

# How to use the Dictionary

## FINDING A WORD OR PHRASE

### Words that have more than one part of speech

Words that have the same spelling, but have different parts of speech, are listed separately and given different numbers.

**beard<sup>1</sup>** /brəd \$ bɪrd/ ●●● [S3] n [C]

**1** hair that grows around a man's chin and cheeks → **moustache**

**2** something similar to a beard, such as hair growing on an animal's chin — **bearded** adj

**beard<sup>2</sup>** v [T] **beard sb (in their den)** to go and see someone who has influence or authority, and tell them what you want, why you disagree with them etc

### Words that have more than one spelling

If a word is spelt differently in British and American English, the definition and examples are shown at the British spelling, and there is a cross-reference from the American spelling.

If a word has more than one spelling, the different spellings are shown together at the beginning of the entry.

**fa-vor-a-ble** /'feɪvərəbəl/ adj the American spelling of FAVOURABLE

**fa-vour-a-ble** BrE, **favorable** AmE /'feɪvərəbəl/ ●○○ adj

**1** a favourable report, opinion, or reaction shows that you think that someone or something is good or that you agree with them: *favourable film reviews* | *The response has been overwhelmingly favorable.*

**2** suitable and likely to make something happen or succeed: *The disease spreads quickly under favourable conditions.* | [+for/to] *a financial environment that is favorable to job creation*

**3** if a LOAN, agreement, rate etc is favourable, the conditions of it are reasonable and not too expensive or difficult: *a favourable interest rate* | *the favorable terms of the settlement*

**4** making people like or approve of someone or something: *A smart appearance makes a favorable impression at an interview.* — **favourably** adv

### Derived words

Derived words are shown at the end of the entry. These are words that can easily be understood if you know the meaning of the main word. Many of them end in '-ly' or '-ness'.

**'gene therapy** n [U] a way of treating certain diseases by using GENETIC ENGINEERING

**gene-tic** /dʒə'netɪk/ ●○○ adj relating to GENES or GENETICS: *genetic defects* | *each person's genetic make-up* | *genetic research* — **genetically** /-kli/ adv: *genetically determined characteristics*

**ge-net-ic-ally modified** (also **ge-net-ic-ally en-gin-eered**) adj (abbreviation **GM**) genetically modified foods or plants have had their genetic structure changed so that they are not affected by particular diseases or harmful insects

### Compound words

Compound words are treated like ordinary words and listed in alphabetical order as if there were no space or hyphen in them.

**ju-ry** /'dʒʊəri \$ 'dʒʊri/ ●○○ [S3] [W3] n (plural **juries**) [C]

**1** a group of often 12 ordinary people who listen to the details of a case in court and decide whether someone is guilty or not: *the members of the jury* | *The jury found him not guilty.* | *the right to trial by jury* | **sit/serve on a jury** (=be part of a jury)

**2** a group of people chosen to judge a competition

**3 the jury is (still) out on sth** used to say that something has not been finally decided: *Is it good value? The jury is still out on that.* → **GRAND JURY**

### Position of idioms and phrases

Idioms and phrases are shown at the first important word of the phrase or idiom. For example *the jury is (still) out on sth* is shown at **jury**. Idioms and phrases are listed with the other senses of the word in frequency order.

**key<sup>3</sup>** ●○○ v [T]

**1** AmE informal if you key a win for your team, you help it win a game because you play very well: *Abdul keyed the game with three touchdowns.*

**2** BrE to prepare a surface so that a covering such as paint will stick to it

**key sth ↔ in phr** v to put information into a computer or other machine, using buttons or a keyboard: *Key in your password and press 'Return'.*

**key sth to sth** phr v AmE

**1** to make or change a system so that it works well with something else: *The daycare hours are keyed to the needs of working parents.*

**2** if the level, price, or value of something is keyed to something else, it is related to it and they rise and fall at the same time: *Pensions are keyed to the rate of inflation.*

### Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are listed in alphabetical order after the main verb.

If the phrasal verb has an object, this is shown as **sb** (=somebody) or **sth** (=something). The symbol ↔ means that the object can come before or after the particle. For example **key** something in or **key** in something.

