

*THE BODY:*

*A TREASURE*

*TROVE OF*

*MEANINGS IN*

*ENGLISH*

*Carrala Ficklin-McClain*

# Indo-European Languages

## Germanic

### North Germanic

#### East Norse

Danish Swedish

#### West Norse

Icelandic Norwegian

## Germanic

### East Germanic

Gothic

## Germanic

### West Germanic

#### High German

German

#### Low German

Low German

Old Frisian  
Frisian

Old English  
Middle English

**\*Modern English**

Low Franconian  
Dutch

\*Although English is a **Germanic** Language, it has been strongly influenced by **Classical Greek** and **Latin**, **Vulgar Latin** as well as **Norman** and **Parisian French** (especially after the Norman Invasion of 1066).

## **Italic**

### **Latin** **(Romance)**

French Italian Spanish Portuguese Romanian Catalan  
Provençal

### **Other Languages in the Indo-European Family of Languages**

#### **Hellenic** Greek

**Celtic (Keltic) Languages**  
Breton Irish Scots Gaelic Welsh

**Slavic**  
Bulgarian Czech Macedonian Polish Russian Slovak  
Slovenian Ukrainian Serbo-Croatian

**Indo-Iranian**  
Sanskrit  
Bengali Hindi Punjabi Urdu

**Old Persian**  
Persian

# **The English Language**

## **Old English**

(Anglo-Saxon, Frisian, and Old Norse)  
Germanic Invasions until after the dislocation as a result of  
the Norman Invasion in 1066  
450-1150\*

## **Middle English**

(strongly influenced by **Norman** French)  
11th century – 14th century (Chaucer)

## **Early Modern English**

(influenced by **Parisian** French)  
Chaucer – Shakespeare

## **Modern English**

Shakespeare – until the present

\*included in this period were the Scandinavian invasions  
between 850- 1042

# **Countries where English is spoken as the First language:**

## **Great Britain and Europe**

England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Gibraltar

## **North America**

United States and Canada

## **Africa**

Botswana, Brunei, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

## **Latin America and Caribbean**

Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Dominica

## **Asia and Pacific Islands**

Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka

## **Australia**

Australia, New Zealand

Did you know that the vocabulary describing the body contains a *treasure trove of information*? Many of the words utilized to describe parts of the body usually have several grammatical functions. The word **hand**, for example, can be a noun, (I hurt my **hand**. Can you give me a **hand**?) or a verb (**Hand** me the tool). The richness of the vocabulary utilized to describe the body, however, does not stop at the level of structure. In fact, it goes hand in hand with the other with what can be another problematic aspect of not just English, but with any language. The literal versus the metaphorical meaning of a word. The body term **mind** is a prime example. The **mind** is only literal as a noun (its first and primary definition, the secondary definitions are figurative); as a verb **mind** is only figurative or metaphorical:

### **mind**

1. intellect, intellectual faculty, cognitive function  
His **mind** is something magnificent to observe.
2. psyche, ego, subconscious
3. soul, spirit, inner being
4. (slang) genius, mental giant, brain, Einstein, wizard, whiz  
He is a **mind** that I would love to explore.
5. brain power, brains, wit, quickness, wittiness  
He has a sharp **mind**; nothing escapes his attention.
6. (slang) gray matter, smarts, **good head on his shoulder**, noggin, noodle
7. sanity, saneness, senses

8. (slang) marbles  
He has lost his **mind**.
9. rationality, sense of reason, judgment, common sense  
How his **mind** works is beyond me.
10. disposition, humor, temperament
11. bent, tendency, propensity  
His **mind** tends to focus on the morbid.
12. feeling, partiality, bias, liking, belief
13. notion, whim, idea
14. intention aim, purpose, design

### **to mind**

1. to attend, give one's attention to, pay attention to  
**Mind** my words; it's not over.
2. to watch, to see, to observe, to pay heed to
3. to obey, follow, adhere to, to respect  
If you do not **mind** me, you will pay the consequences.
4. to attend, to watch, to look after

Can you **mind** the children while I run to the store.

5. to guard, to be careful, to be wary, to think twice of, to weigh  
**Mind** him; he can't be trusted.
6. to care about, to be concerned about  
I do **mind** where and how you live.
7. to remember, to recall, to recollect  
I **mind** the day when I first came here.

The body term **mind** is by no means unique. Many of the meanings of different body parts have been greatly stretched beyond the literal. Do you know what it is to be a **second-hand Rose**? Are you a **brain**? What's a **no brainer**? What does it mean to **press the flesh**? Have you ever had anyone **sweep you off your feet** or to **pull your leg**?

In the following sentences, can you determine the part of speech, (noun, verb, adjective, or adverb), of the words of the body? Does that information have anything to do with your understanding the meaning of the sentences? If so, why? Does, for example, the definition of the word '**head**' changes depending on whether it is a verb or noun? Are there sentences which you understand while others you have absolutely no idea of their meaning? Do you know why? Do you think that the literal versus figurative meaning has anything to do with your ability to understand a word? You probably know the literal meaning of each part of the body. That is a matter of study and memorization. However, do you have any idea what words such as '**heart**', '**head**', '**face**', and '**stomach**' mean culturally in English? In other words, figuratively or



metaphorically speaking, what do you know what the above words mean?

### **The Body**

1. Whatever you decide to do, it **is no skin off my teeth**.
2. It's not true that one can not be too thin. She's only **skin and bones** and she looks horrible.
3. They **dropped to their knees** and prayed.
4. When the other car hit me from behind. I hit my **head**.
5. I'll **scratch your back** if you scratch mine; therefore, if you **back** my bill, I'll support yours.
6. It was not easy for him to **face** the child that he had abandoned.
7. He **shouldered** his way through the crowd.
8. I was able to do it because I **figured** that I could not lose.
9. He is always **throwing out his chest** and bragging about his accomplishments.
10. He had to **pay an arm and a leg** for the house.
11. After living abroad, I have a **cast-iron stomach**. I can eat anything with no problem of getting sick.

12. Despite my arguments and pleas, he **turned a deaf ear**.
13. That dress with its very long neckline is definitely **eye-catching**.
14. The child **mouthed** his response.
15. My God, they sure must be in lust. They are always **necking**.
16. His guilt is **as plain as the nose on his face**.
17. I'll **keep my fingers crossed** that everything goes according to plan.
18. He can't help you; he **is all thumb**.
19. She is always putting her life **on the back burner**. Everything and everyone come before her.
20. He has such a **big head** that I doubt he even knows that you exist.
21. Ever since she married, she has been living in the **lap of luxury**.
22. The reason that he was able to be promoted so quickly and easily was that he **got a leg up**.
23. I can't **stomach** not only her but anyone in her family.
24. She fought her attacker **tooth and nail**.
25. He **fingered** the man who robbed him.

26. They **handed around** the cigarettes.
27. You have the worst **handwriting** in the world.
28. The way that he was **eying** her was an embarrassment.
29. His guilt is **written all over his face**.
30. As he is the president of the company, he will **head** the meeting.
31. His method is **cutthroat**. Expect no mercy from him.
32. He only **pays lip service to** respecting the law.

(all these sentences, and their meaning, are in **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF INFORMATION**)

From what has been written above, it is obvious the vocabulary describing the body contains a treasure trove of information. Much of the vocabulary utilized to describe body usually have several grammatical functions as well as metaphorical meanings.

*Clarifyingit.com* has created and published **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF MEANING** to help you to begin to understand the most creative, illuminating, and culturally specific area of English: **The Body**.

## What do you know about the body and the words that describe it?

1) With the exception of the **jaw**, **face**, **penis**, **vagina**, **testicles** and the **figure**, the words which describe the external body come from the Germanic rather than Latin side of English. Therefore, English-, Dutch-, German-, Swedish-, and Norwegian-speakers share, or at least at one time had shared, many of the same words to name different parts of the body. The reason for this is simple. Most of words to describe the body in English are some of the oldest in the language. Many have been in the language before 900: **neck**, **mouth**, **tongue**, **tooth**, **ear**, **throat**, **chest**, **finger**, **eye**, **nose**, **toe**, **nail**, and **foot**. Others have been present since 1000: **lips**, **chin**, **breast**, **bosom**, **elbow**, **back**, **buttock**, **hip**, and **ankle**.

2) Although most of the words to describe the external body are Germanic, the vocabulary to describe the internal organs are much more balanced between the two areas of English, the Latin-based and Germanic-based. However, it should be noted that the most important organs in English are Germanic-based: **heart**, **mind**, **liver**, **bone** and **gut**. All these words became a part of English during the language earliest period; except for the **gut**, which entered the language before 1000, all entered into the language before 900.

3) The Latin-based names for internal organs, for example the **skeleton**, the **spleen**, the **stomach**, and the **spine**, are all relatively new to the language. **Skeleton** came into the language in the late 16th century, **spleen** in the late 13th to early 14th century, **stomach** in the early 16th century, and **spine** in the early to mid-15th century.

It should also be noted that those Latin-based words used to describe the outer-body are also relatively recent entries. **Face** came into

the language in mid 13th to early 14th century, **figure** in 12th century, and **vagina** and **penis** in the late 17th century.

4) There are a number of words in English, which may appear to come from the same source but do not. The word '**arm**' is a primary example. When referring to the part of the body, the word is one of the oldest in the language. It came into English before 900. It is of Germanic origin (Old English **earm**; Old Norse **armr**; Old Frisian **erm**; Old Swede, Old High German, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Frisian, African, Dutch **arm**, German and Swiss German **Arm**, Icelandic **armur** **handleggur**, Latin **brachium** **bracchium**, French **bras**, Spanish **brazo**, Italian **braccio**, Portuguese **braço**)

'Arms,' when it refers to weapons, as in firearms, originated from Latin. It came into English through Old French. Its entrance into the vocabulary is relatively recent. As a verb, 'arm' came into the language from the early to mid 13th century (to arm: Middle English and Anglo-French **armen**, Old French **armer**, Latin **armare**). As a noun, it came into the language a hundred years later (Middle English **armes**, Latin **arma**).

The word for '**butt**' is also very interesting. When the word refers to the **buttock**, **derriere**, **backside**, or **rear end**, its origin is from the Dutch '**bot**', which means 'stumpy' and the Swedish and Danish 'but' which means 'stubby.' When '**butt**' means to strike or push with the head or horns, the origin of the word is the Anglo-French or Old French for 'to thrust or to strike' (Anglo-French **butter**, Old French **boter**). When '**butt**' refers to a target or a person who is the object of ridicule or contempt its origin is Middle French.

## The Body, figuratively speaking

Do you know what the **cheeks** symbolize? If I tell you to not give me any **cheek**, what am I saying? (*Don't talk back to me*). Did you know that the **shoulder** is both a noun and a verb? Did you also know that the figurative meaning of **shoulder**, as a verb, is to push, shove, bear, support, or assume responsibility? When **the cat has your tongue**, what does he have? (*your power to speak*) If you shout out to me, just before going out to do a performance, **break a leg**, are you wishing me harm? No. To shout '**break a leg**' means good luck or 'knock them dead.' If you '**lose your heart**' is it as bad as to '**lose your mind**.' No. '**To lose one's mind**' is not at all good. It only means 'to go crazy.' '**To lose one's heart**' can either be good or bad. It all depends on to whom you lose it. If it is to someone who does not feel the same way, it is bad and very painful. However, if the other person feels the same, it is not only good; it is fantastic. '**To lose one's heart**' is to fall madly in love or '**to fall head over heels**.' Does '**to not have teeth**' have anything to do with '**not having the stomach for something**.' No. It also has nothing to do with '**not having a heart**' or '**not having the heart**', '**the gall**', '**the nose**', '**the eye**', or '**the ear for**'. If something does not **teeth**, it has no power or force. A law or regulation only has **teeth** if it has the power to make people obey. If it does not, **it has no teeth**. **To not have the stomach for something** is not to have the desire to do something. If I don't have the **stomach** for a fight, it means that I do not want to fight. '**To not have a heart**' means that you are not a very nice person. '**To not have the heart**' means that you are unable to, not able to or not will to do something. If you **have gall**, it means that you are very audacious, bold, **cheeky** or imprudent. '**To have the nose for**' is to be good at finding and recognizing something or to have the talent for something. '**To have the nose for news**' means that you are either a good reporter or gossip. If you **have the eye for someone** it means

that you like that person; that you find that person attractive. '**To have the ear for something**' means that you have a natural or innate ability to learn music or languages.

Almost each part of the body symbolizes at least one characteristic or trait. At times, a body part represents more than one attribute. The **heart**, for example, does not only stand for love. In the expression, **to get to the heart of the matter**, **heart** is synonymous to the core, kernel, seed, and germ. In the expression **to learn something by heart** is to memorize or know something word for word. '**To eat one's heart out**' has nothing to do with the core of something, memorizing something, or being in love. In this expression the **heart** represents sorrow, mourning, pining for or agonizing over.

The attributes or qualities which a culture gives to different parts of the body reveal a great deal about how that culture sees itself and its members. **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** is an extensive dictionary which not only aids you in learning how different parts of the body are used both grammatically and semantically but it is also a *cultural text* whose main goal is to help you to understand how different parts of the English-speaking world see its reality.

How one sees the **mind**, the **heart**, the **liver**, the **gall-bladder**, the **penis**, the **eyes**, or **ears** has a lot to do with the culture in which one lives. In Spanish, for example, the digits on one's **hands** and one's **feet** have the same name (*dedos* and *dedos de pie*). In English, that is not the case. As odd as it might sound, English-speakers have much more of a relationship with the digits on their **hands**, (**fingers**), than on those on their **feet**, (**toes**). Did you know that in English each **finger** has a name? The finger in English which is associated with insulting someone is **the**

**middle finger**). It is **the ring finger** which is associated with both getting engaged and married. It is **the thumb** which is used to hitch-hike or get a free ride.

**Fingers** are used to express a variety of things in society. It is associated with controlling someone, (**to wrap someone around one's little finger**), with hoping for the best (**to cross one's fingers**) and with having a bad experience (**to get one's fingers burned**). Either individually or as a group, toes have no such associations. It should not be surprising, therefore, that, relatively speaking, there are almost no expressions which **toes**.

## **How can THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE help you?**

Understanding how the body is seen in English allows you to go beyond the superficial. It helps you to get more than just a glimpse of how persons who speak English conceive and create their reality. Instead of consulting a vast number of dictionaries and language books of expressions, finally, there is a book which contains the overwhelming majority, if not all, the different meaning of words used to represent the body.

With **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE**, you can finally begin to **make heads or tails** (learn) of the metaphorical and cultural meanings of some of the most fundamental words of English. You will find that many jokes, puns, double-entendres and riddles will no longer **go over your head** (be outside your realm of understanding). At last you



will **have your feet firmly set on the path of** understanding and using English as it is actually understood and used.

As mentioned previously, the majority of the vocabulary used for the body are in Germanic in origin. However, English contains a number of Latin and Greek based affixes (prefixes and suffixes) which also mean parts of the body. **Body Language or The Body: A Treasure Trove of Language** contains some of the different Greek and Latin affixes which are in English. (See the example below) This section is especially important to the native speakers of English who is not familiar with the more formal or collegiate aspect of their vocabulary. This is the aspect of the language which must be mastered to pass the many standardized tests given throughout primary and secondary school. These are also the words that one must know to do well in the SAT's, ACT's or GRE's. In this work, the affixes will be presented with the definition; however, no examples will be given. To get a more detail explanation, including vocabulary, please consult the companion book, **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE: PREFIXES, SUFFIXES AND ROOTS.**

Also included in **THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE** are some of those verbs which naturally go with a particular body part. For example, in the section on the **'blood'**, a section on the verb **'to bleed'** will also be included. Another example would in the section on 'the mind,' a number of verbs, such as 'to think', 'to know' and 'to remember' will be examined from different perspective.

## How THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE is structured:

There are quite a few of books on body idioms; however, there is no book on the market which is as complete as the one which you are now reading. Most books normally give the expression and a one sentence explanation. THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE gives the reader more, much more. Not only are you presented with an explanation of what a particular word means both literally and metaphorically, the different meanings are subdivided into categories: **standard, more stylized** or **formal, informal** or **idiomatic** and **slang**. Whenever possible, other expressions are also given. Therefore, with THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE you not only learn how, for example, the **head** or **eyes** are used in English but other frequently used expressions are also given. The following is a sample of how THE BODY: A TREASURE TROVE OF LANGUAGE is structured:

### **Skin**

*(entered into English before 1000)*

Old English **scinn**, Middle English Old Norse **skinn**, Dutch **schinden**, Danish **hud skind**, Frisian **fel hûd**, Icelandic and Norwegian **hud**, Swedish **hud skinn skinna päls**, German **Schinden**, Latin **cutis**, French **peau**, Spanish **piel**

## Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **skin**:

**dermato-**, **dermat-**, **dermo-**, **derm-** (from Greek *derma*, skin)  
combining forms meaning skin, hide or covering

**-dermis** combining forms meaning skin, in general, or the layer of skin  
just below the epidermis (known as the derma)

**-dermatous** combining forms meaning skin meaning possessing skin or  
skinned

**pell-** (from Latin: *pell pellis* Greek: *pelz* a skin Latin: *pellicius* made  
of skins) combining forms meaning skin

### **skin**

1. epidermis, cuticle, derma, cutis, pellicle
2. (animal) hide, pelt, jacket, fleece, fell, fur, leather, vellum,  
integument
3. (fruit) rind, peel, hull, shell, husk, cover, covering, pod, case
4. overlay, coating, coat, layer, lamina, film
5. wineskin, pouch, container

### **to skin**

1. to peel, scale, bark, strip, scalp, unwrap, remove, shed  
It was not unusual **to skin** one's enemies in Ancient Mesoamerica.
2. (more stylized) to flay, exfoliate, scale, denude, excorticate,  
excoriate
3. (informal) to throw off, shed, strip off, cast off, peel off

4. (fruit or vegetables) to shell, husk, shuck, hull, rind, pare

### **skin and bones**

1. on the decline, very skinny, unhealthy, corpse-like, frail, underfed, undernourished, wasted, **skeletal**, too lean, deathly thin

I don't know what happened to her but she's nothing but **skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized) gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless, hollow-eyed**, shrunken, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned, hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**
3. (informal) thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished
4. (slang) scrawny, twiggy, **boney**, like a plucked chicken or skinny as a railing

### **skin deep**

1. superficial, on the surface, not very profound, not deep  
What she feels for you is only **skin deep**. She doesn't love you.

2. (more stylized) shallow, outermost, outside, external. outward, exterior  
It is true that beauty is only **skin deep**.

3. unreal, artificial, plastic, fake, fraud, delusion, phony

Can't you tell that that is she is only crying crocodile tears. Her feeling of sorrow is only **skin deep**.

4. (informal) hoax, make-believe, two-dollar bill, ruse, sham

5. empty, devoid, slight, meaningless, unimportant, signifying nothing, vacuous

His feelings for you are only **skin deep**. Can't you see that?

6. (more stylized) of little or no import, inconsequential, hollow negligible, insubstantial, inconsequential matter, inconsiderable, inappreciable, inane
7. (informal) petty, paltry, trivial, not worth mentioning, frivolous
8. (slang) no-account, picayune, penny-ante, fiddling, trifling, not worth a hill a beans, plug nickel, not worth the paper it is printed on, straw, red cent

### **skin flick**

1. adult films, films dominated by sex, pornographic, obscene, lewd, vulgar or coarse, x-rated films, sexploitation

Another name for **skin flick** is pornography.

2. (more stylistic) films which are suggestive, prurient, indecent, profane, salacious, fulsome or erotic
3. (informal) films which are vile, nasty, filthy, raunchy, risqué, off-color, hard-core, soft-core or bawdy, peep shows, blue movies, pornography
4. (slang) films which are smutty, gross or blue, stag films, nudies, cheesecake, porn, **leg art**

### **skin flint**

1. to be extraordinarily cheap, frugal, economical or thrifty

My aunt was a real **skin flint**. She would not lend a penny without asking for interest.

2. (more formal) brummagem, parsimonious, miserly,
3. (informal) **closed-fisted**, stingy, penny pincher, tight, **tightfisted**  
cheapskate, tightwad, money-grubber, miserly, petty

What a **skin flint**!

### **to be wet to the skin**

1. to be wet, very wet or soaked  
  
He got caught in the rain and **was wet to the bone**.
2. (more stylized/formal) to be imbrued, immerged saturated,  
immersed, infused, penetrated, impregnated, imbued, inundated
3. (informal) to be wringing wet, soggy, **soaked to the bone**, soak  
and wet, doused, drenched, wet down, soaked through, drowned,  
sopping, dripping, wet through, sippy, **wet to the bone** or soused

**THE BODY AND ITS  
TWISTED HISTORY IN  
THE ENGLISH**

The study of the language of the body in English is the study of the long, twisted, and, at times, incredulous development of one of most rigid, flexible, irregular, simplified and widely studied and spoken, languages to ever develop.

English is like an onion, each layer representing a period of great change. Although wrapped in an outer layer of Latin and French, this covering is somewhat a roost. Although the overwhelming majority of English words draw their origin from Old French, Anglo-French, Parisian French, Latin, and Greek, English is not a Romance language; it never has been. Even during the period of Roman domination, the period when many of the Romance languages in Western and Southern Europe were being developed, the Latin influence on the language and culture of what was then Britain was superficial, at best. With the exception of persons at the very highest level of society, most of the British remained Celtic, linguistically and culturally speaking.

Perhaps if the Romans had not been forced to withdraw, Roman culture and language would have slowly spread throughout Britain. And, as a result, Britain would have eventually developed the type of language and culture which had been flourishing across the channel in France. However, in 450 Britain's ties to the dying Roman Empire and its colonies were cut. It was in that year when factions of the western branch of the Germanic groups (Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Frisians) crossed the North Sea to conquer and colonize what would eventually become England.

The invasion and colonization of England was unlike what had happened in other parts of the former Roman Empire. Across the Channel in France, for example, the Franks did not destroy the different peoples whom they encountered; nor did the different Germanic peoples



who invaded Spain and Italian. One of the main reasons for the non-annihilation was that what the Gauls, Visigoths and Goths found were highly Romanized hybrids. Rather than destroy, the victor assimilated with the vanquish. It is for this reason that France, Spain, Italy and Portugal remained culturally and linguistically an extension of the Roman Empire, long after its destruction. As a result, these countries developed closely related languages which belong to the Roman or Latin branch of the Indo-European Family of Languages.

England's fate was radically different. By the time the different Germanic groups invaded Britain, the little bit of Latin culture which had been adopted had been almost completely replaced by the native Celtic ones. The different Germanic groups were quite familiar, and as mentioned previously, greatly respectful of the Romans, their culture and language. They felt no such reverence toward the Celts. They either killed or drove westward most of the Celtic inhabitants of England. Prior to the Germanic invasions, Britain had belonged to Celtic language group. After, as a result of the almost complete destruction of the native population, the language, and culture, which developed and flourished in England firmly belonged in the Germanic camp. With the exception of a few place names, Celtic influence in English ceased.

### **Old English**

The language which developed as a result of the Germanic invasion was purely Germanic. It is true that the different Germanic groups had, before, and especially after the conquest, had come in contact with Latin. However, the Latin adopted did not come from every area of the language. Most of the words were religious; which was only natural since most of the contact between the Germans and Romans was through the Church in the form of Roman missionaries. The English also borrowed from Latin to express new ideas in the area of clothing,

and food. All together, during this time, approximately 450 words from Latin were adopted into English. (see appendix 1)

Despite, the incorporation of Latin into English, the culture and language which developed in England, up until the twelfth century, were almost purely Germanic in nature. The Jutes and Saxons formed the basis of the Kentish and the Southern English dialects. The Anglians settled in two areas, the northern and center areas. They were responsible for the Midland and Northumbrian form of English. It was also during this period, as a result of the ascendancy of the West-Saxon kingdom, the written dialect of Wessex became, for a time, the written standard language of England. During that period, works were either written in West Saxon or works written in other dialects were translated into it.

For the first three centuries after the destruction of the Roman Empire, the western branch of the Germanic language formed the basis of the English language. It from this period that one hundred of the most common words in English come. (appendix 2)

The following are the words of the body which entered into English during its first three hundred years. This period of the English language is called, *Old English* or *Anglo-Saxon*

**Body language**

**(entered into the language before 900)**

**Body**

Old English **bodig**, Old High German **botah**

### **Flesh**

Old English **flask**, Middle English **flask**, Old Frisian **flask**, Old High German **fleisk**, Old Norse **flesk**, German **Fleisch**, Dutch **vless**

### **Limb**

Old and Middle English **lim**, Old Norse **lim**

### **Head**

Old English **heafod**, Middle English **he(v)ed**, Old High German **houbit**, Old Norse **hofuth**, Dutch **hoofd**

### **Hair**

Old English **hær hære**, Middle English **here haire**, Dutch **haar**, German **Haar**, Old Norse **har hæra**, Old High German **haria**

### **Eye**

Old English **ege (eage)**, Middle English **eie ie**, German **Auge**, Dutch **oog**

### **Ear**

Old English **eare ear æhher**, Middle English **ere**, Old Norse **eyra ax**, German **Ohr Ähre**, Dutch **oor aar**

### **Nose**

Old English **nosu nasu næse**, Frisian **noas**, Icelandic **nōs**, Danish **næse**, Norwegian **nese**, Dutch **neus**, German **Nase**, Swedish **näsa**, Latin **nasus**, French **nez**, Spanish **nariz**

### **Mouth**

Old and Middle English **muth**, Old Norse **munnr**, German

**Mund**, Dutch **mond**

### **Tongue**

Old and Middle English **tunge tungen**, Old Norse

**tunga**, Dutch **tong**, German **Zunge**

### **Tooth/Teeth**

Old and Middle English **toth**, Old Norse **tonn**, Dutch

**tand**, German **Zahn**

### **Cheek**

Old English **ce(a)ce ceoce**, Middle English **cheke**, Dutch

**kaak**, Middle Lower German **kake**

### **Neck**

Old English **hnecca**, Middle English **nekke**, Old Norse

**hnakki**, Dutch **nek**, German **Nacken**

### **Shoulder**

Old English **sculdor**, Middle English **sholder schulder**

**shulderen**, Dutch **schouder**, German **Schulter**

### **Hand**

Old and Middle English **hand hond**, Old Norse **hond**,

Dutch **hand**, German **Hand**, Goth **handus**

### **Arm**

Old and Middle English **earm**, Old Frisian **erm**, Goth **arms**, Old Norse **armr**, Old High German Old Swedish Dutch **arm**, German **Arm**

### **Finger**

Old and Middle English **finger**, Old Norse **fingr**, Dutch **vinger**, German **Finger**, Gothic **figgers**

### **Thumb**

Old and Middle English **thuma**, Old Norse **thumall**, Dutch **duim**, German **Daumen**, Old Swede and Old High German **dumo**

### **Nail**

Old English **nægel næglan**, Middle English **nayl naille**, Old Frisian **neil**, Old Swede and Old High German **nagal**, Old Norse **nagl**, Germanic **naglaz**, Dutch **nagel**, German **Nagel**

### **Quick**

Old English **cuic cwicu**, Middle English **quik**, Old Norse **kvikr**, Old Swede **quik**, German **queck keck**, Latin **vivus**, French **vif**, Spanish **carne viva**

### **Fist**

Old English **fyst**, German **Faust**, Dutch **vuist**

### **Lap**

Old English **læppa**, Middle English **lappe**, Old Norse **lappr**, Dutch **lap**, German **Lappen**

### **Knee**

Old English **cneo**, Middle English **cneo(w)**, Old Norse **kne**, German **Knie**, Dutch **knie**, Latin **genu**, French **genou**, Spanish **rodillas**

### **Foot**

Old and Middle English **fot**, German **Fuss**, Dutch **voet**, Greek **poús pod**, Latin **pes ped**, French **pie**, Spanish **pie**

### **Toe**

Old and Middle English **ta**, Old Norse **ta**, German **Zeh Zehe**, Dutch **teen**, Latin **digitus**, French **doigt**, Spanish **dedo de pie**

### **Heel**

(entered into English before 850)

Old and Middle English **hela**, Old Norse **hæll**, Dutch **hiel**

### **Behind**

Old English **behindan**, Middle English **behinden**

## **Late Old English (Early Middle English)**

The **northern branch of the Germanic language** did not begin to influence English until the latter part of the eighth and ninth century.

