *adj.* [Middle English from Old Norse *kampr* 'beard, whisker']

kempt /kempt/ *adj.* combed; neatly kept. [past part. of (now dialect) *kemb* COMB from Old English *cemban*, from Germanic]

ken *n.* & *v.* **•n.** range of sight or knowledge (*it's beyond my ken*). **•v.tr.** (**kenning**; *past* and *past part.* **kenned** or **kent**)

Sc. & N. Engl. **1** recognise at sight. **2** know. [Old English *cennan*, from Germanic]

kenaf /kə' næf/ *n.* a brown plant fibre similar to jute, used to make ropes and coarse cloth. [Persian, variant of *kanab* 'hemp']

kendo /'kendoʊ/ *n.* a Japanese form of fencing with two-handed bamboo swords. [Japanese, = sword-way]

Ken doll *n. propr.* **1** a doll representing a conventionally attractive young man. **2** *colloq.* a good-looking but characterless or passive young man.

kennedia /kə' ni: di: ə/ *n.* Aust. any plant of the genus of climbing or trailing perennials *Kennedia*, some species being cultivated for their colourful pea-flowers. [*J. Kennedy*, London nurseryman d. 1842]

kennel *n. & v. • n.* **1** a small shelter for a dog. **2** (in *pl.*) a breeding or boarding establishment for dogs. **3** a mean dwelling. **• v.** (**kennelled**, **kennelling**; US **kenneled**, **kenneling**) **1** *tr.* put into or keep in a kennel. **2** *intr.* live in or go to a kennel. [Middle English from Old French *chenil* via medieval Latin from Latin *canis* 'dog']

kenning /'kenni/ *n.* a compound expression in Old English and Old Norse poetry, e.g. *oar-steed* = ship. [Middle English, = 'teaching' etc. from **KEN**]

keno /'ki: noʊ/ *n.* a game of chance resembling lotto and bingo, based on the drawing of numbers. [French *quine* 'set of five winning numbers in a lottery']

kenosis /kə' noʊsɪs/ *n.* *Theol.* the renunciation of the divine nature, at least in part, by Christ in the Incarnation. □ **kenotic** /-'noʊtik/ *adj.* [Greek *kenōsis* via *kenōō* 'to empty' from *kenos* 'empty']

kent *past* and *past part.* of **KEN**.

kentia palm /'kenti: ə/ *n.* any of the various pinnate-leaved palms of the former genus *Kentia*, native to Australia and some Pacific islands, esp. *Howea forsteriana*, native to Lord Howe Island, often cultivated as an indoor plant. [named after William Kent, plant collector d. 1828]

kentledge /'kentiʒ/ *n.* *Naut.* pig-iron etc. used as permanent ballast. [French *quinteloge* 'ballast', with assimilation to *kentle*, obsolete variant of **QUINTAL**]

Kenyan /'kenjən, 'ki: njən/ *adj. & n. • adj.* of or relating to Kenya in East Africa. **• n.** **1** a native or national of Kenya. **2** a person of Kenyan descent.

kept *past* and *past part.* of **KEEP**.

ker- *prefix colloq.* forming nouns and interjections imitative of the sound or the effect of the fall of some heavy body, as *kerplunk*, *kerslam*, *kersplash*, *kerthump*, etc. [imitative]

keratin /'kerətən/ *n.* a fibrous protein which occurs in hair, feathers, hooves, claws, horns, etc. [Greek *keras keratos* 'horn' + -IN]

keratinise /'kerətə, naɪz/ *v.tr. & intr.* (also **-ize**) cover or become covered with a deposit of keratin. □ **keratinisation** /-'zeɪʃən/ *n.*

keratinous /kə' rətənoʊs/ *adj.* **1** of the nature of or like horn. **2** consisting of or containing keratin. [KERATIN + -OUS]

keratitis /kə' rətaɪtɪs/ *n.* *Med.* inflammation of the cornea of the eye. [*kerat-* denoting the cornea (from Greek *keras keratos* 'horn') + -ITIS]

kerato- /'kerətəʊ/ *comb. form* (**kerat-** before a vowel) chiefly *Med.* **1** of or relating to keratinous or horny tissues. **2** of or pertaining to the cornea of the eye. [Greek *keras, kerat-* 'horn' + -O-]

keratoconus /'kerətəʊ 'kɔ: nəs/ *n.* a condition of the eye in which the cornea develops a rounded apex. [KERATO- + Latin *conus* 'cone']

keratoid /'kerətɔɪd/ *adj.* **1** resembling a horn in shape. **2** resembling horn in substance. [Greek *keratoeidēs* 'horn-like']

keratose /'kerə 'təʊs/ *adj.* (of sponge) composed of a horny substance. [Greek *keras keratos* 'horn' + -OSE']

keratosis /kə' rətəʊsɪs/ *n.* (*pl.* **-toses** /-'təʊsɪ: z/) **1** a horny growth, esp. on the skin (e.g. a wart). **2** a condition marked by such growths. [KERATIN + -OSIS]

keratotomy /kə' rətəʊmi: / *n.* *Med.* a surgical operation involving cutting into the cornea of the eye, esp. (in full **radial keratotomy**) to correct myopia. [*kerat-* denoting the cornea (cf. **KERATITIS**) + -TOMY]

kerb *n.* an edge of a pavement or raised path. [variant of **CURB**]

kerbcrawl *v.intr.* (of usu. a male) drive slowly near the edge of the road in an attempt to engage a prostitute or harass esp. female passers-by. □ **kerbcrawler** *n.*

kerbcrawling *n.*

kerbing /'kɜ: bɪŋ/ *n.* the stones etc. collectively forming a kerb.

kerbstone *n.* the side of a road or pavement nearer the kerb.

kerbstone *n.* each of a series of stones forming a kerb.

kerchief /'kɜ: tʃi: f, -tʃɪʃ/ *n.* **1** a cloth used to cover the head. **2** *poet.* a handkerchief. □ **kerchiefed** *adj.* [Middle English *curchef* from Anglo-French *courchef*, Old French *couvrechief*, from *couvrir* COVER + **CHIEF** 'head']

kerf /kɜ: f/ *n.* **1** a slit made by cutting, esp. with a saw. **2** the cut end of a felled tree. [Old English *cyrf* from Germanic: related to **CARVE**]

kerfuffle /kə' fʌfəl/ *n. colloq.* a fuss or commotion. [Scots *curfuffle* from *fuffle* 'to disorder': imitative]

kermes /'kɜ: mi: z/ *n.* **1** the female of a bug, *Kermes ilicis*, with a berry-like appearance. **2** (in full **kermes oak**) an evergreen oak, *Quercus coccifera*, of southern Europe and North Africa, on which this insect feeds. **3** a red dye made from the dried bodies of these insects. **4** (in full **kermes mineral**) a bright red hydrous trisulphide of antimony. [French *kermès* from Arabic & Persian *ķirmiz*: related to **CRIMSON**]

kermis /'kɜ: məs/ *n.* **1** a periodical country fair, esp. in the Netherlands. **2** US a charity bazaar. [Dutch, originally = a Mass on the anniversary of the dedication of a church, when a yearly fair was held: from *kerk* (formed as **CHURCH**) + *mis*, *miss* MASS]

kern /kɜ: n/ *n. & v.* *Printing* **• n.** the part of a metal type projecting beyond its body or shank. **• v.tr.** **1** provide (type) with kerns; make (letters) overlap. **2** adjust the spacing between (characters). □ **kerned** *adj.* [perhaps from French *carne* 'corner' via Old French *charne* from Latin *cardo cardinis* 'hinge']

kernel /'kɜ: nə/ *n.* **1** a central, softer, usu. edible part within a hard shell of a nut, fruit stone, seed, etc. **2** the whole seed of a cereal. **3** the nucleus or essential part of anything. [Old English *cyrnel*, diminutive of **CORN**']

kernicterus /kə' nɪktərəs/ *n.* the staining and permanent damaging of brain cells with bilirubin, often causing death or deafness and athetosis, which may occur in haemolytic disease of newborn infants. [German *Kernikterus*, from *Kern* 'nucleus' + *Ikterus* = **ICTERUS** 'jaundice']

kero /'kerəʊ/ *n.* *Aust. colloq.* = **KEROSENE**. [abbreviation]

kerosene /'kerə si: n/ *n.* (also **kerosine**) a fuel oil suitable for use in jet engines and domestic heating boilers; paraffin oil. □ **kerosene bush** **1** the small to medium aromatic bush *Ozothamnus ledifolius*, native to Tasmania, containing a highly flammable resin. **2** the related *O. hookeri*. **kerosene fridge** *Aust.* a small refrigerator powered by the burning of kerosene. **kerosene grass** the densely tufted semi-erect Australian grass *Aristida contorta*, of dry sandy areas. Also called sand wire-grass, *mulga* grass. **kerosene wood** = **GHITTOE**. [Greek *kēros* 'wax' + -ENE]

kerrawang /'kerəwæŋ/ *n.* any of various Australian shrubs of the genus *Rulingia*, as *R. grandiflora*, native to NSW and WA. [possibly from an Aboriginal language]

kersey /'kɜ: zi: / *n.* (*pl.* **-eys**) **1** a kind of coarse narrow cloth woven from long wool, usu. ribbed. **2** a variety of this. [Middle English, probably from *Kersey* in Suffolk]

kerseymere /'kɜ: zi: mɪə/ *n.* a twilled fine woollen cloth. [alteration of *cassimere*, variant of **CASHMERE**, assimilated to **KERSEY**]

kestrel /'kestrəl/ *n.* **1** any small falcon, esp. *Falco tinnunculus*, which hovers whilst searching for its prey.

