

*THE BODY:*

*A TREASURE*

*TROVE OF*

*MEANINGS IN*

*ENGLISH*

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# 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 Old English  
Frisian Middle English

**\*Modern English**

\*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.

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**)

'Arm,' when it refers to weapons, as in a firearm, 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.

In British English, the term **marrow** has two very distinct meanings and, although it may not appear, two very different roots. As a body term, **marrow** is one of the oldest words in the English language. The root is Germanic. In British and Scottish English, the word **marrow** has another meaning which has nothing to do with any part of the body. It is a term used in northern England and Scotland for a partner, spouse or close friend. This makes sense ONLY if one understands that **marrow** used in the sense of fellow worker, helpmate or companion does not have the same root as the body term **marrow**. **Marrow**, meaning friend, although also Germanic in origin, did not come from the Old English **mearg** or **mearth**; rather, it came from the Middle English **marwe** which meant fellow worker and partner. The origins of **marwe** is Old Norse; it meant friendly. **Marrow**, as a body term, is one of the oldest words in the English language however as a term meaning friend it is not. It entered in English during the late Medieval period or early Modern period, 1400-1450.

## 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**, Danish **hoved**, German **Kopf**, Swedish **huvud kranie**, Norwegian **leder lede hode**, Afrikann **kop**, Latin **caput**, French **tête**, Spanish **cabeza**

## 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 **pied**, Spanish **pie**

### **Toe**

Old and Middle English **ta**, Old Norse **ta**, German **Zeh Zehe**, Dutch **teen**, Latin **digitus**, French **doigit**, 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**

### **Bone**

Old English **ban**, Middle English **bon**, Germanic

**bainan**, Old Frisian and Old Swede **ben**, Old Norse

**bein**, Dutch **been**, German **Bein**, Latin **os ossis**,

French **os**, Spanish **hueso**

### **Marrow**

Old English **mearg**, Middle English **marowe**, Old Norse

**mergr**, Dutch **merg**, German **Mark**, Latin **medulla**,

Spanish **médula**, French **moelle**

### **Brain**

Old and Middle English **brægen gregen**, Low German

**brägen**, Dutch **brein**, Latin **cerebrum**, French **cerveau**,

Spanish **cerebro**

### **Breath**

Old English **bræth**, Middle English **breth breeth**, Frisian

**sike**, German **Atem**, Swedish **andas pust**, Dutch

**andem**, Norwegian **pust ånde**, Latin **halitus spiritus**

**flatus anima aura respiro**, French **haleine souffle**

**respiration**, Spanish **aliento respiración**



### **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 **scinn**, 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**

### **Blood**

Old English **blod**, Middle English **blod**, Germanic **bloda**, Old Norse and Goth **bloth**, Old Frisian and Old Swede **blod**, Old High German **bluot**, German **Blut**, African, Danish, Norwegian or Swedish **blod**, Dutch **bloed**, Latin **sanguis**, French **sang**, Spanish **sangre**

**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**

### **Skull**

(1175-1225)

Middle English **solle**, Old Norse **skalli skoltr**, Latin **calvaria calva**, French **crâne**, Spanish **calavera**

## **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**

### **to breathe**

(1250-1300 (*derived from breath*))

Old English **bræth**, Middle English **brethen**, Frisian **sykhelje**,  
German **atmen**, Afrikaans **asem**, Dutch **andemen**  
**ademhalen**, Danish **ånde**, Latin **duco spiro respiro**,  
French **respirer**, Spanish **respirar**

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 8: THE EYE (2),*  
*NOSE AND EAR*

# Eye

*(entered into English before 900)*

Old English **ege** (**eage**), Middle English **eie** **ie**, German **Auge**, Dutch **oog**, Latin **oculus**, French **œil**, Spanish **ojo**

## Prefix and/or suffixes pertaining to the eye:

**oculo-** (Greek: eye)

**opt-** (Greek: eye)

**ophthalm-**, **ophthalmo-** (Latin: eye)

**cor-** (Latin: pupil of the eye)

**scoop-**, **scept-**, **skept-** (Greek: see, view, sight)

**vid-**, **vie-**, **vis-** (Latin: see, visible)

**spec-**, **spic-**, **spect-**, **spectat-**, **spectro-** (Latin: see, sight, look, appear, examine)

**-spectro**, **-spectr**, **-spectful-**, **-spectfion**, **-spective** (Latin: see, sight, look, appear, examine)

**-opia** (Greek: condition of sight or visual organ)

**cili-** (Latin: eyelid)

### Argus-eyed

1. (classical reference) a giant with a hundred eyes whose eyes were later transferred to the peacock's tail
2. (Iliad and Odyssey) Odysseus's faithful dog
3. (Greek mythology) son of Phrixus and builder of the Argo
4. keen-sighted, quick-sighted, shrewd, sharp-sighted, keen, clever
5. (more stylistic) mindful, perspicacious, circumspect, discreet, sagacious, politic, prudent, judicious, sensible, discriminative
6. (informal) savvy, wide-awake, bright, smart

### bleary eyed

1. unsure, muddled, confused, uncertain, baffled  
After a night of drinking, when he woke up, he **was bleary eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) confounded, mystified, bewildered, discomposed, adrift, perplexed, dazed, disorientated, nonplused
3. (informal) fuzzy, discombobulated, in a fog, blurry, at a loss
4. (slang) in the ozone, spaced, spaced out, in another world
5. drunk, tipsy, high, under the influence of  
You can't go to your home like you are. You are **bleary-eyed**.
6. (more stylistic) drunk as a piper, having a glow, besotted, intoxicated, in one's cup, inebriated, sodden, drunk as a lord, obfuscated, grogged

7. (informal) **glassy eyed**, groggy, feeling good, saturated, woozy, **bleary eyed**, high, mellow, **full to the back teeth**
8. (slang) tight, pickled, loaded, lit, **pie-eyed**, lubricated lit up, stewed, drunk as a skunk, feeling no pain, three sheets to the wind, half-cocked, **cock-eyed**, bombed

### **blue-eyed**

1. having blue eyes
2. seen as being childlike, simple, innocent, blameless, natural, honest, sinless, uncorrupt, angelic or beautiful  
She is a **blue-eyed** beauty. She looks like an angel.
3. (more stylized) being spotless, delicate, pure, virtuous, unstained, chaste, immaculate, unblemished, inculpable, virginal, impeccable, exquisite or lovely
4. pure as the driven snow, pure-hearted, above suspicion, with clean hands, truehearted

### **blue-eyed and blonde hair beauty**

1. good-looking, beautiful, attractive, pretty  
I suppose she is but, frankly, **blue-eyed and blonde hair beauties** have never attracted me.
2. (more stylized) pleasing, enchanting, stunning, dainty, appealing, alluring, delicate, becoming
3. (informal) **eye-filling**, fetching
4. (Scottish) bonny

### **bright-eyed and bushy-tailed**

1. eager, anxious, energetic, keen, alert, alive, full of life, vibrant or fresh, not showing or expressing one's sadness, distress, or depression on one's face, cheery, aglow, happy, joyful, warm, shining  
I really like being around her, she is so **bright-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) vigorous, animated, effervescent, sprightly, spirited, vivacious, genial, blither, optimistic, enthused, hiding one's wretchedness, dolor, agony, angst or woe, buoyant, in good spirits, ebullient, mirthful, happy as a lark, effervescent
3. (informal) full of pep, fresh as a daisy, itching, bouncing, perky, **hearty**, gung-ho, perk, full of vim and vigor, fit as a fiddle, brisk, **bright eyed**, not **wearing one's heart on one's sleeve**, airy, **light hearted**, full of cheer, **with a song on one's lips**, chipper, upbeat, not **showing one's heartbreak** or **heartache**, be full of vim or vigor, **bright eyed and bushy tailed**
4. (slang) to be full of piss and vinegar, psyched or psyched up

### **bright-eyed and bushy-tailed**

1. eager, anxious, energetic, keen, alert, alive, full of life, vibrant or fresh, not showing or expressing one's sadness, distress, or depression on one's face, cheery, aglow, happy, joyful, warm, shining  
I really like being around her, she is so **bright-eyed and bushy-tailed**.
2. (more stylistic) vigorous, animated, effervescent, sprightly, spirited, vivacious, genial, blither, optimistic, enthused, hiding one's wretchedness, dolor, agony, angst or woe, buoyant, in good spirits, ebullient, mirthful, happy as a lark, effervescent
3. (informal) full of pep, fresh as a daisy, itching, bouncing, perky, **hearty**, gung-ho, perk, full of vim and vigor, fit as a fiddle, brisk, **bright eyed**, not **wearing one's heart on one's sleeve**, airy, **light hearted**, full of cheer, **with a song on one's lips**, chipper,



upbeat, not **showing one's heartbreak** or **heartache**, be full of vim or vigor, **bright eyed and bushy tailed**

4. (slang) to be full of piss and vinegar, psyched or psyched up

### **calf-eyed**

1. maudlin, romantic, emotional, fond of or in love, care a lot for, having a crush on  
She is so **calf-eyed**. It's so obvious that she likes him.
2. (more stylistic) smitten by, mawkish, sentimental, amorous, emotional, overemotional, maudlin, overly affectionate, impassioned, infatuated
3. (informal) soft on, sweet on, **soft-hearted**, soupy, **open-hearted**, mushy, **starry-eyed**, **tender-hearted**, feeling, **head-in-the clouds**, **misty eyed**, **dewey-eyed**
4. (slang) drippy, gooey, mooning over, gushing, in calf love, bubbling over or in puppy love, mushy
5. (Australian) soony

### **clear-eyed**

1. astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, sensible, intelligent, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick  
Because she is **clear eyed**, you can not fool her.
2. (more stylistic) to be cogent, balanced, circumspect, sensible, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant
3. (informal) **lynx-eyed**, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, **clear-minded**, **eagle-eyed**, **hawk-eyed**, **mindful**, **level-headed**

4. reasonable, composed, lucid, sound, rational, clear, calm, sound of mind, collected, able to reason, balanced, of sound mind  
He is **clear eyed**; therefore, I do not doubt that he understand everything.
5. (more stylistic) thinking, tranquil, circumspect, sober, judicious, self-possessed, comprehending, cognitive, unperturbed, unruffled, coherent
6. (informal) unconfused, with everything there, far sighted, **long-headed**, clear sighted, long sighted, **clear eyed** or **in one's right mind**
7. (slang) to be not all there, with all one's marbles
8. alert, wide-awake, observant, intent, quick on the uptake, paying attention to, on guard  
He is **clear eyed** and, therefore, ready to take command on a moment's notice.
9. (more stylistic) advertent, chary, cautious, regardful, heedful, wary, vigilant, on the qui vive, conscious
10. (informal) on the look out, **eyes front**, quick on the trigger, **heads up**, on the stick, **on one's toes**, nobody's fool, **one's eyes peeled**, **all eyes**, all seeing
11. not easily excited, composed, relaxed, calm, at ease, even-tempered, wide awake, serene, cool, unexcitable, collected, steady, unshaken, self-assured, balanced  
In a moment of crisis he is excellent. He is so **clear-eyed**.
12. (more stylistic) stoical, cogent, self-controlled, unruffled, balanced, self-possessed, unflappable, unperturbed, collected, non-chalant, poised, undemonstrative, dignified, suave

13. (informal) laid-back, easy-going, together, **clearedheaded**, together, **level headed**, at ease or cool

### **cock-eyed**

1. **crossed-eyed**
2. (medical term) strabismic, strabismic
3. looking at crookedly, squintingly, suspiciously, unbelievably, not straight, disapprovingly, **out of half-closed eyes**, **out of the corner of one's eyes**, twistedly or at an angle, **squint-eyed**  
When I told him how much I earned he looked at me **cock-eyed**.
4. (more stylistic) looking at someone in a manner which is awry, skew, wry, unsound, askew, aslant or asquint, glancing obliquely, suspiciously or dubiously
5. (informal) looking at in a manner which is **cross eyed**, off-centered, sideways, slantwise, to one side, off-balance, crosswise, with a side glance or at an angle, looking at crookedly
6. incorrect, faulty, flawed, false, wrong,  
Your logic is **cockeyed**. Please rethink your position.
7. (more stylized) inaccurate, erroneous, imprecise, in error, mistaken, unprecise, unsound, inexact
8. (informal) off the mark
9. foolish, crazy, absurd, fool, idiotic senseless, ridiculous
10. (more stylized) preposterous, senseless, nonsensical, ludicrous

11. (informal) **harebrained**, poppycockish, stupid, **boneheaded**, dizzy, cockamamie, **fool-headed**, dumb, insane, odd, **crackbrained**
12. (slang) batty, flaky, nutty, loony, daffy, screwball, goofy, dizzy, asinine, daft, nutty

### **crossed-eyed**

1. (medical term) strabismic, strabismic
2. squinting, **squint-eyed**, suspiciously, unbelievably, disapprovingly, **out of half-closed eyes**, **out of the corner of one's eyes**  
When I told him how much I earned he looked at me **cock-eyed**.
3. (more stylistic) awry, skew, wry, glancing obliquely glancing, asquint, askew, dubiously, aslant
4. (informal) **cross eyed**, off-centered, sideways, slantwise, crookedly, off-balance, crosswise, with a side glance, at an angle

### **dewy-eyed**

1. having eyes which are moist with tears  
Why are you so **dewy-eyed**? What has happened?
2. lachrymose, lachrymatory, lachrymal
3. maudlin, romantic, emotional, fond of or in love, care a lot for, having a crush on  
She is so **dewy-eyed**. It's so obvious that she likes him.
4. (more stylistic) smitten by, mawkish, sentimental, amorous, emotional, overemotional, maudlin, overly affectionate, impassioned, infatuated

5. (informal) soft on, sweet on, **soft-hearted**, soupy, **open-hearted**, mushy, **starry-eyed**, **tender-hearted**, feeling, **head-in-the clouds**, **misty eyed**, **dewey-eyed**
6. (slang) drippy, gooey, mooning over, gushing, in calf love, bubbling over or in puppy love, mushy
7. (Australian) soony
8. ready for tears, on the verge of crying, about to burst out in tears, ready to cry, crying  
The minute she saw him she became **dewy-eyed**.
9. (more stylistic) teary, tearful, weepy, on the verge of tear, weeping
10. (informal) blubbering

### **doe-eyed**

having very large, gentle and dark eyes  
She has always been considered a **doe-eyed** beauty.

### **droopy eyed**

1. having half asleep or tired eyes, being very tired, half-asleep, exhausted, sleepy, ready for bed  
Come on, honey. You are so **droopy eyed** that it looks like you're about to drop.
2. being slumberry, somnolent, fatigued or slumberous
3. (informal) having eyes which are yawny, drowsy or drooping, being heavy-eyed, nodding, half asleep, drowsy, **asleep on one's feet**, dozy, groggy

4. (slang) being dopey, beat, ready to drop, dead, shot, pooped, **dead on one's feet**, dog-tired, done in
5. (British) being fagged, fagged out

### **dried eyes**

not cry in a situation in which one normally cries, cold, unmoved  
Everyone was crying but not Jón. He had **dried eyes**.

### **eagle-eyed**

1. astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick, watchful  
You can not fool him so easily; he is **eagle-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen, discerning
3. (informal) sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, sharp eyed, quick witted, **long headed**
4. (slang) on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack, whiz-bang

### **gimlet-eyed**

1. (in reference to the gimlet, a small tool sharp which bores holes)
2. astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick, watchful  
You can not fool him so easily; he is **gimlet-eyed**.

3. (more stylistic) perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen, discerning
4. (informal) sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, sharp eyed, quick witted, **long headed**
5. (slang) on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack, whiz-bang

### **glassy-eyed**

1. drunk, tipsy, high, under the influence of  
You can't go to your home like you are. You are very **glassy-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) drunk as a piper, having a glow, besotted, intoxicated, in one's cup, inebriated, sodden, drunk as a lord, obfuscated, grogged
3. (informal) **glassy eyed**, groggy, feeling good, saturated, woozy, **bleary eyed**, high, mellow, **full to the back teeth**
4. (slang) tight, pickled, loaded, lit, **pie-eyed**, lubricated lit up, stewed, drunk as a skunk, feeling no pain, three sheets to the wind, half-cocked, **cock-eyed**, bombed
5. having an expression which is blank, vacant, expressionless, indifferent, unfeeling, empty, **straight faced** or lifeless, blankness, flatness, emptiness, vacancy, meaningless, bareness, **straight face**, indifference, having eyes which are icy, shining, gleaming, glossy or ice-like  
Something is very wrong; she is **glassy eyes**.
6. (more stylistic) being inexpressive, undemonstrative, inscrutable, hidden, impassive, unresponsive, stolid, vacuous, inane, emotionless or hollow, hollowness, vacuity, voidness, void, apathy, stoicism, stolidity, nonchalance, dispassion

7. (informal) being **stone faced**, **poker faced**, wooden **glassy eyed** or deadpan, colorlessness, blankness, **glassy eyes**, nothingness, **stone face glassy eyed**, having eyes which are glazed or glossed over

### **googly-eyed**

1. having one's eyes or eyeballs go up in one's head, having one eyes move from side to side and top to bottom  
I will not allow you to roll your eyes at me.
2. (informal) **rolling one's eyes**

### **green-eyed**

1. being jealous, greedy or desirous  
She is totally out of control; she is **green-eyed** with jealousy.
2. (more stylized) covetous, envious, envying, begrudging, desirous
3. (informal) green with envy, yellow, green-eyed

### **green-eyed monster**

1. jealousy, desire, being jealous, greedy or desirous  
The **green-eyed monster** has its grip in me.
2. (more stylized) enviousness, covetousness, being envious, covetous, avaricious or rapacious
3. (informal) being green with envy, yellow, green-eyed

### **hawk-eyed**

1. astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick, watchful



You can not fool him so easily; he is **eagle-eyed**.

2. (more stylistic) perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen, discerning
3. (informal) sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, sharp eyed, quick witted, **long headed**
4. (slang) on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack, whiz-bang

### **hollow-eyed**

1. ghostly, pale, anemic, corpse-like, drawn, ghastly, skeletal, white, haggard
2. (more stylized) wan, etiolated, gaunt, sallow, cadaverous, pallid emaciated, wasted, peaked
3. (informal) way-worn, bloodless, drained, death-like, washed, worn, washed-out, spent, colorless
4. (slang) white as a sheet, done in, like death warmed over, ready to drop, played out, ghost-like, white as a ghost

### **keen-eyed**

1. astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick, watchful  
My mother **is keen-eyed**. Nothing missed her attention.
2. (more stylistic) perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen, discerning

3. (informal) sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **ferret-eyed**, keen-sighted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, **gimlet-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, **sharp eyed**, quick witted, **long headed**
4. (slang) on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack, whiz-bang

### **lynx-eyed**

1. astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick, watchful  
You can not fool him so easily; he is **lynx-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen, discerning
3. (informal) sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, sharp eyed, quick witted, **long headed**
4. (slang) on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack, whiz-bang

### **misty-eyed**

1. having eyes which are moist with tears  
Why are you so **misty-eyed**? What has happened?
2. lachrymose, lachrymatory, lachrymal
3. maudlin, romantic, emotional, fond of or in love, care a lot for, having a crush on  
She is so **misty-eyed**. It's so obvious that she likes him.

4. (more stylistic) smitten by, mawkish, sentimental, amorous, emotional, overemotional, maudlin, overly affectionate, impassioned, infatuated
5. (informal) soft on, sweet on, **soft-hearted**, soupy, **open-hearted**, mushy, **starry-eyed**, **tender-hearted**, feeling, **head-in-the clouds**, **misty eyed**, **dewey-eyed**
6. (slang) drippy, gooey, mooning over, gushing, in calf love, bubbling over or in puppy love, mushy
7. (Australian) soony
8. ready for tears, on the verge of crying, about to burst out in tears, ready to cry, crying  
The minute she saw him she became **misty-eyed**.
9. (more stylistic) teary, tearful, weepy, on the verge of tear, weeping
10. (informal) blubbering

### **pie-eyed**

1. drunk, tipsy, high, under the influence of  
You can't go to your home like you are. You are very **pie-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) drunk as a piper, having a glow, besotted, intoxicated, in one's cup, inebriated, sodden, drunk as a lord, obfuscated, grogged
3. (informal) **glassy eyed**, groggy, feeling good, saturated, woozy, **bleary eyed**, high, mellow, **full to the back teeth**

4. (slang) tight, pickled, loaded, lit, **pie-eyed**, lubricated lit up, stewed, drunk as a skunk, feeling no pain, three sheets to the wind, half-cocked, **cock-eyed**, bombed

### **round-eyed**

1. unthinkingly, unknowingly, unawares, unintentionally, in a manner which is unplanned or cold, being ignorant, unaware, astounded, amazed, aghast, shocked, bewildered or without design  
She is so **round eyed** and innocent that it is **heartbreaking**.
2. (more stylized) unwittingly, unconsciously, inadvertently, undesignedly, unpremeditatedly, in a manner which is unforeseen, incognizant, indeliberate, unconscious or oblivious
3. in ignorance, in the dark, knowing nothing, being blind or deaf to, **wide eyed**, stupefied, surprised, startled, baffled, stunned, dazed, **round-eyed**, **taken aback**, dumbfounded, bowled over floored, flabbergasted, rendered speechless, **wide-eyed**

### **sharp eyed**

1. astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick, watchful  
She is **sharp eyed**. Nothing gets pass her.
2. (more stylistic) perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen, discerning
3. (informal) sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, sharp eyed, quick witted, **long headed**, on the lookout, on the alert, **on one's toes**
4. (slang) on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack, whiz-bang

### **sloe-eyed**

having very dark eyes and almond shaped eyes

### **squinted-eyed**

1. squinting, **squint-eyed**, suspiciously, unbelievably, disapprovingly, **out of half-closed eyes**, **out of the corner of one's eyes**  
When I told him how much I earned he looked at me **squinted-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) awry, skew, wry, glancing obliquely glancing, asquint, askew, dubiously, aslant
3. (informal) **out of the corner of one's eyes**, off-centered, sideways, slantwise, crookedly, off-balance, crosswise, with a side glance, at an angle

### **starry-eyed**

1. being unreal, idealistic, romantic, unrealistic, impractical or overly optimistic, dreamy  
**Starry-eyed** students are always daydreaming.
2. (more stylistic) being madcap, chimerical, quixotic, preposterous, utopian or inutile
3. (informal) seeing life through rose colored glasses, being dreamy, living on cloud nine, being builder of castles in the sky, **head-in-the-sky** or spacey, **having one's head in the sky**
4. (Latin) in nubibus

### **teary eyed**

1. having eyes which are moist with tears, having eyes brimming with tears, having tears in one's eyes, having **moist**, **misty** or **dewy eyes**, being on the verge of tears, about to break down or dissolve into tears  
When I saw her, she had already found out. She was very **teary-eyed**.