From almost three hundred years, until the eleventh century, England was bombarded by invading groups from Scandinavia. The Scandinavians, depending on their nationality, settled in the urban as well as the rural areas of England. While the Norwegians colonized Ireland, the Scottish Island, the Isle of Man, and parts of England's north-west, the Danes settled mostly in the north and east part of England.

Unlike the first Germanic invasion of the Celtic Britain, the Scandinavian overrun of England did not lead to the elimination the English. The fundamental reason was simple. They were the same people; therefore, the racial and linguistic animosity which had marked the first invasion was absent. Destruction was replaced by absorption and assimilation. The language which the invaders spoke, Old Norse, helped to form the basis of what is now standard English.

At the core, Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse were the same language. Despite the differences in grammar, persons who communicated in Old English and Old Norse were mutually intelligible. In the area of vocabulary, many words were either identical or very similar. As a result, the type of influence that Old Norse had in English was not destructive. Although there were cases where Old Norse terms did replace Anglo-Saxons ones, the norm was that the borrowing of Old Norse words took place when there were no Old English equivalent. In the area of vocabulary, two of the most distinctive borrowings of Old Norse into English were words with 'sk' or the 'sk' sound, (sky or scrub), and those with the hard 'g' sound, (get or egg).

Old Norse words which entered into the language were not only content words (**open class words**). People from one language group are constantly borrowing words from this area of the lexicon (nouns, verbs,

adjective and adverbs). Although it should be mentioned that many of the **content words** borrowed from Old Norse were core words; that is, words which either have no synonyms or those which are used to name things in a language which do not have synonyms. What was extremely unusual about the influence of Old Norse on English was that **functions words** were also borrowed. Function words are structural or grammatical and, therefore, belong to **closed class words**. Very rarely, if ever, are new words added to this category.

Words from Old Norse did not begin to be used in English until after the 11th century, once the Vikings had invaded, and sacked, both south-west and south-east England.

### **Body Language**

(entered into English before 1000)

#### **Skin**

Old English **scinn**, Middle English **skinn**, Old Norse **skinn**, Dutch **schinden**, German **Schinden**

#### **Brow/ lash**

Old English **bru**, Middle English **browe**, Old Norse **brun**, German **braue**

#### **Lip**

Old English **lippa**, Middle English **lippe**, Dutch **lip**, German **Lippe**, Norwegian **lepe**

#### **Chin**

Old and Middle English **cin cinn**, Old Norse **kinn**, Dutch **kin**, German **Kinn chin**



### **Elbow**

Old English **elnboga elboga**, Middle English **elbowe**, Old Norse **olnbogi**, Middle Dutch **ellenboghe elleboog**, Old High German **ellinbogo**, German **Ellenbogen**

### **Knuckles**

Middle English **knokel**, Middle Low German Middle Dutch **knökel**, Dutch **kneukel (knok)**, German **Knöchel (Knochen)**

### **Back**

Old English **bak**, Middle English **bæc**, Old Frisian **bek**, Old Norse Old Swede **bak**

### **Leg**

Middle English and Old Norse **leggr**, Danish **læg**

### **Buttock**

Old English **buttuc**, Middle English **buttok**

### **Ass** (*vulgar*)

*Old English ærs ears, Middle English ars, Old Frisian ers, Old Norse, Middle Low German, Old Swedish, and Old High German ars, Dutch aars*

Although many of the words spoken during this period were later eliminated, according to some accounts eighty-five percent, the importance of Old English in Modern English can not be exaggerated. The fact is that Old English forms the backbone of the English which is spoken today. It is for this reason that, despite all the subsequent influence that Latin, (both the classical and vulgar version); Classical

Greek; and French, (both the Norman and Parisian version); may have had, English is not a Romance language. At its core, English is a Germanic language. Because of Old English, the basic structure of English is Germanic. The bulk of the prepositions, pronouns, auxiliaries, conjunction as well as words of fundamental concept come to English from the old English period. Most of the most frequently used words in English trace their origin back to Old English. Therefore, to find the cognates of most, if not all, of the most basic, fundamental, and frequently used words of English, one must go to the different Germanic languages of both branches of the language tree. (appendix 4)

### **Middle English**

The Norman Invasion took place in 1066. However, although the Normans greatly influenced the English language, for the first century or so Old English remained, in general, unchanged. For the student of the history of the English language, even fifty years or so after the Norman invasion, English had remained being a language which most English speakers would not easily recognize. Although inflections for both nouns and adjectives were becoming obsolete, inflections in other areas of the grammar were still important.

Old English started transitioning into Middle English around the mid point of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Although not a language that most speakers of modern English would recognize, Middle English most definitely was a language much more recognizable. In every area, English was changing. In the areas of pronunciation, the pronunciation of vowels was becoming more like their pronunciation in modern English. For example, long vowels became short when they were before two or more consonants: sleep vs. slept/ deep vs. depth . Another example would be the elimination of diphthongs as in the word 'deop' to the

simple vowel and the replacement of the 'y' in words such as 'hyll' or 'fyr' to the 'i' as in 'hill' and 'fire'. In the area of orthography the transition from Old to Middle English was nothing to sneeze at: 1) the elimination of the 'æ' to, depending on the word, the short 'a' or long 'e', 2) the replacement of the 'c' with the 'ch' as in 'child', 3) the replacement of 'cw' with 'qu' as in 'queen', 4) the elimination of þ and ð with the 'th' and 5) the replacement of the 'c' for the 'k' before front vowels as in the word 'keep'. In the area of grammar the changes were quite dramatic. In a nutshell, English ceased being a synthetic or inflected language in which some words indicate such grammatical relationship such as number, case, gender or tense. English became an analytical language in which particles, rather than inflections, are used to express grammatical relationships (*handsomer* vs *more handsome*). In the area of verbs, English began to have only two cases, strong and weak, now known as regular and irregular.

Ironically enough, even a century after the Norman conquest, the influence of French in English was kept at a minimum. The reasons for this are numerous. For one, English was considered the language of the socially inferior; therefore, as a rule, it was treated by elites of the society, many of whom did not speak or understand English, with indifference. As a result, the language was, for almost two centuries, considered a dialect spoken by those who had no power. Norman French remained in its position as the official language until the forced separation of Normandy from England. Although during this period a great number of words from French enter into English, the number was no where near the amount that would be borrowed later.

French imported more than ten thousand words into English. As a result, hundreds of words from Old and Middle English were forced out of the language. (appendix 5) However, it must never be forgotten that

despite tremendous influence that French had in English, it never had the impact that Old Norse had. Old Norse actually changed the very essence of English; French did not. The reasons are not hard to understand. By 1066, English was too well established in both its written and spoken form to be easily eliminated or changed. Norman French never became a natural language of England as a whole; it was only a means of communication to the tiny elite of the country. Also, intermarriage can not be ignored. The Normans did not remain separate from the population which they conquered. Many times the offspring of such unions spoke either both Norman French and English or only English.

English remained English; French was incorporated within the existing structure to make it stronger and richer. In no area of structure did French change English. This fact can be easily demonstrated. For example, in the area of syntax (word order) only in very few cases do adjectives follow the noun (attorney general or court martial). In all other cases, the norm is that the adjective precedes the noun. Another example would be in the area of verbs. When French verbs entered into English, their grammatical structures remained outside. That is to say, only the essence of the verb was incorporated; all of their grammatical endings were eliminated. They generally came into the language as regular rather than irregular verbs. As a result, the 'weak' past inflection 'ed', became much more dominant, eventually becoming the normal ending of most verbs in English in the past tense. It is for this reason that the overwhelming majority of irregular verbs in the past are from the Germanic, rather than the French or Latin, area of English.

(appendix 6)

French did not enter the language English all at once. It did so in stages:

1. first one hundred years ---- no increase of French in English
2. last one half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century ---- slight increase
3. 1200-1250 ---- increase
4. post 1250 ---- greater increase
5. 1300-1400 ---- period of the greatest borrowing
6. 1400 ---- sharp drop and eventual tapering off

### **Words of the body which came into English prior to 1250**

#### **Figure**

(1175-1225)

Old French and Middle English **figure**, Latin **figura**, French **forme**, Spanish **figura**

### **Words of the body which came into English post 1250**

#### **Face**

(1250-1300)

Middle English, Anglo-French, Old French **facia**, Latin **facies**,  
Late Middle English **facen**, French **visage face**, Spanish **cara**

#### **Whiskers** (whisk + er)

(1325-1375)

#### **whisk**

Middle English (Scots) **wysk**, Scots **wisk quhisk**, Old Norse **visk**,  
Swedish **viska**, Danish **vishe**, Old High German **wisken**

### **Jaw**

(1325-1375)

Middle English **jawe jowe**, Latin **maxilla mala fauces**, Old French **joue joe**, French **mâchoire**, Spanish **mandibula**

### **Palm**

(1300-1350)

Old English **folm**, Middle English **paume**, Middle French and Latin **palma**, French **paume**, Spanish **palma**

### **Stomach**

(1300-1350)

Middle English **stomack**, Old French **stomaque estomac**, Greek **stomakhos**, Latin **stomachus venter**, French **estomac**, Spanish **estómago**

### **Testicles**

(1375-1425)

Latin **testiculus**, French **testicules**, Spanish **testiculos**

The late Middle Ages was one of great changes in England. The growth of towns, the death of feudalism, hastened by the Black Death, and the rise of the middle class and free, self-governing communities all led to the growing domination and self-assuredness of the English language and culture. Slowly, all levels of the population began to see that the language in which they communicated was more than a dialect that only the peasantry spoke.

The new attitude led to the growing importance of English in all areas of society. The fourteenth century witnessed the resurgence of English in the official and governmental spheres. In 1349, English began to replace French as the language of instruction; by 1382, it was rare to

find a school where French, rather than English, was the language of instruction. In 1362, Parliament opened, for the first time, in English rather than French. It was also in that year that law courts were ordered to be conducted in English rather than Norman French.

The new growing self-awareness of English continued into fifteenth century. It was the period that the first monarchs who were completely fluent in English reigned, Richard II and Henry IV. It was also in that period that Geoffrey Chaucer wrote *Canterbury Tales*, William Langland wrote *Piers Plowman*, and John Wycliffe for the first time, successfully translated the entire bible into English.

As Englishmen became more confident in the language which they spoke, they opened up to possibilities which had once been rejected. As was shown in the table above, it was not until the fourteenth and fifteenth century that thousands of French words were allowed to enter into English. It was also during these centuries that a large number of Latin words entered English.

Throughout the history of English, Latin has, on and off, entered English. However, it was not until the period immediately prior to and during the Renaissance, did the English begin to borrow Latin in any great quantity. Although there were scholars such as Sr. John Cheke, who believed that English could be used to express any idea, there were those who believed that English was a language which could, without any problem, put into words less sophisticated, more concrete ideas. It was ideal to express blunt, straightforward and plain-spoken ideas. However, Latin and Greek were considered much better suited to verbalize the more abstract, nuance, subtle and conceptual areas of life.

Originally, much of the Latin which had come into English had done so indirectly French. That changed, however, once original Latin text became available. Latin, and eventually Greek, began to be borrowed directly.

By the time the early modern period, all the vocabulary used to describe the body was already well established. The only new words of the body which came into the language were those of the internal organs. The body parts which were discovered during the early modern and modern period have either Latin or Greek origin, languages which doctor and scientist continued utilizing long after the world had ceased. Of these parts of the body, almost none is rich in metaphors or symbolism.



# *THE BODY:*

*A TREASURE TROVE OF  
MEANINGS IN ENGLISH*

*VOLUME 1: THE BODY,  
FIGURE, LIMB, SKIN AND  
FLESH*

# Body

*(entered into the English language before 900)*

Old English **botah bodig**, Dutch **lichaam lijk**, Danish **krop**,  
German **Körper Leichnam**, Swedish **en kropp**, Norwegian **legeme**,  
Afrikaans **liggaam**, Frisian **lichem lichaamlik**, Latin **corpus**  
**cadaver**, French **corps**, Spanish **cuerpo**

## Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **body**:

**corp-**, **corpor-**, **corpus-** (Latin: *corpus corporis* the body Old French  
and French *corps*: the body *corporare* to make into a body)

**soma-**, **som-**, **somat-**, **somato-**, **-soma**, **-soma**, **-somaus**, **-somia**,  
**-somic**, **-somal**, **-somite**, **-somatous**, **-somatia**, **-somatic** (Gr: body/  
nature)

**phys-** (body/nature)

**orga-**, **organ-** (Gr: organized structure/ pertaining to a specific body part  
with specific function or set of functions/instrument, tool, implement)

## **body**

1. physical structure and material substance of a human being and an animal, including **bones, flesh,** and **organs**

The human **body** is beautiful.

2. corporeal structure, bulk, build, **figure,** shape

The shape of a woman's **body** is different from culture to culture.

3. framework, **skeleton, flesh and bone, trunk, torso**

The **body** without **flesh and bone** is a **skeleton**.

4. carcass, corpse, cadaver, remains, ashes

Once a **body** no longer contains life it is called a corpse.

5. (slang) stiff

The slang expression for a dead **body** is 'stiff.'

6. person, human being, creature

I need to know how many **bodies** are present to decide on how much food to make.

7. majority, greater part, bulk, lion's part

The **body** of the population don't vote.

8. core, crux, essence, **heart**, kernel

The **body** of the argument makes no sense.

9. group, collectivity, mass, corps, band

They voted as a **body**.

10. (work) work party, detail, force

11. (military) force, detachment, squadron, army, troops,  
division, unit

12. group, crowd, gathering, community of worshipers, collection,  
congregation, assembly, Christian fellowship

13. (informal) pack, band, thong, mob, gang, crowd, horde

14. (animals) flock, herd, school, pride, gaggle, drove, bevy, covey,  
swarm, colony

15. density, firmness, consistency

16. lushness, richness, luxuriousness, shine, sheen, to be thick,  
healthy and full of luster

Some shampoos claim to give one's hair **body**.

### **to body**

1. to make substantial, furnish with a body
2. to embody, actualize, substantiate, personate, incarnate
3. to become part of, combine, unite, blend, join, mingle

### **body and soul**

1. completely, totally, positively, to the utmost, entirely, wholly, fully, fervently, without any doubt, to the limit, thoroughly, unreservedly, to the maximum, absolutely

She fought **body and soul** to achieve her goal.

2. (more stylized/formal) unambiguously, without equivocation, unequivocally, categorically
3. (informal) nothing short of, **heart and soul**, whole hog, to the full, to the hilt, through and through, in every respect, inside out, in the full
4. (slang) like mad, lock, stock and barrel, hook, line and sinker, like crazy
5. (Latin) *in toto*

### **body art**

the painting of the body with different type of images, including tattoos, wax casts and mutilation

### **body bag**

large bag made to contain human remains

Before a body is placed in a casket, it is kept in a **body bag**.

### **body blow**

1. being hard hit, during a fight, in the areas from the neck to the waist

The **body blow** that he gave him, knocked him out.

2. serious loss, total loss, dead loss, complete loss, disappointment, trouncing, defeat, discouragement, check, rout, beating

His betrayal was a **body blow** which took him years to get over.

3. (informal) to be a let down, bitter pill, comedown, **slap in the face**, downfall, beating, drubbing or rebuff

### **body builder**

one who exercises to put one's body in optimum shape, usually for a competition

She looks so good because she is a **bodybuilder**.

### **body building**

the act of putting the body in optimum shape, usually for a competition

### **body check**

1. to block an opponent by hitting, striking, or impacting him or her with the body

2. to collide with or crash against or into one's opponent with one's body
3. (informal) to bang into, slam or pummel one's opponent with one's body

### **body clock**

system which control the biological function of the body

A woman's **body clock** determines if and when she has a baby.

### **body color**

an opaque or non-transparent pigment, color, coloring, tint or hue

### **body corporation**

(legal) a person, association, or group of persons legally incorporated, a company or partnership which is a single entity

### **body count**

1. the number of soldiers who are dead after a confrontation

I don't believe the **body count** that the media gives in the reporting of this war.

2. the number of persons who are dead after a serious accident

The **body count** after the accident was high.

### **body double**

used in movies to substitute an actor, usually in nude scenes

Some actors do not like doing nude scenes; therefore, they use a **body double**.

### **body English**

the manner which one moves or twists the body after they have thrown or hit a ball as if that movement can influence where the ball lands.

### **bodyguard**

a person employed to protect someone (usually a celebrity, government official or leading business person)

To do his job well, a **body guard** must be well trained.

### **body image**

representation, in one's mind, of how one's **body** is or should be

Many women's **body image** is distorted.

### **body language**

the way in which one places one's body to silently and, many time unconsciously, communicates who one is and how one feels

His **body language** told me that he did not like anyone to touch him.

### **body mike**

a small, inconspicuous, wireless microphone used to amplify the voice

The reason that you can hear him so well is that he has on a **body mike**.

### **body odor**

the bad smell of the body

After I jog, my **body odor** is strong.

### **body of believers**

1. Christians, members of the Christian church, community of believers



It is believed that wherever the **body of believers** gather, Christ is there.

2. (more stylized) followers of Christ, Body of Christ, Christendom

### **Body of Christ**

1. assembly of Christians for the purpose of worship
2. the consecrated bread of the Eucharist, the holy communion

### **body of facts**

body of information or law, pantology, systematic view of all branches of human knowledge, work of universal information

### **body of information**

body of general information, facts, knowledge, data or knowledge

### **body of jurors**

1. panel of peer, jury, panel of one's peers
2. (more stylized) twelve just persons, venire men
3. (informal) twelve persons in a box

### **body of knowledge**

body of information, verities, principles, truths, realities, laws

**body of law**

body of regulations, facts, statues, measures or information

**body of myth**

tradition, mythology, folklore, lore

The Greek had created a **body of myth** that is still studied and written about.

**body of the book**

theme, subject, subject matter, treatise, dissertation of a book

The introduction of the book is deceiving because the **body of the book** is really good.

**body of the car**

the physical structure which contains the vehicle

After the accident, the **body of the car** was totally destroyed.

**body of the church**

the nave, principal, prime or the most important part of the church

The congregation attends services in the **body of the church**.

**body of the ship**

the physical structure which contains the ship

The **body of the ship** was gutted.

**body of the speech**

the most important part of the speech, excluding the introduction and the conclusion

The **body of the speech** is fantastic; I am not, however, crazy about the introduction.

**body of the tree**

trunk of a tree

They wrote on the **body of the tree**.

**body of the wine**

the fullness and color of the wine

**body of truths**

verity, facts, rules, laws, canon, certitude, facts which are self evident

**body of water**

large area of water i.e. a lake

**body of work**

1. the collection, group, set or series of books or documentation

The **body of work** that he has on the poet is truly impressive.

2. corpus

**body organs**

1. organs inside of the body, bowels, vital organs, internal organs, entrails, bowels, colons, colon

The names of most of the **body organs** in English are of Latin, rather than Germanic, origin

2. (informal) gizzards, innards, guts, vitals, liver and lights

**body piercing**

the process of placing holes in the body to decorate it with jewelry

**Body piercing** can be very painful.

**body politics**

a collective body of people such as a state or nation under an organized government, rank and file, the general public, community, commonwealth, participants, membership

**body piercing**

the process of placing holes in the body to decorate it with jewelry

**Body piercing** can be very painful.

**body rub**

massage

**body search**

thorough search of one's body for drugs, weapons or other type of counter band

**body shell**

the hard outer core, structure or framework of a vehicle

### **body shop**

1. a factory in which the **body of a car** is either manufactured or repaired

I sent my car to the **body shop** around the corner to remove the dents.

2. (slang ) an employee agency which specializes in providing workers for ground-level jobs

3. (slang) a gym or health club

I go to the **body shop** every day; otherwise, I gain weight.

### **body slam**

a term used in wrestling in which an opponent is lifted, hurled and thrown on the mat

The **body slam** that he gave his opponent must have been painful.

### **body snatcher**

1. a person who steals corpses once they have been buried

Because persons used to fear **body snatchers**, they would bury their loved-one in unmarked graves.

2. (informal) grave-robbers

3. an agency which recruits an already employed executive to fill the top management position of another company, many time for a rival company

### **body snatching**

1. the act of stealing a corpse

There was a time when **body snatching** was a major problem.

2. (informal) grave-robbing

### **a body that could kill**

1. well-built, attractive, pleasing to the eye

She has a **body that could kill**. She will have no problem getting a job as a model.

2. (more stylized/formal) well-endowed, voluptuous, interesting, appealing, stunning
3. (informal) well-shaped, proportioned, pleasing, **eye-filling**, inviting, **tooth-some**, **eye-catching**, tempting
4. (slang) stacked, **full-bosomed**, built, built like a brick house, shapely, busty, curvaceous
5. *(slang to vulgar) comely, great looking behind, desirable, come-hither*
6. *(vulgar) great looking ass, great looking hooter, ass that could kill*

### **body type**

1. type of print used in the main text of printed material
2. the shape of the body

Everyone's **body type** is different.

### **busybody**

1. prier, interloper, meddler, intruder, interferer, eavesdropper

She's such a **busybody** that I can't stand her.

2. (more stylized/formal) tale-bearer, slanderer informer, defamer
3. (informal) blabbermouth, gossip, snoop, chatterbox snooper, backbiter
4. (slang) buttinsky, tattle-tale, kibitzer, **nosy Parker**, yenta
5. (*Yiddish*) *cochieffel*

(British) **dog body**

1. one who is given menial tasks to do

Although right now I am a **dog body** in the company, it will not last.

2. (American English) gofer

**foreign body**

an object which is separate or alien to its surrounding

The body considers an implant a **foreign body**.

**full body**

1. fat, plump, well-proportioned, overweight, stout, round, rotund, heavy-set, **large boned**, heavy-framed, large-framed, **big boned**
2. (more stylized/formal) well-fed, **fleshy**, **full body**, ample, fattish, corpulent, portly, thickset, stocky, **moon-faced**, **round-faced**

3. (informal) pudgy, chunky, chubby, filled out
4. (slang) roly-poly, big as a cow, pig, ox or horse

### **heavenly body**

1. a planet i.e. Jupiter, Pluto,
2. heavens, cosmos, empyrean, vault of heaven, galaxy, to be planetary, heavenly or cosmic

### **legislative body**

the legislature

### **main body**

1. the most important part of, the most essential, basic point, essential part, basic idea, necessary, kernal, indispensable, core, the real meaning
2. (more stylized/formal) pith, essence, sum and substance, quintessence, vital, crux, focal point, that which is fundamental
3. (informal) **heart**, gist, soul, backbone, **lifeblood**, **marrow**, meat, **heart and soul**, what it's all about, nuts and bolts
4. (slang) nitty-gritty, what it all boils down to
5. (*Latin*) *sine qua non*
6. majority, gross, bulk, mass, overwhelming, greater part, greater percent, greatest percentage



7. (more stylized/formal) preponderance, plurality
8. (informal) lion's share, more than half, more than fifty percent

### **nice body**

1. curvy, shapely, striking, attractive, desirable, well-built, able-bodied, handsome
2. (more stylized/formal) voluptuous, well-endowed, voluptuous, interesting, appealing, stunning
3. (informal) sexy, **eye-catching**, well-shaped, proportioned, pleasing, **eye-filling**, inviting, **tooth-some**, **eye-catching**, tempting, **pleasing to the eye**
4. (slang) busty, foxy, sexy, built, stacked, having a body that could kill, built like a brick house, shapely, busty, curvaceous, **full-bosomed**
5. *(slang to vulgar) comely, great looking behind, desirable, come-hither*
6. *(vulgar) great looking ass, great looking hooter, ass that could kill*

### **out of body experience**

sensation of perceiving oneself from an external vantage point, being as if the soul or mind have removed itself from the body

An **out of body experience** is weird, scary and exhilarating.

### **over one's dead body**

said to emphasize one's unconditional opposition or determination

You will leave here only **over my dead body**.

**to arrive in a body**

1. to go or arrive to a place in a group, corps, team, band or party

The family **arrived in a body**.

2. (informal) to arrive in a knot, bunch, cluster or bundle
3. (informal/negative) to arrive in a mass, throng, crush, mob, knot, multitude, press, horde, swarm, crowd, thicket, pack, hodgepodge, clutter, rabble
4. (animals) to arrive at a place in a fold, bevy, herd, hive, covey, flock, school, swarm, gaggle, shoal or drove

**to be a body blow to all one's aspirations**

1. to be an action that causes severe disappointment, pain, sorrow, disillusionment, grief or disenchantment

My inability to convince him **was a body blow to all my aspiration**.