2 = *nankeen kestrel*. [Middle English *castrell*, perhaps from French dialect *casserelle*, French *créc(er)elle*, perhaps imitative of its cry]

ketamine /ki:təmi:n/ *n.* an anaesthetic and pain-killing drug, also used (illicitly) as a hallucinogen. [KETONE + AMINE]

ketch *n.* a two-masted fore-and-aft rigged sailing boat with a mizzen-mast stepped forward of the rudder and smaller than its foremast. [Middle English *cathe*, probably from CATCH]

ketchup *n.* (also **catchup**) a spicy sauce made from tomatoes, mushrooms, vinegar, etc., used as a condiment. [perhaps from Cantonese *k'ē chap* 'tomato juice']

ketone /ki:təʊn/ *n.* any of a class of organic compounds in which two hydrocarbon groups are linked by a carbonyl group, e.g. propanone (acetone). □ **ketone body** *Biochem.* each of the three related compounds, acetone, acetoacetic acid, and beta-hydroxybutyric acid, which are produced in the body during the metabolism of fats (see KETONURIA, KETOSIS). Also called *acetone body*. □ **ketonic** /kə'tɒnɪk/ *adj.* [German *Keton*, alteration of *Aketon* ACETONE]

ketonuria /ki:təʊ'nju:ri:ə/ *n.* the excretion of abnormally large amounts of ketone bodies in the urine, characteristic of diabetes mellitus, starvation, etc. [KETONE + -URIA]

ketose /ki:təʊs,-təʊz/ *n.* any sugar which is a ketonic alcohol, e.g. the fruit sugar fructose.

ketosis /ki:'təʊsɪs/ *n.* a condition characterised by raised levels of ketone bodies in the body, associated with fat metabolism and diabetes mellitus. □ **ketotic** /-təʊtɪk/ *adj.*

kettle *n.* **1** a vessel, usu. of metal with a lid, spout, and handle, for boiling water in. **2** = KETTLEDRUM. □ **a different kettle of fish** a different matter altogether. **kettle hole** a depression in the ground in a glaciated area. **a pretty (or fine) kettle of fish** an awkward state of affairs. □ **kettleful** *n.* (*pl.* -fuls). [Middle English from Old Norse *ketill*, ultimately from Latin *catillus*, diminutive of *catinus* 'deep food-vessel']

kettlebell *n.* a large cast-iron ball-shaped weight with a single handle (*her gym routine included using the kettlebell*).

kettledrum *n.* a large drum shaped like a bowl with a membrane adjustable for tension (and so pitch) stretched across. □ **kettledrummer** *n.*

keV *abbr.* kilo-electronvolt.

Kevlar /'kevlə,-lə:/ *n. propr.* a synthetic fibre of high tensile strength used esp. as a reinforcing agent in the manufacture of rubber products, e.g. tyres.

kwepie /'kju:pi:/ *n.* a small chubby doll with wings and a curl or topknot. [CUPID + -IE]

key /ki:/ *n.* & *v.* **n.** (*pl.* **keys**) **1** an instrument, usu. of metal, for moving the bolt of a lock forwards or backwards to lock or unlock. **2** a similar implement for operating a switch in the form of a lock. **3** an instrument for grasping screws, pegs, nuts, etc., esp. one for winding a clock etc. **4** a lever depressed by the finger in playing the organ, piano, flute, concertina, etc. **5** (often in *pl.*) each of several buttons for operating a typewriter, computer terminal, etc. **6** what gives or precludes the opportunity for or access to something. **7** (*attrib.*) essential; of vital importance (*the key element in the problem*). **8** a place that by its position gives control of a sea, territory, etc. **9 a** a solution or explanation. **b** a word or system for solving a cipher or code. **c** an explanatory list of symbols used in a map, table, etc. **d** a book of solutions to mathematical problems etc. **e** a literal translation of a book written in a foreign language. **f** the first move in the solution of a chess problem. **10 Mus.** a system of notes definitely related to each other, based on a particular note, and predominating in a piece of music (*a study in the key of C major*). **11** a tone or style of thought or expression. **12** a piece of wood or metal inserted between others to secure them. **13** the part of a first coat of wall plaster that passes between the laths and so secures the rest. **14** the roughness of a surface, helping the adhesion of plaster etc. **15** the samara of a sycamore etc. **16** a mechanical device for making or breaking an electric circuit, e.g. in telegraphy. **v.tr.** (**keys**,

keyed) **1** (foll. by *in, on*, etc.) fasten with a pin, wedge, bolt, etc. **2** (often foll. by *in*) enter (data etc.) by means of a keyboard. **3** roughen (a surface) to help the adhesion of plaster etc. **4** (foll. by *to*) align or link (one thing to another). **5** regulate the pitch of the strings of (a violin etc.). **6** word (an advertisement in a particular periodical) so that answers to it can be identified (usu. by varying the form of address given). □ **in key** in harmony; consonant (with). **key grip** *Television & Cinematog.* the person in a film crew who is in charge of the camera equipment. **key industry** an industry essential to the carrying on of others, e.g. coalmining, dyeing. **key map** a map in bare outline, to simplify the use of a full map. **key money** a payment demanded from an incoming tenant for the provision of a key to the premises. **key performance indicator** a quantifiable measure used to evaluate the success of an organisation, employee, etc. in meeting objectives for performance. **key ring** a ring for keeping keys on. **key signature** *Mus.* any of several combinations of sharps or flats after the clef at the beginning of each staff indicating the key of a composition. **key up** (often foll. by *to, or to* + *inf.*) make (a person) nervous or tense; excite. **out of key** out of harmony; not consonant (with). □ **keyless** *adj.* [Old English *caeg*, of unknown origin]

key? /ki:/ *n.* a low-lying island or reef, esp. in the West Indies (cf. *CAY*). [Spanish *cayo* 'shoal, reef', influenced by QUAY]

keyboard *n.* & *v.* **n.** **1** a set of keys on a typewriter, computer, piano, etc. **2** (in full **electronic keyboard**) an electronic musical instrument with keys arranged as on a piano, and usu. a number of preprogrammed electronic effects such as drum rhythms etc. **v.** **1 tr.** enter (data etc.) by means of a keyboard. **2 intr.** work at a keyboard, esp. that of a computer. □ **keyboard instrument** a musical instrument having a keyboard or keyboards. **keyboard operator** = KEYBOARDER.

keyboarder *n.* a person who operates a (computer) keyboard, a person who enters data on a keyboard.

keyboardist *n.* a musician who performs on an electronic keyboard.

keycard *n.* a plastic card bearing magnetically encoded data that can be read by an electronic device, such as an ATM, a lock, etc.

keyer /'ki:ə/ *n.* **1** a person or thing that keys something. **2** *Electronics* a device for switching a signal supply on and off.

keyhole *n.* a hole in a lock into which the key is inserted. □ **keyhole surgery** minimally invasive surgery carried out through a very small incision with the aid of a fibre-optic device for viewing and special instruments.

keyline *n.* (often *attrib.*) *Aust.* an agricultural system designed to increase soil fertility through controlling surface water run-off by means of cultivation, contour lines, etc. [coined by P.A. Yeomans d. 1984, the developer of the system, who used it to refer to a *key* contour *line* that can be located at the bottom of a valley, and in relation to which patterns of contour ploughing can be established]

keylogger *n.* a computer program that records every keystroke made by a computer user, used esp. as part of spyware to gain fraudulent access to passwords and other confidential information. □ **keylogging** *n.*

Keynesian /'keɪnzɪ:ən,'ki:nzi:ən/ *adj.* & *n.* **adj.** of or relating to the economic theories of J.M. Keynes (d. 1946), esp. regarding state control of the economy through money and taxation. **n.** an adherent of these theories. □ **Keynesianism** *n.*

keynote *n.* & *v.* **n.** **1** a prevailing tone or idea (*the keynote of the whole occasion*). **2 a** (*attrib.*) intended to set the prevailing tone at a meeting or conference (*keynote speech*). **b** a person who delivers a keynote address. **3 Mus.** the note on which a key is based. **v.tr.** **1** express the prevailing tone or idea of (something). **2** deliver the keynote address of (a conference etc.). □ **keynote address** a speech intended to set out or summarise the central theme of a conference, convention, etc., or to arouse enthusiasm for a party, cause,