2. (more stylized) shedding tears, weeping, **having one's eyes brimming or overflowing with tears**, sobbing, being weepy or lachrymal
3. (informal) being close to tears, **having red eyes** or **tears in one's eyes**
4. (slang) bawling, boohooing, blubbering

### **tired eyed**

1. tired looking, exhausted,
2. (informal) to look worn out, washed out, wiped out, dog-tired, dead tired, dead, dead on one's feet, or ready to drop
3. (slang) to look fagged, fagged out, played out, spent, spent, pooped, pooped out

### **wide-eyed**

1. unthinkingly, unknowingly, unawares, unintentionally, in a manner which is unplanned or cold, being ignorant, unaware, amazed, aghast, shocked, bewildered or uninformed, without design  
He was so **wide eyed** when he joined the army.
2. (more stylized) unwittingly, unconsciously, inadvertently, undesignedly, unpremeditatedly, in a manner which is unforeseen, incognizant, indeliberate, unconscious or oblivious
3. in ignorance, in the dark, knowing nothing, being blind or deaf to, **wide eyed**, stupefied, surprised, startled, baffled, stunned, dazed, **round-eyed**, **taken aback**, dumbfounded, bowled over, floored, flabbergasted, rendered speechless, **wide-eyed**

### **wild eyed**

1. irrational, frantic, delirious, out of control, hysterical
2. (more stylistic) incoherent, in a dither, out of one's wits, frenzied, rabid, distraught, at one's wits,
3. (informal) wild, unstuck, beside oneself, all worked up, in a tizzy, **out of one's head, off one's head**, unstrung, raging, **foaming at the mouth**, at the end of one's rope, stark raving mad

### **to be Argus-eyed**

1. to be keen-sighted, quick-sighted, shrewd, sharp-sighted, keen, clever
2. (more stylistic) mindful, perspicacious, circumspect, discreet, sagacious, politic, prudent, judicious, sensible, discriminative
3. (informal) savvy, wide-awake, bright, smart, mindful

### **to be bleary eyed**

1. to be unsure, muddled, confused, uncertain or baffled  
I knew that he was sick. He **was bleary eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) to be confounded, mystified, bewildered, discomposd, adrift, perplexed, dazed, disorientated or nonplused
3. (informal) to be fuzzy, discombobulated, in a fog, blurry or at a loss
4. (slang) to be in the ozone, spaced, spaced out or in another world
5. to be drunk, tipsy or under the influence  
You are **bleary-eyed**. You can't drive.

6. (more stylistic) to be drunk as a piper, having a glow, besotted, intoxicated, in one's cup, inebriated, sodden or drunk as a lord
7. (informal) to **be glassy eyed**, groggy, feeling good, saturated, woozy, **bleary eyed**, high, mellow or **full to the back teeth**
8. (slang) to be tight, pickled, loaded, lit, **pie-eyed**, lubricated lit up, stewed, drunk as a skunk or feeling no pain

### **to be blue-eyed**

1. to have blue eyes
2. to be seen as being childlike, simple, innocent, blameless, natural, honest, sinless, uncorrupt, angelic or beautiful  
She is a **blue-eyed** beauty. She looks like an angel.
3. (more stylized) to be spotless, delicate, pure, virtuous, unstained, chaste, immaculate, unblemished, inculpable, virginal, impeccable, exquisite or lovely
4. pure as the driven snow, pure-hearted, above suspicion, with clean hands, truehearted

### **to be blue-eyed and blonde hair beauty**

1. to be good-looking, beautiful, attractive or pretty  
She is a **blue-eyed and blonde hair beauty** who has never had any trouble getting a boyfriend.
2. (more stylized) to be pleasing, enchanting, stunning, dainty, appealing, alluring, delicate or becoming
3. (informal) **eye-filling** or fetching
4. (Scottish) bonny



### **to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed**

1. to be eager, anxious, energetic, keen, alert, alive, full of life, vibrant or fresh, not show or express one's sadness, distress, or depression on one's face, be cheery, aglow, happy, joyful, warm or shining  
I really like being around her, she **is so bright-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) to be vigorous, animated, effervescent, sprightly, spirited, vivacious, genial, blither, optimistic, enthused, hide one's wretchedness, dolor, agony, angst or woe, be buoyant, in good spirits, ebullient, mirthful, happy as a lark or effervescent
3. (informal) to be full of pep, fresh as a daisy, itching, bouncing, perky, **hearty**, gung-ho, perk, full of vim and vigor, fit as a fiddle, brisk, **bright eyed**, not **wear one's heart on one's sleeve**, airy, **light hearted**, full of cheer, **with a song on one's lips**, chipper, upbeat, not **show one's heartbreak** or **heartache**, full of vim or vigor or **bright eyed and bushy tailed**
4. (slang) to be full of piss and vinegar, psyched or psyched up

### **to be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed**

1. to be eager, anxious, energetic, keen, alert, alive, full of life, vibrant or fresh, not show or express one's sadness, distress, or depression on one's face, be cheery, aglow, happy, joyful, warm or shining  
I really like being around her, she **is so bright-eyed and bushy-tailed**.
2. (more stylistic) to be vigorous, animated, effervescent, sprightly, spirited, vivacious, genial, blither, optimistic, enthused, hide one's wretchedness, dolor, agony, angst or woe, be buoyant, in good spirits, ebullient, mirthful, happy as a lark or effervescent
3. (informal) to be full of pep, fresh as a daisy, itching, bouncing, perky, **hearty**, gung-ho, perk, full of vim and vigor, fit as a fiddle, brisk, **bright eyed**, not **wear one's heart on one's sleeve**, airy, **light hearted**, full of cheer, **with a song on one's lips**, chipper,

upbeat, not **show one's heartbreak** or **heartache**, full of vim or vigor or **bright eyed and bushy tailed**

4. (slang) to be full of piss and vinegar, psyched or psyched up

### **to be bug-eyed**

1. to have bulging or protruding eyes
2. (informal) stupefied, surprised, startled, baffled, stunned, dazed

### **to be calf-eyed**

1. to be maudlin, romantic, emotional, fond of or in love, care a lot for, have a crush on  
She is so **calf-eyed**. It's so obvious that she likes him.
2. (more stylistic) to be smitten by, mawkish, sentimental, amorous, emotional, overemotional, maudlin, overly affectionate, impassioned or infatuated
3. (informal) to be soft on, sweet on, **soft-hearted**, soupy, **open-hearted**, mushy, **starry-eyed**, **tender-hearted**, feeling, **head-in-the clouds**, **misty eyed** or **dewey-eyed**
4. (slang) to be drippy, gooey, mooning over, gushing, in calf love, bubbling over, in puppy love or mushy
6. (Australian) soony

### **to be cat-eyed**

to be able to see in the dark

### to be clear eyed

1. to be astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, sensible, intelligent, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd or quick  
Because she is **clear eyed**, you can not fool her.
2. (more stylistic) to be cogent, balanced, circumspect, sensible, **Argus-eyed** or vigilant
3. (informal) to be **lynx-eyed**, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, **clear-minded**, **eagle-eyed**, **hawk-eyed**, **mindful** or **level-headed**
4. to be reasonable, composed, lucid, sound, rational, clear, calm, sound of mind, collected, able to reason, balanced or of sound mind  
He is **clear eyed**; therefore, I do not doubt that he understand everything.
5. (more stylistic) to be thinking, tranquil, circumspect, sober, judicious, self-possessed, comprehending, cognitive, unperturbed, unruffled or coherent
6. (informal) to be unconfused, with everything there, far sighted, **long-headed**, clear sighted, long sighted, **clear eyed** or **in one's right mind**
7. (slang) to be not all there or with all one's marbles
8. to be alert, wide-awake, observant, intent, quick on the uptake, paying attention to or on guard  
He is **clear eyed** and, therefore, ready to take command on a moment's notice.
9. (more stylistic) to be advertent, chary, cautious, regardful, heedful, wary, vigilant, on the qui vive or conscious

10. (informal) to be on the look out, **eyes front**, quick on the trigger, **heads up**, on the stick, **on one's toes**, nobody's fool, **one's eyes peeled**, **all eyes** or all seeing
11. to be not easily excited, composed, relaxed, calm, at ease, even-tempered, wide awake, serene, cool, unexcitable, collected, steady, unshaken, self-assured or balanced  
In a moment of crisis he is excellent. He is so **clear-eyed**.
12. (more stylistic) to be stoical, cogent, self-controlled, unruffled, balanced, self-possessed, unflappable, unperturbed, collected, non-chalant, poised, undemonstrative, dignified or suave
13. (informal) to be laid-back, easy-going, together, **clearedheaded**, together, **level headed**, at ease or cool

#### **to be cock-eyed**

1. to **be crossed-eyed**
2. (medical term) to be strabismic or strabismic
3. to look at crookedly, squintingly, suspiciously, unbelievably, not straight, disapprovingly, **out of half-closed eyes**, **out of the corner of one's eyes**, twistedly or at an angle, be **squint-eyed**  
When I told him how much I earned he **looked at me cock-eyed**.
4. (more stylistic) to look at someone in a manner which is awry, skew, wry, unsound, askew, aslant or asquint, glance obliquely, suspiciously or dubiously
5. (informal) look at in a manner which is **cross eyed**, off-centered, sideways, slantwise, to one side, off-balance, crosswise, with a side glance or at an angle, look at crookedly
6. to be incorrect, faulty, flawed, false or wrong,  
Your logic **is cockeyed**. Please rethink your position.

7. (more stylized) to be inaccurate, erroneous, imprecise, in error, mistaken, unprecise, unsound or inexact
8. (informal) to off the mark
9. to be foolish, crazy, absurd, fool, idiotic senseless or ridiculous
10. (more stylized) to be preposterous, senseless, nonsensical or ludicrous  
What you say **is cock-eyed** and loony.
11. (informal) to be **harebrained**, poppycockish, stupid, **boneheaded**, dizzy, cockamamie, **fool headed**, dumb, insane, odd or **crackbrained**
12. (slang) to be batty, flaky, nutty, loony, daffy, screwball, goofy, dizzy, asinine, daft or nutty

### **to be cow-eyed**

1. to be maudlin, romantic, emotional, fond of or in love, care a lot for, have a crush on  
She is **cow-eyed**. It's so obvious that she likes him.
2. (more stylistic) to be smitten by, mawkish, sentimental, amorous, emotional, overemotional, maudlin, overly affectionate, impassioned or infatuated
3. (informal) to be sweet on, **soft-hearted**, soupy, **open-hearted**, mushy, **starry-eyed**, **tender-hearted**, feeling, **head-in-the clouds**, **misty eyed**, **dewey-eyed**
4. (slang) to be gooey, mooning over, gushing, in calf love, bubbling, over, mushy or in puppy love

5. (Australian) soony

**to be dewy-eyed**

1. to have eyes which are moist with tears, be lachrymose
2. to be maudlin, romantic, emotional, fond of or in love, care a lot for, have a crush on  
She is so **dewy-eyed**. It's so obvious that she likes him.
3. (more stylistic) to be smitten by, mawkish, sentimental, amorous, emotional, overemotional, maudlin, overly affectionate, impassioned or infatuated
4. (informal) to be soft on, sweet on, **soft-hearted**, soupy, **open-hearted**, mushy, **starry-eyed**, **tender-hearted**, feeling, **head-in-the clouds**, **misty eyed**, **dewy-eyed**
5. (slang) to be drippy, gooey, mooning over, gushing, in calf love, bubbling over, in puppy love or mushy
6. (Australian) soony
7. to be ready for tears, on the verge of crying, about to burst out in tears, or ready to cry, be crying  
The minute she saw him she became **dewy-eyed**.
8. (more stylistic) to be teary, tearful, weepy, on the verge of tear, be weeping
9. (informal) to be blubbering

**to be doe-eyed**

to have very large, gentle and dark eyes  
You can't miss her. She is doe-eyed.

### to droopy eyed

1. to have half asleep or tired eyes, be very tired, half-asleep, exhausted, sleepy, ready for bed  
You are so **droopy eyed**; it's time for you to go to bed.
2. to be slumbery, somnolent, fatigued or slumberous
3. (informal) to have eyes which are yawny, drowsy or drooping, being **heavy-eyed**, nodding, half asleep, drowsy, **asleep on one's feet**, dozy, groggy, **have droopy eyes**
4. (slang) to be dopey, beat, ready to drop, dead, shot, pooped, **dead on one's feet**, dog-tired or done in
5. (British) to be fagged, fagged out

### to be eagle-eyed

1. to be astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick or watchful  
My mother **was a real eagle-eyed**. Nothing missed her attention.
2. (more stylistic) to be perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen or discerning
3. (informal) to be sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **ferret-eyed**, keen-sighted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, **gimlet-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, sharp eyed, quick witted or **long headed**
4. (slang) to be on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack or whiz-bang

### **to be ferret-eyed**

1. to be astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick or watchful  
My mother **was a real eagle-eyed**. Nothing missed her attention.
2. (more stylistic) to be perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen or discerning
3. (informal) to be sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **ferret-eyed**, keen-sighted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, **gimlet-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, sharp eyed, quick witted or **long headed**
4. (slang) to be on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack or whiz-bang

### **to be gimlet-eyed**

1. to be astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick or watchful  
My mother **was a real eagle-eyed**. Nothing missed her attention.
2. (more stylistic) to be perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen or discerning
3. (informal) to be sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **ferret-eyed**, keen-sighted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, **gimlet-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, sharp eyed, quick witted or **long headed**



4. (slang) to be on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack or whiz-bang

### **to be glassy-eyed**

1. to be drunk, tipsy, high or under the influence of  
You can't go to your home like you are. You are very **glassy-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) to be drunk as a piper, having a glow, besotted, intoxicated, in one's cup, inebriated, sodden, drunk as a lord, obfuscated or grogged
3. (informal) to **be glassy eyed**, groggy, feeling good, saturated, woozy, **bleary eyed**, high, mellow or **full to the back teeth**
4. (slang) to be tight, pickled, loaded, lit, **pie-eyed**, lubricated lit up, stewed, drunk as a skunk, feeling no pain, three sheets to the wind, half-cocked, **cock-eyed** or bombed
5. to have an expression which is blank, vacant, expressionless, indifferent, unfeeling, empty, **straight faced** or lifeless, to show blankness, flatness, emptiness, vacancy, meaningless, bareness, or indifference on one's face, have eyes which are icy, shining, gleaming, glossy or ice-like  
I can't read her; she has very **glassy eyes**.
6. (more stylistic) to be inexpressive, undemonstrative, inscrutable, hidden, impassive, unresponsive, stolid, vacuous, inane, emotionless or hollow, to show hollowness, vacuity, voidness, void, apathy, stoicism, stolidity, nonchalance, dispassion on one's face
7. (informal) to be **stone faced**, **poker faced**, **have one's eyes glaze over**, wooden **glassy eyed** or deadpan, to be **glassy eyed**, **have glassy eyes**, **have a stone face**, **have one's eyes which are glazed over** or **glazed over eyes**

### **to be goggle-eyed**

1. to be staring, gawking, glaring, leering, or agog

2. to be stunned or thunderstruck
3. (slang) to be snowed or hit by a thunderbolt
4. to be dazed, dumb-founded, or astonished
5. to be surprised, stupefied, or confounded
6. (slang) to be discombobulated, flabbergasted, or pulled up short

### **to be green-eyed**

1. to be jealous, greedy or desirous  
She is totally out of control; she **is green-eyed** with jealousy.
2. (more stylized) to be covetous, envious, envying, begrudging, desirous or avaricious
3. (informal) green with envy, yellow, green-eyed

### **to be green-eyed monster**

1. to be filled with jealousy or desire, be jealous, begrudging, greedy or desirous  
It is **green-eyed monster** has its grip in me.
2. (more stylized) to be envious, covetous, avaricious or rapacious
3. (informal) to be green with envy, yellow or green-eyed

### **to be hawk-eyed**

1. to be astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick or watchful

My mother **was a real eagle-eyed**. Nothing missed her attention.

2. (more stylistic) to be perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen or discerning
3. (informal) to be sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **ferret-eyed**, keen-sighted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, **gimlet-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, **sharp eyed**, quick witted or **long headed**
4. (slang) to be on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack or whiz-bang

#### **to be heavy eyed**

1. to have half asleep or tired eyes, be very tired, half-asleep, exhausted, sleepy, ready for bed  
You are so **heavy eyed**; it's time for you to go to bed.
2. to be slumbery, somnolent, fatigued or slumberous
3. (informal) to have eyes which are yawny, drowsy or drooping, being **heavy-eyed**, nodding, half asleep, drowsy, **asleep on one's feet**, dozy, groggy, **have droopy eyes**
4. (slang) to be dopey, beat, ready to drop, dead, shot, pooped, **dead on one's feet**, dog-tired or done in
5. (British) to be fagged, fagged out

#### **to be hollow-eyed**

1. to be ghostly, pale, anemic, corpse-like, drawn, ghastly, skeletal, white, unwholesome looking or pinched

2. (more stylized) to be wan, etiolated, gaunt, sallow, cadaverous, blanched, pallid, emaciated, wasted, spare, haggard or peaked
3. (informal) to be way-worn, **bloodless**, drained, **death**-like, washed, worn, washed-out, spent, dried-up or colorless
4. (slang) to be white as a sheet, done in, like death warmed over, ready to drop, played out, ghost-like or white as a ghost

### **to be keen-eyed**

1. to be astute, sharp, sound, stable, thoughtful, all observant, sensible, intelligent, acute, alert, wide-awake, observant, attentive, shrewd, quick or watchful  
My mother **is keen-eyed**. Nothing missed her attention.
2. (more stylistic) to be perceptive cogent, balanced, judicious, circumspect, sensible, sagacious, **Argus-eyed**, vigilant, keen or discerning
3. (informal) to be sharp witted, taking it all in, **lynx-eyed**, sharp sighted, clear sighted, **right-minded**, **clear-eyed**, on the alert, sharp witted, **ferret-eyed**, keen-sighted, **clear-minded**, **keen eyed**, **eagle-eyed**, **gimlet-eyed**, quick sighted, **hawk-eyed**, not missing a thing, **sharp eyed**, quick witted or **long headed**
4. (slang) to be on the ball, crackerjack, on the job, sharp as a tack or whiz-bang

### **to be misty-eyed**

1. to have eyes which are moist with tears, be lachrymose
2. to be maudlin, romantic, emotional, fond of or in love, care a lot for, have a crush on  
She is so **misty-eyed**. It's so obvious that she likes him.

3. (more stylistic) to be smitten by, mawkish, sentimental, amorous, emotional, overemotional, maudlin, overly affectionate, impassioned or infatuated
4. (informal) to be soft on, sweet on, **soft-hearted**, soupy, **open-hearted**, mushy, **starry-eyed**, **tender-hearted**, feeling, **head-in-the clouds**, **misty eyed**, **dewey-eyed**
5. (slang) to be drippy, gooey, mooning over, gushing, in calf love, bubbling over, in puppy love or mushy
6. (Australian) soony
7. to be ready for tears, on the verge of crying, about to burst out in tears, or ready to cry, be crying  
The minute she saw him she became **misty-eyed**.
8. (more stylistic) to be teary, tearful, weepy, on the verge of tear, be weeping
9. (informal) to be blubbering

### **to be open eyed**

1. to be agog, eager, or breathless
2. to be agape, yawning, or gaping
3. to be astonished, astounded, surprised, or amazed,
4. to be awed or impressed
5. to be watchful, alert, or vigilant

6. to be attentive, observant, awake or **with one's ears to the ground**
7. to be wary or leery
8. to be intentional, deliberate, or calculated
9. to be knowing, aware, or conscious

### **to be pie-eyed**

1. drunk, tipsy, high  
You can't go to your home like you are. You are **pie-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) to be drunk as a piper, having a glow, besotted, intoxicated, in one's cup, inebriated, sodden, drunk as a lord
3. (informal) to **be glassy eyed**, groggy, feeling good, saturated, woozy, **bleary eyed**, high, mellow or **full to the back teeth**
4. (slang) to be tight, pickled, loaded, lit, **pie-eyed**, lubricated lit up, stewed, drunk as a skunk, feeling no pain

### **to be round-eyed**

1. to be amazed, astonished, astounded or aghast
2. (informal) to be taken aback, dumbfounded, astounded, bowled over, floored, flabbergasted, rendered speechless or **wide-eyed**

### **to be sharp-eyed**

1. to be all-observant, sharp-sighted, watchful, or wary  
She has a **sharp eye**. Nothing gets pass her.

2. to be on the look out for, on the alert or **on one's toes** or broad-awake
3. to be quick sighted

### **to be starry-eyed**

1. to be unreal, idealistic, romantic, unrealistic, impractical, or overly optimistic or dreamy, **have stars in one's eyes**  
She is so **starry-eyed** that she scares me.
2. (more stylistic) to be madcap, chimerical, quixotic, preposterous, utopian, inutile
3. (informal) to see life through rose colored glasses, be dreamy, live on cloud nine, be builder of castles in the sky, **head-in-the-sky** or spacey, **have one's head in the sky**
4. (Latin) in nubibus

### **to be teary eyed**

1. to have eyes which are moist with tears, have eyes brimming with tears, have tears in one's eyes, have **moist, misty** or **dewy eyes**, be on the verge of tears  
When I saw her, she had already found out. She **was very teary-eyed**.
2. (more stylized) to shed tears, weep, **have one's eyes brimming or overflowing with tears**, sob
3. (informal) to **have red eyes, tears in one's eyes**
4. (slang) to bawl, boohoo, blubber

### **to be tired eyed**

1. to be tired looking or exhausted  
I am so **tired eyed** that I can't even go to sleep.
2. to be wearied, fatigued or beat
3. (informal) to look worn out, washed out, wiped out, dog-tired, dead tired, dead, **dead on one's feet**, or ready to drop, be tuckered, bushed
4. (slang) to look fagged, fagged out, played out, spent, spent, pooped or pooped out, be done in, dog-tired, all in, dead on one's feet, like a dishrag

### **to be wide-eyed**

1. to be amazed, aghast, shocked or bewildered  
She **is all wide-eyed innocence**.
2. (more stylistic) to be innocent, childlike or naïve
3. (informal) to be stupefied, surprised, startled, baffled, stunned, dazed, a babes in the wood, green behind the ears, green, born yesterday or **round-eyed**

### **to become dewy-eyed**

to become so emotional that one is on the verge of tears or about to burst into tears  
The minute that I saw her turn the corner, I **became dewy-eyed**.