**un-as-sail-able** /ˌʌnə'seɪləbəl/ *adj* formal not able to be criticized, made weaker, or beaten: *an unassailable argument* | *The party's position looked unassailable.* | *The result gave the team an unassailable lead.*

**un-as-sum-ing** /ˌʌnə'sjuːmɪŋ/, -'suː- \$ -'suː-/ *adj* showing no desire to be noticed or given special treatment [SYN] **modest**

**un-at-tach-ed** /ˌʌnə'tætʃt-/ [AWL] *adj* **1** not married or involved in a romantic relationship [SYN] **single**: *According to Jo, Mark was still unattached.* **2** not connected or fastened to anything

**un-at-tain-a-ble** /ˌʌnə'teɪnəbəl/ [AWL] *adj* impossible to achieve: *A military victory is unattainable.* | **unattainable ideal/dream/goal etc** [THESAURUS] IMPOSSIBLE

**un-at-tend-ed** /ˌʌnə'tendɪd/ *adj* left alone without anyone in charge: *an unattended vehicle* | *Children should not be left unattended in the playground.*

**un-at-trac-tive** /ˌʌnə'træktɪv/ *adj* **1** not attractive, pretty, or pleasant to look at: *an unattractive man* **2** not good or desirable: *the unattractive aspects of nationalism* — **unattractively** *adv*

**un-au-tho-rized** (also **-ised** BrE) /ˌʌnɔːθəraɪzd \$ -ɔː-/ ●○○ *adj* without official approval or permission: *the unauthorized use of government funds* | *Unauthorized personnel are not allowed on the premises.*

**un-a-vail-a-ble** /ˌʌnə'veɪləbəl/ ●○○ [AWL] *adj* [not before noun]

**1** not able to be obtained: *Funding for the new school is unavailable.* | **[+to]** *materials that were unavailable to researchers in the past*

**2** not able or willing to meet someone: **[+for]** *Officials were unavailable for comment* (=not able or willing to talk to reporters).

**un-a-vail-ing** /ˌʌnə'veɪlɪŋ/ *adj* literary not successful or effective [SYN] **unsuccessful**: *unavailing efforts to make her happy*

**un-a-void-a-ble** /ˌʌnə'vɔɪdəbəl/ ●○○ *adj* impossible to prevent: *There are now fears that war is unavoidable.* — **unavoidably** *adv*: *Molly was unavoidably delayed.*

**un-a-ware** /ˌʌnə'weə \$ -wer/ ●○○ [AWL] *adj* [not before noun] not noticing or realizing what is happening: **[+of]** *Mike seems unaware of the trouble he's causing.* | **unaware (that)** *She was totally unaware that she was being watched.*

**un-a-wares** /ˌʌnə'weəz \$ -werz/ *adv* **1** **take/catch sb unawares** if something takes you unawares, it happens when you are not expecting it and are not prepared: *The question caught me completely unawares.* **2** *formal* without noticing: *We had walked unawares over the border.*

**un-bal-ance** /ˌʌn'bæləns/ *v* [T] **1** to make a situation, relationship, or work of art not as good as it used to be or could be, especially by adding too much of one thing: *Having children can often unbalance even the closest of relationships.* **2** to make someone or something unsteady, so that they are likely to fall down: *He banged against the cupboard, unbalancing a pile of books.* **3** to make someone slightly crazy

**un-bal-anced** /ˌʌn'bælənst/ *adj* **1** someone who is unbalanced is slightly crazy **2** a report, argument etc that is unbalanced is unfair because it emphasizes one opinion too much **3** a relationship that is unbalanced is not equal because one person has more influence, power etc

**un-bear-a-ble** /ˌʌn'beərəbəl \$ -ber-/ *adj* too unpleasant, painful, or annoying to deal with [SYN] **intolerable**: *The pain was almost unbearable.* | *He was making life unbearable for his parents.* — **unbearably** *adv*: *an unbearably hot day*

**un-beat-a-ble** /ˌʌn'bi:təbəl/ *adj* **1** something that is unbeatable is the best of its kind: *carpets at unbeatable prices* **2** a team, player etc that is unbeatable cannot be defeated