- etc.; (more generally) the main or most prestigious speech at a conference or other event.
- keynoter** *n.* a person who delivers a keynote address etc.
- keypad** *n.* a miniature keyboard or set of buttons for operating a portable electronic device, telephone, etc.
- keystone** *n.* **1** the central principle of a system, policy, etc., on which all the rest depends. **2** a central stone at the summit of an arch locking the whole together.
- keystroke** *n.* a single depression of a key on a keyboard, esp. as a measure of work.
- keyway** /'ki:weɪ/ *n.* a slot for receiving a machined key.
- keyword** *n.* **1** the key to a cipher etc. **2 a** a word of great significance. **b** a significant word used in indexing, information retrieval, etc.
- kg** *abbr.* kilogram(s).
- KGB** *n.* the state security police of the former USSR. [Russian, abbreviation of *Komitet gosudarstvennoï bezopasnosti* 'committee of state security']
- Kgs** *abbr.* Kings (Old Testament).
- khaddar** /'kædə/ *n.* Indian homespun cloth. [Hindi]
- khaki** /'ka:ki/, 'ka:ki/ *adj.* & *n.* • *adj.* dust-coloured; dull brownish-yellow. • *n.* (pl. **khakis**) **1** khaki fabric of twilled cotton or wool, used esp. in military dress. **2** the dull brownish-yellow colour of this. □ **khaki weed** **1** = БИРДИ-ЕYE. **2** any of several plants of the genus *Alternanthera*, cultivated esp. for their foliage. [Urdu *kāki* 'dust-coloured' from *kāk* 'dust']
- khamṣin** /'kæmʊn/ *n.* (also **hamsin** /'hæ-/) an oppressive hot south or south-east wind occurring in Egypt for about 50 days in March, April, and May. [Arabic *kamsin* from *kamsūn* 'fifty']
- khan** /'ka:n, kæn/ *n.* **1** a title given to rulers and officials in Central Asia, Afghanistan, etc. **2 hist.** **a** the supreme ruler of the Turkish, Tartar, and Mongol tribes. **b** the emperor of China in the Middle Ages. □ **khanate** *n.* [Turkic *kān* 'lord']
- khan**² /'ka:n, kæn/ *n.* (in the Middle East) an inn for travellers, built around a central courtyard. [Arabic *kān* 'inn']
- khāt** /'ka:t/ *n.* (also **qat**) **1** a shrub, *Catha edulis*, grown in Arabia. **2** the leaves of this shrub, chewed or infused as a stimulant. [Arabic *kāt*]
- Khedive** /'kə:di:v/ *n.* *hist.* the title of the viceroy of Egypt under Turkish rule 1867–1914. □ **Khedival** *adj.* **Khedivial** *adj.* [French *khédive*, ultimately from Persian *kādiv* 'prince']
- khir** /'ki:ʃ/ *n.* an Indian dish of sweet rice pudding. [Hindi *khir*]
- Khmer** /'kmeɪ/ *n.* & *adj.* • *n.* **1** a native of the ancient Khmer kingdom in SE Asia, or of modern Cambodia. **2** the language of this people. • *adj.* of the Khmers or their language. [native name]
- Khoikhoi** /'kɔɪkɔɪ/ *n.* (also **Khoikhoin**, **Khoi**) (*pl.* same) a member of a group of indigenous peoples of South Africa and Namibia, including the Nama. [Nama, literally 'men of men']
- Khoisan** /'kɔɪsɑ:n/ *n.* **1** (usu. treated as *pl.*) a collective term for the Khoikhoi and San peoples of southern Africa. **2** a language family of southern Africa, including the languages of the Khoikhoi and San, notable for the use of clicks as additional consonants. [blend of **KHOIKHOI** + **SAN**]
- khoum** /'ku:m/ *n.* a monetary unit of Mauritania, equal to one fifth of an ouguiya. [Arabic *kūms* 'one fifth']
- khyber** /'kaɪbəl/ *n.* *rhyming sl.* arse. [abbreviation of *Khyber Pass*]
- kHz** *abbr.* kilohertz.
- kia ora** /'ki:ɔ:rə/ *int.* NZ (a greeting) expressing good will, or wishing good health. [Maori]
- kibbeh** /'kɪbeɪ/ *n.* (in Middle Eastern cooking) a mixture of minced meat, bulgur or rice, and seasonings, typically served in the form of croquettes stuffed with a filling. [Egyptian Arabic *kubba* 'ball, lump']
- kibble**¹ /'kɪbəl/ *v.* & *n.* • *v.tr.* grind or chop (grain, pulses, etc.) coarsely. • *n.* coarsely ground grain, pulses, etc. [18th c.: origin unknown]
- kibble**² /'kɪbəl/ *n.* an iron hoisting bucket used in mines. [German *Kübel* from medieval Latin *cupellus*, 'corn-measure', diminutive of *cuppa* 'cup']
- kibbutz** /'kɔ:'bʊts/ *n.* (*pl.* **kibbutzim** /-'tsɪ:m/) a communal esp. farming settlement in Israel. [modern Hebrew *kibbūts* 'gathering']
- kibbutznik** /kə' bʊtsnik/ *n.* a member of a kibbutz. [Yiddish (as **KIBBUTZ**)]
- kibe** /kaɪb/ *n.* *archaic* an ulcerated chilblain, esp. on the heel. [Middle English, probably from Welsh *cibi*]
- kibitka** /'ki' bɪtkə/ *n.* **1** a type of Russian hooded sledge. **2 a** a Tartar's circular tent, covered with felt. **b** a Tartar household. [Russian from Tartar *kibitz*]
- kibitz** /'kɪbɪts/ *v.intr. colloq.* act as a kibitzer. [Yiddish from German *kiebitzen* (as **KIBITZER**)]
- kibitzer** /'kɪbɪtsə, kɪ' bɪtsə/ *n. colloq.* **1** an onlooker at cards etc., esp. one who offers unwanted advice. **2** a busybody, a meddler. [Yiddish *kibitser* from German *Kiebitz* 'lapwing, busybody']
- kiblah** /'kɪblə/ *n.* (also **qibla**) **1** (the direction of) the place to which Muslims must turn for prayer, now the Kaaba at Mecca. **2** a niche, chamber, or slab in a mosque indicating the direction of Mecca. [Arabic *kibla* 'that which is opposite']
- kibosh** /'kaɪbɒʃ/ *n.* (also **kybosh**) *colloq.* nonsense. □ **put the kibosh on** put an end to; finally dispose of. [19th c.: origin unknown]
- kick**¹ *v.* & *n.* • *v. 1 tr.* strike or propel forcibly with the foot or hoof etc. **2 intr.** (usu. foll. by *at, against*) **a** strike out with the foot. **b** express annoyance at or dislike of (treatment, a proposal etc.); rebel against. **3 tr. colloq.** give up (a habit). **4 tr.** (often foll. by *out* etc.) expel or dismiss forcibly. **5 refl.** be annoyed with oneself (*I'll kick myself if I'm wrong*). **6 tr.** *Football* score (a goal) by a kick. **7 intr.** *Cricket* (of a ball) rise sharply from the pitch. **8 intr.** (as **kicking** *adj.*) *colloq.* lively, exciting; excellent. • *n.* **1 a** a blow with the foot or hoof etc. **b** the delivery of such a blow. **2 colloq.** **a** a sharp stimulant effect, esp. of alcohol (*has some kick in it; a cocktail with a kick in it*). **b** (often in *pl.*) a pleasurable thrill (*did it just for kicks; got a kick out of flying*). **3** strength, resilience (*have no kick left*). **4 colloq.** a specified temporary interest or enthusiasm (*on a jogging kick*). **5** the recoil of a gun when discharged. **6 Football colloq.** a player of specified kicking ability (*is a good kick*). **7 colloq.** one's pocket, hence one's bank account etc. (*how can I get home with only ten cents in my kick?; more than a million in his kick*). □ **alive and kicking** see **ALIVE**. **kick about** (or **around**) *colloq.* **1 a** drift idly from place to place. **b** be unused or unwanted. **2 a** treat roughly or scornfully. **b** discuss (an idea) unsystematically. **kick against the pricks** see **PRICK**. **kick-arse** *adj. colloq.* **1** excellent, fabulous (*they are a kick-arse band*). **2** (usu. **kick-ass**) esp. *US* forceful, aggressive. **kick ass** (or **some ass**) *US* act forcefully or in a domineering manner. **kick the bucket** *colloq.* die. **kick the can down the road** *colloq.* put off confronting a difficult issue or making an important decision, typically on a continuing basis. **kick-down** a device for changing gear in a motor vehicle by full depression of the accelerator. **kick one's heels** see **HEEL**¹. **kick in** **1** knock down (a door etc.) by kicking. **2 colloq.** contribute (esp. money); pay one's share. **3** become activated, start. **kicking around** *colloq.* (as a vague response etc.) lying around (*the keys are kicking around somewhere*). **kick in the pants** (or **teeth** or **arse**) *colloq.* a humiliating punishment or setback. **kick off** **1 a Aust.** *Rules* = **KICKOUT**. **b Football** begin or resume a match. *c colloq.* begin. **2** remove (shoes etc.) by kicking. **kick-off** **1 Football** the start or resumption of a match. **2** (in for a **kick-off**) *colloq.* for a start (*that's wrong for a kick-off*). **kick on Aust.** *colloq.* **1** continue to play well. **2** manage, make do. **3** maintain momentum; continue (a party etc.); make an effort. **kick over the traces** see **TRACE**². **kick-pleat** a pleat in a narrow

skirt to allow freedom of movement. **kick-start** *n.* 1 (also **kick-starter**) a device to start the engine of a motorcycle etc. by the downward thrust of a pedal. 2 an act of starting a motorcycle etc. in this way. 3 an impetus given to get a thing started or restarted. *v.tr.* 1 start (a motorcycle etc.) in this way. 2 start or restart (a process etc.) by providing some initial impetus. **kick the tin** *Aust.* contribute money to a cause. **kick-to-kick** *Aust.* an informal game in which a football is kicked between two groups of players. **kick-turn** a standing turn in skiing. **kick up** (or **kick up a fuss**, **dust**, etc.) create a disturbance; object or register strong disapproval. **kick up one's heels** frolic. **kick a person upstairs** shelve a person by giving him or her promotion or a title. **kickable** *adj.* **kicker** *n.* [Middle English *kike*, of unknown origin]

kick² *n.* *archaic* an indentation in the bottom of a glass bottle. [19th c.: origin unknown]

kickback *n. colloq.* 1 the force of a recoil. 2 payment for collaboration, esp. collaboration for profit.