### **to become misty eyed**

to become very emotional or moved  
I always **become misty-eyed** when I see my grandchildren.



### **to fall under the sway of the green-eyed monster**

(taken from Othello)

to allow one's feeling of jealousy to control one

Othello **fell under the sway of green-eyed monster** and, as a result, paid the price.

### **to look at cocked-eyed**

1. to squint, **look out of squint-eyed**, look at suspiciously, unbelievably, disapprovingly, **out of half-closed eyes** or **out of the corner of one's eyes**  
When I told him how much I earned he looked at me **cock-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) to look at in a manner which is awry, aslant, skew, wry, asquint or askew, glance obliquely or dubiously, look askance
3. (informal) look at in a manner which is off-centered, **see with half an eye**, sideways, slantwise, off-balance, **cross-eyed**, crosswise, with a side glance or at an angle, look at crookedly, **screw up the eyes**

### **to look at crossed-eyed**

1. to squint, **look out of squint-eyed**, look at suspiciously, unbelievably, disapprovingly, **out of half-closed eyes** or **out of the corner of one's eyes**  
When I told him how much I earned he looked at me **crossed-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) to look at in a manner which is awry, aslant, skew, wry, asquint or askew, glance obliquely or dubiously, look askance
3. (informal) look at in a manner which is off-centered, **see with half an eye**, sideways, slantwise, off-balance, **cross-eyed**, crosswise, with a side glance or at an angle, look at crookedly, **screw up the eyes**

### **to look at squinted-eyed**

1. to squint, **look out of squint-eyed**, look at suspiciously, unbelievably, disapprovingly, **out of half-closed eyes** or **out of the corner of one's eyes**  
When I told him how much I earned he looked at me **squinted-eyed**.
2. (more stylistic) to look at in a manner which is awry, aslant, skew, wry, asquint or askew, glance obliquely or dubiously, look askance
3. (informal) look at in a manner which is off-centered, **see with half an eye**, sideways, slantwise, off-balance, **cross-eyed**, crosswise, with a side glance or at an angle, look at crookedly, **screw up the eyes**

### **to get an eyeful**

1. to get an amount of trash or liquid into one's eyes  
I **got an eyeful** of water while I walked home this evening.
2. to see more than one wants to because of its shocking nature  
When I walked into his bedroom last night, I **saw an eyeful**.
3. to see someone who is especially attractive, normally females  
When you see her, believe me, you're **get an eyeful**.

### **to get an eyeful of**

1. to witness, see, view  
I **got an eyeful of** how violent he can be. It **was an eye-opener**.
2. (informal) to get a load of, look at

### **eyeless**

1. blind, sightless, unsighted, unseeing

2. (more stylistic) visionless
3. (informal) stone-blind
4. (slang) blind as a bat

**to be eyeless**

1. to be blind, sightless, unsighted, unseeing or not seeing
2. (more stylistic) to be visionless or without sight
3. (informal) to be stone-blind
4. (slang) to be blind as a bat

# **Brow / lash**

*(entered into English before 1000)*

Old English **bru**, Middle English **browe**, Old Norse **brun**, German **braue**, Latin **supercilium**, French **sourcil**, Spanish **ceja**

# **eye lash**

German **Wimper**, French **cil**,  
Spanish **pestaña**

### **brow**

1. forehead, front
2. ridge over the eye
3. expression, face, appearance, look
4. (more stylistic) countenance, mien
5. (informal) mug, kisser
6. top, top edge, peak, crown, summit or apex of a hill

### **by the sweat of one's brow**

1. strenuously, laboriously, by hard work  
She was able to accomplish her goal by the **sweat of her brow**.
2. with all one's might, elbow grease,
3. to work, labor, earn one's livelihood,
4. (informal) to slave away, grind, work one's finger to the bone, set one's shoulder to the wheel, keep one's nose to the grindstone

### **highbrow**

1. intellectual, scholarly, academic  
I do not feel comfortable in **high-brow** society.
2. (slang) brainy, bookish, ivory-towerish, long-headed
3. well-bred, cultivated, refined, cultured, good or refined taste, of good breeding

4. (informal) polished, finished, well-spoken, top-hat

### **highbrow music**

classical music, opera

### **lowbrow**

1. vulgar, illiterate, ill-bred, uncultivated, unrefined, low-class, gauche
- 2 (informal) crude, base, uncouth, boorish, crass

### **lowbrow music**

popular music

### **to be steeped to the eyebrows**

1. to be overwhelmed, inundated, engulfed or totally immersed  
I can't meet you because I **am steeped to the eyebrows** in work.
2. (informal) to be buried or snowed under, bowled over by, blitzed
3. (slang) to be up to one's eye or eyeballs in
4. **(vulgar) to be up to one's behind, but, or ass in**

### **to brow beat**

1. to abuse, to intimidate, overawe, coerce, treat badly, batter  
He **browed beat** the crowd
2. (informal) to push around, rough up, cow, bully, **twist someone's s arm**, manhandle

3. (slang) to lean on, give someone the works, knock around
4. to subdue, master, domineer, triumph over, subject to
5. (informal) to **gain the upper hand over, rule with an upper hand**
6. (slang) to ride roughshod over, get the better of, put down

**to cause someone's eyebrows to raise**

1. to scandalize, shock, offend, jar  
His words **caused my eyebrows to raise.**
2. to flabbergast, outrage, ruffle, take aback, jangle

**(to do it) by the sweat of one's own brow**

1. to work very hard  
I **earned my money by the sweat of my own brow.**
2. (more stylistic) to overexert oneself, labor, toil, earn one's livelihood, work like a Trojan
3. to work day and night, work overtime, do double duty, beat one's brain out, work one's fingers to the bone, burn the midnight oil, **work one's fingers to the bone**, work like there's tomorrow, plod along, plug away, peg away, **work one's head off**
4. (slang) to sweat and slave, work one's tail off, drudge, work like a dog, kill oneself, work like a slave, work like a horse, work like a galley, burn the candle on both ends, slave away, **set one's shoulder to the wheel, keep one's nose to the grindstone**, grind
5. **(vulgar) to work one's ass off, work one's behind off**

### **to be high-brow**

1. intellectual, scholarly, academic  
I do not feel comfortable in **high-brow** society.
2. (slang) brainy, bookish, ivory- towerish, long-headed
3. well-bred, cultivated, refined, cultured, good or refined taste, of good breeding
4. (informal) polished, finished, well-spoken, top-hat
5. to be pretentious, condescending
6. to be a snob, be snotty, stiff-necked or smugish  
She **is so high brow** that no one likes him.
7. (slang) to be uppity, stuck up, stuck up on oneself
8. **(informal) to walk around with your ass or behind in the air or on one's shoulder**

### **to be low-brow**

1. vulgar, illiterate, ill-bred, uncultivated, unrefined, low-class, gauche  
Comic book literature **is no longer considered low brow**.
- 2 (informal) crude, base, uncouth, boorish, crass

### **to be steeped to the eyebrows**

1. to be overcome, engulfed, inundated, immersed or deluged by  
I **am steeped to the eyebrows with work and more work**.



2. (informal) to **be over one's head**, swallowed up by, be immersed in or steeped in, be under an avalanche or mountain of, **be up to one's ears**, be buried or snowed under, be bowled over by, blitzed, swallowed up by, be up to one's neck, **be steeped to the eyebrows**, **be up to one's eye**
3. (slang) to **be up to one's eyeballs**
4. (vulgar) to **be up to one's butt, behind, keister or ass in**

**to raise a few eyebrows**

1. to scandalize, shock, offend, jar  
What he did most definitely **raised a few eyebrows**.
2. to flabbergast, outrage, ruffle, take aback, jangle

**to raise an eyebrow**

to show emotion such as surprise, displeasure, or anger  
He **raised an eyebrow** when I told him my plans.

**to raise one's eyebrow**

to show one's astonishment, shock or surprise  
She **raised her eyebrows** when he walked into the room.

**to knit one's brow**

1. to furrow, wrinkle, draw up, pucker one's brow
2. to think, concentrate, mediate on, ponder  
I always know, by the way he **knits his brow**, when he's trying to solve a problem.

**to bat one's eyelashes**

1. to look at someone in such a way to show one's interest, tease  
She's always **batting her eyelashes** with the men with whom she comes in contact.
2. (informal) to **make calf's eyes at**, flirt with, throw oneself at, wink at **flutter one's eyes at**, **make sheep eyes at**, look sweet at, wink at, play footsie, **make eyes at**, **bat one's eyes at**
3. (slang) to ogle at, **make goo-goo eyes at**

# Nose

*(entered into English before 900)*

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**

**Prefixes and Suffixes pertaining  
to the nose:**

**osma-**, **osmi-**, **osmo-** (**Greek**: odor)

**rhin-**, **rhino-** (**Greek**: nose)

## **nose**

1. nostrils, nasal passage, air hole  
Calm down and breathe through your **nose**.
2. olfactory organ, olfactory sense  
My **nose** tells me that the baby's diaper is dirty.
3. (slang) neb, nib, schnozz, snoot, nozzle, blow hole, sniffer
4. (animals) bill, pecker, trunk, beak, nib, spout, nozzle
5. forward end, front, point, tip of the aircraft  
I am seated in the **nose** of the plane.
6. prow of a ship
7. forward edge of the head of a golf club
8. meddler, intruder, interloper, eavesdropper
9. (informal) busybody, snoop, nosey, nosy, snooper, gossip
10. (slang) buttinsky, kibitzer, Paul Pry, Dumbo
11. instinct, sixth sense, keen sight, insight  
My **nose** tells me that something is not quite right.
12. hardly, barely, just, scarcely, by a narrow margin  
She made it by a **nose**.
13. (informal) by the skin of one's teeth, by a hair's breath,  
by a tinny whinny, by a bit, by an inch

### **to nose**

1. to smell, sniff, perceive, detect
2. (informal) to catch a whiff of, get a whiff of
3. to follow a scent, search out a scent, seek out a scent
4. (informal) to smell out, smell around, sniff out, sniff around
5. to push, shove, or move along with the nose
6. to nuzzle, snuggle, rub

### **as clear as the nose on one's face**

1. to not hide what one is feeling, make one's feelings obvious, visible, apparent or public, have one's feeling be conspicuous, blatant, glaring, unmasked, flaunting, open, exposed, uncovered, evident, revealed or unconcealed  
His guilt is **as clear as the nose on his face**.
2. (more stylized) to be en évidence, tangible, lucid, transparent, undisguised, graphic, unveiled, perspicuous, patent, uncloaked, unmasked, palpable, unqualified, distinct, manifest, vivid, made manifest, known or evident, discernible, lay bare, graphic, pronounced or unambiguous
3. to be right out in the open, plain, exposed to view, plain as day, as plain as the day is long, blatantly clear, glaring, crystal clear, clear unmistakable, cut, bare, naked, **clear as the nose on one's face**, beyond a shadow of a doubt or **as plain as the nose on one's face**

### **as plain as the nose on one's face**

1. to not hide what one is feeling, make one's feelings obvious, visible, apparent or public, have one's feeling be conspicuous,

blatant, glaring, unmasked, flaunting, open, exposed, uncovered, evident, revealed or unconcealed

His guilt is **as plain as the nose on his face**.

2. (more stylized) to be en évidence, tangible, lucid, transparent, undisguised, graphic, unveiled, perspicuous, patent, uncloaked, unmasked, palpable, unqualified, distinct, manifest, vivid, made manifest, known or evident, discernible, lay bare, graphic, pronounced or unambiguous
3. to be right out in the open, plain, exposed to view, plain as day, as plain as the day is long, blatantly clear, glaring, crystal clear, clear unmistakable, cut, bare, naked, **clear as the nose on one's face**, beyond a shadow of a doubt or **as plain as the nose on one's face**

### **big nose**

1. concerning oneself with the affairs or business of another, prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a gossip, snooper, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder, being meddlesome, eager to know, much too inquisitive or overly curious  
Be careful, she has a **big nose**, always sniffing around looking for info.
2. (more stylistic) intermeddling, intruding, interposing, obtruding
3. (informal) **being long nosed**, overcurious, **nosy**, **a busybody**, snoop, eavesdropper or meddlesome, listening in on other's conversation, **minding other people's business**, **having big ears**, **having long ears**, **having one's nose in every door**, **being all ears**, **having long ears**, **bending an ear**
4. to be a celeb, very important person, well-known figure, public figure, well-known person  
He is a **big nose**; therefore, ignoring him only makes the situation worse.

5. (more stylized) to be luminary, a person to be reckoned with, a personage, dignitarian, person of consequence, notable figure, noteworthy figure
6. (informal) to be the biggest frog in the pond, celeb, be a big name, toast of the name, man on top, a power, a V.I.P., big shot
7. (slang) be a biggie, hot shot, big wig, pooh-bah, big cheese, big muck-a-muck, honcho, fat cat, big gun
8. (false French) grand fromage

### **bloody nose**

1. having one's nose **full of blood**, bleeding or **blood-soaked**  
After he played football, he had a **bloody nose**.
2. rebuff, repulse, slight, slur, refusal  
His remarks **gave me a bloody nose**.
3. derision, affront, repudiation, spurn, repulsion, rebuke, disdain, ridicule
4. put-down, snub, **slap in the face**, cut, a dash of cold water, brush-off or aside, **cold-shoulder**
5. kick in the pants, the go-by, dig, bum's rush, barb

### **blue nose**

1. being strait-laced, strict, prudish, old fashion, overmodest, stilted, prim or severe  
She is such a **blue nose** that I am amazed that she has a boyfriend.
2. (more stylized) being formal, puritanical, austere, fastidious

3. (informal) being fussy, stiff-necked, too nice for words, stuffy, Victorian, blue nosed, nice Nelly, Miss Prim and Proper, snooty, priggish, strict, holier-than-thou
4. (slang) fuddy-duddy, namby-pamby, goody-goody, goody two-shoes
5. (British slang) twee

### **brown nosing**

1. crawling, bowing, servile, sniveling, slithering, groveling, hunching, cringing, crouching, fawning  
He get what he wants by **brown-nosing**. He is always currying favors.
2. (more stylistic) currying favors, subservient, prostrating, submissive, obeisant, compliant, deferential
3. (informal) bowing and scraping, at someone's beck and call, **on one's knees**, stooping, truckling, **mealy-mouthed**, **kneeling**, cowering, kowtowing, throwing oneself at, **falling on one's knees before**, crouching
4. (slang) apple polishing, Tomish, easy to roll, slaving, Uncle Tomish
5. **(vulgar) lying prone, kissing ass**

### **by a nose**

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  
The horse won only **by a nose**.



2. (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**

### **hard-nose**

1. being shrewd, tough, pitiless, harsh, unfeeling, unsympathetic, callous, oppressive or unsentimental  
He's such an unpopular boss because he is such a **hard-nose person**.
2. (more stylistic) being inured, impervious, insentient or indurate
3. (informal) being cold, **hardhearted**, casehardened, **hard nosed**, inflexible, hardboiled, hardened, **bullet-headed**, hard-bitten, matter-of-fact, **marble hearted** or **thick-skinned**

### **long nose**

1. concerning oneself with the affairs or business of another, prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a gossip, snooper, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder, being meddlesome, eager to know, much too inquisitive or overly curious  
Be careful, she has a **long nose** so that she knows what everyone is doing.
2. (more stylistic) intermeddling, intruding, interposing, obtruding
3. (informal) **being long nosed**, overcurious, **nosy**, **a busybody**, snoop, eavesdropper or meddlesome, listening in on other's conversation, **minding other people's business**, **having big ears**, **having long ears**, **having one's nose in every door**, **being all ears**, **having long ears**, **bending an ear**

### **no skin off one's nose**

1. unsympathetic, not caring, not worried or concerned about, unfeeling, uncaring, nonchalant, unresponsive  
I told him that it was **no skin off my nose**.
2. indifferent, indifferent to, apathetic, uninterested, aloof, uninterested in, impervious, impervious to, dispassionate, insouciant, detached
3. (informal) frigid, not caring one way or the other, not giving something a second thought, not giving it a second thought, not bothering, icy, cold, frosty
4. (slang to vulgar) not giving a damn, not giving a good god-damned
5. **(vulgar) not giving a shit, not giving a fuck**

### **nose bleed**

bleeding from the nose

She gets a **nose bleed** when she is nervous.

### **nose candy**

slang for cocaine

### **nose bleed seat**

that section in a stadium or hall that is very high up, also called the cheap seats

### **nose-count**

the counting of individuals present

I need a **nose count** to know how many people are here.

### **nose dive**

1. downfall, crash, dive, collapse, plunge, fall, crash dive, dip  
Everyone knows that he took a nose dive.
2. (more stylized) descent, tailspin, decline and fall
3. (informal) spill, **header** or tumble

### **nose-in-the-air**

1. arrogant, conceited, snobbish, proud, self-important, haughty, vain, self-centered  
Her **nose-in-the-air** attitude is maddening. She needs to be knocked off of her high horse.
2. (more stylish) derisive, haughty, presumptuous, disdainful, lordly, pompous, pretentious, aloof, assuming, high hat
3. (informal) **swell-headed**, stuck up, **big-headed**, smug, hung up on oneself, above it all, priggish, **stiff-necked**, highfalutin, hoity-toity, stuffy, **high-handed**, above it all, **with one's nose in the air**
4. (slang) too good for the rest of us, cocky, sniffy, on one's high horses, high and mighty, sniffy, snooty, stuck-up

### **nose job**

to surgically fix or change one's nose  
She had a **nose job** to reduce the size of her nose.

### **nose ring**

a ring in one's nose  
Some men think that a **nose ring** is sexy.

### **nose to nose**

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, just only, almost by the side of, even, equal or next to  
The two horses are **nose to nose**. Who knows who's going to win.
2. (more stylistic) by a very small, infinitesimal, minute or minuscule amount, almost on a par, abreast, abreast with, adjacent or parallel
3. (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**, **within a hair's breath**, stem to stem **side by side**, **close at hand**, **neck and neck**, **cheek by jowl**

### **nose to tail**

cars moving or standing close behind one another, being in a traffic jam, tied up, bumper to bumper  
We **were nose to tail** for hours.

### **on the nose**

1. precisely, perfectly, exactly, being right, just right  
I'm amazed that you got it **on the nose**.
2. (more stylized) squarely, unequivocally, accurately, directly, absolutely, unequivocally
3. (informal) on the button, on the tee, on target, just so, to the T, on the money, on the mark, to the letter, on the dot, **bull's eye**, on the beam

4. (slang) spot on, on the money, to a turn, smack-to-dab, as you say

### **plain as the nose on one's face**

1. to not hide what one is feeling, make one's feelings obvious, visible, apparent or public, have one's feeling be conspicuous, blatant, glaring, unmasked, flaunting, open, exposed, uncovered, evident, revealed or unconcealed  
His guilt is as **plain as the nose on his face**.
2. (more stylized) to be en évidence, tangible, lucid, transparent, undisguised, graphic, unveiled, perspicuous, patent, uncloaked, unmasked, palpable, unqualified, distinct, manifest, vivid, made manifest, known or evident, discernible, lay bare, graphic, pronounced or unambiguous
3. to be right out in the open, plain, exposed to view, plain as day, as plain as the day is long, blatantly clear, glaring, crystal clear, clear unmistakable, cut, bare, naked, **clear as the nose on one's face**, beyond a shadow of a doubt or **as plain as the nose on one's face**

### **seeing beyond the end of one's own nose**

1. beyond one's own world or value system, being unbiased, unprejudiced, impartial, undogmatic, unjaundiced, just, plastic, receptive or fair  
**Seeing beyond the end of our own nose** allows us to be **open-minded**.
2. (more stylistic) being tractable, unbigoted, pliant, pliable or disinterested, liberal, tolerant, forbearing, equitable
3. (informal) being **fair-minded**, broad, **open-minded**, square, **broad-minded** or open
4. being all ready, wide awake, prepared, watchful, ready, precautionary, primed

**Seeing beyond the end of my own nose**, I was prepared for the economic downturn.

5. (more stylized) being provident, keen, prudential, foreseeing, discerning, sagacious, forearmed, judicious, precautionary, on the qui vive, discerning, perceptive
6. (informal) being farsighted, long sighted or at the ready

### **turning one's nose up at**

1. showing disapproval, opposition or resistance, disputing, snubbing, being against, taking exception to, shunning, shrinking away from  
He **turned his nose up at** everyone present.
2. (more stylized) evading, recoiling from, forbearing, disdain, ostracizing, spurning, eschewing, eluding, ignoring, refraining from, taking exception to, repudiating
3. (informal) boycotting, backing away from, looking dimly on, frowning upon, not touching with a 10 foot pole, cold shouldering, taking a dim view of, putting on one's list, not looking kindly upon, turning one's back on, **turning one's nose up at**, steering clear of, shying away from, **giving the cold shoulder to**, keeping out of the way of, taking a dim view of, **setting one's face against**
4. (slang) dumping, blacklisting, blackballing, cutting

### **under one's nose**

1. plainly, in full view, in the open, in the public, not under cover  
He did everything right **under his parents' nose**. That is how they wanted it.
2. (more stylistic) overtly, in a manner which is unhidden, unveiled or unshrouded,

3. (informal) **in one's face**, in front of the whole world, for all the world to see, **before one's very eyes**, in plain view, right out in the open, in plain sight, plain to see
4. in bold defiance, boldly, without hiding, frankly  
He has no shame. He did everything **under everyone's nose**.
5. (more stylized) unabashedly, defiantly
6. (informal) unblinkingly, unblushingly, **barefacedly**, unshrinkingly, unflinchingly, **baldfacedly**, **bold-facedly**
7. (slang) to do something in a manner which is **cheeky**, **nervy**, **with gall**, brassy

#### **with one's nose in the air**

1. being arrogant, conceited, snobbish, proud, self-important, haughty, vain or self-centered  
She's always walking around **with his nose in the air**.
2. (more stylish) being derisive, haughty, presumptuous, disdainful, lordly, pompous, pretentious, aloof, assuming or high hat
3. (informal) being **swell-headed**, stuck up, **big-headed**, smug, hung up on oneself, above it all, priggish, **stiff-necked**, highfalutin, hoity-toity, stuffy, **high-handed**, above it all, **with one's nose in the air**
4. (slang) too good for the rest of us, cocky, sniffy, on one's high horses, high and mighty, sniffy, snooty, stuck-up

#### **to be a bluenose**

1. to be queasy, overnice, overdiligent, delicate, overrefined, too nice, squeamish, oversensitive, puritanical or oversubtle  
She drives me crazy; she **is a bluenose** who must have

everything in its place.