**un-beat-en** /ˌʌn'bi:tɪn/ *adj* a team, player etc that is unbeaten has not been defeated

**un-be-com-ing** /ˌʌn'brɪ'kʌmɪŋ/ *adj* old-fashioned

**1** clothes that are unbecoming make you look unattractive [SYN] **unflattering** **2** behaviour that is unbecoming is shocking or unsuitable: **[+to]** **conduct unbecoming to a teacher**

**un-be-known** /ˌʌn'bɪ'nəʊn \$ -'nəʊn/ (also **un-be-knownst** /-nəʊnst \$ -'nəʊnst/ *written*) *adv* [sentence adverb] **unknown to sb** without that person knowing about it: *Unbeknown to him, his wife had been trying to phone him all morning.*

**un-be-lief** /ˌʌn'bɛli:f/ *n* [U] literary a lack of religious belief, or a refusal to believe in a religious faith → **disbelief**

**un-be-liev-a-ble** /ˌʌn'bɛli:vəbəl/ ●○○ *adj*

**1** very good, successful, or impressive [SYN] **amazing**: *The opportunities are unbelievable.* | *an unbelievable talent*

**2** very bad or shocking [SYN] **terrible**: *The pain was unbelievable.* | *acts of unbelievable cruelty* | **It was unbelievable that we were expected to pay twice.**

**3** so extreme that it hardly seems possible: *He's so lazy it's unbelievable.* | *an unbelievable speed* [THESAURUS]

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**4** very difficult to believe and therefore probably untrue: *Yvonne's excuse for being late was totally unbelievable.*

— **unbelievably** *adv*: *an unbelievably bad movie*

**un-be-liev-er** /ˌʌn'bɛli:və \$ -ər/ *n* [C] someone who does not believe in God or a particular religion

**un-bend** /ˌʌn'bend/ *v* (past tense and past participle **unbent** /-bent/) [I] to relax and start behaving in a less formal way

**un-bend-ing** /ˌʌn'bendɪŋ/ *adj* unwilling to change your opinions, decisions etc [OPP] **flexible**

**un-bi-ased** /ˌʌn'bi:əst/ [AWL] *adj* unbiased information, advice etc is fair because the person giving it is not influenced by their own or other people's opinions

[SYN] **impartial**: *We aim to provide a service that is balanced and unbiased.* | *an unbiased observer*

**un-bid-den** /ˌʌn'bɪdn/ *adj, adv* literary without being asked for, expected, or invited

**un-blem-ish-ed** /ˌʌn'blemɪʃt/ *adj* **1** not spoiled by any mistake or bad behaviour [SYN] **spotless**: *a law firm with an unblemished reputation* **2** without marks or damage

[SYN] **flawless**: *her smooth unblemished skin*

**un-blink-ing** /ˌʌn'blɪŋkɪŋ/ *adj* literary if you look at something or someone with unblinking eyes, you look continuously at them without blinking (=quickly closing and opening your eyes): **unblinking stare/gaze** *His father's unblinking gaze was fixed on the fire.*

**un-block** /ˌʌn'blɒk \$ -'blɔ:k/ *v* [T] if you unblock a pipe, you remove something that is blocking it: **unblock a toilet/drain/chimney etc**

**un-born** /ˌʌn'bɔːn \$ -ɔːrɪn/ *adj* [only before noun] not yet born: *an unborn child*

**un-bound-ed** /ˌʌn'baʊndɪd/ *adj* formal extreme or without any limit [SYN] **boundless**: *the child's unbounded energy*

**un-bow-ed** /ˌʌn'baʊd/ *adj* [not before noun] not willing to give up or accept defeat - used especially in news reports: *After the fight, Ali was bloody but unbowed.*

**un-break-a-ble** /ˌʌn'bri:kəbəl/ *adj* not able to be broken: *unbreakable glass* [THESAURUS] STRONG

**un-bridge-a-ble** /ˌʌn'brɪdʒəbəl/ *adj* unbridgeable differences between two people, groups, or ideas are so big that no one will ever agree about them or be satisfied with them: **unbridgeable gulf/gap/chasm etc (between sb/sth and sb/sth)** *the unbridgeable gulf between the rich and the poor*