kickball /'kɪkbɔ:l/ *n.* esp. **US** 1 football (played informally by kicking a ball, as distinct from e.g. American football). 2 a football for kicking.

kickboard *n.* a buoyant board held in a novice swimmer's outstretched hands to keep the upper body floating while he or she practises kicking.

kickboxing *n.* a form of boxing characterised by the use of blows with the feet as well as with gloved fists. **kick-boxer** *n.*

kickout *n.* (also **kick-out**) 1 *Aust. Rules* a kick to put the ball back into play, taken by the defending full back or another back after a behind has been scored. 2 a manoeuvre executed by thrusting down on the rear of one's surfboard and pivoting it on its tail so as to ride up and over the top of a wave.

kickorter *n. colloq.* a device for analysing electrical pulses according to amplitude.

kickstand *n.* a rod attached to a bicycle or motor cycle and kicked into a vertical position to support the vehicle when stationary.

kid¹ *n.* & *v.* *n.* 1 a young goat. 2 the leather made from its skin. 3 *colloq.* a child or young person. *v.intr.* (**kidded**, **kidding**) (of a goat) give birth. **handle with kid gloves** treat carefully or with the utmost tact. **kid brother** (or **sister**) *colloq.* a younger brother or sister. **kid-glove** (*attrib.*) dainty or delicate. **kids' stuff** *colloq.* something very simple. [Middle English *kide* from Old Norse *kith*, from Germanic]

kid² *v.* & *n.* *v.* (**kidded**, **kidding**) *colloq.* 1 *tr.* (also *refl.*) deceive, trick (*don't kid yourself*; *kidded his mother that he was ill*). 2 *tr.* & *intr.* tease (*only kidding*). *n.* an act of kidding. **no kidding** (or **kid**) *colloq.* that is the truth. **kidder** *n.* **kiddingly** *adv.* [perhaps from **KID**]

kid³ *n. hist.* a small wooden tub, esp. a sailor's mess tub for grog or rations. [perhaps a variant of **KIT**]

Kidderminster carpet /'kɪdə mɪnstə/ *n.* a carpet made of two cloths of different colours woven together so that the carpet is reversible. [*Kidderminster* in Hereford and Worcester, England]

kiddie *n.* (also **kiddy**) (*pl.* **-ies**) *colloq.* = **KID**¹ *n.* 3.

kiddle /'kɪdə/ *n.* 1 a barrier in a river with an opening fitted with nets etc. to catch fish. 2 an arrangement of fishing nets hung on stakes along the seashore. [Middle English from Anglo-French *kidel*, Old French *quidel*, *guide*]

kiddo /'kɪdəʊ/ *n.* (*pl.* **-os**) *colloq.* = **KID**¹ *n.* 3.

kiddush /'kɪdʒ/ *n.* a ceremony of prayer and blessing over wine, performed by the head of a Jewish household at the meal ushering in the Sabbath (on a Friday night) or a holy day, or at the lunch preceding it. [Hebrew *qidūš* 'sanctification']

kiddy *var.* of **KIDDIE**.

kidnap *v.tr.* (**kidnapped**, **kidnapping**; *US* **kidnaped**, **kidnaping**) 1 carry off (a person etc.) by illegal force or fraud esp. to obtain a ransom. 2 steal (a child).

kidnapper *n.* [back-formation from *kidnapper*, from **KID**¹ + *nap* = **NAB**]

kidney *n.* (*pl.* **-eys**) 1 either of a pair of organs in the abdominal cavity of mammals, birds, and reptiles, which remove nitrogenous wastes from the blood and excrete urine. 2 the kidney of a sheep, ox, or pig as food. 3 temperament, nature, kind (*a man of that kidney*; *of the right kidney*). **kidney bean** 1 a dwarf French bean. 2 a scarlet runner bean. **kidney dish** a kidney-shaped dish, esp. one used in surgery. **kidney fat** the fat surrounding the kidney. **kidney-fat** (in traditional Aboriginal society) remove (a person's) kidney fat for ritual reasons. **kidney machine** = *artificial kidney*. **kidney-shaped** shaped like a kidney, with one side concave and the other convex. **kidney stone** a renal calculus. **kidney vetch** a herbaceous plant, *Anthyllis vulneraria*. Also called *lady's finger*. **kidney weed** *Aust.* the spreading, mat-forming perennial herb *Dichondra repens*, with bright green kidney-shaped leaves, sometimes used as a lawn-substitute in areas where traffic is minimal. **kidney worm** either of two parasitic nematodes, *Stephanurus dentatus* which infests pigs, and *Diocetophyma renale* which infests humans, dogs, and other mammals. [Middle English *kidnei*, *pl. kidneiren*, apparently partly from *ei* **EGG**]

kidskin *n.* = **KID**¹ *n.* 2.

kidstake *n.pl. Aust. colloq.* 1 nonsense; pretence.

2 a small amount of money, a small bet etc. [**KID**² + **STAKE**]

kidult /'kɪdʌlt/ *n.* & *adj.* *usu. derog.* *n.* 1 an adult with childish tastes. 2 a genre of television programs, films, or games intended to appeal to both children and adults.

•adj. 1 consisting of kidults (*television seems to cater for a kidult society*). 2 geared to kidults (*kidult programs on telly*). 3 designating or pertaining to television programs, films, etc., intended to appeal to all age groups. [**KID**¹ + **ADULT**]

kielbasa /'ki:l bæsə/ *n.* a type of highly seasoned Polish sausage, typically containing garlic. [Polish, = sausage] **kieselguhr** /'ki:zəl, gʊə/ *n.* diatomaceous earth forming deposits in lakes and ponds and used as a filter, filler, insulator, etc., in various manufacturing processes. [German, from *Kiesel* 'gravel' + dialect *Guhr* 'earthy deposit']

kif *var.* of **KEF**.

kike /kaɪk/ *n.* esp. *US colloq. offens.* a Jewish person. [20th c.: origin uncertain]

Kikuyu /kə'kju:z/ *n.* & *adj.* *n.* (*pl.* same or **Kikuyus**)

1 a people forming the largest ethnic group in Kenya. 2 a member of this people. 3 the language of this people. 4 (in full **kikuyu grass**) the perennial grass *Pennisetum clandestinum*, that creeps by means of both stolons and rhizomes, native to the highlands of Kenya and widely cultivated in Australia and elsewhere as a lawn and fodder grass. *•adj.* of or relating to the Kikuyu people or their language.

kilderkin /'kɪldəkən/ *n.* (in the imperial system) 1 a cask for liquids etc., holding 16 or 18 gallons. 2 this measure. [Middle English, alteration of *kinderkin* from Middle Dutch *kinde(r)kin*, *kinneken*, diminutive of *kintal* **QUINTAL**]

kilian /'kɪli:ən/ *n.* (also **killian**) a fast ice dance executed by a pair of skaters side by side. [20th c.: origin unknown]

kilim /kə'li:m/ *n.* & *adj.* *n.* a pileless woven carpet, rug, etc., made in Turkey, Kurdistan, and neighbouring areas. *•attrib. adj.* designating such a carpet, rug, etc. [Turkish from Persian *gelīm*]

kill *v.* & *n.* *v.tr.* 1 a deprive of life or vitality; put to death; cause the death of. 2 (*absol.*) cause or bring about death (*must kill to survive*). 3 *destr.* put an end to (feelings etc.) (*overwork killed my enthusiasm*). 4 *refl.* (often foll. by *pres. part.*) *colloq.* a overexert oneself (*don't kill yourself lifting them all at once*). 5 laugh heartily. 6 *colloq.* overwhelm (a person) with amusement, delight, etc. (*the things he says really kill me*). 7 switch off (a spotlight, engine, etc.). 8 *colloq.* a stop (a computer program or process). 9 delete (a line, paragraph, etc.) from a computer file. 7 *colloq.* cause pain or discomfort to (*my feet are killing me*). 8 pass (time, or a specified amount of it) *usu.* while waiting for

a specific event (*had an hour to kill before the interview*). **9** defeat (a bill in Parliament). **10** *colloq.* consume the entire contents of (a bottle of wine etc.). **11** **a** *Tennis* etc. hit (the ball) so skilfully that it cannot be returned. **b** stop (the ball) dead. **12** neutralise or render ineffective (taste, sound, colour, etc.) (*thick carpet killed the sound of footsteps*). **•n.** **1** an act of killing (esp. an animal). **2** an animal or animals killed, esp. by a sportsman. **3** *colloq.* the destruction or disablement of an enemy aircraft, submarine, etc. **□** **dressed to kill** dressed showily, alluringly, or impressively. **in at the kill** present at or benefiting from the successful conclusion of an enterprise. **kill floor** = *killing floor*. **kill off** **1** get rid of or destroy completely (esp. a number of persons or things). **2** (of an author) bring about the death of (a fictional character). **kill or cure** (usu. *attrib.*) (of a remedy etc.) drastic, extreme. **kill ratio** *US* the proportion of casualties on each side in a military action. **kill switch** **1** a mechanism for switching off a machine abruptly, esp. in an emergency. **2** a computer function for disabling software or a device remotely. **kill two birds with one stone** achieve two aims at once. **kill with kindness** spoil (a person) with overindulgence. **kill zone** = *killing zone*. [Middle English *cille*, *kille*, perhaps ultimately related to QUEL]

killer *n.* & *adj.* **•n.** **1** **a** a person, animal, or thing that kills. **b** a murderer. **2** *colloq.* **a** an impressive, formidable, or excellent thing (*this one is quite difficult, but the next one is a real killer*). **b** a hilarious joke. **c** a decisive blow (*his brilliant header proved to be the killer*). **3** *Aust.* an animal to be killed for meat (*killer sheep*). **•attrib. adj.** **1** that kills; deadly (*killer diseases; killer bees*). **2** *colloq.* impressive, admirable, formidable. **□** **killer bee** the highly aggressive and venomous Africanised honeybee *Apis mellifera adansonii*, which has spread beyond Africa. **killer cell** *Physiol.* a white blood cell which destroys infected or cancerous cells. **killer instinct** **1** an innate tendency to kill. **2** a keenly competitive or ruthless streak. **killer whale** a voracious cetacean, *Orcinus orca*, with a white belly and prominent dorsal fin.