2. (informal) an action which crushes or squashes one's hopes and aspirations, to be humbling, humiliating, a great let down or a blow to one's hopes

**to be a busybody**

1. to pry, inquire, interlope, intrude, to be a meddler, snoop, gossip, interloper or intruder

What a neighbor!! He **is** such a **busybody**, waiting for the latest gossip.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be intrusive, officious or inquisitive

3. (informal) to **poke one's nose where it does not belong**, gossip, **mind other people's business**, **have one's finger in every pie**, to **be a busy-body**, a meddler, a snoop or a kibitzer, **be nosy**, **have one's nose in every door**, be meddlesome, overcurious or prying
4. (slang) to **be a big mouth**, newsmonger, cat chatterbox, tabby, gossipmonger, **blabbermouth** or buttinsky, be **nosey**, be a person who butts in or a Paul Pry
5. *(Yiddish) to be a cochieffel*

#### **to belong to someone's body and soul**

1. to belong to someone fully, totally, unconditionally, entirely, fervently and completely  
  
They will never divorce. They **belong to each other body and soul**.
2. (more stylized/formal) to belong to someone unreservedly, utterly, absolutely, wholly, unambiguously, unmitigatedly
3. (informal) to belong to someone across the board, bag and baggage, hook, line and sinker, through and through, nothing short of, whole hog, out and out, alpha and omega, from beginning to end

#### **to body mike**

to place a small, inconspicuous, wireless microphone so that the voice is amplified without inhibiting body movement

Because he was **body miked**, he could be heard clearly.

### **to body search**

to search, examine or frisk the body for concealed weapon or contraband goods

Many passengers are **body searched** in the airport to see if they have drugs or arms.

### **to come in a body**

1. to go to a place in a group, corps, team, band or party

The family **came in a body**.

2. (informal) to arrive in a knot, bunch, cluster or bundle, **arrive in a body**

3. (informal/negative) to arrive in a mass, throng, crush, mob, knot, multitude, press, horde, swarm, crowd, thicket, holi-poli, pack, hodgepodge, clutter, rabble

4. (animals) to arrive at a place in a fold, bevy, herd, hive, covey, flock, school, swarm, gaggle, shoal or drove

### **(to do something) over one's dead body**

to be determined that someone does not do something

You will leave here only **over my dead body**.

### **to have a body that could kill**

1. to be **able-bodied**, well-built, attractive, handsome or **pleasing to the eye**

She **has a body that could kill**. She could easily be a super-model.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be well-endowed, voluptuous, interesting, appealing or stunning
3. (informal) to be well-shaped, proportioned, pleasing, **eye-filling**, inviting, **tooth-some**, **eye-catching** or tempting
4. (slang) to be stacked, **full-bosomed**, built, built like a brick house, shapely, busty or curvaceous
5. *(slang to vulgar) to be comely, great looking behind, desirable or come-hither*
6. *(vulgar) to have great looking ass, great looking hooter or ass that could kill*

### **to have body**

to contain density, solidity, richness, substance, richness

I love this beer; it **has a lot of body**.

### **to have an out-of-body experience**

to have a near-death experience

When the car hit him, he said that he **had an out-of-body experience**.

### **to have no body**

to be without substance, structure or shape

This essay **has no body**; it nothing but an introduction and conclusion.

### **to keep body and soul together**

1. to be able to maintain, sustain or feed oneself, provide for oneself

Once she graduates from college, she going to have to learn to **keep body and soul together**.

2. (informal) to keep intact, take care of, clothe and feed oneself, keep or maintain oneself alive, provide for, continue breathing

### **to know where all the bodies are buried**

1. to have knowledge or information concerning secrets and details one does not want to become common knowledge, be privy to information which would be damaging or detrimental if widely known

They won't fire him because he **knows where all the bodies are buried**.

2. (informal) to be in the know, wise to, hep to or in on information which one wishes to maintain secret

### **to present a large body of evidence**

to present a large number of facts needed to prove one's case

The police **presented such a large body of evidence** that the criminal had to admit his crime.

### **to sell one's body**

1. to be a prostitute

**Selling your body** is one of the oldest profession.

2. (informal) to be a woman of the profession, call girl or working girl

3. (slang) to be a hooker, lady of the evening, street walker, lady of pleasure, hustler
4. (French) *fille de joie*

### **to want someone for only one's body**

1. to want, be attracted to, care for or desire someone only for sex

He doesn't love me. He **wants me only for my body**.

2. (informal) to hanker after, have a yen for, have a fancy for, **have an eye for**, or covet someone for sex
3. (slang) to have the hots for, lust after, be wild about, leche after, to crave, hunger or thirst after someone

### **able-bodied**

1. robust, healthy, fit, in good condition, physically fit, well

He may not be very handsome but he is **able-bodied** and healthy.

2. (informal) being fit as a fiddle, in good shape, in shape, hale and hearty, in fine fiddle, in the pink, strong, **strong and hearty**, in tip-top shape or bursting with health
3. firm, sturdy, tough, able to withstand, strong, sound
4. (informal) being tough as nails, hard as a rock, strapping or hard as a stone

5. rugged, **muscle-bound**, potent, athletic, mighty or all-powerful, husky, formidable, powerful, brawny, powerfully built, strapping

### **human body**

(metaphorical/figurative) tabernacle (temporary abode of the soul)

### **to be able-bodied**

1. to be robust, healthy, fit, in good condition, physically fit or well

He may not be very handsome but he **is able-bodied** and healthy.

2. (informal) to be fit as a fiddle, in good shape, in shape, hale and hearty, in fine fiddle, in the pink, strong, **strong and hearty**, in tip-top shape or bursting with health
3. to be firm, sturdy, tough, able to withstand, strong or sound
4. (informal) to be tough as nails, hard as a rock, strapping or hard as a stone
5. to be rugged, **muscle-bound**, potent, athletic, mighty or all-powerful, husky, formidable, powerful, brawny, powerfully built, strapping

### **bodily**

1. real, physical, concrete or tangible
2. (more stylized/formal) incarnate, material, corporal or substantial



3. en masse, collectively, wholly, in a group, whole, or in a body

### **bodiless**

1. not tangible, not body, intangible, unearthly, not material, shadowy, spiritual
2. (more stylized/formal) intangible, spectral, immaterial, ethereal, unsubstantial, incorporeal, ghostly, impalpable, **disembodied** transcendental, **disincarnate**

### **disembodied**

1. not tangible, not body, intangible, unearthly, not material or of the flesh, shadowy, spiritual, **bodiless**
2. (more stylized/formal) intangible, spectral, immaterial, ethereal, unsubstantial, incorporeal, ghostly, impalpable, **disembodied**, transcendental

### **to be disembodied**

1. to not be tangible, intangible, unearthly, not material, shadowy, spiritual or **bodiless**

It **was** a **disembodied spirit**.

2. (more stylized/formal)to be intangible, spectral, immaterial, ethereal, unsubstantial, incorporeal, ghostly, impalpable, **disembodied** or transcendental

### **embodiment**

1. concreteness, appearance, tangibility, **flesh and blood**

She is the **embodiment** of all that is good and healthy.

2. (more stylized/formal) substantiation, **incarnation**, corporality, materialization, materiality, incarnation, personification, substantiality, manifestation, apparition, epiphany, **embodiment**

### **to be the embodiment**

1. to be the concreteness, tangibility or **flesh and blood**

She **is the embodiment** of all that is good and healthy.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be the **bodiliness**, substantiation, **incarnation**, corporality, materialization, materiality, personification, substantiality, **embodiment**

### **to embody**

1. to make corporeal, externalize, personify

There are those who believe that a dictator **embodies** evil, itself.

2. (more stylized/formal) actualize, substantiate, personate, incarnate

3. (more informal) to give life to, make real, give human qualities, make concrete, breathe life into

4. to combine, unite, blend, join, mingle

5. (more stylized/formal) fuse, intermingle, amalgamate, consolidate, commingle

6. (informal) to throw together, lump together, join together, put together
7. to comprise, composed of, contain, consist of, include, have
8. to encompass, assimilate, envelop, admit, comprehend, constitute, subsume
9. (informal) to take in

Imagination **bodies** forth the forms of things unknown.  
-Shakespeare

# Figure

*(entered into English between 1175-1225)*

(The words **figure** and **body** are not exactly synonyms. **Figure** refers to the shape of the **body**, especially that of a woman who is considered attractive.)

Old French and Middle English **figure**, Dutch **figuur**, Danish **figur**,  
German **Figur**, Swedish **figur**, Norwegian **figurere**, Frisian **figuer**,  
Latin **figura**, French **forme**, Spanish **figura**

## **figure**

1. bodily form or frame

He has the **figure** of an athlete rather than that of an artist.

2. structure, frame, build, body

3. form, shape, outline, cut, cast

4. shape of a woman's body to represent attractiveness

She has always been admired for her **figure**.

5. representation, image, picture, icon

The **figure** of the man in the picture is intriguing.

6. statue, mold, model, sculpture, bust, statuette

i.e. action **figures**

7. design, pattern, device

i.e. **figure** skating

8. someone who is considered as

i.e. **figure** of a mother or father

9. emblem, symbol, type, representative, sign

10. character, personality, notable, somebody

i.e. great sports **figure**

11. a numerical symbol, number, numeral

Now that he is his own boss, he is making a six-**figure** salary.

12. an amount expressed in numbers, sum, total, aggregate

I still don't know the final **figure** of how much all this is going to cost.

13. pattern form in ice

She was able to make a number of **figures** while skating.

### **to figure**

1. to portray, take the part of, appear as

2. to perform or act

3. to adorn, ornament, bedeck, embellish

4. to make into a metaphor or allegory, personify

5. to signify, symbolize, represent, stand for

6. to outline, sketch, trace

7. to portray, picture, shape, form, image

8. to surmise, conjecture, suppose, judge, imagine, think, believe, gauge, have full confidence or faith in, trust, determine, decide

I was able to do it because I **figured** that I could not lose.

9. (more stylized/formal) to ascertain, adjudge, decide upon, adjudicate, resolve
10. (more informal) to reckon, opine, fancy, guess, come to the conclusion that, take for granted

### **action figure**

another name for doll, the type of doll that little boys play with

My sons does not say that he plays with dolls; he says that he plays with **action figures**.

### **astronomical figure**

1. being an extremely, astoundingly, startlingly or shockingly high number, being a staggering or astonishing price

All I can say is that he quoted an **astronomical figure**. I'll never be able to pay so much, even I were to work everyday of my life.

2. (more stylized/formal) being a number (i.e. price or salary) so high that it renders one speechless or that it is disconcerting, confounding, incapacitating, benumbing, baffling or bewildering
3. (informal) being a number which catches one off guard, takes one aback, catches one up short, **takes one's breath away** or **curls one's hair**, being a **figure that is out of this world**
4. (slang) being a number which **blows one's mind** or which paralyzes

### **authority figure**

representing authority and power

The president no longer is an **authority figure**.

### **central figure**

1. the most important, indispensable, basic, vital, essence, the sum total

The show can't go on without him. He is the **central figure** in the plot.

2. (more stylized/formal) pivotal, intrinsic, organic, essential, fundamental, being the crux, lifeblood, spirit, sum and substance, pith
3. (more informal) being kernel, the nitty-gritty, **soul**, core, gist, **heart**

### **check for seven figures**

a check in the amount of a million dollars or more

Next year my goal is to get a **check for seven figures**.

### **check for six figures**

a check in the amount from hundred thousand dollars to a million dollar

I got **a check for six figures** last year.

### **distinct figure**

1. singular, distinct, unlike, unique, different, uncommon, with an equal, unmatched, unfamiliar

He is a **distinct figure** whose writing is like nothing ever done before.



2. (more stylized/formal) novel, infrequent, notable, particular, peerless, unusual, exceptional, quintessential, distinctive
3. (informal) few and far between, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, beyond comparison, one for the book, seldom seen before, unforgettable
4. obvious, recognizable, evident, clear, visible, plain, unmistakable

It was not my imagination. She was a **distinct figure** only a couple of feet away. I'm telling you that she's alive; I saw her.

5. (more stylized/formal) transparent, tangible, notable, salient, express, unequivocal, discerning, distinct, unambiguous, apparent, patent, conspicuous
6. (informal) clear cut, like a red flag, loud and clear, **as plain as the nose on one's face**, plain as day
7. (French) *en evidence*

### **eight sided figure**

octagon

A octagon is an **eight sided figure**.

### **father figure**

representing the figure of the father

Does not every boy need a **father figure** in his life.

### **figure conscious**

1. being very critical, conscious or aware, to the point of obsession, of one's body (i.e. weight, body fat, breast size, etc)

A model must be very **figure conscious**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being cognizant or observant of one's body to the point of being distracted, obsessed, controlled, or monopolized
3. (more informal) being mindful of, alert to, alive to one's body weight and one's figure, being obsessed, gripped, plagued, worried, **constantly have in one's mind** or thoughts of how one looks

### **figure eight**

form of the number eight

To get a driving license for a motorcycle, one must make the **figure eight** with the motorcycle.

### **figurehead**

1. titled but not actual head of a company, not the power behind the throne, puppet, **nominal head**, pawn

Most royalty on the throne are only **figureheads**.

2. (informal) cat's-pawn, supposed, **mouthpiece**, believed, in name only, henchman, so-called, said-to-be, not really, straw man
3. (on a ship)  
sculpture, carving, bust, image

Most **figureheads** are female.

### **figure-hugging dress**

1. tightly fitting or form fitting dress

My God, you look very sexy in that **figure-hugging dress**.

2. **skin-tight**, close fitting or snug dress

### **figure of consequences**

1. being one of gravity, significance, noteworthiness, notability, admiration, high opinion or honor, remarkable outstanding, extraordinary, important, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous unique, impressive

He is a **figure of great consequence** who will one day make a splash in the world of the arts.

2. (more stylized/formal) being a **figure of substance**, a **figure of regard**, of magnitude, a **figure of interest**, of great consequence or of note, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unique, notable, rare, memorable, striking, **noteworthy figure**, distinct, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unparalleled, unique, notable, unsurpassed or rare
3. (more informal) being a one of great clout, sway, impact or power, being much touted, unforgettable, not to be taken lightly or ignored
4. (informal) being a big shot, being one who can throw one's weight around, who can pull strings or who can make people jump to attention

### **figure of derision**

1. being a target of sarcasm, ridicule, belittlement, contempt or disrespect, being game or a laughingstock

I am tired of being their **figure of derision**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being an object scorn, derision, disdain or mockery, being held in contempt, scorned or spurned

3. (informal) being the butt of jokes, made fun of or poked fun of, lampooned, being the object of ribbing, guying, kidding or razzing, made a monkey out of, made a laughing stock of
4. (slang) being a dupe, goat, chump, sucker, stooge, being poohed-poohed, hooted at or gibed at
5. *(vulgar) being an ass, butt or ass hole*

### **figure of esteem**

1. being of importance, prestige, significance, noteworthiness, notability, admiration, high opinion or honor, admirable, respected, valued

You are going to have an uphill battle; he **is most definitely a figure of high regard.**

2. (more stylized/formal) being of renown, **figure of high regard**, of approbation, of singularity, of awe, of prominence, of reverence, of distinction, **figure of noteworthiness**, of esteem, **figure of note**, of veneration, of high regard, of eminence, **figure of great respect**, estimation or **figure of respect**, celebrated, estimable, laudable, reputable, worthy of respect, awe-inspiring, peerless, acclaimed
3. (more informal) being of first water, thought highly of, looked up to, first rate or much touted
4. *(slang) being hell of a*

### **figure of fun**

1. being a target of sarcasm, ridicule, belittlement, contempt or disrespect, being game or a laughingstock

I am tired of **being their figure of fun.**

2. (more stylized/formal) being an object scorn, derision, disdain or mockery, being held in contempt, scorned or spurned
3. (informal) being the butt of jokes, made fun of or poked fun of, lampooned, being the object of ribbing guying, kidding or razzing, made a monkey out of, made a laughing stock of
4. (slang) being a dupe, goat, chump, sucker or stooge, being poohed-poohed, hooted at or gibed at
5. *(vulgar) being an ass, butt or ass hole*

### **figure of great importance**

1. remarkable outstanding, extraordinary, important, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous unique, impressive, being one of gravity

He is a **figure of great importance** who will one day make a splash in the world of the arts.

2. (more stylized/formal) memorable, striking, distinct, imposing substance, singular, special, consequence, unparalleled, unique, notable, unsurpassed or rare, being of great consequence, of magnitude, **figure of substance**, **figure of regard**, **figure of interest** or of note
3. (more informal) being a one of a kind, on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, unmatched, one for the book, much touted or unforgettable

### **figure of greatness**

1. being one of influence, substance, note, greatness, weight, importance, import, significance or influence

2. (more stylized/formal) being one of repute, renown, notability, praise, eminence, prominence, consequence, grandness or momentousness, aggrandized, exalted, prominent or renowned
3. (less formal) lionized, elevated, put on a pedestal or well-thought-of, being one of clout, sway or power, being one who carries weight, effect change, has sway or pull, being someone not to be ignored or taken lightly
4. (informal) being a big shot, no one to sneeze at

### **figure of high regard**

1. being of importance, prestige, significance, noteworthiness, notability, admiration, high opinion or honor, admirable, respected, valued

You are going to have an uphill battle; he is most definitely a **figure of high regard**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being of approbation, singularity, awe, prominence, reverence, distinction, esteem, veneration, eminence, respect or estimation, celebrated, estimable, laudable, reputable, worthy of respect, awe-inspiring, peerless, acclaimed
3. (less formal) being of first water, thought highly of, looked up to, first rate or much touted
4. *(slang) being hell of a*

### **figure of importance**

1. influential, important, prestige, powerful, being of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, of great influence, of a high position or of high ranking

He is a **figure of importance** in the world of letters.

2. (more stylized/formal) being of great consequence, **noteworthy figure**, note, **figure of high regard**, import, substance, **figure of importance**, importance, **figure of** regard, consequence, gravity, note or value
3. (less formal) being highly thought of, well connected or high caliber, **weighty figure**, having pull, muscle, sway, hold or clout

### **figure of interest**

1. being of matter, regard, notice, concern, import, consideration, curiosity, captivation, thought, importance or relevancy, attractive, fascinating or inviting

He has been a **figure of interest** in the music world for quite a long time.

2. (more stylized/formal) being of inquisitiveness, **noteworthy figure**, significance, estimation, consequence, distinction, esteem, attention, consideration or value, beguiling, tantalizing, appealing, enticing, engaging, mesmerizing, alluring, infatuating
3. (less formal) being an interesting chap or fellow, being bewitching, tempting, pulling, magnetizing, **eye catching** or capturing

### **figure of little or no import**

1. of minor importance, of no concern, of little or no import, unimportant, no matter, of little or no account, minor

He has a very big mouth but the reality is that in the world of music, he is a **figure of little or no import**.

2. (more stylized/formal) nugatory, of no moment, irrelevant, of no consequence, negligible, immaterial, inconsequential, insignificant
3. (less formal) being a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**, not worth mentioning, of no great weight, not worth worrying about, not worth anything
4. (informal) of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, being small potatoes or small fry, not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune, **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**

#### **figure of little or no importance**

1. unimportant, no matter, of little or no account, of minor importance, minor, of no concern, of little or no import  
  
As far as her family is concerned, she's a **figure of little or no importance**.
2. (more stylized/formal) immaterial, inconsequential, insignificant, of no moment, of no consequence, negligible
3. (less formal) of no great weight, not worth worrying about, not worth anything, not worth mentioning, being a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**
4. (informal) small fry, not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune, **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**, of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, being small potatoes or fry



### **figure of no import**

1. of minor importance, of no concern, of little or no import, unimportant, no matter, of little or no account, minor

He has a very big mouth but the reality is that in the world of music, he is a **figure of no import**.

2. (more stylized/formal) nugatory, of no moment, irrelevant, of no consequence, negligible, immaterial, inconsequential, insignificant
3. (less formal) being a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**, not worth mentioning, of no great weight, not worth worrying about, not worth anything
4. (informal) of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, being small potatoes or small fry, not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune, **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**

### **figure of no importance**

1. unimportant, no matter, of little or no account, of minor importance, minor, of no concern, of little or no import

As far as her family is concerned, she's a **figure of no importance**.

2. (more stylized/formal) immaterial, inconsequential, insignificant, of no moment, of no consequence, negligible
3. (less formal) of no great weight, not worth worrying about, not worth anything, not worth mentioning, being a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**

4. (informal) small fry, not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune, **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**, of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, being small potatoes or fry

### **figure of note**

1. remarkable outstanding, extraordinary, important, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous unique, impressive

He is a **figure of note** who will one day make a splash in the world of the arts.

2. (more stylized/formal) memorable, striking, distinct, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unparalleled, unique, notable, unsurpassed or rare, being of great consequence or note
3. (less formal) being one of a kind, on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, unmatched, one for the book, much touted or unforgettable

### **figure of substance**

1. outstanding, extraordinary, remarkable, important, striking, notable, different, being of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, momentous, impressive

He is a **figure of substance** in the world of letters. Be careful what you say.

2. (more stylized/formal) being of great substance, consequence or note, imposing, substantial, singular, special, consequence, unique, notable, rare

3. (less formal) being on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, high caliber, one for the book or unforgettable, having pull, **muscle**, sway, hold or clout

### **figure of speech**

figurative rather than literal use of language i.e. metaphor, simile, personification

In the expression 'figure of speech', the word 'figure' is a **figure of speech**.

### **figure skates**

type of shoes used in figure skating

### **figure skating**

1. type of skating in which intricate patterns are skated into the ice
2. skating in which jumps, spins, and other athletic skills are emphasized
3. competitive ice skating

### **figures**

1. arithmetic, mathematics

I have never been good with **figures**.

2. statistics, numerical data

The **figures** for the number of new A.I.D.S. grew in the last decade.

### **fine figure**

1. attractive, handsome, pretty, beautiful, good-looking

After she lost all that weight, she now has a **fine figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) pulchritude
3. (informal) well-proportioned, comely, buxom, **eye-filling**, becoming, shapely

### **figure in the world of sports**

being an important sport person, sport's figure

He has become an important **figure in the world of sports**.

### **figure that is out of this world**

1. being an extremely, astoundingly, startlingly or shockingly high number, being a staggering or astonishing price

All I can say that he quoted a **figure that is out of this world**. I'll never be able to pay so much, even I were to work everyday of my life.

2. (more stylized/formal) being a number (i.e. price or salary) so high that it renders one speechless or that it is disconcerting, confounding, incapacitating, benumbing, baffling or bewildering
3. (informal) being a number which catches one off guard, takes one aback, catches one up short, **takes one's breath away** or **curls one's hair**, being a **figure that is out of this world**
4. (slang) being a number which **blows one's mind** or which paralyzes
5. well-built, attractive, **pleasing to the eye**

She has a **figure that is out of this world**. She will have no problem getting a job as a model.

6. (more stylized/formal) well-endowed, voluptuous, interesting, appealing, stunning
7. (informal) well-shaped, proportioned, pleasing, **eye-filling**, inviting, **tooth-some**, **eye-catching**, tempting
8. (slang) stacked, **full-bosomed**, built, built like a brick house, shapely, busty, curvaceous
9. *(slang to vulgar) comely, great looking behind, desirable, come-hither*
10. *(vulgar) great looking ass, great looking hooter, ass that could kill*

### **figure to behold**

1. astounding, amazing, stupefying, numbing, astonishing

She was a **figure to behold**, watching her walking down the aisle in her wedding gown.

2. (more stylized/formal) incapacitating, startling, benumbing confounding, disorienting or disconcerting, rendering one speechless
3. (informal) curling one's hair, making one sit up and pay attention, being paralyzing, bewildering, boggling or **mind boggling**, leaving

one's **open-mouthed, wide-eyed** or **round-eyed, taking one's breath away**, catching one off guard, striking one dumb

4. (slang) mind-blowing

### **figure zero (0)**

1. aught, naught, nil
2. (dated and literary term) cipher
3. (slang) goose egg

### **five-sided figure**

pentagon

A pentagon is a **five sided figure**.

### **for seven figures**

in the amount of a million dollars or more

The bill was **for seven figures**.

### **for six figures**

in the amount from hundred thousand dollars to a million dollar

His services was **for six figures**.

### **formidable figure**

1. being fearful, frightening, dreadful, terrible, looming, grisly, awe-inspiring, horrendous, monstrous, notorious or odious

I don't want to go up against him; he is a **formidable figure** who can not be ignored.

2. (more stylized/formal) being redoubtable, ghastly, minacious, horrifying, intimidating, fearsome, terrifying, stupefying, direful, horrible, threatening, menacing or gruesome
3. (informal) making one's hair stand on end, being God-awful, dark, eerie, creepy or scary

### **four-sided figure**

1. square

A square is a **four sided figure** of equal length.

2. rectangle

A rectangle is a **four sided figure** of unequal length.

### **head for figures**

1. being good at or having a natural talent, proficiency, mastery, aptitude or flair for mathematics, being skillful at mathematics

I don't understand anything about this class; I do not have a **head for figures**.

2. (more stylized/formal) having an adroitness, swiftness, faculty, dexterity, nimbleness for mathematics, being adept, adroit, proficient or apt at mathematics
3. (less formal) having a knack, bent, **mind** or turn for mathematics
4. (slang) being a whiz, whiz-bang, crack or crackerjack

### **important figure**

1. influential, important, prestige, powerful, being of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, of great influence, of a high position or of high ranking, having influence, power, dominance or leverage

He is one of the most **important figures** in the world of letters.

2. (more stylized) being of great consequence, note, import, substance, importance, consequence, gravity, notable or value
3. (informal) being highly thought of, well connected or high caliber, **weighty figure**, having pull, muscle, sway, hold or clout

### **impressive figure**

1. remarkable outstanding, extraordinary, important, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous unique, impressive, being one of gravity

I must admit that he is an **impressive figure** who can not easily be ignored.