**un-bri-dled** /ˌʌn'braɪdlɪd/ *adj* literary not controlled and too extreme or violent: *unbridled greed*

**un-bro-ken** /ˌʌn'brəʊkən \$ -brəʊ-/ *adj* continuing without being interrupted or broken: *their unbroken record of success* | *a time of unbroken peace*

**un-buck-le** /ˌʌn'bʌkl/ *v* [T] to unfasten the BUCKLE on a belt, a shoe etc

**un-bur-den** /ˌʌn'bɜːdn \$ -zɜː-/ *v* [T] **unburden yourself (to sb)** to tell someone your problems, secrets etc so that you feel better

**postpone a decision** (=not make a decision until later) *The government has postponed its decision about when to hold the election.*

**ADJECTIVES**

- an important decision** *My father made all the important decisions.*
- a big decision** (=an important decision) *Marriage is a big decision.*
- a major decision** (=very important) *The government now has some major decisions to make.*
- a difficult/hard/tough decision** *In the end I took the difficult decision to retire early.*
- a good decision** *It was a good decision to change the name of the product.*
- a bad decision** *I think he made a bad decision.*
- the right decision** *She chose to study Engineering and it was definitely the right decision.*
- the wrong decision** *I thought I'd made the wrong decision marrying Jeff.*
- a conscious/deliberate decision** (=one that you have thought about clearly) *Belinda had made a conscious decision to have a baby.*
- a clear/firm decision** (=a definite one) *It's now time to come to a clear decision on this.*
- a final decision** (=one that will not be changed) *The council will make a final decision in four months.*
- a snap decision** (=one that you make extremely quickly) *Police officers often have to make snap decisions on how to act.*
- a controversial decision** (=that people disagree about) *The history of the law is full of controversial decisions.*
- a hasty decision** (=one that you make without enough thought) *Don't let yourself be forced into making hasty decisions.*
- a joint decision** (=one that two people make together) *Jo and I made a joint decision that we should separate.*

**de'cision-maker** *n* [C usually plural] a person in a large organization who is responsible for making important decisions: *the corporation's key decision-makers*

**de'cision-making** *n* [U] the process of making important decisions: *attempts to involve workers in decision-making*

**de-ci-sive** /dr'saɪsɪv/ ●○○ *adj*

- 1** an action, event etc that is decisive has a big effect on the way that something develops: **decisive factor/effect/influence etc** *Women can play a decisive role in the debate over cloning.* | **decisive action/steps** *We will take decisive steps towards political union with Europe.*
- 2** someone who is decisive is **good** at making decisions quickly and with confidence **[OPP] indecisive:** *a decisive leader* | *a talent for quick decisive action*
- 3** definite and clear in a way that leaves no doubt **[OPP] indecisive:** *decisive victory/result/defeat etc* | *The answer was a decisive no.* — **decisively** *adv:* *Yet again, we have failed to act decisively.* — **decisiveness** *n* [U]: *literary decisiveness* | *the speed and decisiveness of his victory*

**deck<sup>1</sup>** /dek/ ●●● (S3) *n* [C]

- 1 ON A SHIP** **a)** the outside top level of a ship that you can walk or sit on: *Let's go up on deck.* | *above/below deck* *Peter stayed below deck.* **b)** one of the different levels on a ship: **main/passenger/car etc deck** *a staircase leading to the passenger deck* **THE SAURUS** FLOOR
- 2 ON A BUS, PLANE ETC** one of the levels on a bus, plane etc: **lower/upper etc deck** *I managed to find a seat on the upper deck.* | *Eddie returned to the flight deck* (=the part of an aircraft where the pilot sits). → **DOUBLE-DECKER**(1), **SINGLE-DECKER**
- 3 AT THE BACK OF A HOUSE** *AmE* a wooden floor built out from the back of a house, where you can sit and relax outdoors → **decking:** *deck furniture*
- 4 MUSIC** a piece of equipment used for playing music tapes, records etc: **cassette/tape/record deck**