killick var. of KELLICK.

killifish /'kili:fiʃ/ *n.* **1** any small fresh- or brackish-water fish of the family Cyprinodontidae, many of which are brightly coloured. **2** a brightly-coloured tropical aquarium fish, *Pterolebias peruensis*. [perhaps from *US* dialect *kill* 'stream' from Dutch *kil* + *FISH*']

killing *n.* & *adj.* **•n.** **1** **a** the causing of death. **b** an instance of this. **2** a great (esp. financial) success (*make a killing*). **•adj.** *colloq.* **1** overwhelmingly funny. **2** exhausting; very strenuous. **□** **killing bottle** a bottle containing poisonous vapour to kill insects collected as specimens. **killing chain** = CHAIN *n.* **11.** **killing field** a place where a heavy loss of life has occurred, typically as the result of massacre or genocide. **killing (or kill) floor** *Aust.* the place in an abattoir where the animals are slaughtered. **killing (or kill) zone** *US* the area of a military engagement with a high concentration of fatalities. **□** **killingly** *adv.*

killjoy *n.* a person who throws gloom over or prevents other people's enjoyment.

kiln *n.* a furnace or oven for burning, baking, or drying, esp. for calcining lime or firing pottery etc. **□** **kiln-dry** (usu. as **kiln-dried** *adj.*) dry in a kiln. [Old English *cylene* from Latin *culina* 'kitchen']

kilo /'ki:lɔs/ *n.* (*pl.* -**os**) **1** a kilogram. **2** a kilometre. **3** a code word representing the letter *K*, used in radio communication. [French: abbreviation]

kilo- /'ki:lɔs/ *comb. form* denoting a factor of 1000 (esp. in metric units). (Abbr.: **k** or **K** in *Computing*) [French from Greek *khilioi* 'thousand']

kilobit /'kilɒbit/ *n.* *Computing* a unit of computer memory or data equal to 1024 bits. (Abbr.: **Kb**)

kilobyte /'kilɒbaɪt/ *n.* *Computing* a unit of memory or data equal to 1024 bytes. (Abbr.: **KB**)

kilocalorie /'ki:lə'kæləri:/ *n.* = CALORIE **2**.

kilocycle /'ki:lə'saɪkl/ *n.* a former measure of frequency, equivalent to 1 kilohertz. (Abbr.: **kc**)

kilogram /'ki:lə'græm/ *n.* (also **-gramme**) the SI unit of mass, equivalent to the international standard kept at Sèvres near Paris (approx. 2.205 lb). (Abbr.: **kg**) [French *kilogramme* (as KILO-, GRAM')]]

kilohertz /'ki:lə'hɜ:ts/ *n.* a measure of frequency equivalent to 1000 cycles per second. (Abbr.: **kHz**)

kilojoule /'ki:lə'dʒu:l/ *n.* 1000 joules, esp. as a measure of the energy value of foods. (Abbr.: **kJ**)

kilolitre /'ki:lə'li:tə/ *n.* (*US* **-liter**) 1000 litres (equivalent to 220 imperial gallons). (Abbr.: **kl**)

kilometre /'ki:lə'mi:tə,kə'lɒmətə/ *n.* (*US* **kilometer**) a metric unit of measurement equal to 1000 metres (approx. 0.62 miles). (Abbr.: **km**) **□** **kilometric** /'ki:lə'metrɪk/ *adj.* [French *kilomètre* (as KILO-, METRE')]]

■ **USAGE** Some people object to the second pronunciation on the grounds that units of measurement (cf. *kilogram*) should be stressed on the first syllable, while measuring instruments (cf. *speedometer*) should be stressed on the second or a later syllable. In the case of *kilometre*, the two pronunciations given are firmly established in Australian English.

kiloton /'ki:lə'tɒn/ *n.* (also **kilotonne**) a unit of explosive power equivalent to 1000 tons of TNT.

kilovolt /'ki:lə'vɒlt/ *n.* 1000 volts. (Abbr.: **kV**)

kilowatt /'ki:lə'wɒt/ *n.* 1000 watts. (Abbr.: **kW**)

kilowatt-hour *n.* a measure of electrical energy equivalent to a power consumption of 1000 watts for one hour. (Abbr.: **kWh**)

kilt *n.* & *v.* **•n.** **1** a skirtlike garment, usu. of pleated tartan cloth and reaching to the knees, as traditionally worn by men of the Scottish Highlands. **2** a similar garment worn by women and children. **•v. tr.** **1** tuck up (skirts) round the body. **2** (esp. as **kilted** *adj.*) gather in vertical pleats. **□** **kilted** *adj.* [originally as verb: Middle English, of Scandinavian origin]

kilter *n.* (also **kelter** /'kel-/) good working order (esp. *out of kilter*). [17th c.: origin unknown]

Kimberley disease /'kɪmbəli:/ *n.* a usually fatal disease of horses in which liver damage occurs. [Kimberley Range, in Western Australia]

kimberlite /'kɪmbə'laɪt/ *n.* *Mineral.* a rare igneous blue-tinted rock sometimes containing diamonds, found in South Africa and Siberia. Also called *blue ground* (see BLUE'). [Kimberley, a diamond-mining centre in South Africa]

kimchi /'kɪmtʃi:/ *n.* a raw, strongly flavoured cabbage-pickle, the Korean national dish. [Korean]

kimono /kə'moʊnɒs, 'kɪmɒnɒs/ *n.* (*pl.* -**os**) **1** a long loose Japanese robe worn with a sash. **2** a European dressing gown modelled on this. **□** **kimonoed** *adj.* [Japanese, from *ki* 'wearing' + *mono* 'thing']

kin *n.* & *adj.* **•n.** one's relatives or family. **•predic. adj.** (of a person) related (*we are kin; he is kin to me*) (see also AKIN). **□** **kin and kin** see KITH. **near of kin** closely related by blood, or in character. **next of kin** see NEXT. **□** **kinless** *adj.* [Old English *cynn*, from Germanic]

-kin *suffix* forming diminutive nouns (*catkin; manikin*). [from or suggested by Middle Dutch *-kijn*, *-ken*, Old High German *-chin*]

kina¹ /'ki:nə/ *n.* NZ an edible New Zealand sea urchin, *Evechinus chloroticus*. [Maori]

kina² /'ki:nə/ *n.* (*pl.* same) the monetary unit of Papua New Guinea, equal to 100 toea. [Tolai]

kinaesthesia /'ki:nəs'θi:zi:ə, 'kænəs-, '-θi:zə/ *n.* (also **kinesthesia**) a sense of awareness of the position and movement of the voluntary muscles of the body. **□** **kinaesthetic** /-'θetɪk/ *adj.* [Greek *kinēō* 'move' + *aisthēsis* 'sensation']

kincob /'kɪnkɒb/ *n.* a rich Indian fabric embroidered with gold or silver. [Urdu from Persian *kamkāb*, from *kamkā* 'damask']

Appendix:

Guide to grammar and syntax

Adjective

An adjective is a word that, modifies or describes a noun or pronoun, e.g. *red, clever, Tasmanian, depressed, grilled, sticky, shining*.

Most can be used either before a noun (in which position they are called *attributive*), e.g. *the red house, a clever woman*, or after a verb like *be, seem, or call* (in which position they are called *predicative*), e.g. *The house is red. I wouldn't call him lazy. She seems very clever.*

Some can be used only *before* a noun, e.g. *the main reason* (one cannot say *the reason is main*). Such an adjective is known as an *attributive adjective*.

Some can be used only *after* a verb, e.g. *The ship is still afloat* (one cannot say *an afloat ship*). Such an adjective is known as a *predicative adjective*.

A few can be used only immediately after a noun, e.g. *the president elect* (one cannot say either *an elect president* or *The president is elect*).

Adverb

An adverb is a word or phrase that modifies or qualifies another word (especially an adjective, verb, or other adverb) or a word group, expressing a relation of manner, place, time, degree, circumstance, cause, etc.