2. (stylized) to be pious, prudish, priggish, prim, prim and proper, sanctimonious, holier-than-thou, Miss Prim and Proper, fastidious, dainty
3. (informal) to be too nice for words, uptight, goody-goody, nice-Nelly, namby-pamby, goody two-shoes, simpering or **mealy-mouth**
4. (slang) to be picayune or la-di-da

#### **to be a hard-nose**

1. to be shrewd, tough, pitiless, harsh, unfeeling, deadened, callous, unsympathetic, hardened, steely, stony or unsentimental  
He's such an unpopular boss because he **is such a hard-nose** director.
2. (more stylistic) to be inured, impervious, insentient or indurate
3. (informal) to be a person who is cold, **hardhearted**, casehardened, inflexible, hardboiled, **bullet-headed**, hard-bitten, matter-of-fact, **marble hearted**, frigid, unbending or **thick-skinned**

#### **to be as clear as the nose on one's face**

1. to not hide what one is feeling, make one's feelings obvious, visible, apparent or public, have one's feeling be conspicuous, blatant, glaring, unmasked, flaunting, open, exposed, uncovered, evident, revealed or unconcealed  
His guilt **is as clear as the nose on his face**.
2. (more stylized) to be en évidence, tangible, lucid, transparent, undisguised, graphic, unveiled, perspicuous, patent, uncloaked, unmasked, palpable, unqualified, distinct, manifest, vivid, made manifest, known or evident, discernible, lay bare, graphic, pronounced or unambiguous



3. to be right out in the open, plain, exposed to view, plain as day, as plain as the day is long, blatantly clear, glaring, crystal clear, clear unmistakable, cut, bare, naked, **clear as the nose on one's face**, beyond a shadow of a doubt or **as plain as the nose on one's face**

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3. to be right out in the open, plain, exposed to view, plain as day, as plain as the day is long, blatantly clear, glaring, crystal clear, clear unmistakable, cut, bare, naked, **clear as the nose on one's face**, beyond a shadow of a doubt or **as plain as the nose on one's face**

### **to be no skin off one's nose**

1. to be unsympathetic, not care, not to be worried or concerned about, unfeeling, uncaring, nonchalant, unresponsive  
Do what you want; it **is no skin off my nose**.
2. to be indifferent, indifferent to, apathetic, uninterested, aloof, uninterested in, impervious, impervious to, dispassionate, insouciant, detached
3. (informal) to not care one way or the other, not give something a second thought, not bother, be at arm's length, high hat

4. (slang to vulgar) to not give a damn, not give a good god-damned
5. **(vulgar) not give a shit, not give a fuck**

### **to be nose to nose**

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  
It was an excellent horse race. During the whole race they **were nose to nose**.
2. (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**

### **to be nose to tail** (a vehicle)

to be cars moving or standing close behind one another, be in a traffic jam or tie up, be bumper to bumper  
We **were nose to tail** for hours.

### **to be right under one's very nose**

1. to be so close or near to one that one would have to be blind not to see it plainly, in full view, in the open, in the public or not under cover  
You are as blind as a bat; the keys **are right under your nose**.  
**Open your eyes**.
2. (more stylistic) to be overtly, in a manner which is unhidden, unveiled or unshrouded,
3. (informal) to be **in one's face**, in front of the whole world, for all the world to see, **before one's very eyes**, in plain view, right out in

the open, in plain sight or plain to see

**to be under one's very nose**

1. to be so close or near to one that one would have to be blind not to see it plainly, in full view, in the open, in the public or not under cover  
You are as blind as a bat; the keys **are under your nose**. **Open your eyes**.
2. (more stylistic) to be overtly, in a manner which is unhidden, unveiled or unshrouded,
3. (informal) to be **in one's face**, in front of the whole world, for all the world to see, **before one's very eyes**, in plain view, right out in the open, in plain sight or plain to see

**to be unable to see beyond one's own nose**

1. to see or be aware or conscious of only one's own immediate surroundings  
He won't understand you. He **is unable to see beyond his own nose**.
2. to be confined, parochial, constricted, provincial, myopic, limited
3. (informal) to be small, little, mean, close or narrow-minded, wear blinders or blinkers

**to be unable to see farther than the end of one's nose**

1. to see only what is in front of one, be unsympathetic or unempathetic, be bias, dogmatic, intolerant  
She can't sympathize with the victims because she **can't see farther than the end of her nose**.

2. (informal) to be unhearing, jaundice, one-sided, deaf to reason or new ideas, be unable to walk in another's shoes or moccasins, **be close** or **narrow minded**

### **to be with one's nose in the air**

1. to be conceited, snobbish, proud, self-important, haughty, self-admiring, vain or self-centered  
I have never met a person who **is so big headed**.
2. (more stylish) to be haughty, presumptuous, disdainful, arrogant lordly, pompous, overweening, narcissistic, vain or pretentious
3. (informal) to be stuck up, be too good for the rest of us, **swell-headed**, smug, cocky, hung up on oneself, above it all, highfalutin, **have one's nose in the air**, hoity-toity, **be big-headed** puffed-up or **look down one's nose at**
4. (slang) to be too good for the rest, cocky, on one's high horses, high and mighty, stuck up on oneself, hung up on oneself or sniffy

### **to brown-nose (vulgar/offensive)**

1. to flatter, fawn, back scratch, prostrate oneself, stoop, crouch, squat, cringe  
**He is always brown-nosing his boss.**
2. (informal) to apple-polish, butter up, play up to, fawn upon
3. (slang) to bootlick, bow and scrape, worm, fall all over, suck up to, **lick** or **kiss someone's feet**, be a yes-man, kow-tow, earn brownie points, be on one's knee, bootlick, worm along, sleather
4. (vulgar) to lie prone

### **to count noses**

to count the number of persons present

How many people are here? **Count noses.**

**to cut off one's nose to spite one's face**

1. to hurt someone else, get someone back, or get revenge by hurting oneself, destroy one's own interest, destroy oneself, self-destruct, hurt or wound oneself out of anger  
What you're doing makes no sense. By getting drunk every night, you're not hurting your ex-boyfriend. All you're doing is **cutting off your nose to spite your own face.**
2. to **slit one's own throat, cut off your nose to spite one's own face**, commit hari-kari, **slash one's own throat, cut one's own throat**

**to do right under one's nose**

1. to do in bold defiance, boldly, unshyly, without hiding, frankly, not shyly  
He has no shame. He did everything **right under everyone's nose.**
2. (more stylized) to do unflinchingly, daringly, unabashedly, defiantly, confidentially, courageously, unblenchingly, dauntlessly
3. (informal) to do unblinkingly, unblushingly, **barefacedly**, unshrinkingly, unflinchingly, **baldfacedly, bold-facedly**, strong-nerved, shamelessly
4. (slang) to do something in a manner which is **cheeky, nervy, with gall**, brassy, devil may care, gutsy

**to do under one's nose**

1. to do in bold defiance, boldly, not shyly, without hiding, frankly  
He has no shame. He did everything **under everyone's nose.**

2. (more stylized) to do unflinchingly, daringly, unabashedly, defiantly, confidentially, courageously, unblenchingly, dauntlessly
3. (informal) to do unblinkingly, unblushingly, **barefacedly**, unshrinkingly, unflinchingly, **baldfacedly**, **bold-facedly**, strong-nerved, shamelessly
4. (slang) to do something in a manner which is **cheeky**, **nervy**, **with gall**, brassy, devil may care, gutsy

#### **to follow one's nose**

1. to use one's instinct, intuition, sixth sense, keen sight, insight or feeling to solve a problem  
The detective always **follows his nose** in order to solve most of his cases.
2. (more stylistic) to intuit, use one's intuition
3. (informal) to use hints, clues, inklings or cues to solve a problem or look for something, have a sneaking suspicion or feeling  
I don't know what I'm going to do. Right now, all I can do is **follow my nose**.
4. (slang) to follow one's hunch or feeling in one's bones, have a hunch

#### **to get a bloody nose**

1. to be hit in the nose so that one's nose **full of blood**, bleeding or **blood-soaked**  
After he played football, he had a **bloody nose**.
2. to be rebuffed, repulsed, slighted or slurred  
I **got a bloody nose** from his sarcastic comments.

3. to be derided, affronted, repudiated, spurned, repulsed, rebuked, disdained or ridiculed
4. to be put-down, snubbed, **slapped in the face**, cut, thrown a dash of cold water, brushed-off or aside or given a **cold-shoulder**
5. to be kicked in the pants, given a bum's rush, dig or barb

### **to get a nose job**

to get cosmetic surgery on the nose

I like your nose; I don't think that you need to **get a nose job**.

### **to get it on the nose**

1. to be precise, exact, correct or accurate
2. (informal) to be on the letter, right on the money, right on or right on the target, mark, dot or button, hit the bull's eye  
That's right! You **got it on the nose**.

### **to get up someone's nose**

1. to irritate, annoy, anger  
Every time I see him, **he gets up my nose**.  
I can't stand him.
2. (more stylistic) to exasperate, provoke, incense, infuriate, pique
3. (informal) to be a headache, salt in the wound, be a thorn, bore, nag, pest, pill, crashing bore, **a thorn in the side** or **flesh, pain the neck** or **rear, a thorn in the flesh**, pea in the shoe, dryasdust, loser, gadfly, bur, frightful bore, a cross to bear or hard to stand, raise someone's ire, **get up one's nose**, peeve, pester, irk, rile, get under someone's skin
4. (slang) to be a flat tire, drip, downer, hassle, pain in the butt, retreat, pain in the behind, deadhead or wet blanket, **make**

**someone's blood boil, get on someone's nerve**, tee off, **get on someone's last nerve**, rub someone the wrong way, bug, **get in someone's hair**

## 5. (vulgar) to be a pain in the ass

### to give someone a bloody nose

1. to hit someone in the nose so that one's nose **full of blood**, bleeding or **blood-soaked**
2. to rebuff, repulse, slight or slur one  
His remarks **gave me a bloody nose**.
3. to deride, affront, repudiate, spurn, repulse, rebuke, disdain or ridicule one
4. to put-down, snub, **slap in the face**, cut, throw a dash of cold water, brush-off or aside or give a **cold-shoulder** to one
5. to kick in the pants, give a bum's rush, dig or barb to one

### to go into nose-dive

to skydive, plunge, dive, fall or go down front part first  
Before crashing, the airplane **went into a nose-dive**.

### to have a big nose

1. to concern oneself with the affairs or business of another, pry, inquire, interlope, intrude, eavesdrop, be a gossip, snoop, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtrudes, be meddlesome, eager to know, much too inquisitive or overly curious  
Be careful, she **has a big nose**, always sniffing around looking for info.



2. (more stylistic) to intermeddle, intrude, interpose, obtrude
3. (informal) to **be long nosed**, overcurious, **nosy**, **a busybody**, snoop, eavesdropper or meddlesome, listen in on other's conversation, **mind other people's business**, **have big ears**, **have long ears**, **have one's nose in every door**, **be all ears**, **have long ears**, **bend an ear**

### **to have a bloody nose**

1. to have been hit in the nose so that one's nose **full of blood**, bleeding or **blood-soaked**  
After he played football, he had a **bloody nose**.
2. to be rebuffed, repulsed, slighted or slurred
3. to be derided, affronted, repudiated, spurned, repulsed, rebuked, disdained or ridiculed
4. to be put-down, snubbed, **slapped in the face**, cut, thrown a dash of cold water, brushed-off or aside or given a **cold-shoulder**
5. to be kicked in the pants, given a bum's rush, dig or barb

### **to have a good nose**

1. to have an almost innate ability to unearth, detect, discover, find, uncover or locate  
To be a detective, you must have a **has a good nose**.
2. (informal) to have a natural ability to sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, come across or upon, learn of or find out about, chance, hit, stumble or light upon, turn up
3. to be able to smell what others can not, have a strong sense of smell, have a highly developed olfactory nerve  
One reason that he works in the perfume industry is that

he **has a good nose**.

### **to have a long nose**

1. to concern oneself with the affairs or business of another, pry, inquire, interlope, intrude, eavesdrop, be a gossip, snoop, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder, be meddling, eager to know, much too inquisitive or overly curious  
Be careful, she **has a long nose**, always sniffing around looking for info.
2. (more stylistic) to intermeddle, intrude, interpose, obtrude
3. (informal) to **be long nosed**, overcurious, **nosy**, **a busybody**, snoop, eavesdropper or meddling, listen in on other's conversation, **mind other people's business**, **have big ears**, **have long ears**, **have one's nose in every door**, **be all ears**, **have long ears**, **bend an ear**

### **to have a nose for business**

1. to be extraordinarily good, talented or gifted at politics, have a special flair, genius or talent for politics  
I'm not surprised at his success; he has always **had a nose for business**.
2. (more stylistic) to have an adroitness, dexterity, deftness, aptness proclivity to
3. (French) au fait
4. to be good at, have a bent, turn or knack for, know the trick of the trade, **have a mind for**
5. to have a hang or mother wit for

### **to have a nose for danger**

1. to have a special talent to find, uncover or unearth danger  
He's not going to live very long as he **has such a nose for danger**.
2. (informal) to have an almost natural ability to sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, come across or upon, learn of or find out about, chance, hit, stumble or light upon, turn up

### **to have a nose for a story**

1. to have a special talent to find out, uncover or unearth what is happening in other people's lives  
Be careful what you say; she **has a nose for a story**.
2. (informal) to have an almost natural ability to sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, come across or upon, learn of or find out about, chance, hit, stumble or light upon, turn up

### **to have a nose for scandal**

1. to have a special talent to find, uncover or unearth scandal  
That newspaper reporter **has a nose for scandal**. If someone is doing something that they don't want made public, he will find out.
2. (informal) to have an almost natural ability to sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, come across or upon, learn of or find out about, chance, hit, stumble or light upon, turn up

### **to have a nose for trouble**

1. to have a special talent to look for and find out where problems are  
She **has a nose for trouble**.
2. (informal) to have an almost natural ability to sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, come across or upon, learn of or find out about, chance, hit, stumble or light upon, turn up

### **to have a political nose**

1. to be extraordinarily good, talented or gifted at politics, have a special flair, genius or talent for politics  
It's in his blood. He **has a nose for politics**.
2. (more stylistic) to have an adroitness, dexterity, deftness, aptness  
proclivity to
3. (French) au fait
4. to be good at, have a bent, turn or knack for, know the trick of the trade, **have a mind for**
5. to have a hang or mother wit for

### **to have one's nose in a book**

1. to be reading a book  
He **has his nose in a book**, again! He is nothing but a book worm.
2. (informal) to be burying oneself in or devouring a book

### **to (always) have one's nose in a book**

to be an insatiable, unquenchable, avid, voracious, ravenous or insatiate reader  
No wonder he's so smart; he **always has his nose in a book**.

### **to have one's nose in every door**

1. to pry, inquire, interlope, intrude, be overly inquisitive or curious, intermeddle  
What a neighbor!! He has his nose in every door waiting for the latest gossip.
2. to **poke one's nose where it does not belong**, gossip, **mind other**

**people's business, have one's finger in every pie, be a busy-body, a meddler, a snoop or a kibitzer, stick one's nose where it does not belong, be nosy or a nosy-body**

3. (slang) to **butt in**, horn in on, kibitz, cut, muscle, worm, or edge in

#### **to have one's nose in the air**

1. to carry oneself as if one is superior or better than, be conceited, snobbish, proud, self-important, haughty, vain or self-centered  
I don't like her because she always **has her nose in the air**.
2. (more stylish) to be haughty, presumptuous, disdainful, lordly, pompous, pretentious
3. (informal) to be **swell-headed**, stuck up, **big-headed**, smug, cocky, hungup on oneself, above it all, highfalutin, hoity-toity
4. (slang) too good for the rest, cocky, on one's high horses, high and mighty, sniffy

#### **to have one's nose to the grindstone**

1. to work hard, push oneself, set to work  
The only way to succeed is to **have one's nose to the grindstone** and do what needs to be done.
2. (more stylistic) to toil, strive, exert oneself, endeavor, labor, work like a Trojan, apply oneself
3. (informal) to ply the oar, **put one's hand to the plow**, keep one's sleeves rolled up, **knuckle down**, burn the candle at both ends, continue grinding, **keep one's nose to the grindstone**, work around the clock, kill oneself, burn the midnight oil, **work one's fingers to the bone**, ply the oar, **put one's hand to the plow**, roll up one's sleeves, buckle down, grind, **have one's nose to the grindstone**

4. (slang) to plod, plug along, work oneself to death, slave, get off the dime, get busy, get down to it, get down to business, get off one's duff, kill oneself, slave away, work twenty-four/seven
5. (vulgar) to work like a slave or a dog, kill oneself **get off one's behind, get off one's ass, get one's ass in gear**

### **to hit something on the nose**

1. to get it right, correct, accurate, true or exact, be right, correct, accurate, true, or exact  
He hits it **on the nose** each and every time.
2. (more stylistic) to be precise or unerring
3. (informal) hit it on the dot, on the spot on, on the button or on the money, **hit the bull eye**, be right on target, on the mark, **right on the nose** or on the money, unflinching, to get it right
4. (slang) to get it, be right on, be a deadly shot, hit it

### **to hold one's nose**

1. to show or display one's displeasure, aversion, disfavor, distaste, disapproval, detest, despise or dislike  
Although he was helping me, I knew that he was **holding his nose** all the time.
2. (informal) to **turn one's nose at**, shrink from, not be able to stand, not be able to abide, feel repugnance, hold as disagreeable or unpleasant, be turned off by, refuse to touch with a ten foot pole

### **to keep one's nose clean**

1. to stay out of trouble, avoid scandals or problems, not do anything which is illegal  
He gave you a break by not putting you in jail. Try to **keep**

**your nose clean.**

2. to walk the straight and narrow, remain out of jail, not look to the left or right but only straight ahead, remain out of the hands of the law

**to keep one's nose out of**

1. to not concern oneself with the affairs or business of others, not ask questions about others' life or personal details, Please **keep your nose out of my business.**
2. (informal) to steer clear of, **mind one's own business**
3. to butt out of

**to keep one's nose to the grindstone**

1. to continue working or toiling hard, keep pushing oneself, work very hard  
It's not going to be easy but you must **keep your nose to the grindstone.**
2. (more stylistic) to continue striving, exerting oneself, endeavoring or laboring, keep working like a Trojan, keep toiling
3. (informal) to continue plying the oar, **put one's hand to the plow**, keep one's sleeves rolled up, **knuckle down**, burn the candle at both ends, continue grinding, **keep one's nose to the grindstone**, keep working around the clock, continue killing oneself, burn the midnight oil, **work one's fingers to the bone**, drudge, set one's shoulder to the wheel, grub, work around the clock, plod, plug along, work oneself to death, grind, kill oneself
4. (slang) to keep plodding, plugging along, working oneself to death, slaving away, work like a slave or a dog, work twenty-four/seven, kill oneself

5. (vulgar) to work like a slave or a dog, kill oneself **get off one's behind, get off one's ass, get one's ass in gear**

#### **to lead someone by the nose**

1. to exercise complete control over someone, reign or rule over someone totally, be in the position of authority  
He controls his friend to such an extent that he **leads him by the nose.**
2. (more stylistic) to daunt, intimidate, bend to one's will, compel, overawe, disconcert, bluster, coerce, dragoon, quell
3. (informal) to **have someone under one's thumb, have the upper hand**, cow, be in the driver's seat, be the boss or in charge, lay down the law, bulldoze, **have someone in the palm of one's hand, lead by the nose**, bend someone to one's will, to the fear of the Lord into, **rule with an iron hand**, ride herd on, put the fear of God into **brow beat, lead around by the nose**, use as a doormat
4. (slang) to be the one who calls the shot, hold all the cards, wear the pants, rule the roost, call the plays, bully

#### **to lead someone around by the nose**

1. to exercise complete control over someone, reign or rule over someone totally, be in the position of authority  
He controls his friend to such an extent that he **leads him around by the nose.**
2. (more stylistic) to daunt, intimidate, compel, overawe, disconcert, bluster, coerce, dragoon
3. (informal) to **have someone under one's thumb, have the upper hand**, cow, be in the driver's seat, be the boss or in charge, lay down the law, bulldoze, **have someone in the palm of one's hand, lead by the nose**, bend someone to one's will, to the fear of the Lord into, **rule with an iron hand**, ride herd on, put the fear of God into **brow beat, lead around by the nose**



4. (slang) to be the one who calls the shot, hold all the cards, wear the pants, rule the roost, call the plays, bully

**to look down one's nose at**

1. to be conceited, snobbish, proud, self-important, haughty, vain or self-centered, behave as if one were superior to others, be pretentious or condescending  
He is always **looking down his nose at everyone**.
2. (more stylish) to be haughty, presumptuous, disdainful, pontifical, lordly, pompous or pretentious
3. (informal) to be **with one's nose in the air**, stuck up, **big-headed**, smug, cocky, be holier-than-thou, sanctimonious, stuck-up, snooty, above-it-all, high and mighty, hoity-toity, up on one's high horses, uppish, hung up on oneself, above it all, highfalutin or hoity-toity, **look down one's nose at**, snobby
4. (slang) to be too good for the rest, cocky, on one's high horses, high and mighty, high-hat, stuffy or sniffy

**5. (vulgar) to be a pompous ass**

**to make a long nose at**

1. to show one's disgust, contempt, disregard or condescension, consider beneath oneself, slight, treat with contempt  
You can not **make a long nose at** him. He is, after all, paying the bills.
2. (more stylistic) to treat someone in a manner which is deigning, patronizing, scornful or disparaging, deride, vilipend

3. (informal) to **thumb one's nose at**, sniff at, scoff at, snub, look down at, **turn one's nose up at**, flout, **curl one's lip at**, **give a cold shoulder to**, **look down one's nose at**
4. (slang) to have no use for, pooh-pooh, have nothing to do with **wipe one's feet on**

#### **to need a hard-nose**

1. to need or be in need of a person who is shrewd, tough, pitiless, harsh, unfeeling, unsympathetic, callous or unsentimental  
We **need a hard-nose** on this case. We need someone who won't let his feelings get in the way.
2. (more stylistic) to need or be in need of a person who is inured, impervious, insentient or indurate
3. (informal) to need or be in need of a person who is cold, **hardhearted**, casehardened, inflexible, hardboiled, hardened, **bullet-headed**, hard-bitten, matter-of-fact, **marble hearted** or **thick-skinned**