2. (more stylized/formal) memorable, striking, distinct, imposing substance, singular, special, consequence, unparalleled, unique, notable, unsurpassed or rare, being of great consequence, of magnitude, **figure of substance**, **figure of regard**, **figure of interest** or of note
3. (more informal) being a one of a kind, on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, unmatched, one for the book, much touted or unforgettable

### **in round figures**

in the nearest whole number, rough approximation, approximation, in round numbers, rounded off figures



**In round figures**, it comes to a million dollars.

**in rounded off figures**

rough approximation, approximation, in the nearest whole number, in round numbers, round off figures

**In rounded off figures**, it comes to a million dollars.

**inconsequential figure**

1. unimportant, no matter, of little or no account, of minor importance, minor, of no concern, of little or no import

As far as her family is concerned, she's an **inconsequential figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) immaterial, inconsequential, insignificant, of no moment, of no consequence, negligible
3. (less formal) of no great weight, not worth worrying about, not worth anything, not worth mentioning, being a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**
4. (informal) small fry, not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune, **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**, of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, being small potatoes or fry

**insignificant figure**

1. of minor importance, of no concern, of little or no import, unimportant, no matter, of little or no account, minor

He has a very big mouth but the reality is that in the world of music, he is an **insignificant figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) nugatory, of no moment, irrelevant, of no consequence, negligible, immaterial, inconsequential, insignificant
3. (less formal) being a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**, not worth mentioning, of no great weight, not worth worrying about, not worth anything
4. (informal) of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, being small potatoes or small fry, not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune, **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**

### **memorable figure**

1. being momentous significant, unique, different, magnificent, striking, remarkable, impressive, unusual, out-of-the-ordinary, amazing, wondrous outstanding, powerful, singular, distinct, unlike, important, fabulous or astounding

I won't be forgetting him in many years; he is a **memorable figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being illustrious, remarkable, quintessential, distinctive, striking, rare, consequential extraordinary, unique, distinct, impressive eventful formidable or memorable
3. being beyond comparison, one for the book, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, red-letter, electrifying, unforgettable, seldom seen before, once in a lifetime or not-so-easy-to-forget

### **mother figure**

representing the figure of the mother

I do not want to a **mother figure** to anyone other than my son.

### **mysterious figure**

1. being one who is unfamiliar, unknowable or unknown, beyond comprehension

Although I went to university to him, he was a **mysterious figure** to me and to everyone who knew him.

2. (more stylized/formal) being one who is incomprehensible or indecipherable, being an enigma or like a maze or labyrinth
3. (less formal) being a closed book, question mark, puzzle or sphinx
4. (informal) being a hard nut to crack or stumper
5. being an unknowable, obscure, secretive or undefined character in a work of fiction or non-fiction

I never really understood the character of the mother. She remained being a **mysterious figure** throughout the novel.

6. (more stylized/formal) being incomprehensible, inscrutable, shadowy, nebulous or sphinx-like
7. (less formal to informal) being unknown, a question, not know what to think or a hard nut to crack

### **notable figure**

1. remarkable outstanding, extraordinary, important, prestige, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous unique, impressive

He is a **notable figure** who will one day make a splash in the world of the arts.

2. (more stylized/formal) memorable, striking, distinct, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unparalleled, unique, notable, unsurpassed or rare, being of great consequence or note
3. (less formal) being one of a kind, on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, unmatched, one for the book, much touted or unforgettable

### **noteworthy figure**

1. outstanding, extraordinary, remarkable, important, prestige, notable, different, being of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, momentous, impressive

He is one of a very **noteworthy figure** in the world of letters.

2. (more stylized/formal) being of great consequence or note, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unique, notable, rare
3. (less formal) being on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, high caliber, one for the book or unforgettable

### **poor figure**

1. uncultivated, unsatisfactory, not so attractive, unacceptable, unsatisfactory, imperfect, bad

He cuts a very **poor figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) tawdry, ostentatious, brummagem, mediocre
3. (informal) half-bake, sorry, not up to par, cheap, gaudy, third-class, second-rate, not up to par
4. (slang) rinky-dinky, shoddy, trashy, shabby, tacky, slipshod, not up to snuff, lousy
5. *(vulgar) half-assed*

### **powerful figure**

1. influential, important, prestigious, powerful, being of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, of great influence, of a high position or of high ranking, having influence, dominance or leverage

He is a **powerful figure** in the world of letters.

2. (more stylized/formal) being eminent, of great consequence, great import, noteworthiness, value, substance, importance, gravity or consequence, be notable or valuable
3. (less formal to informal) being highly thought of, well connected or high caliber, be a **weighty figure**, leading figure, one who carries a lot of weight, who is able to pick up the phone, who gets one's phone calls returned or who carries a lot of clout, having clout or sway

### **recognizable figure**

1. well-known, famous, famed, celebrated, popular, established or infamous, being a celebrity or **well-known figure**

She can not walk down the street because she is such a **recognizable figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be prominent, acclaimed, renowned, preeminent, notable or eminent, **be a prominent, be an acclaimed figure, be a renowned figure**
3. (informal) to be a household name, **on everyone's lips, in everyone's mouths**, much touted or touted

### **remarkable figure**

1. magnificent, striking, remarkable, impressive, important, fabulous, astounding, outstanding, significant, unusual, out-of-the-ordinary, amazing, wondrous, uncommon

In her day, she was a **remarkable figure**. Someone who was on the lips of everyone of any importance.

2. (more stylized) unrivaled, august, incomparable, noteworthy, singular, prominent, dignified, awe-inspiring, notable, renowned, distinctive, unparalleled, preeminent, unique, distinct, eminent
3. (informal) tip-top, one for the book, second to none, worthy of note
4. (slang) someone to write home about, hell of, the living end, someone to shout about, awesome, super

### **renown figure**

1. high-standing, celebrated, well-known, esteemed, popularity, known, notable, influence, extraordinary, important, prestige, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous  
unique, impressive

Although no one recognizes her name now; in the nineteenth century she was a **renown figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being one of repute, prominence, notability, eminence, fame or notoriety, respected, exalted, illustrious, lauded, prominent, renowned, aggrandized
3. (informal) lionized, much touted, second-to-none, ballyhooed, unequalled, unmatched, **in everyone's mouth**, well-thought-of, being put on a pedestal, uplifted or elevated

### **seven figures**

in the amount of a million dollars or more

Next year my goal is to earn **seven figures**.

### **seven sided figure**

heptagon

A heptagon is a **seven sided figure** polygon.

### **six figures**

in the amount from hundred thousand dollars to a million dollars

I earned **six figures** last year.

### **six-sided figure**

hexagon

A hexagon is a **six-sided figure**.

### **sorry figure**

1. foolish, absurd, ludicrous, ridiculous, funny

I wonder if he knows that he cuts a **sorry figure**.

2. (informal) kooky, daffy like a laughingstock, laughable
3. (slang) cockamamie, nutty, kooky, odd, screwy, cockeyed, dippy
4. (*vulgar*) *like an ass, ass-hole, asinine*

### **sport's figure**

being an important sport person

Sammy Sosa was a very important **sport's figure** in the late 1990s.

### **stately figure**

1. distinguished, respected, noted, proud, impressive, grand, striking, dignified, distinguished, imposing, celebrated, magnificent

What a **stately figure**. He at least looks like a president.

2. (more stylized/formal) imperial, resplendent, lordly, majestic, grand, eminent, imperious, regal, august, renowned, magisterial, venerable, sublime
3. (less formal) blue-blooded, princely, kingly, thoroughbred, noble, queenly, well-bred
4. (negative) arrogant, overconfident, haughty, disdainful, snobbish



5. (more stylized/negative) fatuous, vainglorious, condescending, overbearing, presumptuous, scornful, cavalier, contemptuous
6. (informal/negative) to appear to be on one's high-horses, lofty, overweening, puffed up, pompous, stuck-up, uppity, high-handed, dictatorial, pushy

### **stick figure**

outline sketch of human being where the torso, arms and legs are represented by straight lines and the head by a circle

When children are learning to draw, they usually first draw **stick figures**.

### **striking figure**

1. being singular, distinct, unlike, unique, different, uncommon, with an equal, unmatched or unfamiliar

He is a **striking face** who can not be ignored.

2. (more stylized/formal) being novel, singular, notable, particular, unusual, exceptional, quintessential, distinctive, striking, remarkable, extraordinary, unique, distinct or impressive
3. (informal) being few and far between, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, beyond comparison, one for the book, seldom seen before, unforgettable, out of the ordinary or something else
4. being attractive, beautiful, pretty, bewitching, lovely or appealing

She is a **striking figure**. I want her on the front cover of the magazine.

5. (more stylized) being stunning, gorgeous, captivating, alluring or appealing, have a splendid or magnificent face
6. (informal) being **breath-taking**, **eye-filling**, dazzling, fetching, **eye appeal** or becoming

### **stunning figure**

1. being singular, distinct, unique, different, uncommon, without an equal, unmatched, striking or memorable

She is such a **stunning figure** that I found it difficult to lower my gaze.

2. (more stylized/formal) being novel, singular, notable, particular, unusual, exceptional, quintessential, distinctive, striking, remarkable, extraordinary, unique, distinct or impressive
3. (informal) being few and far between, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, beyond comparison, one for the book, seldom seen before, unforgettable, unlike anything out there, out of the ordinary or something else
4. being attractive, beautiful, pretty, bewitching, lovely or appealing  

I'm not surprised that she is a model; she is such a **stunning figure**.
5. (more stylized) being stunning, gorgeous, captivating, alluring or appealing, to have a face which is splendid or magnificent
6. (informal) being **breath-taking**, **eye-filling**, azzling, fetching, **eye appeal** or becoming

### **substantial figure**

1. outstanding, extraordinary, remarkable, important, striking, notable, different, being of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, momentous, impressive

He is a **substantial figure** in the world of letters. Be careful what you say.

2. (more stylized/formal) being of great substance, consequence or note, imposing, substantial, singular, special, consequence, unique, notable, rare
3. (informal) being on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, high caliber, one for the book or unforgettable, having pull, muscle, sway, hold or clout

### **tall figure**

a tall person seen from a distance

While walking toward the house, I could not take my eyes off the **tall figure** standing on my porch.

### **three-sided figure**

triangle

A triangle is a **three sided figure**.

### **unforgettable figure**

1. being momentous significant, unusual, out-of-the-ordinary, amazing, wondrous outstanding, powerful, singular, distinct, unlike, unique, different, magnificent, striking, remarkable, impressive, important, fabulous or astounding

He has left his mark as an **unforgettable figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being formidable, memorable, quintessential, distinctive, striking, illustrious, remarkable,

extraordinary, unique, distinct, impressive eventful, rare or consequential

3. (less formal) being not-so-easy-to-forget, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, red-letter, beyond comparison, one for the book, electrifying, seldom seen before or once in a lifetime

### **unknown figure**

1. being not familiar or unknown

My father had been a **unknown figure** to most people in the town where he grew up.

2. being a mysterious or never known before character in a novel or work of fiction

He remained an **unknown figure** throughout the novel until the very last chapter.

3. being not famous or a celebrity

The singer did not come to the ceremony alone; she came with John Doe. He is an **unknown figure** in the music world.

### **weighty figure**

1. influential, important, prestige, powerful, being of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, of great influence, of a high position or of high ranking

He is a **weighty figure** in the world of letters who can not be ignored.

2. (more stylized/formal) being of great consequence, note, import, substance, importance, consequence or gravity, being notable or valuable, having impact or effect

3. (less formal) being highly thought of, well connected or high caliber
4. (informal) someone to write home about hell of, the living end, someone to shout about, awesome, super

### **well-known figure**

1. being familiar or known

My father had been a very **well-known figure** to most people in the town where he grew up.

2. being already introduced or known before character in a novel or work of fiction

It is risky to kill off such a **well-known figure** in a movie.

3. famous, well-known, established, celebrated or infamous

The singer will not come to the ceremony alone; she is going to be with a very **well-known figure** in the music world.

4. (more stylized/formal) prominent, renowned, preeminent, notable, eminent

5. (informal) being a household name, **on everyone's lips, in everyone's mouths**, much touted or touted

### **to be a distinct figure**

1. to be singular, distinct, unlike, unique, different, uncommon, with no equal or unmatched

He **is a distinct figure** whose writing is like nothing ever done before.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be novel, infrequent, notable, particular, peerless, unusual, exceptional or distinctive
3. (less formal to informal) to be few and far between, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, beyond comparison, one for the book, seldom seen before or unforgettable
4. to be well-marked, obvious, recognizable, not blurred, evident, clear, visible, plain, unmistakable, well-defined, undisguised

It was not my imagination. She **was a distinct figure** only a couple of feet away. I'm telling you that she's alive; I saw her.

5. (more stylized/formal) to be transparent, tangible, notable, salient, defined, express, unequivocal, discerning, distinct, unambiguous, apparent, patent, unconcealed conspicuous, distinguishable
6. (informal) to be clear cut, like a red flag, loud and clear, **as plain as the nose on one's face**, plain as day
7. (*French*) *en evidence*

### **to be a father figure**

to represent the figure of the father

Although he is only their older brother, he **is a father figure** to them.

### **to be a figure of consequence**

1. to be a figure of gravity, significance, noteworthiness, notability, admiration, high opinion or honor, be remarkable outstanding,

extraordinary, important, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous unique or impressive

He **is a figure of consequence** who will one day make a splash in the world of the arts.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be a **figure of substance**, a **figure of regard**, of magnitude, a **figure of interest**, of great consequence or of note, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unique, notable, rare, memorable, striking, **noteworthy figure**, distinct, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unparalleled, unique, notable, unsurpassed or rare
3. (less formal) to be one of great clout, sway, impact or power, being much touted, unforgettable, not to be taken lightly or ignored
4. (informal) to be a big shot, being one who can throw one's weight around, who can pull strings or who can make people jump to attention

### **to be a figure of derision**

1. to be a target of sarcasm, ridicule, belittlement, contempt or disrespect, be a laughingstock

I am tired of **being their figure of derision**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be an object scorn, derision, disdain or mockery, be held in contempt, scorned or spurned
3. (informal) to be the butt of jokes, made fun of or poked fun of, lampooned, be the object of ribbing, guying, kidding or razzing, made a monkey out of, made a laughing stock of

4. (slang) to be a dupe, goat, chump, sucker, stooge, be poohed-pooed, hooted at or gibed at
  
5. *(vulgar) to be an ass, butt or ass hole*

**to be a figure of esteem**

1. to be of importance, prestige, significance, noteworthiness, notability, admiration, high opinion or honor, admirable, respected, valued

You are going to have an uphill battle; he **is** most definitely **a figure of esteem**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of renown, **figure of high regard**, of approbation, of singularity, of awe, of prominence, of reverence, of distinction, **figure of noteworthiness**, of esteem, **figure of note**, of veneration, of high regard, of eminence, **figure of great respect**, estimation or **figure of respect**, celebrated, estimable, laudable, reputable, worthy of respect, awe-inspiring, peerless or acclaimed
  
3. (less formal to informal) to be of first water, thought highly of, looked up to, first rate or much touted
  
4. (slang) to be hell of a

**to be a figure of fun**

1. to be a target of sarcasm, ridicule, belittlement, contempt or disrespect, being game or a laughingstock

I am tired of **being their figure of fun**.



2. (more stylized/formal) to be an object scorn, derision, disdain or mockery, be held in contempt, scorned or spurned
3. (informal) to be the butt of jokes, made fun of or poked fun of, lampooned, be the object of ribbing guying, kidding or razzing, made a monkey out of, made a laughing stock of
4. (slang) to be a dupe, goat, chump, sucker, stooge, be poohed-poohed, hooted at or gibed at
5. *(vulgar) to be ass, butt or ass hole*

**to be a figure of great importance**

1. to be remarkable outstanding, extraordinary, important, prestige, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous unique or impressive

He **is a figure of great importance** who will one day make a splash in the world of the arts.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be memorable, striking, distinct, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unparalleled, unique, notable, unsurpassed or rare, be of great consequence or note
3. (less formal to informal) to be one of a kind, on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, unmatched, one for the book, much touted or unforgettable

**to be a figure of greatness**

1. to be one of influence, substance, note, greatness, weight, importance, import, significance or influence

He has always to **be a figure of greatness**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be one of repute, renown, notability, praise, eminence, prominence, consequence, grandness or momentousness, aggrandized, exalted, prominent or renowned
3. (less formal) to be lionized, elevated, put on a pedestal or well-thought-of, be one of clout, sway or power, being one who carries weight, effect change, has sway or pull, be someone not to be ignored or taken lightly
4. to be a big shot, be one who can throw one's weight around, who can pull strings or who can make people jump to attention

**to be a figure of high regard**

1. to be of importance, prestige, significance, noteworthiness, notability, admiration, high opinion or honor, admirable, respected, valued

You are going to have an uphill battle; he **is** too much **a figure of high regard**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of approbation, singularity, awe, prominence, reverence, distinction, esteem, veneration, eminence, respect or estimation celebrated, estimable, laudable, reputable, worthy of respect, awe-inspiring, peerless, acclaimed
3. (less formal to informal) to be of first water, thought highly of, looked up to, first rate or much touted
4. *(slang) being hell of a*

### **to be a figure of interest**

1. to be of matter, regard, notice, concern, import, consideration, curiosity, captivation, thought, importance or relevancy, attractive, fascinating or inviting

He has **been a figure of interest** in the music world for quite a long time.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of inquisitiveness, **noteworthy figure**, significance, estimation, consequence, distinction, esteem, attention, consideration or value, be beguiling, tantalizing, appealing, enticing, engaging, mesmerizing, alluring or infatuating
3. (less formal to informal) to be an interesting chap or fellow, be bewitching, tempting, pulling, magnetizing, **eye catching** or capturing

### **to be a figure of importance**

1. to be influential, important, prestige or powerful, be of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, of great influence, of a high position or of high ranking

He **is a figure of importance** in the world of letters.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of great consequence, note, import, substance, importance, consequence, gravity, notable or value
3. (informal) to be highly thought of, well connected, high caliber or a **weighty figure**

### **to be a figure of little or no import**

1. to be of minor importance, of no concern, of little or no import, unimportant, no matter, of little or no account or minor  
  
He has a very big mouth but the reality is that in the world of music, he is a **figure of little or no import**.
2. (more stylized/formal) to be nugatory, of no moment, irrelevant, of no consequence, negligible, immaterial, inconsequential or insignificant
3. (less formal to informal) to not be worth worrying about, not worth anything, be a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**, not be worth mentioning, of no great weight
4. (informal to slang) to be of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, being small potatoes or small fry, not worth a straw, trifling, a Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune or **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**

**to be a figure of little or no importance**

1. to be unimportant, no matter, of little or no account, of minor importance, minor, of no concern or of little or no import  
  
As far as her family is concerned, she **is a figure of little or no importance**.
2. (more stylized/formal) to be immaterial, inconsequential, insignificant, of no moment, of no consequence or negligible
3. (less formal) to be of no great weight, not worth worrying about, not worth anything, not worth mentioning, be a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**

4. (informal to slang) to be a small fry or small potatoes, not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune, **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**, of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap

#### **to be a figure of no import**

1. to be of minor importance, of no concern, of little or no import, unimportant, no matter, of little or no account or minor

He has a very big mouth but the reality is that in the world of music, he **is a figure of no import**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be nugatory, of no moment, irrelevant, of no consequence, negligible, immaterial, inconsequential or insignificant

3. (less formal) to be a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**, not worth mentioning, of no great weight, not worth worrying about or not worth anything

4. (informal to slang) to be of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, being small potatoes or small fry, not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune or **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**

#### **to be a figure of no importance**

1. to be unimportant, no matter, of little or no account, of minor importance, minor, of no concern or of little or no import

As far as her family is concerned, she **is a figure of no importance**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be immaterial, inconsequential, insignificant, of no moment, of no consequence or negligible

3. (less formal) to be of no great weight, not worth worrying about, not worth anything, not worth mentioning, be a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**
4. (informal to slang) not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune, **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**, of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, be small potatoes or a small fry

### **to be a figure of note**

1. to be remarkable, outstanding, extraordinary, important, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous  
unique or impressive

He **is a figure of note** who will one day make a splash in the world of the arts.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be memorable, striking, distinct, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unparalleled, unique, notable, unsurpassed or rare, be of great consequence or note
3. (less formal) to be one of a kind, on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, unmatched, one for the book, much touted or unforgettable

### **to be a figure of substance**

1. to be outstanding, extraordinary, remarkable, important, prestige, notable, different, of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, momentous or impressive

He **is a figure of substance** in the world of letters. Be careful what you say.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of great consequence or note, be imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unique, notable or rare
3. (less formal) to be on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, high caliber, one for the book or unforgettable

### **to be a figure that is out of this world**

1. to be an extremely, astoundingly, startlingly or shockingly high number, be a staggering or astonishing price

**It is a figure that is out of this world.** I'll never be able to pay so much, even I were to work everyday of my life.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be a number (i.e. price or salary) so high that it renders one speechless or that it is disconcerting, confounding, incapacitating, benumbing, baffling or bewildering
3. (less formal to informal) to be a number which catches one off guard, takes one aback, catches one up short, **takes one's breath away** or **curls one's hair**, being a **figure that is out of this world**
4. (slang) to be a number which **blows one's mind** or which paralyzes

### **to be a figure to behold**

1. to be astounding, amazing, stupefying, numbing or astonishing

Watching her walking down the aisle in her wedding gown, she **was a figure to behold.**

2. (more stylized/formal) to be incapacitating, startling, benumbing confounding, disorienting or disconcerting, render one speechless

3. (less formal to informal) to curl one's hair, make one sit up and pay attention, be paralyzing, bewildering, boggling or **mind boggling**, leave one **open-mouthed**, **wide-eyed** or **round-eyed**, **take one's breath away**, catch one off guard, strike one dumb
4. (slang) to **be mind-blowing**, **blow one's mind**

### **to be a fine figure of a woman**

1. to be an attractive, pretty, beautiful or good-looking woman

Now that she has lost all that weight, I must admit that she **is a fine figure of a woman**.

2. (more stylized/formal) pulchritude
3. (informal) to be well-proportioned, comely, buxom, eye-filling, becoming or shapely

### **to be a formidable figure**

1. to be fearful, frightening, dreadful, terrible, looming, grisly, awe-inspiring, horrendous, monstrous, notorious or odious

I don't want to go up against him; he **is a formidable figure** who can not be ignored.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be redoubtable, ghastly, minacious, horrifying, intimidating, fearsome, terrifying, stupefying, direful, horrible, threatening, menacing or gruesome
3. (informal) to **make one's hair stand on end**, be God-awful, dark, eerie, creepy or scary



### **to be a highly regarded figure**

1. to be of importance, prestige, significance, noteworthiness, notability, admiration, high opinion or honor, admirable, respected, valued

You are going to have an uphill battle; he **is** most definitely **a highly regarded figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of approbation, singularity, awe, prominence, reverence, distinction, esteem, veneration, eminence, respect or estimation celebrated, estimable, laudable, reputable, worthy of respect, awe-inspiring, peerless, acclaimed
3. (less formal/ informal) to be of first water, thought highly of, looked up to, first rate or much touted
4. *(slang) to be hell of a*

### **to be a historical figure**

1. to **be a well-known figure**, be well-known, famous, famed, celebrated or infamous, **be an immortal, remembered, historical, celebrated, fabled, past** or **storied figure**

For many people, George Washington **is** only a one-dimensional **historical figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to **be an acclaimed figure, be a renowned figure, be a mythical figure, be a prominent figure**, be fabled, mythic, prominent, acclaimed, lauded, renowned, preeminent, lustrous, notable or eminent

### to be a legendary figure

1. to **be an immortal, remembered, historical, celebrated, fabled, past** or **storied figure, be well-known figure**, be well-known, famous, famed, celebrated, popular, established or infamous

She can not walk down the street because she **is** such a **recognizable figure**.

2. (more stylized) to be fabled, mythic, prominent, acclaimed, lauded, renowned, preeminent, lustrous, notable or eminent, **be a mythical figure, be a prominent figure, be an acclaimed figure, be a renowned figure**
3. (informal) to be a household name, **on everyone's lips, in everyone's mouths**, much touted or touted, be a big name

### to be a memorable figure

1. to be momentous significant, unique, different, magnificent, striking, remarkable, impressive, unusual, out-of-the-ordinary, amazing, wondrous outstanding, powerful, singular, distinct, unlike, important, fabulous or astounding

During his lifetime, he **was a memorable figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be illustrious, remarkable, quintessential, distinctive, striking, rare, consequential extraordinary, unique, distinct, impressive eventful formidable or memorable
3. (less formal to informal) to be beyond comparison, one for the book, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, red-letter electrifying, unforgettable, seldom seen before, once in a lifetime or not-so-easy-to-forget

### to be a mother figure

to represent the figure of the mother

Although she is only their older sister, she **is a mother figure** to them.

### **to be a mysterious figure**

1. to be one who is unfamiliar, unknowable or unknown, be beyond comprehension

Although we had grown up together, he remained a **mysterious figure** to me.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be one who is incomprehensible or indecipherable, be an enigma or like a maze or labyrinth
3. (less formal) to be a closed book, question mark, puzzle or sphinx
4. (slang) to be a hard nut to crack or stumper
5. to be an unknowable, obscure, secretive or undefined character in a work of fiction or non-fiction

I never really understood the character of the mother. She remained **being a mysterious figure** throughout the novel.