An adverb is used:

- with a verb, to indicate:
 - how something happens, e.g. *He walks quickly.*
 - where something happens, e.g. *I live here.*
 - when something happens, e.g. *They visited us yesterday.*
 - how often something happens, e.g. *We usually have coffee.*
- to strengthen or weaken the meaning of:
 - a verb, e.g. *He really meant it; I almost fell asleep.*
 - an adjective, e.g. *She is very clever; This is a slightly better result.*
 - another adverb, e.g. *It comes off terribly easily; The boys nearly always get home late.*
- to add to the meaning of a whole sentence, e.g. *He is probably our best player; Luckily, no one was hurt.*

An adverb that is used in sense 3 is called a *sentence adverb*. The adverbs in senses 1 and 2 modify the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, as in, for example, *he shook his head sadly*. However, another important function of some adverbs is to comment on a whole sentence, either expressing the speaker's attitude or classifying the discourse. For example, in *sadly, he is rather overbearing*, *sadly* does not mean that he is overbearing in a sad manner: it expresses the speaker's attitude to what is being stated. Traditionalists take the view that the use of sentence adverbs is inherently suspect and that they should always be paraphrased, e.g. using such wording as *it is sad that he is rather overbearing*. A particular objection is raised to the sentence adverbs *hopefully* and *thankfully*, since they cannot even be paraphrased in the usual way (see usage notes at HOPEFULLY and THANKFULLY). Nevertheless, there is overwhelming evidence that such usages are well established and widely accepted in everyday speech and writing.

Apostrophe '

An apostrophe is used:

- to indicate possession:
 - with a singular noun: *the boy's book; a week's work; the boss's salary;*
 - with a plural already ending with *s*: *a girls' school; two weeks' newspapers; the bosses' salaries;*
 - with a plural not already ending with *s*: *the children's shoes; women's liberation;*
 - with a singular name: *Gavin's hat; Louise's coat; Thomas's (or Thomas') book; Keats's (or Keats') poems;*
 - with a name ending in *-es* that is pronounced /-əz/: *Bridges' poems; Moses' mother;*
 - and before the word *sake*: *for God's sake; for goodness' sake; for Nicholas' sake;*
 - but it is often omitted in a business or place name: *Smiths Bookshop; Crows Nest.*
- to mark an omission of one or more letters or numbers:
 - he's (he is or he has) haven't (have not)*
 - can't (cannot) we'll (we will or we shall)*
 - won't (will not) o'clock (of the clock)*
 - the summer of '96 (1996)*
- when letters or numbers are referred to in plural form: *mind your p's and q's; find all the number 7's.*
but it is unnecessary in, e.g., *MPs; the 1940s.*

Auxiliary verb

An auxiliary verb is a verb used in forming the tenses, moods, and voices of other verbs. Mainly, it expresses:

- when something happens, by forming a tense of the main verb, e.g. *I shall go. He was going.*
- permission, obligation, or ability to do something, e.g. *They may go. You must go. I can't go.*
- the likelihood of something happening, e.g. *I might go. She would go if she could.*

The principal auxiliary verbs are:

be do have

and the modal auxiliaries:

can could may might shall

should will would must

Some other verbs (often called semi-modals) have

similar functions:

dare need ought to used to

Brackets () [] { } < >

The types of brackets used in normal punctuation are round brackets () and square brackets [].

Round brackets, also called parentheses, are mainly used:

- to enclose explanations and extra information or comment, e.g. *Myanmar (formerly Burma)*
He is (as he always was) a rebel.
- to give references and citations, e.g. *Henry Lawson (1867–1922)*
This is done using integrated circuits (see p. 38).
- to enclose optional words or parts of words, e.g. *crossword (puzzle) king-size(d)*
There are many (apparent) difficulties.

- 4 (in dictionaries) to indicate typical objects of transitive verbs, e.g. *beat strike (a person or thing) repeatedly*, or to indicate the type of word which can be used with the word being defined, e.g. *lush (of vegetation, esp. grass) luxuriant and succulent*.

Square brackets are used less often.

- 1 Their main use is to enclose extra information attributable to someone (normally an editor) other than the writer of the surrounding text, e.g. *Then the man said, 'He [the police officer] can't prove I did it.'*
- 2 Square brackets are also used to convey special kinds of information, such as stage directions in a play, or (in this dictionary) the etymologies at the end of entries.

Angle brackets < > and braces { } have specialised technical uses, esp. in mathematics, linguistics, and text editing. Angle brackets are used especially to mark off a URL <<http://www.anu.edu.au/andc>> or an email address <jsmith@anu.edu.au>.

Clause

A clause is a group of words which includes a subject (usually expressed, but sometimes not expressed) and a predicate (which contains a finite verb). A sentence may consist of one clause, but typically a sentence is made up of a number of clauses. In traditional grammar there are three kinds of clauses:

- 1 Main clause. A main clause is one that alone forms a complete sentence:
The sun came out. [subject = *the sun*. predicate = *came out*.]
The dog bit the man. [subject = *the dog*. predicate = *bit the man*.]
Shut up! [subject = unexpressed *you*. predicate = *shut up*.]
- 2 Coordinate clause. A coordinate clause is a clause linked to another clause of equal status by means of a coordinating conjunction:
The sun came out, and we decided to go to the beach.
This sentence consists of two clauses (which could exist as independent main clauses: *The sun came out. We decided to go to the beach.*) linked by the coordinating conjunction *and*.
- 3 Subordinate clause. A subordinate clause is a clause, usually introduced by a conjunction, which qualifies a main clause:
When the sun came out, we decided to go to the beach.
This sentence consists of two clauses: a main clause (*we decided to go to the beach*) and a subordinate clause (*when the sun came out*).
The subordinate clause is introduced by the subordinating conjunction *when* and does not by itself form a complete sentence.

Colon :

- 1 The main role of the colon is to separate main clauses when there is a step forward from the first to the second, especially from introduction to main point, from general statement to example, from cause to effect, or from premise to conclusion:
There is something I want to say: I should like you all to know how grateful I am to you.
It was not easy: to begin with I had to find the right house.
The weather was bad: so we decided to stay at home.
(In this example, a comma could be used, but the emphasis on cause and effect would be lost.)
He wears his boots to bed: he must be mad.
- 2 The colon also introduces a list of items. In this use a dash should not be added:
The following will be needed: a tent, a sleeping bag, cooking equipment, and insect repellent.
- 3 The colon is also used to introduce, more formally and emphatically than a comma would, speech or quoted material:

I told them last week: 'Do not in any circumstances open this door.'

The anthem begins: 'Australians all, let us rejoice.'

- 4 A colon is used between numbers that are in proportion:
1:2 = 2:4.

Comma ,

The use of the comma is more difficult to describe than other punctuation marks, and there is much variation in practice. Essentially, its role is to give detail to the structure of sentences, especially longer ones, and make their meaning clear.

- 1 The comma is widely used to separate the main clauses of a compound sentence when they are not sufficiently close in meaning or content for forming a continuous unpunctuated sentence, and are not distinct enough to warrant a semicolon. A conjunction such as *and*, *yet*, etc., is normally used:
The road runs through a beautiful valley, and the railway line follows it closely.
- 2 Commas are usually inserted between adjectives that describe something in the same way, e.g.
It is a hot, dry, dusty place.
but not if they describe it in different ways, e.g.
A distinguished foreign author.
or if one adjective adds to or alters the meaning of another, e.g.
A bright red tie.
- 3 An important role of the comma is to prevent ambiguity or momentary misunderstanding, especially after a verb used intransitively where it might otherwise be taken to be transitive:
With the police pursuing, the people shouted loudly.
He did not want to leave, from a feeling of loyalty.
In the valley below, the houses appeared very small.
However, much as I should like to, I cannot agree.
(Compare *However much I should like to I cannot agree.*)
- 4 Commas are used in pairs to separate elements in a sentence that are not part of the main statement:
I should like you all, ladies and gentlemen, to raise your glasses.
There is no sense, as far as I can see, in this suggestion.
It appears, however, that we were wrong.
- 5 Commas are used to separate a relative clause from its antecedent when the clause is not serving an identifying function:
The book, which was on the table, was a present.
In the above sentence, the information in the *which* clause is incidental to the main statement; without the comma, it would form an essential part of it in identifying which book is being referred to (and could be replaced by *that*):
The book which / that was on the table was a present.
- 6 Commas are used to separate items in a list or sequence. Usage varies as to the inclusion of a comma before *and* in the last item, but its presence often aids clarity:
The flowers are coloured red, white, yellow, and blue.
The following will report at 9.30 sharp: Kent, Mercer, Robinson, and Cheng.
- 7 A comma is used in numbers of four or more figures, to separate each group of three consecutive figures starting from the right (e.g. *10,135,793*).
- 8 No comma is needed between a month and a year in dates, e.g. *in December 1993*, or between a number and a road in addresses, e.g. *17 Warragamba Drive*.

Conjunction

A conjunction is a word used to connect clauses or sentences, or to coordinate words in the same clause. There are two classes of conjunctions: *coordinating conjunctions* and *subordinating conjunctions*.

- 1 A coordinating conjunction is placed between words, phrases, clauses, or sentences of equal rank:
We ate damper and lamb stew.

He found it difficult, but I helped him.

The main coordinating conjunctions are:

and but nor yet

- 2 A subordinating conjunction is one which joins a subordinate clause to a main clause:

When they turned the bend they saw the accident.

I would retire from work if I won the lottery.