#### **to nose about**

1. to pry or inquire into, question, ask around, step in, meddle in  
She 's such a busybody. She's always **nosing about**.
2. (more stylistic) to obtrude, intermeddle, intercede, interpose, meddle, intervene
3. (informal) to **mind others' business**, **stick one's nose into**, **nose about**, **bend an ear**, **be a busybody**, sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, **poke one's nose where it does not belong**, **have one's finger in every pie**, be a meddler, **nose about**, **nose around**, **stick one's nose where it doesn't belong**, be a snoop or a kibitzer, **poke one's nose into**, **have a nose in every door**, **be nosy** or **a nosy-body**

4. (slang) to barge in, **butt in**, horn in, **butt in on**, horn in on, chisel in, snoop around, **muscle in**, be buttinsky, Paul Pry, dig into or out, track down, cut in, kibitz

### to nose around

1. to pry or inquire into, question, ask around, step in, meddle in  
You need to stop **nosing around** so much. It's very unattractive.
2. (more stylistic) to obtrude, intermeddle, intercede, interpose, meddle, intervene
3. (informal) to **mind others' business**, **stick one's nose into**, **nose about**, **bend an ear**, **be a busybody**, sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, **poke one's nose where it does not belong**, **have one's finger in every pie**, be a meddler, **nose about**, **nose around**, **stick one's nose where it doesn't belong**, be a snoop or a kibitzer, **poke one's nose into**, **have a nose in every door**, **be nosy** or **a nosy-body**
4. (slang) to barge in, **butt in**, horn in, **butt in on**, horn in on, chisel in, snoop around, **muscle in**, be buttinsky, Paul Pry, dig into or out, track down, cut in, kibitz

### to nose into

1. to pry or inquire into, question, ask around, step in, meddle in  
Don't **nose into** my business.
2. (more stylistic) to obtrude, intermeddle, intercede, interpose, meddle, intervene
3. (informal) to **mind others' business**, **stick one's nose into**, **nose about**, **bend an ear**, **be a busybody**, sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, **poke one's nose where it does not belong**, **have one's finger in every pie**, be a meddler, **nose about**, **nose around**, **stick one's nose where it doesn't belong**, be a snoop or a kibitzer, **poke one's nose into**, **have a nose in every door**, **be nosy** or **a nosy-body**

4. (slang) to barge in, **butt in**, horn in, **butt in on**, horn in on, chisel in, snoop around, **muscle in**, be buttinsky, Paul Pry, dig into or out, track down, cut in, kibitz

#### **to nose out**

1. to win against or beat out by a very narrow margin barely, hardly, just or hardly just win against or beat out  
He **nosed her out** of the job.
2. (informal) to edge out, beat out or defeat **by a head, nose, a hair's breath**, skin of one's teeth or **a hair**
3. to ransack, search out, pry, seek out, dig out, search out, dig up, hunt up, hunt out  
He **nosed out** all the information that he would need.
4. (more stylistic) to ferret out, scrutinize, scour, investigate, prowl around, delve into, unearth, fathom, look into
5. (informal) to look high and low, turn everything upside down, snoop around, scout, hunt out, sniff out, smell out

#### **to not be able to see beyond one's own nose**

1. to be able to see only one's own immediate surrounding, to see only what is in front of one, be unsympathetic or unempathetic, be bias, dogmatic, parochial, provincial, myopic or intolerant  
He won't understand you. He **is not able to see beyond his own nose**.
2. (informal) to be small, little, mean, or narrow-minded, wearing blinders or blinkers, **not be able to see farther than the end of one's nose, be unable to see farther than the end of her nose, be unable to see beyond one's own nose**

3. (informal) to be unhearing, jaundice, one-sided, deaf to reason or new ideas, be unable to walk in another's shoes or moccasins, **be close** or **narrow minded**

**to not be able to see farther than the end of one's nose**

1. to be able to see only one's own immediate surrounding, to see only what is in front of one, be unsympathetic or unempathetic, be bias, dogmatic, parochial, provincial, myopic or intolerant  
She can't sympathize with the victims because she **is not able to see farther than the end of her nose**.  
He won't understand you. He **is**.
2. (informal) to be small, little, mean, or narrow-minded, **not be able to see beyond his own nose**, wearing blinders or blinkers, **not be able to see farther than the end of one's nose**, **be unable to see farther than the end of her nose**, **be unable to see beyond one's own nose**
3. (informal) to be unhearing, jaundice, one-sided, deaf to reason or new ideas, be unable to walk in another's shoes or moccasins, **be close** or **narrow minded**

**to pay through the nose**

1. to pay a excessive, extravagant, exorbitant or unconscionable immoderate amount  
The house is beautiful but the couple **paid through the nose** to get it.
2. (more stylish) to pay an inordinate, unwarranted, preposterous or disproportionate amount
3. to **pay arm and a leg**, pay an uncalled for or criminal amount, pay an amount which is beyond all bounds

3. to fork, dish, lay or shell out an unholy amount of money, cough or ante up beaucoup bucks

### **to poke one's nose into someone else's business**

1. to pry or inquire into, question, ask around, step in, meddle in  
Stick to your own business instead of **poking your nose in other people's business.**
2. (more stylistic) to obtrude, intermeddle, intercede, interpose, meddle, intervene
3. (informal) to **mind others' business, stick one's nose into, nose about, bend an ear, be a busybody**, sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, **poke one's nose where it does not belong, have one's finger in every pie**, be a meddler, **nose about, nose around, stick one's nose where it doesn't belong**, be a snoop or a kibitzer, **poke one's nose into, have a nose in every door, be nosy** or **a nosy-body**
4. (slang) to barge in, **butt in**, horn in, **butt in on**, horn in on, chisel in, snoop around, **muscle in**, be buttinsky, Paul Pry, dig into or out, track down, cut in, kibitz

### **to poke one's nose where it doesn't belong**

1. to pry or inquire into, question, ask around, step in, meddle in  
She gets me so angry; she's always **poking her nose where it doesn't belong.**
2. (more stylistic) to obtrude, intermeddle, intercede, interpose, meddle, intervene
3. (informal) to **mind others' business, stick one's nose into, nose about, bend an ear, be a busybody**, sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, **poke one's nose where it does not belong, have one's finger in every pie**, be a meddler, **nose about, nose around, stick one's nose where it doesn't belong**, be a snoop or a kibitzer, **poke one's nose into, have a nose in every door, be nosy** or **a nosy-body**

4. (slang) to barge in, **butt in**, horn in, **butt in on**, horn in on, chisel in, snoop around, **muscle in**, be buttinsky, Paul Pry, dig into or out, track down, cut in, kibitz

### **to powder one's nose**

(old fashion: polite way for a woman to excuse herself to go to the powder room [bathroom])

### **to put one's nose out of joint**

1. to irritate, annoy, vex, disturb,  
His behavior is **putting my nose out of joint**.
2. (more stylish) to acerbate, exasperate, pique, exacerbate, chafe  
discountenance
3. (informal) to get on the nerves of, tread on someone's toes, miff
4. **get under someone's skin, grate on someone's nerves, get in someone's hair**
5. (slang) to tee off, **make someone's blood boil**, try someone's  
patience, make see red, put out, drive someone nuts or crazy,  
get someone's goat, tick someone off
6. (vulgar) to piss someone off
7. to spoil, destroy, ruin someone's plans  
His **nose is out of joint** because his children all got sick today.
8. (informal) to trash, topple, upset, upend, upset someone's apple  
cart, turn topsy-turvy

9. (slang) to gum up the works

**to put one's nose to the grindstone**

1. to work hard, push oneself, set to work  
The only way to succeed is to **put one's nose to the grindstone** and do what needs to be done.
2. (more stylistic) to toil, strive, exert oneself, endeavor, labor, work like a Trojan, apply oneself
3. (informal) to ply the oar, **put one's hand to the plow**, keep one's sleeves rolled up, **knuckle down**, burn the candle at both ends, continue grinding, **keep one's nose to the grindstone**, work around the clock, kill oneself, burn the midnight oil, **work one's fingers to the bone**, ply the oar, **put one's hand to the plow**, roll up one's sleeves, buckle down, grind
4. (slang) to plod, plug along, work oneself to death, slave, get off the dime, get busy, get down to it, get down to business, get off one's duff, kill oneself, slave away, work twenty-four/seven
5. (vulgar) to work like a slave or a dog, kill oneself **get off one's behind**, **get off one's ass**, **get one's ass in gear**

**to rub someone's nose in it**

1. to constantly remind someone of a past mistake, force someone to recall or remember something better left in the past, badger, hector, taunt, pester, bait  
Stop **rubbing my nose in it!** I said that I was sorry.
2. (informal) to nag, get on someone's back, harp at, pick on, get someone's nose out of joint, harry, pick at
3. (slang) to dog, ride, bug, harass, hound, plague, tweak



### **to see beyond the end of one's own nose**

1. to look beyond one's own world or value system, be unbiased, unprejudiced, impartial, undogmatic, unjaundiced, plastic, receptive  
The problem is that we can't **see beyond the end of our own nose**.
2. (more stylistic) to be tractable, pliant, pliable, disinterested
3. (informal) to **be open-minded, broad-minded**, open
4. to be wide awake, prepared, watchful, economical, thrifty, frugal  
Because I was able to **see beyond the end of my own nose**, I was prepared for the economic downturn.
5. to be provident, farsighted, forearmed, judicious, prudential, foreseeing, discerning, precautionary or providential
6. to be long sighted or at the ready

### **to speak through the nose**

1. to lie, tell a lie, invent, fabricate  
Don't pay attention to him. He's always **speaking through the nose**.
2. (more stylized) to embroider, prevaricate, misrepresent, equivocate, embellish, warp, color, doctor or dress up, gild
3. (informal) to give someone a bum steer, stretch, twist or mince the truth, make out of whole cloth, fib, tell a white lie, draw a red herring across the trail, make up
4. (slang) to lay it on thick, thick, puff up or blow up the truth, lie like a lie, lay it on, pile it on, cook up, pile it on thick

### to stick one's nose into

1. to pry or inquire into, question, ask around, step in, meddle in  
Stop **sticking your nose into** my business and **mind your own**.
2. (more stylistic) to obtrude, intermeddle, intercede, interpose, meddle, intervene
3. (informal) to **mind others' business, stick one's nose into, nose about, bend an ear, be a busybody**, sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, **poke one's nose where it does not belong, have one's finger in every pie**, be a meddler, **nose about, nose around, stick one's nose where it doesn't belong**, be a snoop or a kibitzer, **poke one's nose into, have a nose in every door, be nosy** or **a nosy-body**
4. (slang) to barge in, **butt in**, horn in, **butt in on**, horn in on, chisel in, snoop around, **muscle in**, be buttinsky, Paul Pry, dig into or out, track down, cut in, kibitz

### to stick one's nose where it doesn't belong

1. to pry or inquire into, question, ask around, step in, meddle in  
I don't appreciate you **sticking your nose where it doesn't belong**.
2. (more stylistic) to obtrude, intermeddle, intercede, interpose, meddle, intervene
3. (informal) to **mind others' business, stick one's nose into, nose about, bend an ear, be a busybody**, sniff, ferret, smell, root or fish out, **poke one's nose where it does not belong, have one's finger in every pie**, be a meddler, **nose about, nose around, stick one's nose where it doesn't belong**, be a snoop or a kibitzer, **poke one's nose into, have a nose in every door, be nosy** or **a nosy-body**
4. (slang) to barge in, **butt in**, horn in, **butt in on**, horn in on, chisel in, snoop around, **muscle in**, be buttinsky, Paul Pry, dig into or out, track down, cut in, kibitz

### **to take a nose-dive**

1. to plunge dive, plummet downward, descend, crash dive
2. (informal) to fall or hurl oneself **headlong**, go into a tailspin
3. to lose a competition on purpose  
Because of the threats, the fighter **took a nose dive**.
4. to take a sharp drop or decline (i.e. in prices), collapse, decline rapidly  
Since the turn of the century, the price of internet stocks has **taken a nose-dive**.
5. (informal) to go to the wall, have the bottom fall out, fold up, go to the rocks
6. to tumble, fall over, topple over, fall, fall down, stumble, dive  
She ran into the room and **fell head over heels**.
7. (more stylized) to capsize, keel over, fall in a heap
8. (informal) to fall headlong, plummet, take a spill, go down, pitch, **take a nose dive**, plop, plump, tip over, go topsy-turvy, **fall head over heels**
9. to faint, pass out  
I knew that she was sick when she **fell head over heels**.
10. (more stylized) to fall in a faint, swoon, fall senseless

### **to thumb one's nose at (someone)**

1. to show one's disgust, contempt, disregard or condescension, consider beneath oneself, slight, treat with contempt  
He's always **thumbing his nose at** someone.

2. (more stylistic) to treat someone in a manner which is deigning, patronizing, scornful or disparaging, deride, vilipend
3. (informal) to **make a long nose at**, sniff at, scoff at, snub, look down at, **turn one's nose up at**, flout, **curl one's lip at**, **give a cold shoulder to**, **look down one's nose at**
4. (slang) to have no use for, pooh-pooh, have nothing to do with **wipe one's feet on**
5. to defy or challenge, to be fearless, unafraid, valid, daring, bold, audacious, dauntless, or undaunted  
He is always **his head in thumbing his nose at** anyone who opposes him.

#### **to thumb one's nose to (something)**

1. to defy or challenge, to be fearless, unafraid, valid, daring, bold, audacious, dauntless, or undaunted  
He is always **his head in thumbing his nose to danger**.
2. (informal) to be Spartan or stout-hearted, play with fire, dance on the razor's edge, skate on thin ice, tempt Providence, go in harm's way, square off, **put one's head in the lion's mouth**
3. (slang) to be spunky, manly, manful, plucky, one's own man, **march up to the canon's mouth**, court destruction, double-dog, outface, dare, **thumb one's nose at**, **snap one's fingers at**

#### **to thumb one's nose to danger**

1. to defy or challenge danger, to be fearless, unafraid, valid, daring, bold, audacious, dauntless, or undaunted  
He is always **his head in thumbing his nose to danger**.
2. (informal) to be Spartan or stout-hearted, play with fire, dance on the razor's edge, skate on thin ice, tempt Providence, go in harm's

way, square off, **put one's head in the lion's mouth**

3. (slang) spunky, manly, manful, plucky, one's own man, march up to the canon's mouth, court destruction, double-dog dare, **thumb one's nose at**, **snap one's fingers at**

#### **to turn one's nose up at**

1. to show one's disgust, contempt, disregard or condescension, consider beneath oneself, slight, treat with contempt, show demonstrate one's displeasure or contempt of, show one's dislike for or low opinion of, treat with contempt  
One should not **turn one's nose up at** food.
2. (more stylistic) to treat someone in a manner which is deigning, patronizing, scornful or disparaging, deride, vilipend
3. (informal) to **thumb one's nose at**, sniff at, scoff at, snub, look down at, **make a long nose at**, flout, **curl one's lip at**, **give a cold shoulder to**, **look down one's nose at**, flout, look down upon, **turn up one's nose at**
4. (slang) to have no use for, pooh-pooh, have nothing to do with **wipe one's feet on**

#### **to turn up one's nose at**

1. to show disapproval, opposition or resistance, dispute, snub, be against, take exception to, shun, shrink away from  
He **set his face against** what was being voted on.
2. (more stylized) evade, recoil from, forbear, disdain, ostracize, spurn, eschew, elude, ignore, refrain from, derelish, take exception to, repudiate
3. (informal) to boycott, back away from, look dimly on, frown upon, not touch with a 10 feet pole, cold shoulder, take a dim view of,

put on one's list, not look kindly upon, **turn one's back on**, **turn one's nose up at**, steer clear of, shy away from, **give the cold shoulder to**, keep out of the way of

4. (slang) to dump, blacklist, blackball, cut

#### **to tweak someone's nose**

1. to ridicule, mock, bother  
I don't like her at all. She **is always tweaking someone's nose**.
2. (more stylized) to lampoon, bemock, satirize, deride mimic, hold up to ridicule, caricature, jeer
3. to roast, make fun of, make a laughing stock of, poke fun of, laugh at, make game of, **laugh in the face of**, kid
4. to razz, squib, rag, guy, **make someone the butt of the joke of**, knock, make sport of, ride, **rib**

#### **to win by a nose**

1. to win or beat by a very narrow margin barely, hardly, just or hardly just win or beat, barely or only just win  
He of the job.  
Yes, your horses almost always win by they only **win by a nose**.
2. (informal) to **nose out**, edge out, beat out or defeat **by a head, a hair's breath, skin of one's teeth** or **a hair**

#### **Keep your nose out of my business!**

Mind your own business!

#### **blue-nosed**

1. strait laced, stiff, formal, narrow, rigid, arbitrary

2. (more stylistic) stilted, over scrupulous, puritanical, anchoritic
3. (informal) stuffy, **stiff-necked**, fussy, prim

### **hard-nosed**

1. tough, icy, unsentimental, practical, stern, callous, case-hardened, determined, staunch, relentless, preserving
2. (more stylistic) efficient, calculating, shrewd, unsympathetic, unflagging, indurate, inured, unwavering, uncompromising
3. (informal) inflexible, uncompromising, unbending, hard-line, hardcore, hard shell, stubborn, hardboiled, two-fisted, stony, thick-skinned, hard-hearted, hardboiled hard as nails, rugged
4. (slang) do-or-die, hell-bent, gritty, bent on

### **5. (vulgar) hard-assed**

### **long-nosed**

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper or intruder  
She has such a **long nose**.
2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
3. (informal) **poking one's nose where it does not belong**, gossiping, **minding other people's business**, **have one's finger in every pie**, **busy-body**, being a meddler, snoop or kibitzer, being **nosy**, **sticking one's nose where it does not belong**, **having one's nose in every door**, **putting one's nose in every door**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying

4. (slang) being a **big mouth**, newsmonger, cat, chatterbox, tabby, Paul Pry, gossipmonger, **blabbermouth** or buttinsky, **nosey**, **all ears**, **butts in**, horn in, **all eyes and ears**
5. (Yiddish) cochieffel
6. (Australian) stickybeak

### **to be hard-nosed**

1. to be tough, icy, unsentimental, practical, stern, callous, case-hardened, determined, staunch, relentless or preserving  
She **is a very hard-nosed person**.
2. (more stylistic) to be efficient, calculating, shrewd, unsympathetic, unflagging, indurate, inured, unwavering or uncompromising
3. (informal) to be inflexible, uncompromising, unbending, hardline, hardcore, hardshell, stubborn, hardboiled, **two-fisted**, stony, **thick-skinned**, **hard-hearted**, hardboiled hard as nails, rugged
4. (slang) do-or-die, hell-bent, gritty or bent on

### **5. (vulgar) to be hard-assed**

#### **to be a brown-noser (vulgar/offensive)**

to be an apple-polisher, brownie, backslapper, flatterer, or toady  
I can't stand her; she's such a **brown noser**.

#### **nosey**

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
She is such a **nosey** person.



2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
3. (informal) **poking one's nose where it does not belong**, gossiping, **minding other people's business**, **have one's finger in every pie**, **busy-body**, being a meddler, snoop or kibitzer, being **nosy**, **sticking one's nose where it does not belong**, **having one's nose in every door**, **putting one's nose in every door**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying
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5. (Yiddish) cochieffel
6. (Australian) stickybeak

### **Nosey Parker**

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
What a **Nosey Parker**.
2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
3. (informal) **poking one's nose where it does not belong**, gossiping, **minding other people's business**, **have one's finger in every pie**, **busy-body**, being a meddler, snoop or kibitzer, being **nosy**, **sticking one's nose where it does not belong**, **having one's nose in every door**, **putting one's nose in every door**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying

4. (slang) being a **big mouth**, newsmonger, cat, chatterbox, tabby, Paul Pry, gossipmonger, **blabbermouth** or buttinsky, **nosey**, **all ears**, **butts in**, horn in, **all eyes and ears**
5. (Yiddish) cochieffel
6. (Australian) stickybeak

### **nosy**

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
She is such a **nosy** person.
2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
3. (informal) **poking one's nose where it does not belong**, gossiping, **minding other people's business**, **have one's finger in every pie**, **busy-body**, being a meddler, snoop or kibitzer, being **nosy**, **sticking one's nose where it does not belong**, **having one's nose in every door**, **putting one's nose in every door**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying
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5. (Yiddish) cochieffel
6. (Australian) stickybeak

### **nosy-body**

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
What a neighbor!! He **is such a nosy body**, waiting for the latest gossip.
2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
3. (informal) **poking one's nose where it does not belong**, gossiping, **minding other people's business**, **have one's finger in every pie**, **busy-body**, being a meddler, snoop or kibitzer, being **nosy**, **sticking one's nose where it does not belong**, **having one's nose in every door**, **putting one's nose in every door**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying
4. (slang) being a **big mouth**, newsmonger, cat, chatterbox, tabby, Paul Pry, gossipmonger, **blabbermouth** or buttinsky, **nosey**, **all ears**, **butts in**, horn in, **all eyes and ears**

### **Nosy Parker**

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
What a **Nosey Parker**.
2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
3. (informal) **poking one's nose where it does not belong**, gossiping, **minding other people's business**, **have one's finger in every pie**, **busy-body**, being a meddler, snoop or kibitzer, being **nosy**, **sticking one's nose where it does not belong**, **having one's nose in every door**, **putting one's nose in every door**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying

4. (slang) being a **big mouth**, newsmonger, cat, chatterbox, tabby, Paul Pry, gossipmonger, **blabbermouth** or buttinsky, **nosey, all ears, butts in**, horn in, **all eyes and ears**
5. (Yiddish) cochieffel
6. (Australian) stickybeak

### **to be a nose-body**

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
What a neighbor!! He **is such a nosy body**, waiting for the latest gossip.
2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
3. (informal) **poking one's nose where it does not belong**, gossiping, **minding other people's business, have one's finger in every pie, busy-body**, being a meddler, snoop or kibitzer, being **nosy, sticking one's nose where it does not belong, having one's nose in every door, putting one's nose in every door**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying
4. (slang) being a **big mouth**, newsmonger, cat, chatterbox, tabby, Paul Pry, gossipmonger, **blabbermouth** or buttinsky, **nosey, all ears, butts in**, horn in, **all eyes and ears**

### **to be a Nosey Parker**

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
What a neighbor!! He **is such a Nosy Parker**, waiting for the latest gossip.