6. (more stylized) to be incomprehensible, inscrutable, shadowy, nebulous or sphinx-like
7. (informal) to be unknown, a question, not know what to think or a hard nut to crack

### **to be a notable figure**

1. to be remarkable, outstanding, extraordinary, important, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous, unique or impressive

He **is a notable figure** who will one day make a splash in the world of the arts.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be memorable, striking, distinct, imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unparalleled, unique, notable, unsurpassed or rare, be of great consequence or note
3. (less formal) to be one of a kind, on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, unmatched, one for the book, much touted or unforgettable

**to be a noteworthy figure**

1. to be outstanding, extraordinary, remarkable, important, prestige, notable, different, being of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, momentous or impressive

He **is a noteworthy figure** in the world of letters who must not be ignored.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of great consequence or note, be imposing, substance, singular, special, consequence, unique, notable or rare
3. (less formal) to be on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, high caliber, one for the book or unforgettable

**to be a powerful figure**

1. to be influential, important, prestige, powerful, be of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, of great influence, of a high position or of high ranking

He **is** one of the most **powerful figures** in the world of letters.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be eminent, of great consequence, great import, noteworthiness, value, substance, importance, gravity or consequence, be notable, noteworthy or valuable
3. (less formal to informal) to be highly thought of, well connected or high caliber, be a **weighty figure**, leading figure, one who carries a lot of weight, who is able to pick up the phone, who gets one's phone calls returned or who carries a lot of clout
4. (informal) to be nothing to be sneezed at

#### **to be a recognizable figure**

1. to be well-known, famous, famed, celebrated, popular, established or infamous, be a celebrity or **well-known figure**

She can not walk down the street because she **is** such a **recognizable figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be prominent, acclaimed, renowned, preeminent, notable or eminent, **be a prominent, be an acclaimed figure, be a renowned figure**
3. (less formal) to be a household name, **on everyone's lips, in everyone's mouths**, much touted or touted

#### **to be a remarkable figure**

1. to be magnificent, striking, remarkable, impressive, important, fabulous, astounding, outstanding, significant, unusual, out-of-the-ordinary, amazing, wondrous or uncommon

In her day, she **was a remarkable figure**. Someone who was on the lips of everyone of any importance.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be unrivaled, august, incomparable, noteworthy, singular, prominent, dignified, awe-inspiring, notable, renowned, distinctive, unparalleled, preeminent, unique, distinct or eminent
3. (less formal) to tip-top, one for the book, second to none, worthy of note
4. (informal) to be someone to write home about, hell of, the living end, someone to shout about, awesome or super

#### **to be a renown figure**

1. to be high-standing, celebrated, well-known, esteemed, popularity, known, notable, influence, extraordinary, important, prestige, noteworthy, different, exceptional, prestigious, special, momentous unique or impressive

Although no one recognizes her name now; in the nineteenth century she **was a renown figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be one of repute, prominence, notability, eminence, fame or notoriety, be respected, exalted, illustrious, lauded, prominent, renowned or aggrandized
3. (less formal) to be lionized, much touted, second-to-none, ballyhooed, unequalled, unmatched, **in everyone's mouth** or well-thought-of, be put on a pedestal, uplifted or elevated

#### **to have a stately figure**

1. to appear to be distinguished, respected, noted, proud, impressive, grand, striking, dignified, distinguished, imposing, celebrated or magnificent

He looks like a king; he **is a stately figure** who demands respect.

2. (more stylized/formal) to have a face which is imperial, resplendent, lordly, majestic, grand, eminent, imperious, regal, august, renowned, magisterial, venerable or sublime
3. (less formal) to have a face which is **blue-blooded**, princely, kingly, thoroughbred, noble, queenly or well-bred
4. (negative) to appear to be arrogant, overconfident, haughty, disdainful or snobbish
5. (more stylized/formal/negative) to appear to be fatuous, vainglorious, condescending, overbearing, presumptuous, scornful, cavalier or contemptuous
6. (less formal/negative) to appear to be on one's high-horses, lofty, overweening, puffed up, pompous, stuck-up, uppity, **high-handed**, dictatorial or pushy

### **to be a striking figure**

1. to be singular, distinct, unlike, unique, different, uncommon, with an equal, unmatched or unfamiliar

He **is a striking face** who can not be ignored.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be novel, singular, notable, particular, unusual, exceptional, quintessential, distinctive, striking, remarkable, extraordinary, unique, distinct or impressive

3. (less formal) to be few and far between, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, beyond comparison, one for the book, seldom seen before, unforgettable, out of the ordinary or something else
4. to be attractive, beautiful, pretty, bewitching, lovely or appealing

She **is a striking figure**. I want her on the front cover of the magazine.

5. (more stylized/formal) to be stunning, gorgeous, captivating, alluring or appealing, have a splendid or magnificent face
6. (less formal to informal) to be **breath-taking**, **eye-filling**, dazzling, fetching, **eye appeal** or becoming

### **to be a stunning figure**

1. to be singular, distinct, unique, different, uncommon, without an equal, unmatched, striking or memorable

She **is such a stunning figure** that I found it difficult to lower my gaze.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be novel, singular, notable, particular, unusual, exceptional, quintessential, distinctive, striking, remarkable, extraordinary, unique, distinct or impressive
3. (less formal) to be few and far between, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, beyond comparison, one for the book, seldom seen before, unforgettable, unlike anything out there, out of the ordinary or something else
4. to be attractive, beautiful, pretty, bewitching, lovely or appealing



I'm not surprised that she is a model; she **is such a stunning figure**.

5. (more stylized/formal) to be stunning, gorgeous, captivating, alluring or appealing, to have a face which is splendid or magnificent
6. (informal) to be **breath-taking, eye-filling**, dazzling, fetching, **eye appeal** or becoming

#### **to be a substantial figure**

1. to be outstanding, extraordinary, remarkable, important, striking, notable, different, being of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, momentous or impressive

He **is a substantial figure** in the world of letters. Be careful what you say.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of great substance, consequence or note, imposing, substantial, singular, special, consequence, unique, notable or rare
3. (less formal to informal) to be on the map, highly thought of, out of the ordinary, high caliber or one for the book or unforgettable, having pull, muscle, sway, hold or clout

#### **to be a weighty figure**

1. to be influential, important, prestige, powerful, be of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, of great influence, of a high position or of high ranking

He **is a weighty figure** in the world of letters who can not be ignored.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of great consequence, note, import, substance, importance, consequence or gravity, be notable or valuable, have impact or effect
3. (less formal) to be highly thought of, well connected or high caliber, **weighty figure**
4. (slang) to be someone to write home about hell of, the living end, someone to shout about, awesome or super

#### **to be a well-known figure**

1. to be celebrated, familiar, known or well known

My father had **been a very well-known figure** to most people in the town where he grew up.

2. to be already an introduced or familiar character in a novel or work of fiction

In a movie, it is risky to kill off a character who **is** such a **well-known figure**.

3. to be famous, established or infamous, be a celebrity, be celebrated or well-known

The singer did not come to the ceremony alone; she is going to **be with a very well-known figure** in the music world.

4. (more stylized/formal) to be prominent, renowned, preeminent, notable or eminent
5. (less formal to informal) to be a household name, **on everyone's lips, in everyone's mouths**, much touted or touted

### **to be an astronomical figure**

1. to be an extremely, astoundingly, startlingly or shockingly high number, be a staggering or astonishing price

It **is an astronomical figure**. I'll never be able to pay so much, even I were to work everyday of my life.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be a number (i.e. price or salary) so high that it renders one speechless or that it is disconcerting, confounding, incapacitating, benumbing, baffling or bewildering
3. (less formal to informal) to be a number which catches one off guard, takes one aback, catches one up short, **takes one's breath away** or **curls one's hair**, being a **figure that is out of this world**
4. (slang) to be a number which **blows one's mind** or which paralyzes

### **to be an authority figure**

to represent authority and power

Although she is only their older sister, she **is an authority figure** to them.

### **to be an important figure**

1. to be influential, important, prestige, powerful, be of high standing, prestigious, of distinction, of great influence, of a high position or of high ranking

He **is one of the most important figures** in the world of letters.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be of great consequence, note, import, substance, importance, consequence or gravity, be notable or valuable, have impact or effect
3. (less formal to informal) to be highly thought of, well connected or high caliber, **weighty figure**

### **to be an important figure in the world of sports**

to be an important sport person

Sammy Sosa **was a** very **important figure in the world of sports** in the late 1990s.

### **to be an inconsequential figure**

1. to be unimportant, no matter, of little or no account, of minor importance, minor, of no concern or of little or no import

As far as her family is concerned, she **is an inconsequential figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be immaterial, inconsequential, insignificant, of no moment, of no consequence or negligible
3. (less formal to formal) to be of no great weight, not worth worrying about, not worth anything, not worth mentioning, be a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**

4. (informal) not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune, **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**, of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, be small potatoes

#### **to be an insignificant figure**

1. to be of minor importance, of no concern, of little or no import, unimportant, no matter, of little or no account or minor

He has a very big mouth but the reality is that in the world of music, he **is an insignificant figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be nugatory, of no moment, irrelevant, of no consequence, negligible, immaterial, inconsequential or insignificant
3. (less formal to informal) to be a **figure of no import** or a **figure of little or no import**, not worth mentioning, of no great weight, not worth worrying about or not worth anything
4. (informal) to be of no great shakes, piddling, small-time, not worth a rap, being small potatoes or small fry, not worth a straw, trifling, Mickey mouse, **not worth wasting one's breath on**, picayune or **not worth worrying one's pretty little head about**

#### **to be an unforgettable figure**

1. to be momentous significant, unusual, out-of-the-ordinary, amazing, wondrous outstanding, powerful, singular, distinct, unlike, unique, different, magnificent, striking, remarkable, impressive, important, fabulous or astounding

I won't be forgetting him in many years; he **was an unforgettable figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be formidable, memorable, quintessential, distinctive, striking, illustrious, remarkable, extraordinary, unique, distinct, impressive eventful, rare or consequential
3. (less formal) to be not-so-easy-to-forget, one of a kind, out of the ordinary, unmatched, red-letter, beyond comparison, one for the book, electrifying, seldom seen before or once in a lifetime

### **to be an unknown figure**

1. to be not familiar, unfamiliar or unknown

My father had **been an unknown figure** to most people in the town where he grew up.

2. to be a mysterious or never known before character in a novel or work of fiction

He remained **being an unknown figure** throughout the novel until the very last chapter.

3. to be not famous or a celebrity

The singer did not come to the ceremony alone; she came with John Doe. He **is an unknown figure** in the music world.

### **to be figure conscious**

1. to be very critical, conscious or aware, to the point of obsession, of one's body (i.e. weight, body fat, breast size, etc)

A model must **be very figure conscious**.

2. to be cognizant or observant of one's body to the point of being distracted, obsessed, controlled, or monopolized

3. (informal) to be mindful of, alert to, alive to one's body weight and one's figure, be obsessed, gripped, plagued, worried, **constantly have in one's mind** or thoughts how one looks

### **to be one's figure of fun**

1. to be someone at whom people laugh, be object of ridicule, mockery or teasing

I am tired of **being their figure of fun**.

2. (informal) to be the butt of jokes, made fun of, be poked fun of, be the object of ribbing, guying, kidding or razzing, be made a monkey out of or made a laughing stock of

3. (slang) to be a dupe, chump, sucker or stooge

4. *(vulgar) to be an ass, butt or ass hole*

### **to be proud of one's figure**

1. to be happy, contented, delighted, pleased or satisfied with how one's body looks

After losing all that weight, I can honestly say that I **am proud of my figure**.

2. (informal) to be pleased as punch, tickled or tickled pink about one's figure

Now that she's thin, she **is proud of her figure**.

3. (slang) to be in hog heaven or on cloud nine about one's **figure**

### **to be the central figure**

1. to be the most important, indispensable, basic or vital, be the essence or the sum total

The show can't go on without him. He **is the central figure** in the plot.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be pivotal, intrinsic, organic, essential or fundamental, being the crux, lifeblood, spirit, sum and substance, pith
3. (informal) to be the kernel, the nitty-gritty, **soul**, core, gist, **heart**

### **to cut a brilliant figure**

1. to be attractive, good-looking, beautiful, pretty, tempting, ravishing or bewitching

She **cuts a brilliant figure** in that red dress.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be enticing, appealing, luring, alluring, enthralling
3. (informal) to be sexy, coming, **eye-filling**, winning or bewitching
4. (slang) to **be mouth-watering**, stacked, shapely, foxy, built or fetching, taking

### **to cut a poor figure**

1. to look uncultivated, unsatisfactory, not so attractive, unacceptable, imperfect or bad



He is always **cutting a very poor figure**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be tawdry, ostentatious, brummagem, mediocre
3. (less formal to informal) to look half-bake, be sorry, cheap, gaudy, third-class, second-rate or not up to par
4. (informal) to be rinky-dinky, shoddy, trashy, shabby, tacky, slipshod, not up to snuff or lousy
5. *(vulgar) half-assed*

**to cut a sorry figure**

1. to look foolish, absurd, ludicrous, ridiculous, funny  
I wonder if he knows that he **cuts a sorry figure**.
2. (informal) to look kooky, daffy, like a laughingstock or laughable
3. (slang) to look cockamamie, nutty, kooky, odd, screwy, cockeyed or dippy
4. *(vulgar) to look like an ass, ass-hole or asinine*

**to draw a figure**

to trace, sketch, outline or represent a person's body or a shape

He **drew a figure** of a woman which was beautiful.

**to figure briefly in something**

1. to be included momentarily, temporarily or cursorily in something

He **figured** only **briefly in the murder investigation**.

2. (informal) to be briefly, flittingly, for a short while or fleetingly involved in something

**to figure in**

1. to include, not forget, remember, regard, consider, note

You must **figure in** even the errors and mistakes.

2. (less formal to informal) to make allowance for, reckon among, pay attention to, take into, **keep in mind**, take into consideration, factor into, take into account, give one's attention to, **bear in mind**, keep in view

**to figure into**

1. to be entangled, involved, entrapped or included in

I don't know how I **figure into** all of these problems. Frankly, I'm not involved and I don't want to be involved.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be embroiled, incriminated, enmeshed, implicated, ensnared in
3. to be tied up in, connected to, caught up in, mixed up in, drawn into, be a part of, tangled up in

### to figure on

1. to have full confidence or faith in, trust implicitly, depend on, have complete faith in, trust, believe in

You can **figure on** at least a couple thousand dollars a month.

2. to bank on, put one's hope in, count on, stake one's life on, rely on, go to the bank on, swear by, bank upon, stake one's life upon, bank upon, put one's trust in

No matter what, you must always **figure on** success.

### to figure one as

1. to see, conclude, judge, suppose, believe, consider, infer, surmise, presume or imagine someone as something

I **figured my uncle as** a lazy-bone. I thank God that I could not have been more wrong.

2. (more stylized/formal) to posit, deduce, envision, conceive, hypothesize, deem, speculate, postulate
3. (informal) to arrive at, reckon, reckon upon, look upon, take it, put two and two together

### to figure out

1. to understand, gather, untangle, decode, diagnose, interpret, unravel, deduce, see, decipher, translate, guess, solve

I can't **figure out** what you want me to do.

2. (more stylized/formal) to infer, ascertain, render, surmise, construe, disentangle, deduce, derive, glean, discern, construe, determine
3. (less formal to informal) to make out, put two and two together, work out, read between the lines, puzzle out, reckon, **make head or tails out of**
4. (slang) to get the hang of, dope out, latch onto, psych out, **get through one's head**, get the drift of, catch on

#### **to figure one out**

1. to understand, penetrate, apprehend, grasp, learn, sense  
I have known him for a long time and I still can't **figure her out**.
2. (more stylized/formal) to discern, comprehend, divine, fathom, determine, intuit, assimilate
3. (less formal to informal) to **make head or tails out of**, make out, get, savvy, figure out, get a fix on, lay hold on
4. (informal) to dig, get the hang of, dope out, latch onto, psych out **get through one's head**, be hip to, get the drift of, catch on, get to the bottom of, root out

#### **to figure that ...**

1. to reason, maintain, fancy, believe, conclude or think that ...  
I **figure that** he'll give me one more day before calling me back.

2. (more stylized/formal) to muse, presuppose, infer, postulate, post, judge, hypothesize, surmise, ascertain, submit, daresay, theorize or conjecture that ...
3. (less formal to informal) to put on one's thinking cap, take a shot in the dark, reckon, guess, **use one's head**, **talk of the top of one's head**, be of the opinion that ...
4. (informal) to guess estimate

#### **to give a figure to**

1. to compute, estimate calculate, tally, count
2. (more stylized/formal) to quantify, enumerate
3. (less formal to informal) to tote, **figure**, work out, **put a figure to**, reckon, add up, total up, tote up

#### **to give an exact figure**

to state the exact amount of how much something will cost

I don't have much time; I need you to **give an exact figure** for everything.

#### **(to have) a figure loom out of nowhere**

1. to have someone suddenly appear or emerge what seems from nowhere, suddenly make oneself known or reveal oneself

While I was driving down the road, suddenly, without warning, a **figure loomed out of nowhere.**

2. (less formal) to have someone suddenly come into view, come into fore or become visible

### **to have a figure that is out of this world**

1. to be well-built, attractive or **pleasing to the eye**

She has a **figure that is out of this world.** She will have no problem getting a job as a model.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be well-endowed, voluptuous, interesting, appealing or stunning
3. (informal) to be well-shaped, proportioned, pleasing, **eye-filling**, inviting, **tooth-some**, **eye-catching** or tempting
4. (slang) to be stacked, **full-bosomed**, built, built like a brick house, shapely, busty or curvaceous
5. *(slang to vulgar) to be comely, a great looking behind, desirable or come-hither*
6. *(vulgar) to have a great looking ass, great looking hooters or ass that could kill*

### **to have a head for figures**

1. to be good at or have a natural talent, proficiency, mastery, aptitude or flair for mathematics, be skillful at mathematics

I don't understand anything about this class; I do **not have a head for figures**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to have an adroitness, swiftness, faculty, dexterity, nimbleness for mathematics, be adept, adroit, proficient, apt at mathematics
3. (less formal) to have a knack, bent, **mind** or turn **for mathematics**
4. (informal) to be a whiz, whiz-bang, crack or crackerjack

#### **to keep one's figure**

1. to remain physically fit, be in a good state of physical fitness, not be overweight, continue having an attractive body, not be fat

Even after having a baby she has managed to **keep her figure**.

2. to remain in shape, stay in shape, not be out of shape, flabby, chubby, or tubby

#### **to lose one's figure**

1. to become fat, corpulent or overweight, no longer be physically fit, **no longer have an attractive body**

After she had her baby, she **lost her figure**.

2. (informal) to no longer be in shape, to become flabby, chubby or tubby

### **to not have a head for figures**

1. to not be good at or have a talent, proficiency, mastery, aptitude or flair for mathematics, not be skillful at mathematics

I don't understand anything about this class; I do **not have a head for figures.**

2. (more stylistic) to not have an adroitness, swiftness, faculty, dexterity, nimbleness for mathematics, not be adept, adroit, proficient, apt at mathematics
3. (informal) to not have a knack, bent, **mind** or turn **for mathematics**
4. (slang) to not be a whiz, whiz-bang, crack or crackerjack

### **to not have the figure for**

to not have the body type for, to be too skinny or too fat for, not fit, not be suitable for

That's a beautiful dress but you do **not have the figure for it.**

### **to not have the head for figures**

1. to not be good at or have a talent, proficiency, mastery, aptitud or flair for mathematics, be skillful at mathematics

I don't understand anything about this class; I do **not have the head for figures.**

2. (more stylized/formal) to have an adroitness, swiftness, faculty, dexterity, nimbleness for mathematics



3. (less formal to informal) to have a knack, bent, **mind** or turn **for mathematics**

### **to put a figure to**

1. to compute, estimate calculate, tally, count
2. (more stylized/formal) to quantify, enumerate
3. (less formal or informal) to tote, **figure**, work out, put a figure to, reckon, add up, total up, tot up

### **to put an exact figure on**

1. to state the exact amount of how much something will cost

Let's **get to the heart to the matter**; **put an exact figure on** the entire cost. After I know that, I can say either yes or no.

2. (less formal) to give an exact figure

### **to round off the figures**

to change into the nearest whole number, make a rough approximation, approximate, give in round numbers, round off

So that we are not here all day trying to figure out all the number, **round off the figures**.

### **to round the figures off**

to make a rough approximation, approximate, give in round numbers, round off, change into the nearest whole number

So that we are not here all day trying to figure out all the number, **round the figures off**.

**to think of one's figure**

to be careful about how much one eats or how much exercise one does, watch one's weight, be attentive to one's body

I know that you want that piece of cake but you must **think of your figure.**

**to want in round figures**

to want an amount in the nearest whole number, rough approximation, approximation, in round numbers or round off figures

Forget about the cents, **I want in round figures the amount.**

**Figure it out!**

1. to see, by adding up the numbers, how much everything cost

I don't have either the time or inclination to calculate how much all this will cost. **Figure it out.**

2. (informal) Tally it up! Add it up! Total it up!

3. to solve, resolve, unravel, unlock, crack or disentangle a problem  
You don't know why she's angry. **Figure it out!**

4. Solve it! Find the answer! Connect the dots!

**Go figure.**

(used when one can not explain or understand something)

**Go figure.** Who knew that he was actually going to lose.

**It figures.**

(said when something expected comes about but to one's great indignation or dislike)

**It figures!** Now you want to leave.

**That figures!**

(said when something expected comes about but to one's great indignation or dislike)

That was to be expected! What else could you expect!

**full-figured**

(usually used in reference to a female)

1. being stout, heavy, massive, big, fat, overweight or obese

Some men like women who are **full-figured**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being thickset, corpulent, portly or rotund
3. (informal) being a heavy-weight, being plump, bulky, pudgy or chubby

**to be full-figured**

(usually used in reference to a female)

1. to be stout, heavy, massive, big, fat, overweight or obese

Some men like women who **are full-figured**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be thickset, corpulent, portly or rotund

3. (informal) to be a heavy-weight, being plump, bulky, pudgy or chubby

**figurative**

allegorical, metaphorical, not literal, emblematic, symbolic, representative

This is meant to be **figurative** not literal.

**figurine**

1. statuette, carving, china figure, ornament

2. (informal) knick-knack, trinket

The memory's soft **figures** fade away.  
-Pope

# Limb

*(entered into English before 900)*

Old and Middle English **lim**, Old Norse **lim**, Dutch **ledemaat**,  
Danish **medlem**, German **Glied**, Swedish **lem**, Norwegian **lem**,  
Latin **limus**, French **membre**, Spanish **miembro**

## **limb**

1. part of a human being or animal distinct from the head or trunk  
i.e. leg or arm

Of this patient, how many **limbs** were injured in the accident?

2. part, member, appendage, extension, extremity

3. main branch of a tree

He was forced to cut the **limb** of the tree.

4. branch, projection, spur

5. offshoot, shoot, scion, descendant, heir, offspring, child

6. (slang) chip off the old block, seed

7. (slang for:) mischievous child, imp, rascal, bad boy

## **to limb**

1. to remove the limb or branch from a fell tree

2. (more stylized/formal) to dismember, amputate

3. (less formal to informal) to cut off the limb of, remove the limb

### **danger to both life and limb**

1. being a danger, hazard or risk to one's well-being, a safety hazard or an endangerment to one's well-being, being attended, fraught, pregnant or replete with risk or danger

Your driving is a **danger to both life and limb**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being accompanied by hazard, attended with precariousness, pregnant with peril, perilous, impending, looming, threatening or imminent
3. (less formal) being abounding with danger, teeming with danger, jammed packed with danger, **hairy**

### **out on a limb**

1. in a risky, dangerous, unsure, hazardous, difficult or unpredictable situation

This theory is really revolutionary; you are really **out on a limb**.

2. in perilous, precarious, jeopardous, unreliable or menacing situation
3. (informal) in a dicey, iffy, up in the air, ticklish, chancy delicate, touchy, scary, **hairy** or thorny situation

### **reckless disregard for life and limb**

1. putting oneself unnecessarily in jeopardy or in danger, risk oneself in a thoughtless, irresponsible or heedless manner, being reckless, careless, rash or fearless

If you have **reckless disregard for life and limb**, you will

pay the price.

2. (more stylized/formal) acting in a manner which is unheeding, impulsive, precipitate, impudent, impetuous or hasty
3. (less formal to informal) being **headlong**, madcap, **unmindful**, foolhardy, **headfirst**, **head-over-the heel**, unwary or death-defying
4. (slang) being helter-skelter, pell-mell, harum-scarum, devil-may-care
5. (*vulgar*) *not giving a shit or damn for one's life*

### **torn from limb to limb**

1. violently maimed, marred or mangled

If the bear catches me, I will **be torn from limb to limb**.

2. (more stylized/formal) dismembered, disjointed or dislimbed
3. (less formal to informal) cut to pieces, pulled or ripped apart, ripped or pulled to pieces, butchered, or slaughtered
4. beaten badly, erased, dismantled, murdered, destroyed, killed, demolished

If you don't get him out of here now, he is going to be **torn from limb to limb**.

5. (more stylized/formal) annihilated, demolished, eradicated, obliterate, erased
6. (less formal to informal) trounced, ripped apart, grounded up, wiped out, smashed, battered down, pulverized, crushed, reduced to nothing, gutted, torn to the ground, killed off



7. (informal to slang) licked, rubbed out, flattened, crushed into smithereens, mopped up, creamed or crushed into bits, blotted out

### **to be a danger to both life and limb**

1. to be a danger, hazard or risk to one's well-being, a safety hazard or an endangerment to one's well-being, be attended, fraught, pregnant or replete with risk or danger

Your driving **is a danger to both life and limb**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be accompanied by hazard, attended with precariousness, be pregnant with peril, be perilous, impending, looming, threatening or imminent
3. (less formal) to be abounding with danger, be teeming with danger, be jammed packed with danger, be **hairy**

### **to be out on a limb**

1. to be in a risky, dangerous, unsure, hazardous, difficult or unpredictable situation

This theory is really revolutionary; you **are really out on a limb**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be in a perilous, precarious, jeopardous, unreliable or menacing situation
3. (informal) to be in a dicey, iffy, up in the air, ticklish, chancy delicate, touchy, scary, **hairy** or thorny situation

### **to be torn from limb to limb**

1. to be violently maimed, marred or mangled

If the bear catches me, I will **be torn from limb to limb**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be dismembered, disjointed or dislimbed
3. (less formal to informal) to be cut to pieces, be pulled or ripped apart, ripped or pulled to pieces, butchered, or slaughtered
4. to be beaten badly, erased, dismantled, murdered, destroyed, killed or demolished

If you don't get him out of here now, he is going to **be torn from limb to limb**.

5. (more stylized/formal) to be annihilated, demolished, eradicated, or erased
6. (less formal to informal) to be trounced, ripped apart, grounded up, wiped out, smashed, battered down, pulverized, crushed, reduced to nothing, gutted, torn to the ground or killed off
7. (informal to slang) to be licked, rubbed out, tromped, flattened, crushed into smithereens, mopped up, creamed or crushed into bits or blotted out

#### **to escape with life and limb**

1. to get out of a fight, either literally or metaphorically, intact or whole, get away safely

I don't know how I **escaped** that company **with life and limb**.

2. (informal) to get clear of, make a clean get away, make good one's escape, get free

### **to go out on a limb**

1. to risk oneself, make oneself vulnerable, put oneself in jeopardy, defy danger, go in harm's way, expose oneself to danger

You're really **going out on a limb**.