**5 CARDS** a set of playing cards **[SYN] pack** *BrE:* *Irene shuffled the deck.* | *a deck of cards* → **all hands on deck** at **HAND**<sup>1</sup>(39), → **clear the decks** at **CLEAR**<sup>2</sup>(17), → **hit the deck** at **HIT**<sup>1</sup>(17)

**deck<sup>2</sup>** *v* [T] **1** (also **deck sth out**) to decorate something with flowers, flags etc: **be decked (out) with sth** *The street was decked with flags for the royal wedding.* **[GRAMMAR]** **Deck** is usually passive in this meaning. **2** *informal* to hit someone so hard that they fall over: *Gerry just swung round and decked him.*

**deck-chair** /'dektʃeə \$-tʃer/ *n* [C] *BrE* a folding chair with a long seat made of cloth, used especially on the beach → see picture at **CHAIR**<sup>1</sup>

**deck-hand** /'dek'hænd/ *n* [C] someone who works on a ship, cleaning and doing small repairs

**decking** /'dekiŋ/ *n* [U] a wooden floor next to a house or in a garden

**'deck shoe** *n* [C] a flat shoe made of CANVAS (=heavy cloth)

**de-claim** /dr'kleɪm/ *v* [I,T] *written* to speak loudly, sometimes with actions, so that people notice you — **declamation** /'deklə'meɪʃən/ *n* [C,U]

**de-clam-a-to-ry** /dr'klæmətəri \$-tɔ:ri/ *adj* *declamatory* speech or writing expresses feelings and opinions very strongly: *a declamatory style*

**de-cla-ra-tion** /'deklə'reɪʃən/ ●○○ *n* [C,U]

- 1** an important official statement about a particular situation or plan, or the act of making this statement: *a ceasefire declaration* | *Under Islamic law it was possible to divorce by simple declaration.* | **[+of]** *the declaration of war*
- 2** an official or serious statement of what someone believes: **[+of]** *the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights* | *declarations of undying love*
- 3** a statement in which you officially give information about yourself: *a declaration of taxable earnings*

**de-clar-a-tive** /dr'klærətɪv/ *adj* a declarative sentence has the form of a statement

**de-clare** /dr'kleə \$-'kler/ ●○○ (W2) *v*

- 1** **[STATE OFFICIALLY]** [T] to state officially and publicly that a particular situation exists or that something is true: *A state of emergency has been declared.* | **declare that** *The court declared that Brown's case should be reviewed.* | **declare sb/sth (to be) sb/sth** *Several countries wanted Antarctica to be declared a 'world park'.* | *The city was declared to be in a state of siege.* | *I declare you man and wife.* | **declare sth illegal/invalid etc** *The war was declared illegal by the International Court of Justice.* | *Mr Steel has been declared bankrupt* (=it has been officially stated that he cannot pay his debts). | *We celebrate September 16, the day when Mexico declared independence from Spain* (=officially stated that it was no longer ruled by Spain).

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- 2** **[STATE WHAT YOU THINK]** [T] to say publicly what you think or feel: *'It's not fair', Jane declared.* | *He declared his intention to stand for president.* | *declare that* *Carol held a press conference and declared that she was innocent.* | **declare yourself (to be) sth** *Edward declared himself angry and frustrated.*
  - 3** **declare war (on sb/sth)** **a)** to state officially that you are at war with another country **b)** *informal* to say that something is wrong and that you will do everything you can to stop it: *Angry residents have declared war on the owners of the factory.*
  - 4** **[MONEY/PROPERTY ETC]** [T] **a)** to state on an official government form how much money you have earned, what property you own etc: *All tips are counted as part of your earnings and must be declared.* **b)** to tell a CUSTOMS official that you are carrying goods on which you should pay tax when you enter a country
  - 5** **declare an interest** to tell people that you are connected with something that is being discussed: *I should, at this point, declare an interest: I own shares in the company.*
  - 6** **[CRICKET]** [I] to choose to end your team's turn before all your players have BATTED
- declare against sb/sth** *phr v* to state publicly that you oppose someone or something