2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
3. (informal) **poking one's nose where it does not belong**, gossiping, **minding other people's business**, **have one's finger in every pie**, **busy-body**, being a meddler, snoop or kibitzer, being **nosy**, **sticking one's nose where it does not belong**, **having one's nose in every door**, **putting one's nose in every door**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying
4. (slang) being a **big mouth**, newsmonger, cat, chatterbox, tabby, Paul Pry, gossipmonger, **blabbermouth** or buttinsky, **nosey**, **all ears**, **butts in**, horn in, **all eyes and ears**
5. (Yiddish) to be a cochieffel
6. (Australian) to be a stickybeak

### **to be a nosy-body**

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
What a neighbor!! He **is such a nosy body**, waiting for the latest gossip.
2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
3. (informal) **poking one's nose where it does not belong**, gossiping, **minding other people's business**, **have one's finger in every pie**, **busy-body**, being a meddler, snoop or kibitzer, being **nosy**, **sticking one's nose where it does not belong**, **having one's nose in every door**, **putting one's nose in every door**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying

4. (slang) being a **big mouth**, newsmonger, cat, chatterbox, tabby, Paul Pry, gossipmonger, **blabbermouth** or buttinsky, **nosey**, **all ears**, **butts in**, horn in, **all eyes and ears**

### to be nosey

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
What a neighbor!! He **is so nosey**, waiting for the latest gossip.
2. (more stylistic) being intrusive, query, officious or inquisitive, interloping, intruding, obtruding, tending to other people's business
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4. (slang) being a **big mouth**, newsmonger, cat, chatterbox, tabby, Paul Pry, gossipmonger, **blabbermouth** or buttinsky, **nosey**, **all ears**, **butts in**, horn in, **all eyes and ears**
5. (Yiddish) to be a cochieffel
6. (Australian) to be a stickybeak

### to be nosy

1. prying, inquiring, interloping, intruding, eavesdropping, being a snooper, gossip, interloper, eavesdropper, intruder or obtruder  
What a neighbor!! He **is so nosy**, waiting for the latest gossip.

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5. (Yiddish) to be a cochieffel
6. (Australian) to be a stickybeak

# Ear

*(entered into English before 900)*

Old English **eare ear æhher**, Middle English **ere**, Old Norse **eyra ax**, German **Ohr Ähre**, Dutch **oor aar**, Latin **auris acus husk**, French **oreille**, Spanish **oido oreja**

## Prefixes and Suffixes pertaining to the **ear**:

**aud-**, **audi-**, **audio-**, **audit-**, **aur-** (Latin: hear)

**acou-**, **acous-**, **acouo-**, **acoustico-**, **acouto-**  
(Greek: hearing listening)

**-acousia**, **-acousis**, **-acoustical**, **-acu**  
(Greek: hearing listening)

**ot-**, **oto-** (Latin: ear)



### **ear**

1. hearing organ, auditory apparatus  
He had one of his **ears** cut off.
2. hearing, audition
3. attention, notice, consideration  
Friends and countrymen, **lend me your ear**.
4. (more stylistic) heed, regard, observation
5. part of a cereal plant i.e. ear of corn or wheat  
I would like to buy a couple **ears** of corn.

### **a bug in one's ear**

1. cautioning, warning, advising, giving warning, giving fair warning, alerting, notifying  
Your revelation does not surprise me. Someone put a **bug in my ear** a few weeks ago.
2. (more stylistic) pre-warning, advising, putting on the qui vive, admonishing, forewarning, enlightening, giving prior notice or word to the wise
3. (informal) tipping off, cluing in, putting on guard, giving a warning signal, **warning ahead of time**, **warning beforehand**, putting on alert
4. (slang) giving the high sign, reading the riot act

### **a word in the ear of**

1. information for no one else but for the indicated person, confidentially, out of public view, secretly, privately, in private

All I need is **a word in the ear of** the director.

2. (more stylistic) under the veil, intimately, in strict confidence, under the rose, sub rosa, unofficially
3. (informal) up one's sleeve, in a whisper, only between us, between you and me and the lamp post, under one's hat, on the hush-hush, **for one's eyes only**
4. (slang) on the Q.T.
5. (French) entre nous
6. (Latin) inter nos

### **all ears**

1. thoughtful, careful, regardful, sensitive, sober, diplomatic, cautious, guarded, discreet, civil, moderate, reflective, alert, watchful, observant, attentive, conscious  
It important that we all be **all ears**; the boss will be arriving any minute now.
2. tactful, wary, delicate, judicious, heedful, on the qui vive, prudent, discerning, Argus eyed, scrupulous, precautionary, perspicacious, circumspect, chary
3. **mindful**, up and about, on guard, on the look out, fussy, **with one's eyes peeled, heads up**, on the ball, picky, on the alert, **one's eyes open, on one's toes** or **hairsplitting**, on the stick, on the watch, wide-awake, **all eyes and ears**

### **all eyes and ears**

1. thoughtful, careful, regardful, sensitive, sober, diplomatic, cautious, guarded, discreet, civil, moderate, reflective, alert, watchful, observant, attentive, conscious  
It important that we all be **all eyes and ears**; the boss will be arriving any minute now.

2. tactful, wary, delicate, judicious, heedful, on the qui vive, prudent, discerning, Argus eyed, scrupulous, precautionary, perspicacious, circumspect, chary
3. **mindful**, up and about, on guard, on the look out, fussy, **with one's eyes peeled, heads up**, on the ball, picky, on the alert, **ears open, on one's toes** or **hairsplitting**, on the stick, on the watch, wide-awake, **all eyes and ears**

#### **an assault to one's ears**

1. being a sound or noise which aggravates, bothers or irritates one  
All this pounding and hammering is **an assault my ears**.
2. (more stylized) being a sound which exasperates, piques, perturb, assails, or beleaguers one
3. (informal) to be a sound which irks, ruffles, maddens, peeves, grates, **gets on one's nerves**, rubs one the wrong way, **assaults the ears** or **gets under one's skin**

#### **an assault to the ears**

1. being a sound or noise which aggravates, bothers or irritates one  
All this pounding and hammering is **an assault to the ears**.
2. (more stylized) being a sound which exasperates, piques, perturb, assails, or beleaguers one
3. (informal) to be a sound which irks, ruffles, maddens, peeves, grates, **gets on one's nerves**, rubs one the wrong way, **assaults the ears** or **gets under one's skin**

### **an ear to the ground**

1. keeping oneself well-informed, current or up-to-date, remaining engaged or knowing, knowing the most recent  
**Keeping an ear to the ground** is necessary if you want always want to know what is going on.
2. become or maintain oneself wise, knowledgeable or cognizant to
3. to remain or maintain oneself plugged in, in the game, with it, connected, up-to-the-moment or the minute, looped in, tied in or in the know
4. (slang) to stay on the ball, hip or savvy to, have to low down
5. (French) au courant

### **big ear**

1. eavesdropper, wire-tapper
2. gossip, snoop
3. Paul Pry, Dumbo, snooper, gossipmonger, rumormonger

### **by ear**

1. orally, without reference to the written word, spoken, unwritten  
He can not read music; he learns **by ear**.
2. (more academic or stylistic) parol, nuncupative, viva voce
3. (Latin) viva vox

### **burning ears**

1. feeling that one is being talked about or discussed  
I have burning ears. Someone is talking about me.
2. (informal) feeling that one is being gossiped about or the subject of a whispering campaign
3. (slang) feeling that one is on the grapevines or **in the mouth of others** or **of a gossipmonger**

### **coming out one's ears**

1. in galore, in abundance, bountiful, enough and to spare, in excess, numerous, in large quantity, more than adequate, in plentiful amount, inexhaustible, in unending supply, abundant, in large numbers, in great quantity, plentiful, galore, excessive  
He had money **coming out of his ears**.
2. (more stylistic) replete, abounding, copious, ample, rife
3. (informal) more than anyone would want or need, aplenty, loads, spilling over, running over, bursting,
4. (slang) in scads, ton, jam packed, tons, globs, chucked fill, oodles

### **crashing down about one's ears**

1. collapsing, crashing, faltering, failing  
When everyone found out the truth, everything **came crashing down about our ears**.
2. (more stylized) floundering, foundering
3. (informal) having everything fall down, tumbling down, falling inward, taking a bad turn, coming to grief, crumbling, toppling, coming to nothing, caving in, giving way, falling through, turning

out badly, **crashing down about one's ears**, coming to nothing, **falling down about one's ears**

### **deaf ear**

1. longer listening, being inattentive to, ignoring, disregarding, dismissing  
Despite my arguments and pleas, he turned a **deaf ear**.
2. not troubling oneself with, looking right through, **turning a deaf ear to**, dismissing from one's thought, looking right past, brushing aside, paying no heed to, pretending not to see, **closing one's ear**, **shutting one's eyes to**

### **dog ear**

fold, crease, doubled or turn over book or page  
This book has a lot of **dog ears**.

### **earache**

pain in the ear  
I have a horrible **earache**.

### **ear candy**

pop music  
I'm kind of ashamed to say that I like the song because it's nothing but **ear candy**.

### **ear drop**

medicine used to cure an earache

### **earmark**

1. any identifying mark, tag, label, brand, trademark, or stamp
2. characteristic, feature, or sign

It has all the **earmarks** of corruption.

### **eardrum-puncturing**

1. very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched **split the ear**, harsh, screeching  
Your music is **eardrum-puncturing** . Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rickety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, pealing
3. (informal) **ear-rending**, grating, clattery, **eardrum-puncturing** enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **hair splitting**, clanging, **ear shattering**, harsh-sounding, clangorous, **ear splitting**

### **earphones**

**head set** or **headphones** used with a stereo system

I don't like these **earphones**; they're not at all comfortable.

### **ear piercing**

1. very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched **split the ear**, harsh, screeching  
Your music is **ear piercing** . Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rickety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, pealing
3. (informal) **ear-rending**, grating, clattery, **eardrum-puncturing** enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **hair splitting**, clanging, **ear shattering**, harsh-sounding, **eardrum-puncturing** clangorous, **earsplitting**

### **ear-rending**

1. very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched **split the ear**, harsh, screeching  
Your music is **ear-rending**. Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rickety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, pealing
3. (informal) **ear-rending**, grating, **eardrum-puncturing**, clattery, enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **hair splitting**, clanging, **ear shattering**, harsh-sounding, clangorous, **ear splitting**

### **ear-shattering**

1. very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched **split the ear**, harsh, screeching  
Your music is **ear-shattering**. Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rickety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, pealing
3. (informal) **ear-rending**, grating, **eardrum-puncturing**, clattery, enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **hair splitting**, clanging, **ear shattering**, harsh-sounding, clangorous, **ear splitting**

### **ear shot**

1. being with range of being heard, be potentially or possibly heard by others  
You're still within **earshot**. Be careful not to say too much.
2. (informal) being able to get an earful, catch, get wind of, catch



wind of one's conversation, being able to be eavesdropped on or overheard, **within earshot**

### **ear splitting**

1. very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched **split the ear**, harsh, screeching  
Your music is **earsplitting**. Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rackety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, pealing
3. (informal) **ear-rending**, grating, **eardrum-puncturing**, clattery, enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **hair splitting**, clanging, **ear shattering**, harsh-sounding, clangorous, **ear splitting**

### **fit for delicate ears**

1. language which is thoughtful, careful, regardful, sensitive, sober, diplomatic, cautious, guarded, discreet, civil, moderate, reflective, observant, attentive, conscious  
She's living in fantasy land; she thinks that one should speak only language **fit for delicate ears**.
2. language which is refined, tactful, wary, delicate, judicious, heedful, fastidious, fine, choice, prudent, discerning, squeamish, finical, finicky, scrupulous, precautionary, perspicacious, circumspect, chary
3. language which is **mindful**, on guard, fussy, picky, on the alert, **on one's toes**, **hairsplitting**

### **fit for tender ears**

1. language which is thoughtful, careful, regardful, sensitive, sober, diplomatic, cautious, guarded, discreet, civil, moderate, reflective,

observant, attentive, conscious

She's living in fantasy land; she thinks that one should speak only language **fit for tender ears**.

2. language which is refined, tactful, wary, delicate, judicious, heedful, fastidious, fine, choice, prudent, discerning, squeamish, finical, finicky, scrupulous, precautionary, perspicacious, circumspect, chary
3. language which is **mindful**, on guard, fussy, picky, on the alert, **on one's toes, hairsplitting**

### **fit for young ears**

1. language which is thoughtful, careful, regardful, sensitive, sober, diplomatic, cautious, guarded, discreet, civil, moderate, reflective, observant, attentive, conscious  
This is a good movies; the language is used is language **fit for young ears**.
2. language which is refined, tactful, wary, delicate, judicious, heedful, fastidious, fine, choice, prudent, discerning, squeamish, finical, finicky, scrupulous, precautionary, perspicacious, circumspect, chary
3. language which is **mindful**, on guard, fussy, picky, on the alert, **on one's toes, hairsplitting**

### **like music to one's ears**

1. welcoming, pleasing, agreeable, satisfying  
What she said **was like music to my ears**.
2. (more stylized) giving one pleasure, gratifying, welcoming, to one's fancy, delightful, making one feel good

3. (informal) **after one's heart**, what the doctor ordered, **warming the cockles of one's heart**, to one's liking, to one's taste, **doing one's heart good**
4. (slang) that which puts one on top of the world, in hog heaven, tickles, tickles pink or makes one pleased as punch

### **music to one's ears**

1. welcoming, pleasing, agreeable, satisfying  
His denial was **music to my ears**.
2. (more stylized) giving one pleasure, gratifying, welcoming, to one's fancy, delightful, making one feel good
3. (informal) **after one's heart**, what the doctor ordered, **warming the cockles of one's heart**, to one's liking, to one's taste, **doing one's heart good**
4. (slang) that which puts one on top of the world, in hog heaven, tickles, tickles pink or makes one pleased as punch

### **long ears**

1. (somewhat positive) an inquisitive or overly curious person  
You **have long ears**; you need to mind your own business.
2. (somewhat negative) minding the business of another, showing interest in someone else's business, intruding, obtruding  
You have to be very careful what you say around her; she has such **long ears**.
3. (negative/ informal) being a meddler, busybody, snoop, kibitzer, gossip, interloper or one who **stick one's nose where it doesn't belong**, being meddlesome, overcurious or prying, **having long ears**

4. (slang) being a newsmonger, chatterbox, gossipmonger, **buttinsky**, nosey or **a person who butts in**, putting in one's oar, in one's two cents or **one's nose where it does not belong**

#### **not dry behind the ears**

1. innocent, unsuspecting, childish, inexperience, immature or trusting  
They saw him coming; he is **not dry behind the ears**.
2. (more stylistic) artless, credulous, naïve, unsophisticated, ingenuous, guileless,
3. (informal) lamb, raw, babes in the wood, cub, in one's salad days, born yesterday, tender, **not dry behind the ears**, green, greenhorn, tender, pup, untried, untested, calf

#### **not fit for delicate ears**

1. language which is obscene, pornographic, risqué, baseborn, tasteless, crude, shameless, crass, tactless, rough, base, brash, raw, uncouth, rustic, offensive, sordid, insulting, inappropriate, risqué or indecent, offensive or pornographic language  
Tone down your language; it is **not fit for delicate ears**.
2. (more stylistic) language which is salacious, indelicate, gauche, ill-mannered, injudicious, vile, fulsome, ribald, suggestive, scurrilous, Cyprian, prurient or Paphian
3. (informal) language which is loose, spicy, bawdy, wanton, gross, earthy, low, perverted, base, not fit for mixed company, **not fit for delicate ears**, not fit to print, salty, vile or tacky, **foul mouth**, **dirty mouth**, off-color, blue, gross, goatish, **foulmouthed**, foul, raunchy, rank, off-putting, smutty, rank, **not fit for young ears**, **not fit for tender ears**

### **not fit for delicate ears**

1. language which is obscene, pornographic, risqué, baseborn, tasteless, crude, shameless, crass, tactless, rough, base, brash, raw, uncouth, rustic, offensive, sordid, insulting, inappropriate, risqué or indecent, offensive or pornographic language  
I don't allow language which is **not fit for young ears** in my home.
2. (more stylistic) language which is salacious, indelicate, gauche, ill-mannered, injudicious, vile, fulsome, ribald, suggestive, scurrilous, Cyprian, prurient or Paphian
3. (informal) language which is loose, spicy, bawdy, wanton, gross, earthy, low, perverted, base, not fit for mixed company, **not fit for delicate ears**, not fit to print, salty, vile, tacky, **foul mouth**, **dirty mouth**, off-color, blue, gross, goatish, **foulmouthed**, foul, raunchy, rank, off-putting, smutty, rank, **not fit for young ears**, **not fit for tender ears**

### **not fit for tender ears**

1. language which is obscene, pornographic, risqué, baseborn, tasteless, crude, shameless, crass, tactless, rough, base, brash, raw, uncouth, rustic, offensive, sordid, insulting, inappropriate, risqué or indecent, offensive or pornographic language  
You **have a dirty tongue**. Your language is **not fit for tender ears**.
2. (more stylistic) language which is salacious, indelicate, gauche, ill-mannered, injudicious, vile, fulsome, ribald, suggestive, scurrilous, Cyprian, prurient or Paphian
3. (informal) language which loose, spicy, bawdy, wanton, gross, earthy, low, perverted, base, not fit for mixed company, **not fit for delicate ears**, not fit to print, salty, vile, tacky, **foul mouth**, **dirty mouth**, off-color, blue, gross, goatish, **foulmouthed**, foul, raunchy, rank, off-putting, smutty or rank, **not fit for young ears**, **not fit for tender ears**

### **one's ears are ringing**

1. to hear a ringing sound in one's ears  
As a result of the explosion, my **ears are ringing**.
2. to be impressed by what one has heard  
**My ears are ringing** from all the news.

### **one's ear to the ground**

1. to keep oneself well-informed, current or up-to-date, remain engaged, knowing, know the most recent  
I always have **my ear to the ground**.
2. become or maintain oneself wise, knowledgeable or cognizant to
3. to remain or maintain oneself plugged in, in the game, with it, connected, up-to-the-moment or the minute, looped in, tied in or in the know
4. (slang) to stay on the ball, hip or savvy to, have to low down
5. (French) au courant

### **out of earshot**

out of range to be heard, not close enough to be overheard  
Come over here, **out of earshot**.

### **pleasing to the ears**

1. sweet sounding, lyrical, golden, pretty, tuneful, flowing  
I don't normally like opera but this singer's songs **are very pleasing to the ears**.
2. (more stylized) appealing, velvety, melodic, musical, silvery, melodious, harmonious, pleasant, golden toned, mellifluous

3. (informal) tripping, agreeable, rhythmical

### **red ear**

1. being embarrassed, ashamed, shamefaced or shamed  
She's very embarrassed that's why she has **red ears**.
2. being flustered, discomposed, confused, disturb or disconcerted  
You can tell that he likes her; every time he talks she has **red ears**.
3. (informal) being reddened, red-faced, glowing or discombobulated, befuddled, flushed or befuddled, turn red, being put to the blush or made to change color

### **up to one's ears**

1. to be too much, overwhelming, arduous, difficult, overextended, formidable, beyond one's capacity or comprehension, overreach, overleap, overrate or overestimate one's own ability  
I'm **up to my ears**. I think that I need to ask for help.
2. to be knocked for a loop, in too deep, swallowed, swallowed up, snowed under, bowled over, **knocked off one's feet** or **over one's head**, having bitten off more than one can chew
3. (in reference to being in debt) to owe everyone, be overloaded or loaded down  
I'm **up to my ears** in financial obligations.
4. (more stylistic) to be weighed down, overtasked, encumbered, overburdened, answerable for or straitened, behold, bound
5. (informal) to be in hock, in dire straits, in the red, owe everyone but the kitchen sink, owe everyone in town, be **up to one's ears**

### **up to one's ears in**

1. to be overcome, engulfed, inundated, immersed or deluged by  
I **am up to my ears in work.**
2. (informal) to **be over one's head**, swallowed up by, be immersed in or steeped in, be under an avalanche or mountain of, **be up to one's ears**, be buried or snowed under, be bowled over by, blitzed, swallowed up by, be up to one's neck, **be steeped to the eyebrows**, **be up to one's eye**
3. (slang) to **be up to one's eyeballs**
4. **(vulgar) to be up to one's butt, behind, keister or ass in**

### **up to one's ears in debt**

1. being flooded, inundated, or deluged by debt  
I have always been **up to my ears in debt.**
2. (informal) being swallowed up by, immersed in or steeped in, be under an avalanche or mountain of, be up to one's ears, be buried or snowed under, bowled over by, blitzed, **be steeped to the eyebrows**
3. (slang) to be up to one's eye or eyeballs in
4. **(vulgar) to be up to one's butt, behind, keister or ass in**

### **wet behind the ears**

1. naïve, innocent, simple, innocent, unsophisticated, unsuspecting, childish, inexperience, immature, too trusting  
They saw him coming; he is **so wet behind the ears.**
2. (more stylistic) credulous, ingenuous, unworldly, childlike, gullible, guileless immature, too open, unsuspecting, too believing,



3. (informal) easy victim, cub, raw, in one's salad days, born yesterday, easy mark, tender, **not dry behind the ears**, green, tender, untried, untested, looking through life with rose colored glasses, greenhorn, tenderfoot, pup, simple

#### 4. (vulgar) ass hole

#### **within earshot**

1. within the range, limit or stretch of being heard or overheard  
You're still **within earshot**. Be careful not to say too much.
2. within the reach, extent or scope to be heard or overheard
3. (informal) being able to get an earful, catch, get wind of, catch wind of or eavesdrop on

#### **to assault one's ears**

1. to be a sound or noise which assails, exasperates, bothers, or beleaguers one's ears  
All this pounding and hammering **assault my ears**.
2. (informal) to be a sound which irks, ruffles, maddens, peeves, **gets on someone's nerves**, rubs someone the wrong way, **assaults the ears** or **get under one's skin**

#### **to assault the ears**

1. to be a sound or noise which assails, exasperates, bothers, or beleaguers one's ears  
Please turn off your music, it **assaults the ears**.
2. (informal) to be a sound which irks, ruffles, maddens, peeves, **gets on someone's nerves**, rubs someone the wrong way, **assaults the ears** or **gets under one's skin**

### **to be all ears**

1. to listen attentively, intently or carefully to, be attentive to, listen with interest, give one one's full attention  
I **am all ears**; what do you need?
2. to heed, give heed to, be heedful or advertent of
3. (informal) to **lend an eye, give a sympathetic ear, lend an ear**, give an ear to, listen hard to, pay full attention to
4. to be attentive, give one's full attention,  
What do you need? I **am all ears**.
5. to be wary, guarded, apprehensive, vigilant, watchful
6. to **be mindful, sharp-eyed, all eyes and ears, on one's toes, heads up**, awake, **eagle** or **hawk-eyed, with one eye open**, be on guard or on the watch for  
When I sleep away from home, I am always **all ears**.