2. (informal) to play with fire, **put one's head in the lion's mouth**, take a chance, **put one's neck on the line**, **take one's life in one's own hands**, be on a tightrope, dance on the razor's edge, skate on thin ice, jump without a parachute, be in a tight spot, put oneself in a tight spot

3. to guess, speculate, estimate, make an estimation

When I said that Ventura would win the race, everyone thought that I was **going out on a limb**.

4. (more stylized/formal) to forecast, conjecture, foretell, predict, hazard a guess, prognosticate, forebode, soothsay, divine

5. (informal) to guesstimate, take a shot, reckon, take a stab in the dark, make a hunch, **talk off the top of one's head**

### **to have a reckless disregard for life and limb**

1. to put oneself unnecessarily in jeopardy or in danger, risk oneself in a thoughtless, irresponsible or heedless manner, be reckless, careless, rash or fearless

If you **have reckless disregard for life and limb**, you will pay the price.

2. (more stylized/formal) to act in a manner which is unheeding, impulsive, precipitate, impudent, impetuous or hasty

3. (less formal to informal) to have a **headlong**, madcap, foolhardy, **headfirst**, **head-over-the heel**, or have a death-defying regard for life, act in a manner which is **unmindful** or unwary
4. (slang) to be helter-skelter, pell-mell, harum-scarum or devil-may-care
5. (*vulgar*) to not give a shit or damn for one's life

### **to risk life and limb**

1. to risk oneself, make oneself vulnerable, put oneself in jeopardy, defy danger, go in or into harm's way, expose oneself to danger

I **risked life and limb** to get here today. I'm glad.

2. (less formal to informal) to play with fire, **put one's head in the lion's mouth**, take a chance, **put one's neck on the line**, **take one's life in one's own hands**, be on a tightrope, dance on the razor's edge, skate on thin ice, jump without a parachute, be in a tight spot, put oneself in a tight spot, **go out on a limb**, put everything on the line, risk one's neck, put in jeopardy, put oneself in a tight spot

### **to tear from limb to limb**

1. to violently maim, mar, mangle

The lion **tore the animal from limb to limb**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to dismember, disjoin, dislimb
3. (less formal to informal) to cut to pieces, pull or rip apart, rip or pull to pieces, butcher, slaughter
4. to beat badly, erase, dismantle, murder, destroy, kill, demolish

If you don't get him out of here now, the mobsters are going to **tear him from limb to limb**.

5. (more stylized/formal) to annihilate, demolish, eradicate, efface, erase, discreate
6. (less formal to informal) to trounce, rip apart, ground up, wipe out, smash, batter down, pulverize, crush, reduce to nothing, gut, tear to the ground, tear apart
7. (slang) to lick, rub out, flatten, crush into smithereens, mop up, cream or crush into bits, blot out, grind, smash, squash, trounce, crush into the floor

**-limbed**

to have or be this type of limb

i.e. **long limbed** or **strong-limbed**

**to be long limbed**

to have long limbs

**to be short limbed**

to have short limbs

# Skin

(entered into English before 1000)

Old English **scinn**, Middle English Old Norse **skinn**, Dutch **schinden**,  
Danish **hud skind**, Frisian **fel hûd**, Icelandic and Norwegian **hud**,  
Swedish **hud skinn skinna päls**, German **Schinden**, Latin **cutis**,  
French **peau**, Spanish **piel**

## Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **skin**:

**cutis-** (from the Latin *cutis* skin)

**dermato-**, **derma**, **dermatic**, **dermat-**, **dermo-**, **derm-** (from Greek  
*derma*, skin) combining forms meaning skin, hide or covering

**-dermis**, **-dermatous**, **-dermis**, **-dermal**, **-dermic**, **-dermoid**, **-dermatoid**  
combining forms meaning skin, in general, or the layer of skin just below  
the epidermis (known as the derma)

**-dermatous** combining forms meaning skin meaning possessing skin or  
skinned

**pell-** (from L:*pell* *pellis* Gr:*pelz* a skin L: *pellicius* made of skins)  
combining forms meaning skin

## **skin**

1. (more stylized/formal) epidermis, cuticle, derma, cutis, pellicle, cutis vera, integument
2. (animal) hide, pelt, jacket, fleece, fell, fur, leather, vellum, integument
3. (fruit) rind, peel, hull, shell, husk, cover, covering, pod, case
4. overlay, coating, coat, layer, lamina, film
5. wineskin, pouch, container, envelope
6. sheathe, condom

## **to skin**

1. to peel, scale, bark, strip, scalp, unwrap, remove, shed  

It was not unusual to **skin** one's enemies in Ancient Mesoamerica.
2. (more stylized/formal) to flay, exfoliate, scale, denude, excorticate, excoriate
3. (informal) to throw off, shed, strip off, cast off, peel off
4. (fruit or vegetables) to shell, husk, shuck, hull, rind, pare

### **all skin and bones**

1. very skinny, corpse-like, underfed, undernourished, **skeletal**, too lean, deathly thin

I don't like how she looks; she is **all skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, shrunk, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**
3. (informal) thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished
4. (slang) scrawny, twiggy, **boney**, like a plucked chicken, skinny as a railing, **being a bag of bones**, **having no meat on those bones**, **having no meat on one's bones**

### **ass in lion's skin**

1. betrayer, deceiver, trickster, liar, cheater, con man, swindler

I don't trust a word that he says; he is an **ass in lion's skin**.

2. (more stylized/formal) dissembler, deluder, circumventor, pretender, Artful Dodger, fraud, perjurer, prevaricator
3. (informal) used-car salesman, wolf in a sheep's clothing, duper, tricky-dickey



### **bad skin**

bad complexion, acne

Ever since she has been a teenager, she has had very **bad skin**.

### **beautiful skin**

good or clear complexion

She does not need make-up. She has **beautiful skin**.

### **by the skin of one's teeth**

1. by a narrow or slim margin, scarcely, by a fraction of an inch, barely, hardly, by the narrowest of margin, just, barely, only, almost, close, pretty close, nearly equal, tight, sharply contested, near, nearly, pretty near, not quite

I passed only **by the skin of my teeth**.

2. (less formal to informal) **by a hair's breath**, by the narrowest of margin, by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **by hair's breath**, **by the skin of one's teeth** or by a fraction of an inch, get away by, **be neck and neck**, photo finish, **within a hair**, **shoulder to shoulder**, **by a whisker**, nip and tuck, **within an eyelash**, **at one's heel**, be by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **hair's breath**, **skin of one's teeth**

3. with great difficulty, hard

I did it **by the skin of my teeth**.

4. (more stylized/formal) arduous, laborious, painstaking,

5. (less formal to informal) uphill, Herculean, tough, rough, not easy

6. (informal) hard going, hard row to hoe, hard sledding, nasty

### **cast skins**

1. discarded skins
2. (more stylized/ formal) exuviae

### **good skin**

good or clear complexion

She does not need make-up. She has very **good skin**.

### **goose skin**

1. erection or the raising of the hair on one's body due to fear, excitement or cold, shivers, chills, cold shivers

Are you cold? Why do you have **goose skin**?

2. (more stylized/formal) horripilation
3. (informal) goose bumps, goose pimples, **goose flesh**, creeps, duck bumps, dithers
4. (slang) cold creeps

### **no skin off of one's nose**

1. not matter, not important, of no consequence, matter, weight or import

What you do or don't do is **no skin off my nose**.

2. (more stylized/formal) incurious, blasé, apathetic, indifferent, insouciant to
3. (informal) making no difference, not having a dog in that fight
4. (French) *sans souci*

### **nothing but skins and bones**

1. very skinny, corpse-like, underfed, undernourished, **skeletal**, too lean, deathly thin

She is **nothing but skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, shrunk, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**
3. (less formal to informal) thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished
4. (informal to slang) scrawny, twiggy, **bony**, like a plucked chicken, skinny as a railing, **a bag of bones**, **having no meat on those bones**, **having no meat on one's bones**

### **sheepskin**

slang for diploma, degree, academic title

At last! I've been working to get this **sheepskin** for ten years.

### **only skin-deep**

1. superficial, on the surface, not very profound or not deep, being a façade or veneer, being the appearance or coating, not being profound

Don't trust what she's feeling now; her feelings are **only skin deep**.

2. shallow, outermost, outside, external, outward, exterior

It is true that beauty is only **skin deep**.

3. unreal, artificial, plastic, fake, fraud, delusion, phony

4. (informal) hoax, two-dollar bill, ruse or sham, being make-believe

5. empty, devoid, slight, meaningless, unimportant, signifying nothing, vacuous

6. (more stylized/formal) of little or no import, inconsequential, hollow negligible, insubstantial, inconsequential matter, inconsiderable, inappreciable, vacuous or inane

7. (less formal to informal) petty, paltry, trivial, not worth mentioning, frivolous

8. (slang) of no-account, picayune, penny-ante, fiddling, trifling, not worth a hill a beans, plug nickel, not worth the paper it is printed on, straw or red cent

### **skin and bones**

1. on the decline, very skinny, unhealthy, corpse-like, frail, underfed, undernourished, wasted, **skeletal**, too lean, deathly thin

I don't know what happened to her but she's nothing but **skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, shrunk, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**
3. (less formal to informal) thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished
4. (informal to slang) scrawny, twiggy, **boney**, like a plucked chicken or skinny as a railing

### **skin deep**

1. superficial, on the surface, not very profound, not deep

What she feels for you is only **skin deep**. She doesn't love you.

2. (more stylized/formal) shallow, outermost, outside, external. outward, exterior

It is true that beauty is only **skin deep**.

3. unreal, artificial, plastic, fake, fraud, delusion, phony

Can't you tell that that is she is only crying crocodile tears. Her feeling of sorrow is only **skin deep**.

4. (informal to slang) hoax, make-believe, two-dollar bill, ruse, sham
5. empty, devoid, slight, meaningless, unimportant, signifying nothing, vacuous  
  
His feelings for you are only **skin deep**. Can't you see that?
6. (more stylized/formal) of little or no import, inconsequential, hollow negligible, insubstantial, inconsequential matter, inconsiderable, inappreciable, inane
7. (less formal to informal) petty, paltry, trivial, not worth mentioning, frivolous
8. (informal to slang) no-account, picayune, penny-ante, fiddling, trifling, not worth a hill a beans, plug nickel, not worth the paper it is printed on, straw, red cent

### **skin flick**

1. adult films, films dominated by sex, pornographic, obscene, lewd, vulgar or coarse, x-rated films, sexploitation

Another name for **skin flick** is pornography.

2. (more stylized/formal) films which are suggestive, prurient, indecent, profane, salacious, fulsome or erotic
3. (informal) films which are vile, nasty, filthy, raunchy, risqué, off-color, hard-core, soft-core or bawdy, peep shows, blue movies, pornography

4. (slang) films which are smutty, gross or blue, stag films, nudies, cheesecake, porn, **leg art**

### **skin flint**

1. to be extraordinarily cheap, frugal, economical or thrifty

My aunt was a real **skin flint**. She would not lend a penny without asking for interest.

2. (more stylized/formal) brummagem, parsimonious, miserly, churl
3. (informal to slang) **closed-fisted**, stingy, penny pincher, tight, **tightfisted**, pinchpenny, cheapskate, tightwad, **pinch fist**, money-grubber, miserly, petty, scrooge

What a **skin flint**!

### **skin game**

1. fraud, hoax, trick, deception, red herring, ploy, to be trickery

He's an expert in the **skin game**. He has made millions from it.

2. (more stylized/formal) artifice, subterfuge, ruse, stratagem, contrivance, prevarication, intrigue
3. (less formal to informal) swindle, bluff, confidence game, to be crooked, smooth, shady, **left-handed**, **underhanded**, slick, crafty, double-dealing, wily
4. (informal to slang) sham, flimflam, rip off, scam, put on game, gimmick, to be hanky-panky, funny business, monkey business

### **skin graft**

1. transplantation of the skin from one part of the body to another (for burnt or accident victims)

An operation in which one gets a **skin graft** is very painful.

2. (medical) dermoplasty

### **skin head**

1. young person who usually is bald, known for his violence, bigotry, and racism, racist, bigot, be bias, prejudice, bigoted or intolerant

The moment that I saw him I knew that he was a **skin head**.

2. (more stylized/formal) incendiary, to be dogmatic, doctrinaire, intransigent, intractable, unyielding or malcontent
3. (informal) **roughneck**, ruffian, to be **petty minded**, **closed minded**, **narrow-minded**, narrow, **stiff-necked**, set in one's ways, **stiff-backed**, mean or **mean minded**
4. (slang) hooligan, rowdy, trouble-maker, goon, hoodlum, thug, rabble-rouser, street-fighter, ugly customer

### **skin like**

(more stylized/formal) dermatoid, dermoid

### **skin tight**

1. revealing, very tight, form fitting, too small



My mother used to love **skin tight** clothing.

2. (informal) snug, close-fitting, tight-fitting

### **soaked to the skin**

1. wet, very wet, soaked

He got caught in the rain and was **soaked to the skin**.

2. (more stylistic) imbrued, immerged saturated, immersed, infused, penetrated, impregnated, imbued, inundated
3. wringing wet, soggy, **soaked to the skin**, soak and wet, doused, drenched, wet down, soaked through, drowned, sopping, dripping, wet through, sippy, **wet to the skin**, soused

### **tallowy skin**

1. having skin which is sickly, yellowish, sallow, yellow or yellow tinged, having **yellow-skin**, looking or being sickly, feeble, in poor health, pale, unhealthy, sick or pinched

My God, what is the matter with her. She has such **tallowy-skinned**.

2. (more stylized/formal) looking or being on the decline, infirm, frail, delicate, invalid, ill, unwell, emaciated, ailing or fragile, being sallow, having jaundice, being jaundice-looking, having been **reduced to skin and bones**, being peaked, livid, wan
3. (less formal to informal) looking or being spent, pasty withered, **tallow faced**, **hollow-eyed**, looking washed-out

### **thick skin**

1. callous, cold, immovable, hard, tough, indifferent, deadened, unfeeling, frigid, closed to, numb, insensitive

She doesn't hurt very easily. She has very **thick skin**.

2. obdurate, unrelenting, impervious, inelastic, indurate, inured, conditioned, set, insensate, anesthetized, insensible, deaden, insensible, unpitying
3. seasoned, stony, hard as nails, hard-boiled, tempered, cold hearted, casehardened, stony, icy, **cold-blooded**, hard-bitten, **hard-hearted**, steely, **soulless**

### **thin skin**

1. being a person who is easily offended, oversensitive, easily hurt, supersensitive, hot tempered, excitable, impatient or touchy

She has **very thin skin**. Be careful!

2. (more stylized/formal) irascible, petulant, churlish, peevish, prickly, irascible, hypersensitive, skittish, ill-humored, ill-tempered, temperamental, sulky, choleric
3. (less formal to informal) high-strung, crusty, snappish, quick to tears, quick to tear up, quick to cry, being someone with whom one must walk on eggs around or tread softly and carefully around, being testy, edgy or ticklish

### **through the skin**

(more stylized/ formal) transdermal, percutaneous, pellucid, transcutaneous

### **under one's skin**

1. a load, burden, bother, annoyance, problem, tiresome person, weight, bore, pain

She is **under my skin** to such a point that I can't stand hearing her name mentioned.

2. (more stylized/formal) bane, nuisance, vexation, vexatious, vexing, worrisome or irritating person, irritant, encumbrance, onus, albatross, impediment, liability, **albatross round one's neck, a yoke around one's neck, a yoke round one's neck, an albatross around one's neck, hindrance around one's neck, hindrance round one's neck, affliction around one's neck, affliction round one's neck**
3. (less formal to informal) salt in the wound, be a cross, millstone, thorn, bore, nag, pest, pill, a cross to bear, crashing bore, **a thorn in the side, pain the neck or rear, a thorn in the flesh**, pea in the shoe, dry as dust, loser, gadfly, bur, frightful bore, a cross to bear, hard to stand, **up one's nose, a millstone around one's neck, a millstone round one's neck**
4. (slang) flat tire, drip, downer, **pain in the butt**, retread, **pain in the behind, deadhead**, wet blanket, **a pain in the rear, headache**, pill, thorn
5. *(vulgar) a pain in the ass*
6. affecting deeply, penetrating, moving, impressing, striking, inspiring, touching

I can't forget him; he is **under my skin**.

7. (less formal to informal) touching a chord, jarring, touching a familiar chord, jolting, having an impact, getting one right here, hitting where it hurts, throwing for a loop, striking a familiar chord, touching to the quick, **playing on the heartstrings**, **touching the heart**, **tugging on the heartstrings**
8. (slang) rocking, hitting
9. displaying a true, rich, deep, profound and full understanding  
His exposé was able to **get under the skin** of what pornography really means in Japan.

### **yellow skin**

1. having skin which is sickly, yellowish, sallow, yellow or yellow tinged, having **yellow-skin**, looking or being sickly, feeble, in poor health, pale, unhealthy, sick or pinched

My God, what is the matter with her. She has such **yellow-skin**; she must have jaundice.

2. (more stylized/formal) looking or being on the decline, infirm, frail, delicate, invalid, ill, unwell, emaciated, ailing or fragile, being sallow, having jaundice, being jaundice-looking, having been **reduced to skin and bones**
3. (less formal to informal) looking or being spent, pasty withered, **tallow faced** or **hollow-eyed**, looking washed-out

### **to be all skin and bones**

1. to be very skinny, corpse-like, underfed, undernourished, **skeletal**, too lean or deathly thin

I don't like how she looks; she **is all skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, shrunk, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**
3. (informal) to be thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished
4. (slang) to be scrawny, twiggy, **boney**, like a plucked chicken, skinny as a railing, **to be a bag of bones**, **have no meat on those bones**, **have no meat on one's bones**

#### **to be an ass in lion's skin**

1. be a betrayer, deceiver, trickster, liar, cheater, con man or swindler

I don't trust a word that he says; he **is** an **ass in lion's skin**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be a dissembler, deluder, circumventor, pretender, Artful Dodger, fraud, perjurer or prevaricator
3. (informal) to be a used-car salesman, wolf in a sheep's clothing, duper or tricky-dickey

#### **to be in someone else's skin**

(normally said negatively to say that one would not trade places)

At this moment I would not **be in his skin** for anything in this world.

#### **to be no skin off of one's nose**

1. to not matter, not be important, be of no consequence, matter, weight or import

What you do or don't do **is no skin off my nose**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be incurious, blasé, apathetic, indifferent or insouciant to
3. (less formal to informal) to make no difference, not have a dog in that fight
4. *(French) sans souci*

**to be nothing but skins and bones**

1. to be very skinny, corpse-like, underfed, undernourished, **skeletal**, too lean or deathly thin

She **is nothing but skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, shrunk, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn or **hollowed cheeks**
3. (informal) to be thin as a rail, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved or half-famished
4. (slang) to be scrawny, twiggy, **bony**, skinny as a railing, **to be a bag of bones**, **have no meat on those bones**, **have no meat on one's bones**, like a plucked chicken

**to be only skin-deep**

1. to be superficial, on the surface, not very profound or not deep, be a façade or veneer, be the appearance or coating, not be profound

Don't trust what she's feeling now; her feelings **are only skin deep**.

2. (more formal to informal) to be shallow, outermost, outside, external. outward or exterior, be unreal, artificial, plastic, fake, fraud, delusion or phony
3. (informal to slang) to be a hoax, two-dollar bill, ruse or sham, be make-believe
4. to be empty, devoid, slight, meaningless, unimportant or signifying nothing

Her friendship has always **been skin deep**.

5. (more stylized/formal) to be of little or no import, inconsequential, hollow negligible, insubstantial, inconsequential matter, inconsiderable, inappreciable, vacuous or inane
6. (informal) to be petty, paltry, trivial, not worth mentioning or frivolous
7. (slang) to be of no-account, picayune, penny-ante, fiddling, trifling, not worth a hill a beans, plug nickel, not worth the paper it is printed on, straw or red cent

**to be reduced to skin and bones**

1. to look or be sickly, gaunt, unwholesome, feeble, in poor health, pale, unhealthy, sick, ashen, drained, bloodless, unhealthy color, colorless, without color, drained of color, white, deathly pale or pinched

What has happened to him; as a result of this disease he **has been reduced to skin and bones**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to look or be on the decline, infirm, frail, delicate, invalid, ill, unwell, emaciated, ailing or fragile, be sallow, waxen, deathly, pallid, sallowness, livid, ghastly, peaked, anemic or blanched, have been **reduced to skin and bones**
3. (informal) to look or be spent, pasty, withered, **tallow faced, pale-faced, hollow-eyed**, look washed-out, bleached out, deathlike, as pale as a ghost, be pasty, washed out, ghostly, **pale faced**, death-like or drained

### **to be skin-tight**

to be tight, close-fitting, revealing, form-fitting, snug

I like your pants but they **are skin-tight**.

### **to be soaked to the skin**

1. to be wet, very wet or soaked

He got caught in the rain and **was soaked to the bone**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be imbrued, immersed saturated, immersed, infused, penetrated, impregnated, imbued, inundated
3. to be wringing wet, soggy, **soaked to the bone**, soak and wet, doused, drenched, wet down, soaked through, drowned, sopping, dripping, wet through, sopping, **wet to the skin** or soused

### **to be under one's skin**

1. to be a load, burden, bother, annoyance, problem, tiresome person, weight, bore, pain

She **is under my skin** to such a point that I can't stand hearing her name mentioned.



2. (more stylized/formal) to be a bane, nuisance, vexation, vexing, worrisome or irritating person, irritant, encumbrance, onus, albatross, impediment, liability, **albatross round one's neck, a yoke around one's neck, a yoke round one's neck, an albatross around one's neck, hindrance around one's neck, hindrance round one's neck, affliction around one's neck, affliction round one's neck**
  
3. (less formal to informal) salt in the wound, be a cross, millstone, thorn, bore, nag, pest, pill, a cross to bear, crashing bore, **a thorn in the side, pain the neck or rear, a thorn in the flesh**, pea in the shoe, dry as dust, loser, gadfly, bur, frightful bore, a cross to bear, hard to stand, **up one's nose, a millstone around one's neck, a millstone round one's neck**
  
4. (slang) to be flat tire, drip, downer, **pain in the butt**, retread, **pain in the behind, deadhead**, wet blanket, **a pain in the rear, headache**, pill or thorn
  
5. *(vulgar) a pain in the ass*
  
6. to affect deeply, penetrating, move, impress, strike, inspiring, touch  
  
I can't forget him; he **is under my skin**.
  
7. (informal) to touch a chord, jar, touch a familiar chord, jolting, have an impact, get one right here, hit where it hurts, throw for a loop, strike a familiar chord, touch to the quick, **play on the heartstrings, touch the heart, tug on the heartstrings**
  
8. (slang) to rock, to hit

### **to be wet to the skin**

1. to be wet, very wet or soaked

He got caught in the rain and **was wet to the bone**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be imbrued, immersed saturated, immersed, infused, penetrated, impregnated, imbued, inundated
3. (informal) to be wringing wet, soggy, **soaked to the bone**, soak and wet, doused, drenched, wet down, soaked through, drowned, sopping, dripping, wet through, sippy, **wet to the bone** or soused

### **to escape by the skin of one's teeth**

1. to barely, hardly, scarcely or by a narrow margin escape or flee from a situation without any injury or bodily harm

I thought that I was dead; I **escaped only by the skin of my teeth**.

2. (less formal to informal) to make good one's break, get clear of or effect one's escape **by a hair's breath**, by the narrowest of margin, by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **by hair's breath**, **by the skin of one's teeth** or by a fraction of an inch, get away by, **be neck and neck**, photo finish, **within a hair**, **shoulder to shoulder**, **by a whisker**, nip and tuck, **within an eyelash**, **at one's heel**, be by a tinny whinny, by a bit, **by a nose**, by an inch, **by a whisker**, **hair's breath**, **skin of one's teeth**

### **to escape with a whole skin**

1. to escape, leave, depart, bolt or exit a situation without being injured or harmed

I don't know how but I **escaped with a whole skin**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to flee, beat a hasty retreat, make a hasty retreat, depart, retreat, recoil, withdraw surreptitiously, exfiltrate, abscond, decamp
3. (informal) to **show an extra light pair of heels**, make one's escape, **take to one's heels**, take a French leave, get out, get away safely, take flight, get free of, effect one's escape, bid adieu, **show a clean pair of heels** or make a quit exit without being injured or harmed
4. (slang) to do a moonlight flit, turn tail, high tail, beat a retreat, fly the coop, clear out, light out, vamoose, **hot foot it**, skidoo, make tracks, leave without saying goodbye

**to fit one like a second skin**

1. to fit or suit one well and comfortably

These pants might look tight but they **fit me like a second skin**.

2. (informal) to fit one snugly

**to get under one's skin**

1. to irritate, chafe, perturb, vex, bother, upset, disturb, unhinge, infuriate, fluster, anger

She **gets under my skin**, especially when she talks too much.

2. (more stylized/formal) to discompose, chafe, discommode, undermine, agitate, vex, discomfit, disconcert, flurry, thwart, abash, daunt, pique, chagrin, nettle
3. (informal) to **gall**, rub the wrong way, go against the grain, rile, drive up the wall, get someone's goat, rattle, throw out of, whack, discombobulate, ruffle, get in one's hair

- 4 (slang) to bug, burn up, rile, rile up
5. *(vulgar) to be a pain in the ass*
6. to affect deeply, penetrate, move, impress, strike, inspire, touch  
I can't forget him; he has **gotten under my skin**.
7. (informal) to touch a chord, jar, touch a familiar chord, jolt, have an impact, get one right here, hit where it hurts, throw for a loop, strike a familiar chord, touch to the quick, play on the heartstrings, touch the heart, tug on the heartstrings
8. (slang) to rock, to hit
9. to display a true, rich, deep, profound and full understanding  
His exposé was able to **get under the skin** of what pornography really means in Japan.

**to give someone some skin** (slang)

a particular way of shaking hands very common among urban youth in the inner cities of the United States

How have you been doing? **Give me some skin.**

**to have bad skin**

to have a bad complexion, have acne

Ever since she has been a teenager, she has **had very bad skin.**

### **to have beautiful skin**

to have a good or clear complexion

She does not need make-up. She **has beautiful skin**.

### **to have good skin**

to have a good or clear complexion

She does not need make-up. She **has very good skin**.