The main subordinating conjunctions are:

<i>after</i>	<i>if</i>	<i>than</i>
<i>although</i>	<i>in case</i>	<i>that</i>
<i>as</i>	<i>in order that</i>	<i>though</i>
<i>as far as</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>till</i>
<i>as if</i>	<i>now</i>	<i>unless</i>
<i>as soon as</i>	<i>once</i>	<i>until</i>
<i>as though</i>	<i>or</i>	<i>when</i>
<i>because</i>	<i>provided that</i>	<i>where</i>
<i>before</i>	<i>since</i>	<i>whereas</i>
<i>for</i>	<i>so</i>	<i>while</i>
<i>how</i>	<i>so that</i>	

Dash —

- 1 A dash is used to indicate a pause:

a a hesitation or faltering in speech:

'I think you should have—told me,' he replied.

Yes—well—I would—only you see—it's not easy.

b to introduce an explanation or expansion of what comes before it:

We then saw the reptiles—snakes, crocodiles, that sort of thing.

- 2 A pair of dashes is used to indicate asides and parentheses, forming a more distinct break than would be indicated by the use of a pair of commas:

People in the country are more friendly—and helpful—than those in the city.

There is nothing to be gained—unless you want a more active social life—in moving to the city.

- 3 It is sometimes used to indicate an omitted word, for example a coarse word in reported speech: *'—you all,' he said.*

Determiner

A determiner is a modifying word which limits the application or reference of the noun modified.

Determiners include:

articles: *a an the*

demonstrative adjectives: *this that these those*

possessive adjectives: *my your his her its our their*

quantitative adjectives: *each every no any some few both all*

Any limiting word which immediately precedes a determiner is called a *predeterminer*. Thus in *he took our money* 'our' is a determiner, and in *he took all our money* 'all' is a predeterminer and 'our' is a determiner. Words which can function as predeterminers include: *all, both, such, what*.

While the use of terminology such as *determiner* and *predeterminer* is becoming more common in grammatical analysis, in this dictionary the traditional terminology (article, adjective, etc.) has been retained.

Exclamation mark !

An exclamation mark is used after an exclamatory word, phrase, or sentence expressing any of the following:

- 1 Absurdity: *What an idea!*
- 2 Command or warning: *Go to your room! Be careful!*
- 3 Contempt or disgust: *They are revolting!*

4 Emotion or pain: *I hate you! That really hurts! Ouch!*

5 Enthusiasm: *I'd love to come!*

6 Wish or regret: *Let me come! If only I could swim!*

7 Wonder, admiration, or surprise: *What a good idea! Aren't they beautiful!*

Full stop .

A full stop is used:

- 1 at the end of a sentence, e.g.

I am going to the movies tonight.

The film begins at seven.

The full stop is replaced by a question mark at the end of a question, and by an exclamation mark at the end of an exclamation.

- 2 after an abbreviation, e.g.

R.J.L. Hawke p. 19 (= page 19) Sun. (= Sunday)

Ex. 6 (= Exercise 6).

Full stops are not used with:

a numerical abbreviations, e.g. *1st, 2nd, 15th, 23rd*

b acronyms, e.g. *ASEAN, UNESCO, ANZAC*

c abbreviations that are used as ordinary words, e.g. *con, demo, recap*

d chemical symbols, e.g. *Fe, K, H₂O*

Full stops are not essential for:

a abbreviations consisting entirely of capitals, e.g. *SBS, AD, BC, ABC*

b *C (= Celsius), F (= Fahrenheit)*

c measures of length, weight, time, etc., except for *in. (= inch), st. (= stone)*

d an abbreviation which concludes with the last letter of the full word: *Dr, Revd* (but note *Rev.*), *Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mme, Mlle, St (= Saint)*

Hyphen -

A hyphen is used:

- 1 to join two or more words so as to form a compound or single expression, e.g. *mother-in-law, non-stick, drift-net*

This use is growing less common; often you can do without such hyphens:

nonentity, treelike, dressing table

- 2 to join words in an attributive compound (i.e. one put before a noun, like an adjective), e.g. *a well-known man* (but *the man is well known*)

an out-of-date list (but *the list is out of date*)

- 3 to join a prefix etc. to a proper name, e.g. *anti-Darwinian, non-Aboriginal, neo-Nazi, ex-Premier*

- 4 to make a meaning clear by linking words, e.g. *twenty-odd people* (as opposed to *twenty odd people*) or by separating a prefix, e.g.

re-cover (as opposed to *recover*), *re-present* (as opposed to *represent*), *re-sign* (as opposed to *resign*)

- 5 to separate two identical letters in adjacent parts of a word, e.g.

pre-exist, co-opt

- 6 to represent a common second element in the items of a list, e.g.

two-, three-, or fourfold

- 7 to divide a word if there is no room to complete it at the end of the line, e.g.

... diction-ary ...

The hyphen comes at the end of the line, not at the beginning of the next line. In general words should be divided at the end of a syllable. In handwriting, typing and word-processing, it is safest (and often neatest) not to divide words at all.

Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a name or descriptive word or phrase is transferred to an object or action different from, but analogous to, that to which it is literally applicable.

A useful way of understanding the way metaphor works is by distinguishing it from simile. The formulation *My love is like a red, red rose* is a simile, with the comparison spelt out with the aid of the conjunction *like*, whereas *My love is a red, red rose* is technically a metaphor, with complete identification of *love* and *red, red rose*. Similarly, *He fought like a lion* is a simile, whereas *He was a lion in the fight* is a metaphor.

Metaphors may appear as nouns, adjectives, adverbs, or verbs:

the long arm of the law
the Ned Kellys of the business world
burning ambition
a glaring error
blindingly obvious
the government bulldozed the bill through parliament

A dead metaphor is one which, through use over time, has lost its original metaphoric vitality (*the face of a clock, the mouth of a river*) or has become clichéd or hackneyed (*level playing field, life is no bed of roses*).

A mixed metaphor is a combination of two or more inconsistent metaphors: *This issue could snowball into a bushfire. This problem is the stickiest wicket in the whole can of worms. Those vipers stabbed us in the back.*

Noun

A noun is the name of a person or thing. There are four kinds:

- 1 common nouns (the words for articles and classes of creatures), e.g.

<i>shoe</i>	in	<i>The red shoe was left on the shelf.</i>
<i>box</i>	in	<i>The large box stood in the corner.</i>
<i>plant</i>	in	<i>The plant grew to two metres.</i>
<i>horse</i>	in	<i>A horse galloped by.</i>
- 2 proper nouns (the names of people, places, ships, institutions, and animals, which always begin with a capital letter), e.g.

<i>Kylie</i>	<i>HMAS Melbourne</i>	<i>Skippy</i>
<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>Railway Hotel</i>	
<i>Australian Institute of Sport</i>		
- 3 abstract nouns (the words for qualities, things we cannot see or touch, and things which have no physical reality), e.g.

<i>truth</i>	<i>absence</i>	<i>love</i>
<i>explanation</i>	<i>warmth</i>	<i>experience</i>
- 4 collective nouns (the words for groups of things), e.g.

<i>committee</i>	<i>squad</i>	<i>the Cabinet</i>
<i>herd</i>	<i>swarm</i>	<i>the clergy</i>
<i>majority</i>	<i>team</i>	<i>the public</i>

Nouns are said to be used *attributively* (i.e. like an *adjective*) when they precede the word described, although their function is not fully adjectival (e.g. *model in a model student; the student is very model* is not acceptable usage).

Nouns can also be categorised as *mass nouns* or *count nouns*. A *mass noun* is one that is not ordinarily found in the plural and is not used in the singular with the indefinite article 'a' (it is normal to talk about 'milk', for example, but not 'a milk' or 'three milks'), while a *count noun* is one that can be used with the indefinite article 'a' and can take a plural (e.g. *horse, horses*).

Object

There are two types of object:

- 1 A direct object is the person or thing directly affected by a verb or preposition. It can usually be found by asking the question 'whom or what?' after the verb or preposition, e.g.

The electors chose Mr Smith.
Charles wrote a letter.
It's against the law.
- 2 An indirect object is usually a person or thing receiving something from the subject of the verb, e.g.

He gave me the pen. (*Me* is the indirect object, and *the pen* is the direct object.)
I sent my bank a letter. (*My bank* is the indirect object, and *a letter* is the direct object.)

Note that the indirect object can usually be rewritten with the preposition *to*:

he gave the pen to me; I sent a letter to my bank.

Sentences containing an indirect object usually contain a direct object as well, but it is not always expressed, e.g. *Pay me.*

'Object' on its own usually means a direct object.

Phrase

A phrase is a group of words that has meaning but does not have both a subject and a predicate (unlike a clause or sentence). It can be:

- 1 a noun phrase, functioning as a noun, e.g.

<i>'my friend Tom'</i>	in	<i>I went to see my friend Tom.</i>
<i>'the only ones they have'</i>	in	<i>The only ones they have are too small.</i>
- 2 an adjective phrase, functioning as an adjective, e.g.

<i>'very pleased indeed'</i>	in	<i>I was very pleased indeed.</i>
<i>'better than mine'</i>	in	<i>This one is better than mine.</i>
- 3 an adverb phrase, functioning as an adverb, e.g.

<i>'in their car'</i>	in	<i>They drove off in their car.</i>
<i>'ten days ago'</i>	in	<i>I was there ten days ago.</i>

Preposition

A preposition is used in front of a noun or pronoun to form a phrase. It often describes the position of something, e.g. *under the chair*, or the time at which something happens, e.g. *in the evening*, or the means by which something happens, e.g. *by train*.