### **to be all eyes and ears**

1. to be attentive, give one's full attention, be wary  
When I sleep away from home, I am always **all eyes and ears**.
2. to **be mindful, sharp-eyed, all ears, on one's toes, heads up**, awake, **eagle** or **hawk-eyed, with one eye open**, be on guard or on the watch for

### **to be coming out one's ears**

1. to be in galore, in abundance, bountiful, enough and to spare, in excess, numerous, in large quantity, more than adequate, in plentiful amount, inexhaustible, in unending supply, abundant, in large or in great quantity, be plentiful, galore, excessive or superabundant, have large numbers of  
He had so much money that the dollar bills were **coming out of his ears**.

2. (more stylistic) to be replete with, abounding, copious, overflowing, ample or rife, have in ample amount
3. (informal) to be more than anyone would want or need, aplenty, spilling over, running over or bursting with, have loads of
4. (slang) to be in scads, jam packed, tons, globs, chucked full, have tons, a ton, globs or oodles of

### **to be eardrum-puncturing**

1. to be very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched **split the ear**, harsh, screeching  
Your music **is eardrum-puncturing** . Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) to be resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rickety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, fortissimo or pealing
3. (informal) to be **ear-rending**, grating, clattery, enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **hair splitting**, clanging, **ear shattering**, harsh-sounding, clangorous, window-rattling, earthshaking, loud enough to wake the dead, earth shattering or **ear splitting**

### **to be ear piercing**

1. to be very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched, **split the ear**, harsh, piercing, screeching  
Your music is **ear piercing**. Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) to be stridulous, resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rickety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, fortissimo or pealing
3. (informal) to be **ear-rending**, grating, clattery, enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **head splitting**, clanging, **ear**

**shattering**, harsh-sounding, clangorous, window-rattling, earthshaking, loud enough to wake the dead, earth shattering or **ear splitting**

**to be ear-rending**

1. to be very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched **split the ear**, harsh, screeching  
Your music is **ear-rending**. Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) to be resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rickety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, fortissimo or pealing
3. (informal) to be **ear-rending**, grating, clattery, enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **hair splitting**, clanging, **ear shattering**, harsh-sounding, clangorous, window-rattling, earthshaking, loud enough to wake the dead, **eardrum-puncturing**, earth shattering or **ear splitting**

**to be ear-shattering**

1. to be very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched **split the ear**, harsh, screeching  
Your music is **ear-shattering**. Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) to be resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rickety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, shrill fortissimo or pealing
3. (informal) to be **ear-rending**, grating, clattery, enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **hair splitting**, clanging, **ear shattering**, harsh-sounding, clangorous, window-rattling, earthshaking, **eardrum-puncturing**, loud enough to wake the dead, earth shattering or **ear splitting**

### **to be ear splitting**

1. to be very loud, too loud, noisy, blaring, air-rending, deafening, loud sounding or ringing, high-pitched **split the ear**, harsh, screeching  
Your music is **earsplitting**. Please, turn it down!
2. (more stylistic) to be resounding, rambunctious, thundering, clamorous, boisterous, obstreperous, rackety, blatant, vociferous, blaring, reverberant, piercing, fortissimo or pealing
3. (informal) to be **ear-rending**, grating, clattery, enough to wake the dead, **ear-piercing**, booming, **hair splitting**, clanging, **ear shattering**, harsh-sounding, clangorous, window-rattling, earthshaking, loud enough to wake the dead, earth shattering, **eardrum-puncturing** or **ear splitting**

### **to be easy on the ear**

to be pleasant, pleasing, pleasurable or soothing to listen to  
Soft jazz **is very easy on the ear**.

### **to be like music to one's ears**

1. to be welcoming, pleasing or agreeable  
What she said **was like music to my ears**.
2. (more stylized) to be gratifying, to one's fancy or delightful
3. (informal) to be **after one's heart**, what the doctor ordered, to one's liking or to one's taste
4. (slang) to hear something which puts one on top of the world or in hog heaven or which tickles or makes one pleased as punch

### **to be music to one's ears**

1. to be welcoming, pleasing or agreeable

His denial **was music to my ears**.

2. (more stylized) to be gratifying, to one's fancy or delightful
3. (informal) to be **after one's heart**, what the doctor ordered, to one's liking or to one's taste
4. (slang) to hear something which puts one on top of the world or in hog heaven or which tickles or makes one pleased as punch

### **to be out of earshot**

to be far away enough so as not be overheard, not be able to be eavesdropped on

I don't know what they were talking about. They **were out of earshot**.

### **to be out on one's ear**

1. to be physically or forcefully removed from a place, be obliged to leave or be ejected, evicted or expelled from an establishment  
If you keep making problems, you're going to **be out on your ear**.
2. (informal) to be thrown, forced or kicked out, be ousted or jettisoned, **be out on one's ears**

### **to be out on one's ears**

1. to be physically or forcefully removed from a place, be obliged to leave or be ejected, evicted or expelled from an establishment  
He **was out on his ears** once he started making trouble.
2. (informal) to be thrown, forced or kicked out, be ousted or jettisoned, **be out on one's ear**

### **to be pleasing to the ears**

1. to be sweet sounding, lyrical, golden, pretty, tuneful or flowing

I don't normally like opera but this singer's songs **are very pleasing to the ears.**

2. (more stylized) to be appealing, velvety, melodic, musical, silvery, melodious, harmonious, pleasant, golden toned or mellifluous
3. (informal) to be tripping, agreeable or rhythmical
4. (slang) to be **ear candy**

#### **to be unable to believe one's ears**

1. to be left stunned, amazed, shocked, astounded, astonished or startled by what one has heard, be doubtful, disbelieving, highly unlikely, not trusting or distrusting  
I **was unable to believe my ears** when she told me the truth.  
I was never more astounded.
2. (more stylized) to be left incredulous or suspicious, rendered speechless, believe what one is hearing or what one has heard is inconceivable, improbable, hyperbolic
3. (informal) to be bowled over, flabbergasted, floored, boggled, taken aback, dumbfounded, jolted or caught up short or off guard, **be left open** or **wide-eyed**, lost in wonder or **open-mouthed**
4. (slang) to believe what one is hearing or what one has heard is funny, farfetched, cockamamie, shady, fishy, not kosher

#### **to be up to one's ears in**

1. to be overcome, engulfed, inundated, immersed or deluged by  
I **am up to my ears in work.**
2. (informal) to **be over one's head**, swallowed up by, be immersed in or steeped in, be under an avalanche or mountain of, **be up to**

**one's ears**, be buried or snowed under, be bowled over by, blitzed, **be up to one's neck**, **be steeped to the eyebrows**, **be up to one's eye**

3. (slang) to **be up to one's eyeballs**

4. **(vulgar) to be up to one's butt, behind, keister or ass in**

**to be up to one's ears in debt**

1. to be flooded, inundated, or deluged by debt  
I have always **been up to my ears in debt**.

2. (informal) to be swallowed up by, immersed in or steeped in, be under an avalanche or mountain of, **be up to one's ears**, be buried or snowed under, bowled over by, blitzed, **be steeped to the eyebrows**

3. (slang) to **be up to one's eye** or **eyeballs in**

4. **(vulgar) to be up to one's butt, behind, keister or ass in**

**to be wet behind the ears**

1. to be naïve, innocent, simple, innocent, unsophisticated, unsuspecting, childish, inexperience, immature or too trusting  
They saw him coming; he **is so wet behind the ears**.

2. (more stylistic) to be credulous, ingenuous, unworldly, childlike, gullible, guileless immature, too open, unsuspecting or too believing

3. (informal) to be a tenderfoot, easy victim, cub, easy mark, pup or greenhorn, be raw, in one's salad days, born yesterday, tender, **not dry behind the ears**, green, tender, untried, untested, looking at life with rose colored glasses, simple



#### 4. (vulgar) to be an ass hole

##### to be within earshot

1. to be with range of being heard, be potentially or possibly heard by others  
Do you know that you **are still within earshot** of the microphone?
2. (informal) to be able to **get an earful**, catch, get wind of, catch wind of one's conversation, be able to be eavesdropped on or overheard, **be within earshot**

##### to bend an ear

1. (negative) to concern oneself with the affairs or business of another  
Be careful, she **is always bending an ear** so that she knows what everyone is doing.
2. (informal/negative) to **be long nosed**, overcurious, **nosy**, a **busybody**, snoop, eavesdropper or meddlesome, listen in on other's conversation, **mind other people's business**, **have big ears**, **have long ears**, **have one's nose in every door**
3. to listen attentively, intently or carefully to, be attentive or heedful to, listen with interest  
He needs you to **bend an ear** to his request for help.
4. (more stylistic) to heed, attend, take cognizance of, take heed
5. (informal) to **lend an eye**, **give a sympathetic ear**, **be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, **listen with both ears**, **keep one's ears open**, **keep one's ear to the ground**

##### to bend one's ear

1. to talk to one to the point of boredom  
I have never met a person who can **bend your ear** as much

as she can.

2. to talk to one to the point of weariness, exhaustion or fatigue
3. (informal) to bore one to death, tax one's patience, bore stiff or bore one to tears with one's conversation, **talk one's head off**
4. to talk so much as to bother, vex, chafe, irritate, provoke or aggravate one with one's conversation  
He's always **bending everyone's ear**.
5. (more stylistic) to ramble, rant, dwell on, rave, harp on
6. (informal) to beat a subject to death or talk so much as to **get on the nerves of**, rant on, **get under the skin of**, rattle on, peeve, put off, **put one's nose out of joint** irk, beat a dead horse, blather, **chew one's ear off**, go on and on or **become a headache**, a pill, a pest or a wet blanket
7. (slang) yak, yap, **run off at the mouth**, **have diarrhea of the mouth**, rattle on, **run on at the mouth**, twaddle

### **to box one's ears**

1. to hit someone in the head  
He **boxed his opponent's ears**.
2. (informal) to **hit one upside the head**, **bash one upside the head**
3. to castigate, punish, discipline or chastise by beating, hitting, pounding or striking  
The teacher **boxed the student's ear** as a result of catching him cheating.
4. (more stylized) to chasten, trounce, flagellate, smite, whack, scourge, rebuke, berate, pommel, fulminate against, execrate, flog

5. (informal) to chide, let one have it, take to task, rake one over the coal, slam, let one have it, lambaste, lay into

### **to breathe in the ear of**

1. to tell, confess, whisper, make known, open up
2. (more stylistic) to confide, reveal, impart, disclose, intimate, disbosom, unbosom, unburden, bring out to the open
3. (informal) to **get something off one's chest**, breathe a word, bring to light, spill the beans, **spill one's guts**, let out, leak, let the cat out of the bag, blow the lid, **make a clean breast of**

### **to buzz around one's ears**

1. to have an object go very or too close to one's **head**  
As soon as they stepped off the ship, bullets were **buzzing around their ears**.
2. to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's head**, to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's ears**

### **to chew one's ear off**

1. to talk to one to the point of boredom  
I have never met a person who can **chew one's ear off** as much as she can.
2. to talk to one to the point of weariness, exhaustion or fatigue
3. (informal) to bore one to death, tax one's patience, bore stiff or bore one to tears with one's conversation, **talk one's head off**
4. to talk so much as to bother, vex, chafe, irritate, provoke or aggravate one with one's conversation

He's always **chewing everyone's ear**.

5. (more stylistic) to ramble, rant, dwell on, rave, harp on
6. (informal) to beat a subject to death, talk so much as to **get on one's nerves**, rant on, **get under the skin of**, rattle on, peeve, **get on the nerves of**, put off, **put one's nose out of joint** irk, beat a dead horse, blather, **chew one's ear off**, go on and on or **become a headache**, a pill, a pest or a wet blanket
7. (slang) yak, yap, **run off at the mouth**, **have diarrhea of the mouth**, rattle on, **run on at the mouth**, twaddle

#### **to clip one's ears**

1. to hit someone in the head  
He **clipped his opponent's ears**.
2. (informal) to **hit one upside the head**, **bash one upside the head**
3. to castigate, punish, discipline or chastise by beating, hitting, pounding or striking  
The teacher **clipped the student's ear** as a result of catching him cheating.
4. (more stylized) to chasten, trounce, flagellate, smite, whack, scourge, rebuke, berate, pommel, fulminate against, execrate, flog
5. (informal) to chide, let one have it, take to task, rake one over the coal, slam, let one have it, lambaste, lay into,

#### **to close one's ear**

1. to no longer be listening, be inattentive, ignore, disregard, dismiss  
You're wasting your breath; I've already **closed my ears**.

2. to not trouble oneself, look right through, **turn a deaf ear**, dismiss from one's thought, look right past, brush aside, pay no heed to, pretend not to see, **shut one's eyes**

#### **to close one's ear to**

1. to no longer be listening to, be inattentive to, ignore, disregard, dismiss  
You're wasting your breath; I've already **closed my ears** to your argument.
2. to not trouble oneself with, look right through, **turn a deaf ear to**, dismiss from one's thought, look right past, brush aside, pay no heed to, pretend not to see, **shut one's eyes to**

#### **to come crashing down about one's ears**

1. to have everything collapse, falter, fail, flounder or founder  
When everyone found out the truth, everything **came crashing down about our ears**.
2. (informal) to have everything fall down, tumble down, fall inward, come to grief, crumble, topple, come to nothing, cave in, give way, fall through, turn out badly, **crash down about one's ears**, come to nothing, **fall down about one's ears**

#### **to come down about one's ears**

1. to have everything collapse, falter, fail, flounder or founder  
When everyone found out the truth, everything **came down about our ears**.
2. (informal) to have everything fall down, tumble down, fall inward, come to grief, crumble, topple, come to nothing, cave in, give way, fall through, turn out badly, **crash down about one's ears**, come to nothing, **fall down about one's ears**

### **to come out at the ears**

1. to have so much that it can not be contained, be in excess, have an abundance, overabundance, overflow, flow over, seeming unending supply of or overspill  
He has so many problems that they are **coming out at the ears**.
2. (informal) to have more than enough, have enough and than some, enough and to spare, be coming out at the gills, have a great deal
3. (slang) to have gobs, scads, tons, beaucoup or oodles

### **to crash down about one's ears**

1. to have everything collapse, falter, fail, flounder or founder  
When everyone found out the truth, everything came **crashing down about our ears**.
2. to have everything fall down, tumble down, fall inward, come to grief, crumble, topple, come to nothing, cave in, give way, fall through, turn out badly, **crash down around one's ears, fall down about his ears**

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### **to dog-ear**

to fold over the page of a book to mark it

I can tell that this is her book; she is always **dog-earring**

the pages.

**to drum in the ears**

to crash, clatter, ring in the ears, deafen, blare

Your music **drums in the ears**.

**to earmark**

1. to set or put aside, apart, or in reserve  
The committee **earmarked** the money for the homeless.
2. to tag, label, brand, stamp, impress, imprint, emboss
3. to fold, crease  
He **earmarked** the book.
4. (informal) to double-over, turn over, turn under, double up, fold back

**to fall crashing down about one's ears**

1. to have everything collapse, falter, fail, flounder or founder  
When everyone found out the truth, everything **fell crashing down about our ears**.
2. (informal) to have everything fall down, tumble down, fall inward, come to grief, crumble, topple, come to nothing, cave in, give way, fall through, turn out badly, **crash down about one's ears**, come to nothing, **fall down about one's ears**

**to fall down about one's ears**

1. to have everything collapse, falter, fail, flounder or founder  
When everyone found out the truth, everything **fell down about our ears**.

2. (informal) to have everything fall down, tumble down, fall inward, come to grief, crumble, topple, come to nothing, cave in, give way, fall through, turn out badly, **crash down about one's ears**, come to nothing, **fall down about one's ears**

#### **to fall on deaf ears**

1. to no longer be listening, be inattentive to, ignore, disregard, dismiss  
My pleas **fell on deaf ears**.
2. to not trouble oneself with, **close one's eyes to**, look right through, **turn a deaf ear to**, dismiss from one's thought, look right past, brush aside, pay no heed to, pretend not to see, **shut one's eyes to**, **close one's ears to**

#### **to find a sympathetic ear**

1. to find someone who is a caring, compassionate, supportive, empathetic, or interested person who is willing to listen or pay attention to one  
He has finally **found a sympathetic ear** to listen to his woes and problems.
2. (more stylistic) to find someone who heeds, gives heed to, be heedful or advertent of
3. (informal) to find someone who **lends one an ear**, **gives a sympathetic ear**, **is all ears**, listens hard to, pays full attention to, **gives ear to**

#### **to find few sympathetic ears**

1. to not have or be with persons who are in agreement, sympathetic, or empathetic to one's way of thinking or stand
2. (more stylistic) to not have or be with persons who are in accord, accordance, concord, concordance, or concurrence with



one's way of thinking or stand

**to fly around one's ears**

1. to go very or too close to one's head, be too close for comfort  
As soon as they stepped off the ship, bullets were **flying around their ears**.
2. to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's head**, to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's head**

**to gain a person's ear**

1. to get, obtain or secure acquire someone's attention in order to influence or effect someone  
I had to fight but I was finally able to **gain the president's ear**.
2. (more stylistic) to procure, acquire or attain one's attention in order to persuade, impress or influence
3. (informal) to **get** or **gain the ear of** someone in order to sway, bring around, have, hold or gain sway over, have impact on, win over, pull strings, wire or ranks with someone

**to give ear to**

1. to be willing to listen or pay attention to, give someone one's attention  
He has finally found some to **give ear to** his woes and problems.
2. (more stylistic) to heed, give heed to, take heed of, give attention to
3. (informal) to **lend an ear, give a sympathetic ear, be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, **gain the ear, give one one's ear**

### **to gain the ear of**

1. to get, obtain, secure or acquire someone's attention in order to influence or effect someone  
Luckily, he was able to **gain the ear** of the authorities.
2. (more stylistic) to procure, acquire or attain someone's attention to effectuate someone
3. (informal) to **get** or **gain the ear** of someone in order to sway, bring around, have, hold or gain sway over, have impact on, win over, pull strings, wire or ranks with someone

### **to get an earful**

1. to be given or receive a sharp reproach, be criticized  
He **gave me an earful** last night.
2. (more stylized) to be rebuked, admonished, reprimanded, reproved, chastised or reprehended
3. (informal) to be taken to task, dressed down, **given a piece of someone's mind**, told a thing or two, **given a tongue-lash**, told off, or given a trimming or scolding, **receive an earful**

### **to get one's ear**

1. to be listened or paid attention to, have one's attention, have one's full attention, be kept one in mind  
I thank God for my luck; I was able to **get the president's ear**.
2. (more stylistic) to be heeded or kept in mind
3. (informal) to be **given a sympathetic ear**, paid full attention to, taken into account

### to give an ear

1. to listen, pay attention, give one one's attention, give one one's full attention  
**Give an ear**; you might learn something.
2. (more stylistic) to heed, bear in mind, give heed to, take heed of, heed one's words, keep in mind
3. (informal) to **lend an ear**, pay a mind to, **give a sympathetic ear**, **be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, **gain the ear**, mind, take into account, **give one one's ear**
4. (slang) to listen up

### to give an ear to

1. to listen, pay attention, give one one's attention, give one one's full attention, keep in mind  
**Give an ear to** what I'm saying; you might learn something.
2. (more stylistic) to heed, bear in mind, give heed to, take heed of, heed one's words, pay heed to
3. (informal) to **lend an ear**, pay a mind to, **give a sympathetic ear**, **be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, **gain the ear**, mind, take into account, **give one one's ear**
4. (slang) to listen up

### to give no ear to

to reject, refuse credence to, disavow, give no credit, discredit, give no credit, disbelieve

I **give no ear to** such talk; it is nothing but bigotry disguised as a moral argument.

### **to give one's ear to**

1. to be willing to listen, pay attention to, give one one's attention, give one one's full attention or keep in mind  
He **gave me his ear** for a good five minute. I'm grateful.
2. (more stylistic) to heed, **bear in mind**, give heed to, take heed of, heed one's words, pay heed to
3. (informal) to **lend an ear**, **pay a mind to**, **give a sympathetic ear**, **be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, **gain the ear**, mind, take into account, **give one one's ear**
4. (slang) to listen up

### **to give someone a thick ear**

1. to strike or hit someone  
I know that at times that he can be hard to take but you can not **give him a thick ear**. You must watch your temper.
2. (more stylistic) smite, cuff, buffet
3. (informal) to wallop, bash, punch, box, crown
4. (slang) to slug, sock, hit upside the head

### **to go in one ear and out another**

1. to not listen, pay no heed to, pay no attention to  
It's a waste of time; he's not listening. My words **go in one ear and out another**.
2. to hear something but to forget it quickly  
My advice to him **goes in one ear and out of another**.
3. (informal) to quickly **put out of mind** what one has been told

### **to grate on the ear**

1. to irritate, aggravate, annoy, exacerbate  
Your music **grates on the ear**.
2. (informal) to vex, wear on, wear on the nerve of, tire, tax  
The sound of his voice **grates on the ear**.

### **to grin from ear to ear**

1. to demonstrate or show one's happiness, joy, elation or contentment by smiling broadly  
She's obviously in a very good mood today. She's **grinning from ear to ear**.
2. (informal) to **smile from ear to ear**

### **to have a good ear**

1. to be able to discern notes and tones that most people can not  
I want him as my producer; he **has a good ear**.
2. to be born with the ability to know what songs will or will not sell  
He is fantastic producer and I trust him completely; he **has a good ear**. If he says the song is going to sell; it will.
3. to have a keen, acute, sharp or sensitive perception for  
He doesn't need sheet music to play. He **has a good ear**; therefore, he can **play by ear**.

### **to have a good ear for languages**

to have a facility, gift, and a faculty for languages, have an ease or smoothness to learn to communicate in another language

### **to have a sharp ear for gossip**

1. to be a person who is alert, receptive, perceptive or keen to the information or conversation of others

Be extraordinarily careful in what you say and how you say it.  
Mary **has a sharp ear for gossip**.

2. (informal) to always be on the look out for, be like a sponge or blotter the inside info, poop or latest scoop, be

**to have a word in someone's ear**

1. to advise or counsel someone in confidence, confidentially, privately, secretly or in a concealed or in a highly secretive manner  
Before leaving for the party tonight, I plan to **have a word in her ear**.
2. (informal) to advise someone under wraps, in a hush-hush, not open to the public, or in an off-the-record manner

**to have an ear for**

to have a keen, acute, sharp or intuitive perception for  
He **has an ear for accents**.