### **to have tallowy-skin**

1. to have skin which is sickly, yellowish, sallow, yellow or yellow tinged, have **yellow-skin**, look or be sickly, feeble, in poor health, pale, unhealthy, sick or pinched

My God, what is the matter with her. She **has such tallowy-skin**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to look or be on the decline, infirm, frail, delicate, invalid, ill, unwell, emaciated, ailing or fragile, being sallow, having jaundice, be jaundice-looking, have been **reduced to skin and bones**, be peaked, livid or wan
3. (informal) to look or be spent, pasty withered, **tallow faced**, or **hollow-eyed**, look washed-out

### **to have thick skin**

1. to be callous, cold, immovable, hard, tough, indifferent, deadened, unfeeling, frigid, closed to, numb or insensitive

She doesn't hurt very easily. She **has very thick skin**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be obdurate, unrelenting, impervious, inelastic, indurate, inured, conditioned, set, insensate, anesthetized, insensible, deaden, insensible or un pitying
3. to be seasoned, stony, hard as nails, hard-boiled, tempered, cold hearted, casehardened, stony, icy, cold-blooded, hard-bitten,

**hard-hearted**, steely or **soulless**

**to have thin skin**

1. to be a person who is easily offended, oversensitive, easily hurt, supersensitive, hot tempered, excitable, impatient or touchy

She **has very thin skin**. Be careful!

2. (more stylized/formal) to be irascible, petulant, churlish, peevish, hypersensitive, skittish, ill-humored, ill-tempered, temperamental, prickly or sulky
3. (informal) to be high-strung, snappish, quick to tears, quick to tear up, quick to cry, to be someone with whom one must walk on eggs around or tread softly and carefully around, testy, edgy, ticklish

**to have yellow skin**

1. have skin which is sickly, yellowish, sallow, yellow or yellow tinged, have **yellow-skin**, look or be sickly, feeble, in poor health, pale, unhealthy, sick or pinched

My God, what is the matter with her. She **has such yellow-skin**; she must have jaundice.

2. (more stylized/formal) to look or be on the decline, infirm, frail, delicate, invalid, ill, unwell, emaciated, ailing or fragile, be sallow, having jaundice, being jaundice-looking, have been **reduced to skin and bones**
3. (informal) to look or being spent, pasty, withered, **tallow faced** or **hollow-eyed**, look washed-out

**to jump out of one's skin**

1. to be frighten, scared, surprised, jolted, terrified, ruffled or upset

I **jumped out of my skin** when I heard the gun shots.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be astonished, startled, disturbed, unsettled, disconcerted, astounded or stunned, lose one's sense of proportion
3. (less formal to informal) to be shaken up, taken aback, thrown off guard, taken by surprise, lose one's sense of balance, or have the fear of God put in one
4. (slang) to have one's hair curled, be scared stiff, have the beejesus scared out of one, have the pants scared off one, have the living daylights scared out of one
5. to overreact, get overexcited, panic, be alarmed  
When he heard the news, he almost **jumped out of his skin**.
6. (more stylized/formal) to get over stimulated, impassioned, agitated or over animated, be stricken with terror
7. (informal) to get all worked up, get in a tizzy, get all excited, go crazy, **throw one's hands up**
8. (informal to slang) to get all hyped up, forget which end is up, go bonkers, push the panic button, forget what's what, break out in a cold sweat, go into a dithers, **run around like a chicken without its head**

**to make one jump out of one's skin**

1. to startle, scare, terrify, frighten

When he surprised me he almost **made me jump out of my skin**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to start, astonish, disturb, unsettle, disconcert, astound, stun
3. (informal) to **make one's hair stand on end**, scare stiff, **make one's flesh crawl**, take aback, scare the wits out of, send chills up one's spine, **curl someone's hair**, **curl one's blood**, scare the living daylights out of someone, scare to death, **make one's blood run cold**, **send shivers up one's spine**
4. (slang) to scare the bejeesus out of, scare the pants off of

#### **to make one's skin crawl**

1. to make someone feel uncomfortable or uneasy, shake, repel, revolt, make shudder or shrink from  
  
He's so creepy; he **makes my skin crawl**.
2. (more stylized/formal) to disconcert, disquiet, discomfit, fluster, disturb, discompose, nonplus, flutter, perturb, make someone recoil
3. (informal) to faze, discombobulate, rattle, make pull away from, **make one's flesh crawl**, make draw away from, **make one's flesh creep**, **make someone's skin creep**, **turn someone's stomach**
4. (slang) to give the heebie-jeebies, give the willies, give the jimjams,
5. to scare, terrify, menace, alarm, frighten, horrify  
  
Being in this house **makes my skin crawl**.
6. (more stylized/formal) to unnerve, daunt, petrify, appall, affright



7. (less formal to informal) to **make one's hair stand on end**, scare stiff, **make one's flesh crawl**, take aback, scare the wits out of, send chills up one's spine, **curl someone's hair**, fill with terror, **curl one's blood**, scare the living daylights out of someone, **put one's heart in one's mouth**, scare to death, **make one's blood run cold**, send shivers up one's spine, put the fear of God into
8. (slang) to scare the bejeesus out of, scare the pants off of

### **to save one's own skin**

1. to save oneself from physical or bodily danger, rescue oneself from a situation which is fraught with or full of danger or risk

No one was there to help me; therefore, I had to **save my own skin**.

2. (more stylized/formal) remove oneself from a minacious, precarious, jeopardous, risky, menacing, delicate, minatory or minatorial situation
3. (less formal to informal) to get oneself out of dire straights, a pickle, hot water, a bind or a hot spot help oneself to get out of a situation which is sticky, tough, thorny, touch and go, hairy, knotty, touchy, ticklish, dicey or slippery

### **to save someone's skin**

1. to help someone who is in compelling, dire or urgent need, help some in trouble or in an impasse, help someone from physical or bodily danger, rescue someone from a situation which is fraught with or full of danger or risk

He **saved my skin** by giving me the money that I needed to pay the mob.

2. (more stylized/formal) to remove oneself from a minacious, precarious, jeopardous, risky, menacing, delicate, minatory or minatorial situation
3. (less formal to informal) to help someone get out of a situation which is sticky, tough, thorny, touch and go, hairy, knotty, touchy, ticklish, dicey or slippery, help someone who is in dire straights, in a pickle, in hot water, in a bind or in a hot spot

**to shed one's skin**

1. to cast off, peel, take off, get rid of, slouch off or discard one's skin or covering

A snake **sheds his skin** every so often.

2. (more stylize/formal) to exuviate, molt, exfoliate, defoliate

**to skin someone of everything that one owns**

1. to rob, take or steal from someone, cheat or swindle someone

He **skinned the poor woman of everything that she owned.**

2. (informal) to pinch, **finger**, purloin, filch, pilfer

**to skin one's** (part of the body) i.e. knee, elbow  
to hurt, scrape or scratch by falling

When she fell, she **skinned her knee.**

**to skin someone alive**

1. to kill, kill by removing the skin of

The Aztecs would sometime **skin their enemies alive.**

2. (more stylized/formal) to flay, excoriate
3. to discipline, scold, castigate or punish someone intensely  
  
When she finds out what you've done, she's going to **skin you alive.**
4. (more stylized/formal) to upbraid, rebuke, objurgate, humble, chide, reprimand, chastise, berate, admonish, impugn, vituperate, fustigate, inveigh, reprehend
5. (less formal to informal) to give someone the business or the works, trounce, take to task, haul, over the coals, rail against, bawl out, call on the carpet, light into, thunder against, roast, sail against
6. (informal to slang) to lay into someone, give someone what for, give it to dress or call down, pin one's ears back, jump on or all over, jump down someone's throat

### **to strip to the skin**

1. to take off one's clothing, remove one's clothing, undress  
  
As soon as he got into the house, he **stripped to the skin** and ran to the bathroom to take a shower.
2. (more stylized/formal) to disrobe, unclothe, denudate, peel or cast off one's clothing, divest
3. (informal) to strip, strip down to nothing, lay bare, make nude
4. (slang) to doff

5. *(vulgar) to drop one's drawers*

**Give me some skin!**

(slang: Shake my hand!)

**There's more than one way to skin a cat.**

there are many different ways to reach one's goal or to accomplish what one wants

**black skinned**

1. **brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned, black, of African ancestry, **brown-haired**

Most, but not all, persons of Africa are **black-skinned**.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

**brown skinned**

1. **brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned, black, of African ancestry, **brown-haired**

Even though most persons in the U.S. are **brown skinned**, they are called black not brown.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

**dark-skinned**

1. **brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned, **olive-skinned**

Most people of the world are **dark-skinned**.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

### **fair skinned**

1. light, white, blond, blonde, flaxen, **fair-skinned**

The baby is **fair skinned**.

2. (informal) **light-haired, fair headed, golden haired**

### **light skinned**

1. light, white, blond, blonde, flaxen, **fair-skinned**

Not all **light-skinned** peoples are from Europe.

2. (informal) **light-haired, fair headed, golden haired**

### **olive-skinned**

1. **brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned

Many people in the southern part of Europe are **olive-skinned**.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

### **pale-skinned**

people of very light complexion

**Pale-skinned** individuals must stay out of the sun.

### **tallowy-skinned**

1. having skin which is sickly, yellowish, sallow, yellow or yellow tinged, having **yellow-skin**, looking or being sickly, feeble, in poor health, pale, unhealthy, sick or pinched

My God, what is the matter with her. She is so **tallowy-skinned**.

2. (more stylized/formal) looking or being on the decline, infirm, frail, delicate, invalid, ill, unwell, emaciated, ailing or fragile, being sallow, having jaundice, being jaundice-looking, having been **reduced to skin and bones**, being peaked, livid, wan
3. (informal) looking or being spent, pasty withered, **tallow faced**, **hollow-eyed**, looking washed-out

### **thick-skinned**

1. being a person who is not easily hurt, offended or insulted, hard, un pitying, untouched, non-reactive, unmerciful, insensitive, callous, unfeeling, shrewd, frigid, uncaring

Don't worry about her. She is **thick-skinned**; she won't be offended by what you say.

2. (more stylized/formal) uncompassionate, callous, impervious, merciless, unstirred, unsympathetic, immune, inured, unsentimental, passionless
3. (less formal to informal) **soulless**, **hard-nosed**, cold, hard-bitten, stony, **hard-hearted**, hard, **heartless**, immovable, uncaring, harden, hard-boiled, **bullet-headed**, case-harden, **marble-hearted**

### **thin-skinned**

1. sensitive, hypersensitive, supersensitive, easily offended

Be careful, she is extremely **thin-skinned**.

2. (informal) touchy, moody, testy, snappish

He has a very bad hangover; therefore, he is very **thin-skinned** this morning.

3. (more stylized/formal) sulky, sullen, resentful

4. (informal) grumpy, morose

5. prudish, squeamish, queasy

I wouldn't tell her of your past; she can be somewhat **thin-skinned** about certain types of experiences.

### **yellow-skinned**

1. having skin which is sickly, yellowish, sallow, yellow or yellow tinged, having **yellow-skin**, looking or being sickly, feeble, in poor health, pale, unhealthy, sick or pinched

My God, what is the matter with her. She is so **yellow-skinned**; she must have jaundice.

2. (more stylized/formal) looking or being on the decline, infirm, frail, delicate, invalid, ill, unwell, emaciated, ailing or fragile, being sallow, having jaundice, being jaundice-looking, having been **reduced to skin and bones**
3. (less formal to informal) looking or being spent, pasty withered, **tallow faced, hollow-eyed**, looking washed-out

### **to be black skinned**

1. **to be brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned, black, of African ancestry, **brown-haired**

Most, but not all, persons of Africa **are black-skinned**.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

### **to be brown skinned**

1. **to be brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned, dark complexioned, black, of African ancestry, **brown-haired**

Even though most persons in the the US **are brown skinned**, they are called black not brown.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

### **to be dark-skinned**

1. **to be brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned or dark complexioned

Many people of the Middle East and Latin America **are dark-skinned**.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

Most people of the world **are dark-skinned**.

### **to be fair skinned**

1. light, white, blond, blonde, flaxen, **fair-skinned**

The baby **is fair skinned**.

2. (informal) **light-haired, fair headed, golden haired**



### **to be light-skinned**

being people of a lighter complexion, people of European descent

People whose ancestors originated from cold climates **are** normally **light-skinned**.

### **to be olive-skinned**

1. **to be brown-skinned, dark-skinned**, brunette, **black-haired, dark-haired, not fair skinned**, not light complexioned or dark complexioned

Many people in the southern part of Europe **are olive-skinned**.

2. (informal/possibly insulting) swarthy, tawny, dusky

### **to be pale-skinned**

being people of very light complexion

She must stay out of the sun because she **is so pale-skinned**.

### **to be tallowy-skinned**

1. to have skin which is sickly, yellowish, sallow, yellow or yellow tinged, have **yellow-skin**, look or be sickly, feeble, in poor health, pale, unhealthy, sick or pinched

My God, what is the matter with her. She **is so tallowy-skinned**.

2. (more stylized) to look or be on the decline, infirm, frail, delicate, invalid, ill, unwell, emaciated, ailing or fragile, being sallow, having jaundice, be jaundice-looking, have been **reduced to skin and bones**, be peaked, livid or wan
3. (informal) to look or be spent, pasty withered, **tallow faced**, or **hollow-eyed**, look washed-out

### **to be thick skinned**

1. to be callous, cold, immovable, hard, tough, indifferent, deadened, unfeeling, frigid, closed to, numb or insensitive

She doesn't hurt very easily. She **is very thick skinned**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be obdurate, unrelenting, impervious, inelastic, indurate, inured, conditioned, set, insensate, anesthetized, insensible, deaden, insensible, unpitying
3. to be seasoned, stony, hard as nails, hard-boiled, tempered, cold hearted, casehardened, stony, icy, cold-blooded, hard-bitten, **hard-hearted**, steely, **soulless**

### **to be thin skinned**

1. to be a person who is easily offended, oversensitive, easily hurt, supersensitive, hot tempered, excitable, impatient or touchy

She **is very thin skinned**. Be careful!

2. (more stylized/formal) to be irascible, petulant, churlish, peevish, hypersensitive, skittish, ill-humored, ill-tempered, temperamental, prickly or sulky
3. (less formal to informal) to be high-strung, snappish, quick to tears, quick to tear up, quick to cry, to be someone with whom one must walk on eggs around or tread softly and carefully around, testy, edgy or ticklish

### **to be yellow-skinned**

1. to have skin which is sickly, yellowish, sallow, yellow or yellow tinged, have **yellow-skin**, look or be sickly, feeble, in poor health, pale, unhealthy, sick or pinched

My God, what is the matter with her. She **is so yellow-skinned**; she must have jaundice.

2. (more stylized/formal) to look or be on the decline, infirm, frail, delicate, invalid, ill, unwell, emaciated, ailing or fragile, be sallow, having jaundice, being jaundice-looking, have been **reduced to skin and bones**
3. (informal) to look or being spent, pasty withered, **tallow faced** or **hollow-eyed**, look washed-out

### **skinny**

1. to be very skinny, corpse-like, lean, slender, underfed, undernourished, **skeletal**, too lean or deathly thin  
  
She is so **skinny**.
2. (more stylized/formal) to be gaunt, emaciated, wasted, **fleshless**, **hollow-eyed**, shrunken, pinched, frail, haggard, **raw boned**, **hollow cheeked**, spare, drawn, **hollowed cheeks**
3. (less formal to informal) to be thin as a rail, gangling, weedy, gangly, **bare-boned**, wasted, gangling, throw a shadow, thin as a reed, half-starved, half-famished or lanky
4. (informal to slang) to be scrawny, twiggy, **bony**, like a plucked chicken, skinny as a railing, **to be a bag of bones**, **have no meat on those bones**, **have no meat on one's bones**

She lost all that weight to be **skinny**. Well, she succeeded.

### **skinny dipping**

swimming nude or without clothing

### **the skinny**

1. inside information

I have **the skinny** on all the parties on campus this week.

2. (more stylized/formal) being privy to confidential or not to be disclosed information, being apprised to information which is not open to the public, restricted, exclusive, inaccessible or inaccessible
3. (less formal to informal) being in on or being let in on what is **for few eyes only**, hush-hush, top secret, off the record or not for general consumption

**to be given the skinny on**

1. to get or obtain the inside information, be given information most people are unaware of

I **was given the skinny on** all the parties on campus this week.

2. (more stylized/formal) to become privy to confidential or not to be disclosed information, become apprised to information which is not open to the public, restricted, exclusive or inaccessible
3. (less formal to informal) to become in on or become let in on what is **for few eyes only**, hush-hush, top secret, off the record or not for general consumption, **get the skinny on**

**to get the skinny on**

1. to get or obtain inside information, be given information most people are unaware of

I **got the skinny on** all the parties on campus this week.

2. (more stylized/formal) to become privy to confidential or not-to-be-disclosed information, become apprised to information which is not open to the public, restricted, exclusive or inaccessible

3. (less formal to informal) to be let in on what is **for few eyes only**, hush-hush, top secret, off the record or not for general consumption, **be given the skinny on**

### **to give the skinny on**

1. to give or tell inside information

I **was given the skinny on** all the parties on campus this week.

2. (more stylized/formal) to disclose confidential or not-to-be-disclosed information, reveal or divulge information which is not open to the public, restricted, exclusive, inaccessible or inaccessible
3. (informal) to make known information that is **for few eyes only**, hush-hush, top secret, off the record or not meant for general consumption, let slip, spill the beans on, break the news on or let the cat of the bag on secrets or secrets of the trade

### **to have goose skin**

1. to have the erection or the raising of the hair on one's body due to fear, excitement or cold, shivers, chills or cold shivers

Are you cold? Why do **have goose skin**?

2. (more stylized/formal) to have horripilation
3. (informal to slang) to have goose bumps, goose pimples, **goose flesh**, creeps, duck bumps, dithers or cold creeps

### **to have the skinny on**

1. to have the inside information

I **have the skinny on** all the parties on campus this week.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be privy to confidential or not-to-be-disclosed information, be apprised to information which is not open to the public, restricted, exclusive or inaccessible
3. (less formal to informal) to be in on or be let in on what is **for few eyes only**, hush-hush, top secret, off the record or not for general consumption

**to skinny dip**

to swim nude or without clothing

# Flesh

*(entered into English before 900)*

Although **flesh** and **skin** basically have the same definition, they are not used with the same level of frequency. Many times, they can not be used as synonyms. For example, 'a **flesh wound**' can not be called a '**skin wound**'. To say that one has '**beautiful skin**' is not to say that one has '**beautiful flesh**.' Believe it or not, they can sometimes have opposite meanings. **To be fleshy** (fat) is not the same as **to be skinny** (thin).

Although both **skin** and **flesh** have to do with the body, **skin** is has much more to do with complexion (to have beautiful, clear or good skin). **Flesh** on the other hand can also be a color '**flesh colored stockings**'. Skin can never be used in this manner. When both words do have the same meaning, skin, by far, is used much more frequently. It is much more common to say '**skin and bones**' rather than '**flesh and bones**'.

Old English **flask**, Middle English **flask**, Old Frisian **flask**, Old High German **fleisk**, Old Norse **flesk**, German **Fleisch**, Dutch **vless**, Danish **kød**, Swedish **kött hull**, Norwegian **kjøtt**, Frisian **fleis**, Latin **caro corpus libido**, French **chair**, Spanish **carne**

## Prefixes and/or suffixes which mean **flesh**:

**carn-**, **carne-**, **carni-**, **carno-** (Latin *carnis* flesh, Late Latin *carnalicum*, French *cargane*, Italian *carnaggio*)

**sarc-**, **sarco-**, **-sarcous**, **-sarc** (Greek *sarx sarkos* flesh) combining form meaning 'flesh'

**-sarc**, **-sacroma**, **-sarcomatous**, **-sarcomatoid** (Greek *sarx sarkos* flesh) combining form meaning 'one having flesh or tissue'

## **flesh**

1. skin, surface, epidermis
2. (animal) coat
3. (slang) hide
4. muscle, tissue, fat
5. animals, this part of the animal considered edible
6. meat, beef, mutton, veal, substance
7. fatness, weight, obesity
8. carnality, sensuality, earthiness, voluptuousness
9. mankind, humanity, humankind
10. human race, human beings, Homo sapiens
11. kin, family, relatives
12. kindred, kith and kin, blood

## **a thorn in the flesh**

1. a load, burden, bother, annoyance, problem, tiresome person, weight, bore, pain

She is such **a thorn in the flesh** that I don't know how anyone stands her.



2. (more stylized/formal) bane, nuisance, vexation, vexatious, vexing, worrisome or irritating person, irritant, encumbrance, onus, albatross, impediment, liability, **albatross round one's neck, yoke around one's neck, yoke round one's neck, albatross around one's neck**
  
3. (less formal to informal) salt in the wound, be a cross, millstone, thorn, bore, nag, pest, pill, a cross to bear, crashing bore, **a thorn in the side, pain the neck or rear, a thorn in the flesh**, pea in the shoe, dry as dust, loser, gadfly, bur, frightful bore, a cross to bear, hard to stand, **up one's nose, a millstone around one's neck, a millstone round one's neck**
  
4. (slang) flat tire, drip, downer, **pain in the butt**, retread, **pain in the behind, deadhead**, wet blanket, **a pain in the rear, headache**, pill, thorn, bugbear
  
5. *(vulgar) a pain in the ass*

### **creatures of flesh and blood**

1. human (along with the defects), temporal, vulnerable, mortal, ephemeral, perishable, weak, defective, imperfect
  
2. human beings

### **flesh and blood**

1. one's offspring or child

He is my **flesh and blood**; I have no other choice but to defend him.

2. one's relatives

Although we are only second cousins, we are still **flesh and blood**.

3. human being (usually to emphasize one's weakness)

I am made only of **flesh and blood**; therefore, you can not expect the world.

4. physicalness, concreteness, tangibility
5. (more stylized) incarnation, materiality, corporality, substantiality

### **flesh and bone**

1. **body, skeleton**, human being, creature, being, living being
2. (more stylized) corporality, materiality

### **flesh-eating**

1. cannibalistic, man-eating, predatory  
Be careful, this is a **flesh-eating** plant.
2. (more formal) carnivorous, sarcophagus

### **flesh color**

1. the color of a white person's skin
2. yellowish, pink

**Flesh color** stockings are only so for persons of lighter complexion.

### **flesh eating animal**

1. animal who survives primarily on flesh, rather than vegetables, for food

**flesh on the bare bones of**

1. giving detail to, giving dimension and color to

It was my job to **put flesh on the bare bones of** his ideas.

2. (informal) **fleshing out, putting flesh on, putting flesh on the bones of**

**flesh on bones of**

1. giving detail to, giving dimension and color to

It was my job to put **flesh on the bones of** his ideas.

2. (informal) **fleshing out, putting flesh on, putting flesh on the bones of**

**flesh peddler**

1. head hunter, recruiter of executives
2. theatrical or movie agent, representative, negotiator
3. (slang) ten-percenter
4. panderer or procurer of women, one who sells woman
5. *(vulgar) pimp, whore monger, sweet man*

### **flesh pot**

1. a place which offers unrestrained sexual pleasure
2. (insulting) a person, usually a woman, who enjoys having sex

Every night, you have gone out every night. You're such a **flesh pot**.

### **flesh wound**

1. a slight or superficial wound by a gun or knife

You were lucky that the bullet whizzed by and gave you only a **flesh wound**.

2. a wound which is only **skin-deep**

### **goose flesh**

1. erection or the raising of the hair on one's body due to fear, excitement or cold, shivers, chills, cold shivers

Are you cold? Why do you have **goose flesh**?

2. (more stylized) horripilation
3. (informal) goose bumps, goose pimples, **goose skin**, creeps, duck bumps, dithers
4. (slang) cold creeps

### **in the flesh**

1. actually meeting someone who had been known previously only by correspondence or in the mass media (movies or television)

2. present, **before one's eyes**, in person

I couldn't believe it but I saw him **in the flesh**. He's much more handsome on the screen.

### **more than flesh and blood can bear**

1. being more than one can endure, take, undergo, withstand, tolerate or suffer

This assignment is **more than flesh and blood can bear**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being unbearable, intolerable or unendurable, unable to abide, brook, bear or brave
3. (less formal to informal) enough to drive one mad, more than one can swallow, weather, **stomach** or stand, enough to provoke a saint, unable to put up with, too much, enough to try the patience of Job, **more than flesh and blood can stand**, not able to brave it out, bear up, **take it on the chin**, hang in or keep faith

### **more than flesh and blood can stand**

1. being more than one can endure, take, undergo, withstand, tolerate or suffer

The weather out there **is more than flesh and blood can stand**.

2. (more stylized/formal) being unbearable, intolerable or unendurable, unable to abide, brook, bear or brave
3. (informal) enough to drive one mad, more than one can swallow, weather, **stomach** or stand, enough to provoke a saint, unable to put up with, too much, enough to try the patience of Job, **more than flesh and blood can stand**, not able to brave it out, bear up, **take it on the chin**, hang in or keep faith

### **one's own flesh and blood**

1. one's own family member

Of course I am glad to see you. You are **my own flesh and blood**.

2. one's own offspring or child

You are **my own flesh and blood**. I am begging you to listen.

### **one's pound of flesh**

1. revenge, vengeance, repayment for

After what he did to our family, even if it takes forever, I will exact **my pound of flesh**.

2. (more stylized/formal) exacting one's punishment, exacting satisfaction for, wreaking revenge, inflicting punishment, redistribution, retaliation, vindication, reprisal

3. (less formal or informal) getting back at, getting even with, hitting back, paying off or wiping out an old score, **eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth**, one's own medicine, pound for pound, one's just desert

4. (slang) one's comeuppance

### **only flesh and blood**

only human (defects and all)

I wish I could help you but I am **only flesh and blood**.

### **the flesh**

the human body, including its physical and sexual needs

**The flesh** can sometimes be weak.

### **the pleasures of the flesh**

love of physical pleasures i. e. sex, eating, drinking

In some country, to enjoy **the pleasures of the flesh** is against the law.

### **the sins of the flesh**

physical pleasures i. e. sex, eating, drinking

### **to be a thorn in the flesh**

1. to be an annoyance, irritant, bother, burden, nuisance, load, problem, tiresome person, weight, bore, pain

She **is** such **a thorn in the flesh** that I don't know how anyone stands her.