Prepositions in common use are:

<i>about</i>	<i>behind</i>	<i>into</i>	<i>through</i>
<i>above</i>	<i>beside</i>	<i>like</i>	<i>till</i>
<i>across</i>	<i>between</i>	<i>near</i>	<i>to</i>
<i>after</i>	<i>by</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>towards</i>
<i>against</i>	<i>down</i>	<i>off</i>	<i>under</i>
<i>among</i>	<i>except</i>	<i>outside</i>	<i>until</i>
<i>around</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>over</i>	<i>up</i>
<i>as</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>past</i>	<i>upon</i>
<i>at</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>round</i>	<i>with</i>
<i>before</i>	<i>inside</i>	<i>since</i>	<i>without</i>

Some two- or three-word phrases also function as compound prepositions, e.g.

<i>according to</i>	<i>as well as</i>	<i>due to</i>
<i>except for</i>	<i>in favour of</i>	<i>instead of</i>

The word *preposition* etymologically means 'placing before', and in Latin and Greek prepositions appear before the words they govern. For this reason, prescriptive grammarians from the eighteenth century onwards argued that a sentence in English should not

end with a preposition. Good writers have certainly not adhered to this rule, and adherence to it often produces very awkward or stilted sentences. Winston Churchill, having been accused of ending a sentence with a preposition, is reported to have responded: *This is the type of arrant pedantry up with which I shall not put.*

Pronoun

A pronoun is used as a substitute for a noun or a noun phrase, e.g.

He was upstairs. Did you see that?
 Anything can happen now. It's lovely weather.
 Using a pronoun often avoids repetition, e.g.
 I found Jim—he was outside. (Instead of I found Jim—Jim was outside.)
 Where are your keys? I've got them. (Instead of Where are your keys?—I've got my keys.)

Types of pronoun:

- 1 demonstrative pronouns: *this, that, these, those.*
- 2 interrogative pronouns: *who? what? which?* etc.
- 3 personal pronouns: *I, me, we, us, thou, thee, you, ye, he, him, she, her, it, they, them.*
- 4 possessive pronouns: *my, your, his, her, etc.*
- 5 reflexive pronouns: *myself, oneself, etc.*
- 6 relative pronouns *who, what, which, that.*
- 7 indefinite pronouns: *any, somebody, none, etc.*
- 8 reciprocal pronouns: *each other, one another.*

Question mark ?

A question mark is used instead of a full stop at the end of a sentence to show that it is a question, e.g.

Have you seen the film yet?
You didn't lose my purse, did you?

It is not used at the end of a reported question, e.g.
I asked you whether you'd seen the film yet.

A question mark is used (often in brackets) to express doubt or uncertainty about a word or phrase immediately following or preceding it:

They were then seen boarding a bus (to Cairns?).
Julius Caesar born (?) 100 BC.

Quotation marks ‘ ’ “ ”

Also called inverted commas, quotation marks are used:

- 1 around a direct quotation (there is legitimate variety of opinion whether the quotation marks come before or after other punctuation marks), e.g.
He said, 'That is nonsense.'
He said, "That is nonsense."
'That', he said, 'is nonsense.'
'That,' he said, 'is nonsense.'
- 2 around a quoted word or phrase, e.g.
What does 'integrated circuit' mean?
- 3 around a word or phrase to which the writer wishes to draw attention, e.g.
Joan Sutherland was known as 'La Stupenda'.
He said he had enough 'bread' to buy a car.
- 4 around the title of a book, chapter, song, poem, magazine article, television program, etc. (but not a book of the Bible), e.g.
'Waltzing Matilda' by Banjo Paterson.
 In printing, word processing, etc., it is more usual to use italics for titles of books, novels, plays, long poems, etc., although these would appear in quotation marks if hand-written.
- 5 as double quotation marks around a quotation within a quotation, e.g.
He asked, 'Do you know what "integrated circuit" means?'

There is legitimate variety of opinion as to how quotation marks should be used. For example, some people prefer the use of double quotation marks (in which case, at point 5, the quotation within a quotation would be in single quotation marks: "Do you know what 'integrated circuit' means?").

Semicolon ;

- 1 The main role of the semicolon is to unite sentences that are closely associated or that complement or parallel each other in some way, as in the following:
In the north of the city there is a large industrial estate with no private housing; further north there is a large sporting complex.
To err is human; to forgive, divine.
- 2 A semicolon is often used as a stronger division in a sentence that already includes divisions by means of commas:
He came out of the house, which lay back from the road, and saw her at the end of the path; but instead of continuing towards her, he hid until she had gone.
- 3 It is used in a similar way in lists of names or items, to indicate a stronger division or to avoid confusion:
The group consisted of three teachers, who had already climbed with the leader; seven pupils; and two parents.

Sentence

- 1 The sentence is the largest linguistic structure treated by traditional grammar. In writing, a sentence begins with a capital letter, and ends with a full stop, a question mark, or an exclamation mark:
 Statement: *You're happy.*
 Question: *Is it raining?*
 Exclamation: *I wouldn't have believed it!*
- 2 Sentences are categorised according to the number and kind of clauses they contain:
 - a *A simple sentence* contains only one clause:
The magpie ate a worm.
 - b *A compound sentence* contains two or more coordinate clauses (i.e. two or more main clauses, each of which could stand as a sentence in its own right, linked by coordinating conjunctions):
He said that he would do the job, but he did not keep his promise.
 - c *A complex sentence* contains one or more subordinate clauses:
When the holidays arrive, and if I have enough money, I will travel to central Australia.
- 3 A sentence, especially a statement, often has no punctuation at the end in a public notice, a newspaper headline, or a legal document, e.g.
Government cuts spending
- 4 A sentence normally contains a subject and a verb, but need not, e.g.
What a mess! Where? In the sink.

Simile

A simile is a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another of a different kind, using *as* or *like*, e.g.

The water was as clear as glass.
Cherry blossom lay like driven snow upon the lawn.

Everyday language is rich in similes:

with *as*: *as mad as a cut snake*
as Australian as meat pie
as fit as a mallee bull
as cunning as a fox

with *like*: *spread like wildfire*
go down like a lead balloon
drink like a fish
like a bull in a china shop

Syllable

A syllable is the smallest unit of speech that can normally occur alone, such as *a*, *at*, *ta*, or *tat*. A syllable can consist of a single vowel or diphthong, or a combination of a vowel or diphthong and consonant(s).

The letters *m*, *n*, and *l* in words such as *rhythm* and *chasm*, *button* and *midden*, *apple* and *bottle*, are often described as syllabic consonants. In phonetic transcription they may appear as /r̩ðm/, b̩tn, bɒtl/. However, many phoneticians argue that in these positions the consonants *m*, *n*, and *l* are in fact preceded by a weak schwa (i.e. unstressed vowel), and therefore should be transcribed /r̩ðm/, b̩tən, bɒtəl/. The latter practice is followed in this dictionary.

A word can be made up of one or more syllables:

cat, *fought*, and *twinge* each have one syllable;
rating, *deny*, and *collapse* each have two syllables;
excitement, *superman*, and *telephoned* each have three syllables;
Victorian and *complicated* each have four syllables;
examination and *uncontrollable* each have five syllables.

Synonym

A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as, or a similar meaning to, another word:

cheerful, *happy*, *merry*, and *jolly* are synonyms that are quite close to each other in meaning, as are

lazy, *indolent*, and *slothful*

In contrast, the following words all mean 'a person who works with another', but their meanings vary considerably:

<i>colleague</i>	<i>conspirator</i>
<i>collaborator</i>	<i>accomplice</i>
<i>ally</i>	<i>partner</i>

Verb

A verb says what a person or thing does. It can describe:

an action, e.g. *run*, *hit*
 an event, e.g. *rain*, *happen*
 a state, e.g. *be*, *have*, *seem*, *appear*
 a change, e.g. *become*, *grow*

Verbs occur in different forms, usually in one or other of their tenses.

The most common tenses are:

the simple present tense:

The boy walks down the road.

the continuous present tense:

The boy is walking down the road.

the simple past tense:

The boy walked down the road.

the continuous past tense:

The boy was walking down the road.

the perfect tense:

The boy has walked down the road.

the past perfect tense:

The boy had walked down the road.

the future tense:

The boy will walk down the road.

Each of these forms is a finite verb, which means that it is in a particular tense and that it changes according to the number and person of the subject, as in

<i>I am</i>	<i>you walk</i>
<i>we are</i>	<i>he walks</i>

An infinitive is the form of a verb that usually appears with 'to', e.g.

<i>to wonder</i>	<i>to look</i>	<i>to sleep</i>
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The designation 'absolute' refers to those uses of transitive verbs (i.e. verbs which take an object) in which the object is implied but not stated, e.g.

<i>smoking kills</i>	<i>let me explain</i>
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The designation 'reflexive' refers to a verb which has a reflexive pronoun as its object, e.g.

she acquitted herself well

The designation 'passive' refers to the *passive voice*. Verbs can be in the active voice or the passive voice. 'Voice' shows the relation of the subject to the action. In *He killed the cat* the verb is in the active voice because the subject ('He') is the doer of the action of the verb. In *The cat was killed by him* the verb is in the passive voice because the subject ('The cat') is the recipient of the action of the verb.