**to have an ear for music**

to be good at music, have a keen, acute, sharp or intuitive perception for music  
He does not need to see the notes; just play the song for him. He **has an excellent ear for music**.

**to have an ear to the ground**

1. to be well-informed, current or up-to-date, be engaged or knowing, know the most recent  
So that I know what is happening, I need to **have an ear to the ground**.
2. become or maintain oneself wise, knowledgeable or cognizant to

3. to remain or maintain oneself plugged in, in the game, with it, connected, up-to-the-moment or the minute, looped in, tied in or in the know
4. (slang) to stay on the ball, hip or savvy to, have to low down
5. (French) au courant

### **to have big ears**

1. be a person who concerns oneself with the affairs or business of another, be meddling, eager to know  
Be careful what you say, some people around here **have big ears**.
2. to **be a busybody** or eavesdropper, listen in on other's conversation, **mind other people's business, have big ears, have long ears, bend an ear, have one's nose in every door, be nosy, be all ears, have long ears, bend an ear**

### **to have burning ears**

1. feeling that one is being talked about or discussed  
I **have burning ears**. Someone is talking about me.
2. (informal) feeling that one is being gossiped about or the subject of a whispering campaign
3. (slang) feeling that one is on the grapevines or **in the mouth of others** or **of a gossipmonger**
4. to be chastised, humiliated, brought down a notch or two

### **to have long ears**

1. to be a person who is much too inquisitive or overly curious, be meddling  
She **has long ears**; I wouldn't say anything to her.

2. to **be a busybody** or eavesdropper, **nose about, stick one's nose where it does not belong, mind other's people's business, nose around, have big ears, bend an ear**

### **to have nothing between one's ears**

1. to not be very intelligent, be non-observant, disregardful, unthinking, unreasoning, heedless, unconcious or thoughtless reckless, unheeding, unwise, oblivious, imbecile  
He does not understand a word; he **has nothing between his ears.**
2. (informal) to be blank, stupid, dumb, blind, **mindless, unmindful**, foolish, witless, empty, beef-witted, thick **feeble-minded**, slow, nincompoop, **brainless**, lumpish, blunt, simpleton
3. (slang)to be a **blockhead, muddle-head**, jerk, **empty-head, thickhead, lamebrain**, mental midget, dingbat, chump, sap, **knucklehead** or **fathead**
4. **(vulgar) asshole, ass, dumb behind, dumb ass, jackass, punk, shit head, head full of shit**

### **(to have) one's ears burning**

1. to feel that one is being talked about or discussed  
**Her ears were burning.** She knew that he was talking about her.
2. (informal) to feel that one is being gossiped about or the subject of a whispering campaign
3. (slang) to feel that one is on the grapevines or **in the mouth of a gossipmonger**

### **to have one's ears become red**

1. to be embarrassed, ashamed, shamefaced or shamed  
She's very embarrassed that's why **her ears have become so red.**



2. to be flustered, discomposed, confused, disturb or disconcerted  
You can tell that he likes her; every time he talks to her **his ears become so red.**
3. (informal) to be reddened, red faced, glowing or discombobulated, befuddled, flushed or befuddled, turn red, put to the blush, made to change color

### **to have one's ears open**

1. to be vigilant, guarded, watchful, careful, cautious, attentive or alert  
It's important that while you are here that you **have your ears open.**
2. (classical reference) to be **Argus-eyed** or on the qui vive
3. (informal) to **be mindful, all eyes and ears**, wary, on the watch, on one's guard, **on one's toes, eagle, hawk** or **sharp eyed**
4. to listen or pay attention, listen carefully  
Please, before judging, **keep your ears open** and listen to everything that he has to say.
5. (informal) **lend one an ear, be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, listen with both ears, **maintain one's ears open**, not **close one's ears, pay mind to**, not **turn a deaf ear to, give an ear to**

### **to have one's ear to the ground**

1. to be well-informed, current or up-to-date, be engaged or knowing, know the most recent  
So that I know what is happening, I need to **have my ear to the ground.**
2. become or maintain oneself wise, knowledgeable or cognizant to

3. to remain or maintain oneself plugged in, in the game, with it, connected, up-to-the-moment or the minute, looped in, tied in or in the know
4. (slang) to stay on the ball, hip or savvy to, have to low down
5. (French) au courant

**(to have) one's ears turn red**

1. to be embarrassed, ashamed, shamefaced or shamed  
She's very embarrassed that's why **her ears have turned so red.**
2. to be flustered, discomposed, confused, disturb or disconcerted  
You can tell that he likes her; every time he talks to her **his ears turn so red.**
3. (informal) to be reddened, red faced, glowing or discombobulated, befuddled, flushed or befuddled, turn red, put to the blush, made to change color

**to have something coming out of one's ears**

1. to have so much that it can not be contained, be in excess, have an overabundance, overflow, flow over, overspill  
He was so rich that he **had money coming out of his ears.**
2. to have more than enough, have enough and than some, enough and to spare, be coming out at the gills, teem, spill or run over

**to have steam coming out of one's ears**

1. to be very angry, furious, enraging, infuriated, fuming or raging  
He was so irritated that he **had steam coming out** of his ears.
2. (informal) to be horn-mad, flaring, white or red hot, beside oneself, hot under the collar, **out of one's mind** or **foaming at the mouth**

### **to have the earmarks of**

1. to seem to be, look like, appear to be, have all the indications of  
This **has the earmarks of** a conspiracy.
2. (informal) to strike one as, look, walk and talk like a duck, appear or sound like

### **to have the ears of**

1. to get, obtain or secure acquire someone's attention in order to influence or effect someone, have access to someone  
He may not **have the ear of** the president but he does those of his friends and family.
2. (more stylistic) to procure, acquire or attain someone's attention to effectuate someone
3. (informal) to **get** or **gain the ear of** someone in order to sway, bring around, have, hold or gain sway over, have impact on, win over, pull strings, wire or ranks with someone

### **to hiss around one's ears**

1. to go very or too close to one's head, be too close for comfort  
As soon as they stepped off the ship, bullets were **hissing around their ears**.
2. to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's head**, to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's head**

### **to keep one's ears open**

1. to listen carefully, not disregard, be attentive to, not ignore

2. (more stylistic) to pay heed to, be heedful of, remain engaged
3. (informal) to **lend** or **give an ear**, pay attention to, **bend an ear**, **listen with both ears**, not brush aside, not give the brush off, not **shut one's ears**, not **close one's ears**, **pay mind to**, not **close one's eyes to**, **be all ears**, **not turn a deaf ear to**
5. (slang) not turn off, not tune out, not switch off, not shut off

### **to keep an ear to the ground**

1. to keep oneself well-informed, current or up-to-date, remain engaged, knowing, know the most recent  
So that I know what is happening, I need to **keep an ear to the ground**.
2. become or maintain oneself wise, knowledgeable or cognizant to
3. to remain or maintain oneself plugged in, in the game, with it, connected, up-to-the-moment or the minute, looped in, tied in or in the know
4. (slang) to stay on the ball, hip or savvy to, have to low down
5. (French) au courant

### **to keep one's ear to the ground**

1. to keep oneself well-informed, current or up-to-date, remain engaged, knowing, know the most recent  
So that I know what is happening, I need to **keep my ear to the ground**.
2. to be wise, knowledgeable, cognizant to, cognizant of

3. to remain or maintain oneself plugged in, in the game, with it, connected, up-to-the-moment or the minute, looped in, tied in or in the know
4. (slang) to stay on the ball, hip or savvy to, have to low down
5. (French) au courant

### **to keep one's ears open**

1. to remain vigilant, guarded, watchful, careful, cautious, attentive or alert  
It's important that while you are here that you **keep your ears open**.
2. (classical reference) **Argus-eyed**, on the qui vive
3. to remain being mindful, all eyes and ears, wary, on the watch, on one's guard, **on one's toes**, **eagle**, **hawk** or **sharp eyed**
4. to keep listening or paying attention, listen carefully  
Please, before judging, **keep your ears open** and listen to everything that he has to say.
5. (informal) **lend one an ear**, **be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, listen with both ears, **maintain one's ears open**, not **close one's ears**, **pay mind to**, not **turn a deaf ear to**, **give an ear to**

### **to lend a sympathetic ear**

1. to be someone who is caring, compassionate, supportive, empathetic, or interested, be willing to listen or pay attention  
He **lent a sympathetic ear** to his neighbor.
2. (more stylistic) to heed, give heed to, be heedful or advertent of

3. (informal) to **lend one an ear, give a sympathetic ear, be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, **open one's ears to**, not **close one's ears, pay mind to**, not **turn a deaf ear to, give an ear to**

#### **to lend an ear**

1. to be willing to listen or pay attention to, give someone one's attention  
Can you **lend me an ear** for a minute or two?
2. (more stylistic) to heed, give heed to, take heed of, give attention to
3. (informal) to **lend one an ear, give a sympathetic ear, be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, **open one's ears to**, not **close one's ears, pay mind to**, not **turn a deaf ear to, give an ear to**

#### **to let in one ear and out the other**

1. to disregard, ignore, not take into consideration, dismiss  
He ignores everything that I say. As far as my advice is concerned, he **lets it in one ear and out the other**.
2. to turn a deaf ear, push or brush aside, give the brush off, **shut one's ears, close one's ears, pay mind to, close one's eyes to, turn a deaf ear to**

#### **to listen with both ears**

1. to listen carefully, not disregard, be attentive to, not ignore  
I hear what you're say. I've been **listening to everything with both ears**.
2. (more stylistic) to pay heed to, be heedful of, remain engaged
3. (informal) to **lend** or **give an ear**, pay attention to, **bend an ear, listen with both ears**, not brush aside, not give the brush off,

**keep one's ears open, not shut one's ears**, not **close one's ears**, **pay mind to**, not **close one's eyes to**, **be all ears**, **not turn a deaf ear to**

5. (slang) not turn off, not tune out, not switch off, not shut off

**to listen with half an ear**

1. to not give someone one's full attention, disregard, ignore, not take into consideration, dismiss  
You did not do as I said because you had only **listened with half an ear**.
2. (more stylistic) to pay no heed to, not be heedful of, be inattentive to, slight
3. (informal) to shrug off, push aside, turn a deaf ear to, not pay attention, not give or lend an ear, **not pay mind to**

**to not be able to believe one's ear**

1. to be amazed, astounded, stupefied, or awestruck by what one is hearing, not trust or believe what one is hearing or what one has heard  
I could **not believe my own ears** when they told me what had happened.
2. (more stylistic) to stand aghast or agog, be stunned, agog, rendered speechless, disconcerted, agape, discomfited, bewildered or confounded
3. (informal) to be flabbergasted, knocked over or out by, boggled, thrown for a loss, thunderstruck, taken aback, floored or bowled over by, **rub one's eyes**, **be left open-mouthed**, **not be able to believe one's eyes**, **not be able to believe one's ear**, **not believe one's eyes**, **not believe one's ear**, thrown off guard, **be hit between the eyes**, **left breathless**, **set one back on one's heels**, **take one's breath away**

4. (slang) to **blow one's mind**

#### **to not be dry behind the ears**

1. to be naïve, innocent, unsophisticated, unsuspecting, inexperience, immature or trusting  
How could you expect him to help you? He still **isn't dry behind the ears**.
2. (informal) to be raw, in one's salad days, born yesterday, tender, green, tender, untried, untested, **be wet behind the ears**

#### **to not believe one's ear**

1. to be amazed, astounded, stupefied, or awestruck by what one is hearing, not trust or believe what one is hearing or what one has heard  
I **did not believe my own ears** when they told me what had happened.
2. (more stylistic) to stand aghast or agog, be stunned, agog, rendered speechless, disconcerted, agape, discomfited, bewildered or confounded
3. (informal) to be flabbergasted, knocked over or out by, boggled, thrown for a loss, thunderstruck, taken aback, floored or bowled over by, **rub one's eyes, be left open-mouthed, not be able to believe one's eyes, not be able to believe one's ear, not believe one's eyes, not believe one's ear**, thrown off guard, **be hit between the eyes, left breathless, set one back on one's heels, take one's breath away**
4. (slang) to **blow one's mind**

#### **to open one's ears**

1. to listen or pay attention, listen carefully  
**Open your ears** and listen to what she is really saying.



2. (informal) **lend one an ear, be all ears**, listen hard to, pay full attention to, not close oneself off to, **close one's ears, pay mind to**, not **turn a deaf ear to, give an ear to**

### **to pin one's ears back**

1. to chastise, scold or admonish someone  
When my father saw my report card, he **pinned my ears back**.
2. (more stylized) to reprimand, reprove, castigate, remonstrate, chide, reprehend, upbraid, berate, reproach
3. (informal) to dress down, take to task, yell at, take down a peg or two, call to account
4. (slang) to give someone hell
5. to beat someone up, give someone a sound beating, strike, beat  
The organized crime boss **pinned his ears back** to demonstrate his power.
6. (informal) to pommel, box someone's ears, slam, punch, whale, pummel, whack, sock, whallop
7. to utterly defeat, conquer  
The rebels totally **pinned back the ears** of the government soldiers.
8. (more stylistic) to vanquish, subjugate, rout
9. (informal) to flatten, bring down, **bring someone to one's knees**, crush, humble, best
10. (slang) to wipe the floor with, clobber, lick, cream, mop the floor with

### **to play it by ear**

1. to extemporize, ad-lib, improvise  
As a stand up comic, I am always **playing it by ear**.
2. (informal) rise to the occasion, wing it, think on one's feet, ride with the waves, think off the top of one's head
3. to use one's sixth sense, insight, hints, clues, inkling or intuition to deal with a situation  
I don't know what we're going to do. **Let's play it by ear**.
4. to follow one's hunch or feeling in one's bones

### **to prick up one's ears**

1. to listen very carefully, with great interest, assiduously, diligently or attentively  
He **pricked up his ears** once he heard his name mentioned.
2. to be on extreme alert, be aware, keen, watchful, sharp  
I knew that something was wrong when my dog **pricked up his ears**.
3. (French/ does not have the same meaning in French) to be on the *qui vive*
4. to **be heads-up**, wide-awake, **on one's toes**, astute, not miss what's going on around or happening

### **to put a bug in someone's ear**

1. to caution, warn, advise, give warning, give fair warning, alert, notify  
Your revelation does not surprise me. Someone **put a bug in my ear** a few weeks ago.

2. (more stylistic) to pre-warn, advise, put on the qui vive, admonish, forewarn, precaution, enlighten, give prior notice, forewarn, say word to the wise
3. (informal) to tip off, clue in, put on guard, give a warning signal, **warn ahead of time**, **warn beforehand**, put on alert
4. (slang) to give the high sign to read the riot act

#### **to put a word in someone's ear**

1. to advise or counsel someone in confidence, confidentially, privately, secretly or in a concealed or in a highly secretive manner  
Tonight, I plan to **put a word in her ear**. She needs to know what is going on around her.
2. (informal) to advise someone under wraps, in a hush-hush, not open to the public, or in an off-the-record manner

#### **to put one's ear to the ground**

1. to become well-informed, current or up-to-date, remain engaged in what is happening around one  
To know what was happening, he **put his ear to ground**.
2. (informal) to get or remain up to speed

#### **to put one on one's ear**

1. to irritate, bother, annoy, exasperate, chafe
2. to vex, go against the grain, put out, **grate on one's nerves**, **tread on one's toes**, **get under one's skin**
3. (slang) bug, drive nuts, drive crazy
4. shock, astound, appall, startle, stun

5. (informal) to **take one's breath away**, flabbergast, bewilder, bowl over, **make one's head swim**, floor, **take aback**
6. (slang) to blow away, **blow one's mind**, **set someone on one's ear**

### **to set by the ears**

1. to sow the seed of discontent, cause strife, conflict, dissension, animosity or ill will
2. (more stylistic) to pit against, cause malignity, antipathy, invidiousness, rancor, malevolence, virulence or umbrage, antagonize, set at variance
3. (informal) to set against, **cause bad blood**, set at odds

### **to set on one's ear**

1. to irritate, bother, annoy, exasperate, chafe
2. to vex, go against the grain, put out, **grate on one's nerves**, **tread on one's toes**, **get under one's skin**
3. (slang) bug, drive nuts, drive crazy
4. shock, astound, appall, startle, stun, surprise, amaze, excite, astound, rouse  
His music **set the music world on its ear**.
5. (informal) to **take one's breath away**, flabbergast, bewilder, stir up, whip up, cause a fury, upset, shake up, bowl over, **make one's head swim**, floor, **take aback**
6. (slang) to blow away, **blow one's mind**, **set someone on**

## **one's ear**

### **to set people by the ears**

1. to sow the seed of discontent, cause strife, conflict, dissension, animosity or ill will among people
2. (more stylistic) to cause malignity, antipathy, invidiousness, rancor, malevolence, virulence, umbrage among people
3. (informal) to **cause bad blood**

### **to shut one's ear**

1. to no longer be listening, be inattentive to, ignore, disregard, dismiss  
You're wasting your breath; I've already **shut my ears** to your argument.
2. to not trouble oneself with, look right through, **turn a deaf ear to**, dismiss from one's thought, look right past, brush aside, pay no heed to, pretend not to see, **close one's eyes to**, **fall on deaf ears**

### **to smile from ear to ear**

1. to demonstrate or show one's happiness, joy, elation or contentment by smiling broadly  
She's obviously in a very good mood today. She's **smiling from ear to ear**.
2. (informal) to **grin from ear to ear**

### **to strain one's ears**

1. to work hard, struggle or labor to hear
2. (informal) to try hard to hear or listen

### **to throw out on one's ear**

1. to remove, expel, force, press or push out  
My mother got so tired of my laziness that she **threw me out on my ear**.
2. (more stylistic) to eject, extrude, oust, thrust out, turn out
3. (informal) to throw someone out, toss out, kick out, send packing, , drum out, **throw someone out neck and crop**
4. (slang) to give the bum's rush to, give the boot to, boot out, send about one's business

### **to tickle the ears**

1. to flatter, compliment, please, praise  
He surely knows how to **tickles the ears**.
2. (more stylistic) to extol, exalt, laud, sing the praises of, elevate
3. (informal) to put in a good word for, butter up, butter, say a good word for
4. (slang) to spread it on thick, lay it on thick

### **to turn a deaf ear**

1. to no longer be listening, be inattentive to, ignore, disregard, dismiss  
Despite my arguments and pleas, he **turned a deaf ear**.
2. to not trouble oneself with, look right through, **turn a deaf ear to**, dismiss from one's thought, look right past, brush aside, pay no heed to, pretend not to see, **close one's ear**, **shut one's eyes to**

### **to whirl around one's ears**

1. to go very or too close to one's **head**  
As soon as they stepped off the ship, bullets were **whirling around their ears**.
2. to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's head**, to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's ears**

### **to whiz around one's ears**

1. to go very or too close to one's **head**  
As soon as they stepped off the ship, bullets were **whizing around their ears**.
2. to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's head**, to **hiss, whiz, buzz, whistle, fly** or **whirl very close** or **around one's head**

### **Keep your ears open and your mouth shut!**

Listen well and don't talk!

### **These walls have ears.**

There are people who are present who are secretly listening to our conversation.

### **If these things come to his ears ...**

If he finds out ..., If he learns about ...

### **dog-eared**

1. having dog-ears  
This book is so **dog-eared** that it is ridiculous.
2. shabby, worn, shopworn, ragged, tattered, frayed  
This book is so **dog-eared** that you should throw

it away.

### **big eared**

1. to physically have big ears
2. be a person who concerns oneself with the affairs or business of another, be meddlesome or eavesdropper, eager to know  
Be careful what you say, some people around here **have big ears**.
3. (informal) to **be a busybody** or eavesdropper, listen in on other's conversation, **mind other people's business, have big ears, have long ears, bend an ear, have one's nose in every door, be nosy, be nosy, be all ears, have long ears, bend an ear**
4. (slang) to be a buttinsky, kibitzer, Paul Pry, Dumbo

### **droop-eared**

lob ears by the side of the head

### **long eared**

1. to physically have long ears
2. to be a person who is much too inquisitive or overly curious, be meddlesome, eavesdropper  
She **has long ears**; I wouldn't say anything to her.
3. to **be a busybody, nose about, stick one's nose where it does not belong, mind other's people's business, nose around, have big ears, bend an ear, have one's nose in every door, be nosy, be nosy, be all ears**
4. (slang) to be a buttinsky, kibitzer, Paul Pry, Dumbo



### **lop-eared**

drooping ears by the side of the head

I love my little puppy; he is lop-eared.

### **earful**

to tell someone of one's dissatisfaction or anger

He sure gave me an **earful** last night. I had no idea that there was a problem.

### **to give an earful**

to let someone know of one's anger or dissatisfaction

She **gave me an earful** on the phone. I can still hear her words.

### **to get an earful**

1. to receive someone's complaints or negative feedback  
I **got an earful** from him.
2. to receive knowledge of, hear about, discover, be told of, become aware of, take in, learn of, hear tell of, receive information of  
Last night I **got an earful**. Her situation was pitiful.
3. (informal) to get a wind of, get the facts, listen in
4. (slang) to get the inside info, hear through the grapevine, get the low down, get the scoop, get the dope.
5. to overhear, hear, eavesdrop, eavesdrop on, **prick up one's ear**, **bend an ear**, listen in on  
When I walked by her door yesterday, I definitely got an earful.

### **to receive an earful**

1. to be given or receive a sharp reproach, be criticized  
Everyday, I am always **receiving an earful** from her.

2. (more stylized) to be rebuked, admonished, reprimanded, reproved, chastised or reprehended
3. (informal) to be taken to task, dressed down, **given a piece of someone's mind**, told a thing or two, **given a tongue-lash**, told off, or given a trimming or scolding, **get an earful**
4. (informal) to get a wind of, get the facts
5. (slang) to get the inside info, hear through the grapevine, get the low down, get the scoop, get the dope.
6. to overhear, hear, eavesdrop, eavesdrop on, **prick up one's ear**, **bend an ear**, listen in on  
When I walked by her door yesterday, I definitely received an earful.

## **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  
wing  
sky  
window

rind  
fepra  
uprodor/wolcen  
eagpyrel

### **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

<b>English</b>	<b>Frisian</b>	<b>Dutch</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>Swedish</b>	<b>Danish</b>
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  
 æþele  
 æþeling  
 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 'schlitzen (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))