2. (more stylized/formal) to be a bane, nuisance, vexation, vexatious, vexing, worrisome or irritating person, irritant, encumbrance, onus, albatross, impediment, liability, **albatross round one's neck**, **yoke around one's neck**, **yoke round one's neck** or **albatross around one's neck**
3. (less formal to informal) to be salt in the wound, be a cross, millstone, thorn, bore, nag, pest, pill, a cross to bear, crashing bore, **a thorn in the side**, **pain the neck** or **rear**, **a thorn in the flesh**, pea in the shoe, dry as dust, loser, gadfly, bur, frightful bore, a cross to bear, hard to stand, **up one's nose**, **a millstone around one's neck** or **a millstone round one's neck**
4. (slang) flat tire, drip, downer, **pain in the butt**, retread, **pain in the behind**, **deadhead**, wet blanket, **a pain in the rear**, **headache**, pill, pain in the you know where or thorn

5. *(vulgar) to be a pain in the ass*

### **to be after the flesh**

1. to desire a person sexually or carnally
2. to want or desire a person based on one's outward appearance

### **to be flesh and blood**

1. to be one's offspring or child

He **is** my **flesh and blood**; I have no other choice but to defend him.

2. to be one's relatives

Although we are only second cousins, we **are** still **flesh and blood**.

3. to be a human being (usually to emphasize one's weakness)

I **am** made only of **flesh and blood**; therefore, you can not expect the world.

4. to be real, physical, concrete or tangible

5. (more stylized/formal) to be incarnate, material, corporal or substantial

### **to be flesh and bone**

1. to be the body, skeleton, human being, creature, being, living being



2. (more stylized/formal) to be incarnate, material, corporal or substantial

**to be more than flesh and blood can bear**

1. to be more than one can endure, take, undergo, withstand, tolerate or suffer

This assignment **is more than flesh and blood can bear.**

2. (more stylized/formal) to be unbearable, intolerable or unendurable, be unable to abide, brook, bear or brave
3. (less formal to informal) to be enough to drive one mad, be more than one can swallow, weather, **stomach** or stand, enough to provoke a saint, be unable to put up with, be too much, enough to try the patience of Job, **be more than flesh and blood can stand**, not be able to brave it out, bear up, **take it on the chin**, hang in or keep faith

**to be more than flesh and blood can stand**

1. to be more than one can endure, take, undergo, withstand, tolerate or suffer

The weather out there **is more than flesh and blood can stand.**

2. (more stylized/formal) to be unbearable, intolerable or unendurable, be unable to abide, brook, bear or brave
3. (less formal to informal) to be enough to drive one mad, be more than one can swallow, weather, **stomach** or stand, enough to provoke a saint, be unable to put up with, be too much, enough to try the patience of Job, **be more than flesh and blood can bear**, not be able to brave it out, bear up, **take it on the chin**, hang in or keep faith

### **to be only flesh and blood**

to be only human (defects and all)

I wish I could help you but I **am only flesh and blood**.

### **to exact one's pound of flesh**

1. to get revenge, avenge, inflict punishment for

After what he did to our family, even if it takes forever, I will **exact my pound of flesh**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to return the compliment, exact one's punishment, exact satisfaction for, wreak revenge or havoc, vindicate, make reprisal, retaliate, be redressed, give measure for measure pound for pound, inflict punishment, return the favor, requite, give a Roland for an Oliver
3. (less formal to informal) to get back at, get even with, hit back, pay off or wipe out an old score, take an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, give one a taste of one's own medicine, strike back at
4. (slang) to give one one's comeuppance, give as good as one gets

### **to flesh out**

1. to fill out, give dimension, draw out, embody

It was difficult to **flesh out** the story; it took hours.

2. to put on or gain weight (British)

### **to flesh out the details of (an agreement)**

to totally parse, analyze, interpret and understand an agreement or contract, even down to the smallest detail

If I were you, I would not sign anything until the lawyer has **fleshed**

**out the details of the contract.**

**to flesh out the characters**

to describe and to give or add more dimension to the characters in a novel or in a play so that they are understood

The author has yet to **flesh out** the characters.

**to get one's pound a flesh**

1. to make a demand which, although totally legal and within one's right, is inhuman, cruel, unsympathetic, unfeeling, inflexible or cold, calculating or deliberate

You know that the price you are asking will break both me and my family but the law is the law. By tomorrow you will **get your pound of flesh.**

2. (more stylized/formal) to make demands which are implacable, merciless, truculent, overly harsh, pitiless, scathing, ruthless, strident, compassionless, dispassionate
3. (informal) to make demands which are heartless, stony, cold-hearted, stone hearted, hard-hearted, cold-blooded, marble-hearted, flinty

**to go the way of all flesh**

1. to die
2. (more stylized/formal) to expire, to be deceased, decess, come to an end, pass away, give up the ghost, pass on, be no more, draw one's last breath, breathe one's last
3. (slang) to croak, kick in, turn up one's toes, be pushing up daisies, bite the dust, kick the bucket

### **to have goose flesh**

1. to have the erection or the raising of the hair on one's body due to fear, excitement or cold, shivers, chills or cold shivers

Are you cold? Why do **have goose flesh**?

2. (more stylized/formal) to have horripilation
3. (informal) to have goose bumps, goose pimples, **goose skin**, creeps, duck bumps or dithers
4. (slang) to have cold creeps

### **to make one's flesh crawl**

1. to make one feel uncomfortable or uneasy, shake, repel, revolt, make shudder or shrink, make someone extremely ill-at-ease, nervous

He is so creepy and strange that he **makes my flesh crawl**.

2. (more stylized/formal) to disconcert, disquiet, discomfit, fluster, disturb, discompose, nonplus, flutter, perturb, make someone recoil
3. (less formal to informal) to faze, discombobulate, rattle, make pull away from, **make someone's flesh crawl**, make draw away from, **make someone's flesh creep**, **make someone's skin creep**, **turn someone's stomach**
4. (slang) to give the heebie-jeebies, give the willies, give the jimjams, make someone feel itchy, antsy, jumpy or edgy, get goose bumps

5. to scare, terrify, menace, alarm, frighten, horrify  
Walking into that house **made my flesh crawl**.
6. (more stylized/formal) to unnerve, daunt, petrify, appall, affright
7. (less formal to informal) to **make one's hair stand on end**, scare stiff, **make one's skin crawl**, take aback, scare the wits out of, send chills up one's spine, **curl someone's hair**, fill with terror, **curl one's blood**, scare the living daylights out of someone, **put one's heart in one's mouth**, scare to death, **make one's blood run cold**, send shivers up one's spine, put the fear of God into
8. (slang) to scare the bejeesus out of, scare the pants off of

### **to make one's flesh creep**

1. to make someone feel uncomfortable or uneasy, shake, repel, revolt, make shudder or shrink, make someone extremely ill-at-ease, nervous  
He is so creepy and strange that he **makes my flesh crawl**.
2. (more stylized/formal) to disconcert, disquiet, discomfit, fluster, disturb, discompose, nonplus, flutter, perturb, make someone recoil
3. (informal) to faze, discombobulate, rattle, make pull away from, **make someone's flesh crawl**, make draw away from, **make someone's flesh creep**, **make someone's skin creep**, **turn someone's stomach**,
4. (slang) to give the heebie-jeebies, give the willies, give the jimjams, make someone feel itchy, antsy, jumpy or edgy, get goose bumps

5 to scare, terrify, menace, alarm, frighten, horrify

Walking into that house **made my flesh crawl**.

6. (more stylized/formal) to unnerve, daunt, petrify, appall, affright

7. (less formal to informal) to **make one's hair stand on end**, scare stiff, **make one's skin crawl**, take aback, scare the wits out of, send chills up one's spine, **curl someone's hair**, fill with terror, **curl one's blood**, scare the living daylights out of someone, **put one's heart in one's mouth**, scare to death, **make one's blood run cold**, **send shivers up one's spine**, put the fear of God into

8. (slang) to scare the bejeesus out of, scare the pants off of

### **to meet in the flesh**

to actually meet someone who one had known previously only by correspondence or seen only on the screen (movies or television)

After so many years, it was thrilling to **meet my idol in the flesh**.

### **to press the flesh**

to greet, shake hands, and talk with people (usually done by politicians to get votes)

He is a born politician; he loves to **press the flesh**.

### **to put flesh on something**

1. to give detail to, give dimension and color to

So that you understand me better, let me **put flesh on this story**.

2. (informal) to **put flesh on the bare bones of**, **put flesh on the bones of**, **flesh out**

**to put flesh on the bare bones of something**

1. to give detail to, give dimension and color to

It was my job to **put flesh on the bare bones of his ideas**.

2. (informal) to **flesh out**, **put flesh on something**, **put flesh on the bones of**

**to put flesh on the bones of something**

1. to give detail to, give dimension and color to

So that you understand me better, let me **put flesh on the bones of this story**.

2. (informal) to **flesh out**, **put flesh on something**, **put flesh on the bare bones of**

**to see someone in the flesh**

to see, in person, someone who one had previously known only by correspondence or seen only on the screen (in movies or television)

I couldn't believe it; I **saw her in the flesh**.

**The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.**

to want to do something but not have the strength to follow through

**fleshed**

having flesh of a specified type

1. **dark fleshed**

a persons of dark complexion

2. **light fleshed**  
a person of light complexion

**fleshliness**

1. obesity, corpulence, fatness
2. (slang) paunch, potbelly, beer belly, chumminess
3. stoutness, bulkiness

**fleshly**

1. physical, incarnate, corporal
2. material, substantial, tangible
3. sensual, erotic, hot, earthy
4. beastly, brutish, animal
5. worldly, secular, lay

**fleshy**

1. fat, plump, well-proportioned, overweight, stout, round, rotund,



- heavy-set, **large boned**, heavy-framed, large-framed, **big boned**
2. (more stylized/formal) well-fed, carnose, **full body**, ample, fattish, corpulent, portly, thickset, stocky, **moon-faced**, **round-faced**
  3. (informal) pudgy, chunky, chubby, filled out, tubby, meaty, beefy, brawny, strapping
  4. (slang) roly-poly, big as a cow, pig, ox or horse

**fleshy fold**

dewlap, wattle

As if this **flesh**, which walls about our life, were brass impregnable.  
-Shakespeare

She was fairest of all **flesh** on earth, Guinevere.  
-Tennyson

Ye judge after the **flesh**.  
-John viii, 15

He is our brother, and our **flesh**.  
-Gen. xxxvii 27

## **Appendix 1**

### **Religious-based words which entered into the English language from the Church as a result of Christianization:**

abbot, alms, altar, angel, anthem, ark, candle, canon, chalice, cleric, deacon, disciple, epistle, hymn, litany, manna, martyr, mass, minister, noon, nun, offer, organ, palm, pope, priest, psalm, relic, rule, shrine, stole, synod, temple, tunic, Antichrist, apostle, cantor, cell, cloister, collect, creed, demon, font, idol, nocturne, prime, prophet, Sabbath, synagogue

### **Non-religious Latin based words which came into English through the Church:**

cap, sock, silk, purple, chest, mat, sack, beet, lentil, pear, radish, doe, oyster, lobster, mussel, to cook, box, pine, lily, marshmallow, myrrh, rue, savory, master, school, Latin, grammatical, verse, meter, gloss, notary, anchor, fan, fever, place, sponge, elephant, phoenix, circle, legion, giant, consul, talent, accent, to brief, decline, history, paper, term, title, cucumber, ginger, winkle

## **Appendix 2**

### **Most Frequently Used Words In English**

#### **Agricultural terms**

sheep, shepherd, ox, earth, plough, swine, dog, wood, field, corn

### **Days of the week**

Monandæg (day of the moon), Tiwesdæg (day of the god, Tig), Wodnesdæg (day of the god, Woden), Ðunresdæg (day of the god, Thunor), Frigedæg (the day of the goddess, Friga), Sæternesdæg (the day of the Roman god, Saturn), Sunnandæg (the day of the sun)

### **Other words**

the, is, you, man, and, for, for, of, in, on, to, under, æfter, beforan, behindan, bi (by), hwæt (what), hwy (why), ofer (over), æt (at), socc (sock), scoh (shoe), mete (meat), butere (butter), milc (milk), egg, hunig (honey), ceses (cheese), summer, winter, the, is, you, man, house, God, heaven, hell, Holy Ghost, Doomsday, god-spell, Gospel, Easter (from the Anglo-Saxon goddess, Eostre), Yule (from the midwinter god, Geol (pronounced 'Yule')) call, shirt, hat, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, brother, time, corn, night, wood, blood, gold, burg, home, wine, word, book, life, king, sea, water, old

### **Old English**

mann  
wif  
cild  
hūs  
benc  
mete  
gærs  
leaf  
fugol  
god  
heah

### **Modern English**

man  
wife  
child  
house  
bench  
meat, food  
grass  
leaf  
fowl, bird  
good  
high

strang	strong
etan	eat
drincan	drink
slæpan	sleep
libban	live

### **Appendix 3**

## **Terms and words from the Old Norse Period**

### **closed class words**

#### **Old Norse**

#### **Anglo-Saxon**

they	hie
their	hiera
them	him
are	aron

### **other closed class words**

both, same, through, till, are

## **Old Norse word which replace Anglo-Saxons**

#### **Old Norse**

#### **Anglo-Saxon**

egg	ey
sister (syster)	sweostor
loan	læn
weak (wac)	veikr
take	niman
anger	torn, grama, irre
bark	rind
wing	feþra

sky

uprodor/wolcen

window

eagþyrel

### **Words brought into English from Old Norse which had no equivalent in Old English**

call, die, rugged, flat, tight, kid, steak, anger, awe, bait, boon, crooked, saw, wand, wrong, freckle

### **Old Norse supplied English with useful pair of synonyms**

#### **English**

shatter

sick

carve

wish

craft

hide

no

whole

rear

from

#### **Norse**

scatter

ill

cut

want

skill

skin

nay

hale

raise

fro

### **Words which entered into English from Old Norse after 1000**

**nouns**

band, booth, bull, dirt, down (feathers), egg, fellow, freckle, kneel, kid, leg, link, reindeer, reef, scab, scales, scrap, seat, sister, skin, skirt, sky, snare, steak, swain, window, birch, boon, gait, gap, guess, loan, race, rift, score, skill, slaughter, snare, stack, swain, thrift, tidings, trust, want, window

**verbs**

call, crawl, die, get, give, lift, raise, rid, scare, take, cast, clip, crave, droop, gape, kindle, nag, scowl, snub, sprint, thrust

**adjectives**

flat, loose, low, odd, tight, weak, awkward, ill, meek, sly, rotten, tattered, muggy

**pronouns**

they, their, them, both, same, though, till

**Words which begin with "sk" normally came from Danes**

**scalp, scrape, scrub, scare, scathe, score, skate, skew, ski, skid, skill, skin, skip, skirt, skull, sky**

## Appendix 4

### Germanic and English Cognates of some of the most common words

English	Frisian	Dutch	German	Swedish	Danish
cheese	tsiis	kaas	Käse	ost	ost
day	dei	dag	Tag	dag	dag
goose	goes	gans	Gans	gås	gås
through	troch	door	durch	igennem	igennem
yesterday	juster	gisteren	gestern	i går	i går
sun	sinne	zon	Sonne	sol	sol
fox	foks	vos	Fuchs	räv	ræv
sit	sitte	zitten	Sitzen	sitta	sidde
book	boek	boek	Buch	bok	bog, bestille
red	read	rood	Rot	röd	rød
sleep	sliepe	slapen	Schlafen	sova	sove søvn
night	natt	nacht	nacht	nat	
snow	snie	sneeuw	schnee	snö	sne
seven	sân	zeven	sieben	sju	syv
foot	foet	voet	fuss	fot	fod, pote
fish	fisk	vis	fisch	fisk	fiske, fisk
heart	hert	hart	herz	hjärta	hjerte
ten		tien	zehn	tio	ti
tooth	tosk	tand	zahn	tand	tand
eat	eat, ite	eten	essen	äta, fört	ära æde

sword	swurd	zwaard	Schwert	svärd, värja	
path	paad	pad	Pfad	stig, bana	sti
hand	han	hand	Hand	hand	hånd
help	helpe	helpen	helfen	hjälp,	hjalpa
three	trije	drie	drei	tre	þrír
heart	hert	hart	Herz	hjärta	hjarta
oak	iik	eik	Eiche	ek	eik

### **English**

cheese

day

goose

yesterday

sun

fox

sit

book

red

sleep

night

snow

seven

### **Norwegian**

ost

dag

gås

i går

sol

rev

sitte

bok

rød

sove, søvn

natt

sne

sju



foot	fot
fish	fisk, fiske
heart	hjerte
ten	ti
tooth	tann
eat	fortære
path	sti
hand	hand
help	hjelp
three	tre
heart	hjerte
oak	eik

## **Appendix 5**

### **Old English**

eam  
 anda  
 andig  
 andian  
 æpele  
 æpeling  
 dryhten/ frea  
 leod  
 dema

### **French** (replacement)

uncle  
 envy  
 envious  
 to envy  
 noble  
 nobleman  
 prince  
 people  
 judge

dom	judgment
cyphere	witness
firen	crime
scyldig	guilty
here	army
cempa	warrior
sibb	peace
blæd	flower
bleo	color
adl	disease
ieldu	age
lof	praise
lyft	air
hold	gracious
earn	poor
sltpe	cruel
gecynde	natural
wuldor	glory
wlite	beauty
wlitig	beautiful
andettan	confess
beorgan	preserve, defend
bieldan/ elnian	encourage

dihtan	compose
flitan	contend
healsian	implore
herian	praise
leanian	reward
miltsian	pity

## **Appendix 6**

### **French words which came into English**

#### **1066-1250**

abbot, canon, cardinal, clergy, countess, empress, duke, court, rent, cell,  
 justice, miracle, Baptist, dame, prince, chapel, image, lion, reason,  
 pilgrim, saint, virgin, obedience, religion, sermon, prophet, patriarch,  
 archangel, circumcision, sacrament, fruit, sepulcher, custom, admiral,  
 crown, astronomy, council, journey, rob, large, silence, dangerous,  
 jealous, glutton, joy, tempt, witness, chapter, lesson, story, medicine,  
 confessor, constable, heir, chair, butler, peace, justice, uncle, aunt,  
 cousin, lamp, rose, catch, change, mercy, poor, rich, wait, ,prove, war,  
 arrive, pay

## **1250-1350**

action, cost, deceit, dozen, ease, fault, force, grief, labor, number, opinion, pair, piece, season, sound, square, substance, task, use, bucket, calendar, face, gum, , metal, mountain, ocean, people, actual, brief, certain, clear, common, contrary, eager, easy, final, honest, real, second, single, solid, strange, sudden, usual, allow, apply, approach, arrange, carry, close, continue, count, cover, defeat, destroy, excuse, force, form, increase, inform, join, move, please, proceed, push, remember, travel

## **By 1300 the following French words were already used in English**

### **nouns**

action, adventure, affection, age, air, bucket, bushel, calendar, carpenter, cheer, city, coast, comfort, cost, country, courage, courtesy, coward, crocodile, cruelty, damage, debt, deceit, dozen, ease, envy, error, face, faggot, fame, fault, flower, folly, force, hour, joy, malice, manner, marriage, metal, mountain, number ocean, odor, order, pair, person, piece, point, poverty, powder, power, quality, quart, rage, reason, river, scandal, seal, season, sign, sound, sum, tailor, tavern, unity, use, vision, waste

## **adjectives**

able, abundant, active, actual, amiable, amorous, barren, blank, brief, calm, certain, chaste, chief, clear, common, contrary, courteous, cruel, double, eager, easy, faint, feeble, fierce, final, firm, foreign, frail, frank, gay, gentle, gracious, hasty, honest, horrible, innocent, jolly, liberal, malicious, mean, moist, natural, nice, obedient, original, perfect, pliant, poor, principal

## **verbs**

advance, advise, aim, allow, apply, approach, arrange, arrive, betray, butt, carry, change, chase, close, comfort, commence, complain, conceal, consider, continue, count, cry, cull, deceive, declare, defeat, defer, defy, delay, desire, destroy, embrace, enclose, endure, enjoy, enter, err, excuse, flatter, flourish, force, forge, form, furnish, grant, increase, inform, inquire, join, languish, launch, mount, move, murmur, muse, nourish, obey, oblige, observe, pass, pay, pierce, pinch, please, practice, praise, prefer, proceed, propose, prove, purify, pursue, push, quit, receive, refuse, rejoice, relieve, remember, reply, rinse, rob, satisfy, save, scald, serve, spoil, strangle, strive, shun, succeed, summon, suppose, surprise, tax, tempt, trace, travel, tremble, wait, waive, waste, wince

## **Law**

plea, suit, plaintiff, defendant, judge, advocate, attorney, bill, petition, complaint, inquest, summons, hue and cry, indictment, jury, juror, panel, felon, evidence, proof, bail, ransom, judgment, verdict, sentence, decree, award, punishment, prison

## **Fashion and Social Life**

apparel, habit, gown, robe, garment, attire, cape, coat, frock, collar, veil, train, chemise, petticoat, lace, embroidery, buckle, button, to embellish, to adorn

## **colors**

blue, brown, vermilion, scarlet, saffron, russet, tawny

## **fruit, food, herbs, and etc.**

raisin, fig, date, grape, orange, lemon, cherry, peach, confection, pasty, tart, jelly, spice, clove, thyme, herb, mustard, vinegar, cinnamon, nutmeg, to roast, to boil, to stew, to fry, to broach, to blanch, to grate, to mince

## **Art, Learning, and Medicine**

art, painting, sculpture, music, beauty, color, figure, image, tone, title, volume, chapter, parchment, paper, pen

## **Post 1350**

adolescence, appellation, tort, combustion, distribution, immensity,  
pacification, representation, sumptuous

## **Other words from French adopted into English:**

fashion, gown, robe, lace, button, boot, satin, fur, ruby, pearl, blue  
dinner, supper, taste, feast, tension, beef, veal, mutton, pork, toast,  
cream, sugar, salad, lettuce, fruit, cherry, peach, herb, roast, boil, stew,  
fry, grate, mince, goblet, saucer, plate, platter, table, palace, mansion,  
ceiling, chimney, tower, porch, curtain, lamp, medicine, physician,  
surgeon, pain, stomach, place, part, use, city, line, state, sure, change,  
close, course, pay, please, face, quit, coat, brown, air, country, flower,  
hour, manner, noise, number, people, river, able, large, nice, poor, real,  
safe, second, carry, move, pass, wait, to preach, to pray, to change, to  
repent, to confess, to adore, to sacrifice, to convert, to anoint, to ordain,  
to usurp, to oppress, to repeal

**Appendix 7**  
**The etymology of irregular verbs in English**

**List one**

**Those verbs which entered into English prior to 900:**

to arise

to be

to bear

to beat

to become

to break

to burn

can

to cling

to come

to creep

to deal

to do

to draw

to drink

to drive

to drop

to eat

to fall



to feel

to fly

forbear

to forego

to forget

to forgive

to give

to go

to grow

to hang

to have

to hear

to hide

to hold

to know

to lead

to lean

to leap

to learn

to leave

lend

to let

to lie

to light

to lose

to make

may

to mean

to meet

to read

to ride

to ring

to say

to see

to seek

to sell

to send

to set

to sew

to shake

to shear

to shine

to shoot

to show

shrink

to sing

to sit

to slay

to sleep

to sow

to speak

to spin

to spring

to stand

to steal

to string

to swear

to swell

to swim

to swing

to teach

to tear

to tell

to think

to tread

to understand

to wake

to wear

to weave

to weep

to win

to wind

to wring

to write

**List two**

**Those verbs which entered into English prior to 1150:**

to awake

to back

to backbite

to begin

to bend

to bind

to bite

to bleed

to blow

to breed

to bring

to build

to burst

to buy

to choose

to feed

to feel

to fight

to forbid

to grind

to hit

to keep

to kneel

to prove

to put

to rise

to run

to shed

to sink

to slide

to slink

to smell

to spend

to spill

to stick

to sting

to stink

to stride

to strike

to take

to throw

**List three**

**Those verbs which entered into English after 1175:**

to backslide (entered into English between 1575 to 1585)

to bet (1585-95)

to browbeat (1575-85/ brow (before 1000))

to catch (from Latin and Norman French/ 1175-1275)

to cost (entered English between 1200 to 1275/ Anglo-French)

to cut (entered English between 1175 to 1225 from Old English 'cyttan'  
akin to Old Swedish 'kotta' and Old Norse 'kuti')

to dig (entered English between 1275 to 1375/ derived from Old English  
'dic' (ditch) which entered into the language before 900)

to fling (entered English between 1275-1300)

to foretell (entered English between 1250-1300)

to get (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old Norse 'geta'  
(to obtain, to beget)

to hurt (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old French  
'heuter' and Old Norse 'hrutr')

to lay (entered English between 1300-1350 derived from Middle French)

to pay (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Middle French 'payen' which had been derived from Old French paier)

to quit (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Old French 'quite')

to rid (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old English 'ryddan' (to trash) which was derived for ryhja (to clear)

to sling (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Old Norse 'slyngva' (to sling) Old English slingan (to wind or twist)

to slit (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from the Germanic 'schlitzten (to split or slit) Old English 'slite' (a slit), Anglo-Saxon 'slitan' (to tear or break through) Danish 'slide'

to sneak (entered English between 1590-1600 derived from Middle English 'sniken' Old English 'snican'

to spell (entered English between 1250-1300 derived from Old French 'espeller' Old English 'spellian' (to announce) Old High German - spellon Old Norse spjalla

to split (entered English between 1570-1580 derived from Middle English 'splitten' Dutch 'splitten' which is akin to Middle High German 'splizen' German 'spleissen'

to spoil (entered English between 1300-1350 derived from Middle English spoilen Old French espoillier Latin spoliare)

to spread (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Old English sprædan Middle English spreden)

to strive (entered English between 1175-1225 derived from Middle English 'striven' (to quarrel, to strive) Old French 'estriver' Dutch strijven German 'streben' (to strive))

to sweep (entered English between 1125-1275 derived from Middle English 'swepen' Old English 'gesepa' German 'schweifen')

to thrive (entered English between 1150-1200 derived from Middle English thriven Old Norse 'thrifast' (to thrive))

to thrust (entered English between 1125-1275 derived from Middle English 'thrusten' Old Norse 'thrysta' (to force or press))

to try (entered English between 1250-1300 derived from Middle English 'trien' (to try a legal case) Anglo-French and Old French 'trier' Late Latin tritare (to separate the corn from the stalk) Latin 'trilus' (to thresh corn))