**THESAURUS**

**jealous** feeling unhappy because someone has something that you want and cannot have: *Maybe he's jealous because I got the job and he didn't.* | *Sharon had always been jealous of her sister's long blonde hair.*  
**envious** especially written wishing that you had something nice or special that someone else has: *When I saw the garden, I was really envious.* | *She knew she was beautiful and enjoyed the envious looks of other women.*  
**green with envy** very envious: *You'll be green with envy when you see their new house.*

**jealous-ly** /ˈdʒeləsi/ adv **1** if you jealously guard or protect something, you try very hard to keep or protect it: *a jealously guarded secret* **2** if you do something jealously, you are feeling jealous when you do it: *Ludens watched Marcus jealously.*

**jealous-y** /ˈdʒeləsi/ ●●● n (plural **jealousies**) [C,U] a feeling of being jealous → **envy**: **a pang/stab/twinge of jealousy** (=a sudden feeling of jealousy) *Polly felt a sharp pang of jealousy when she saw Paul with Suzanne.* | **Sexual jealousy** is a common motive for murder. | feelings of **professional jealousy** | He quickly discovered the **petty jealousies** and gossip of village life.

**jeans** /dʒi:nz/ ●●● [S2] [W3] n [plural] trousers made of DENIM (=a strong, usually blue, cotton cloth)

**Jeep** /dʒi:p/ n [C] trademark a type of car made for travelling over rough ground

**jeer** /dʒɪə \$ dʒɪr/ v [I,T] to laugh at someone or shout unkind things at them in a way that shows you do not respect them: *'You know I'm right!' she jeered.* | *The president was booed and jeered by a crowd of protesters.* | [+at] *Fans jeered at the referee.* — **jeer** n [C]: *There were jeers and booing from the audience.* — **jeering** n [U]

**jeering-ing** /ˈdʒɪərɪŋ \$ ˈdʒɪr-/ adj [only before noun] a jeering remark or sound is unkind and shows that you do not respect someone: *jeering laughter*

**Jeeves** /dʒi:vz/ a character in many humorous stories by P. G. Wodehouse. Jeeves is the VALET (=male servant) of an UPPER-CLASS young man called Bertie Wooster, and is a very patient sensible man. Wooster depends on him a lot and he always manages to solve Wooster's problems.

**jeez** /dʒi:z/ interjection informal used to express feelings such as surprise, anger, annoyance etc

**jeg-gings** /ˈdʒegɪŋz/ n [plural] very tight JEANS, or LEG-GINGS that are the same colour blue as jeans

**Je-ho-vah** /dʒɪˈhəʊvə \$ -ˈhɒv-/ a name given to God in the Old Testament (=first part of the Bible)

**Je-ho-vah's 'Witness** n [C] a member of a religious organization that believes the end of the world will happen soon and sends its members to people's houses to try to persuade them to join

**je-june** /dʒɪˈdʒu:n/ adj formal **1** ideas that are jejune are too simple: *jejune political opinions* **2** boring

**Jek-yl and Hyde** /dʒekəl ənd ˈhaɪd/ n [C] someone who is sometimes nice but at other times is unpleasant

**jell** /dʒel/ v [I] another spelling of GEL

**jell-ied** /ˈdʒelɪd/ adj [only before noun] especially BrE cooked or served in jelly: *jellied eels*

**Jell-O, jello** /ˈdʒeləʊ \$ -ləʊ/ n [U] trademark AmE a soft sweet food made from fruit juice and GELATIN [SYN] **jelly** BrE

**jelly-ly** /ˈdʒeli/ ●●● [S3] n (plural **jellies**)

**1** [C,U] BrE a soft sweet food made from fruit juice and GELATIN [SYN] **Jell-O** AmE: *raspberry jelly*

**2** [C,U] a thick sweet substance made from boiled fruit and sugar with no pieces of fruit in it, eaten especially on bread → **jam**: *a peanut butter and jelly sandwich* | *damson jelly*

**3** [U] especially BrE a soft solid substance made from meat juices and GELATIN

**4** [U] a substance that is solid but very soft, and moves

easily when you touch it: *frogs' eggs floating in a protective jelly*

**5 feel like/turn to jelly** if your legs or knees feel like jelly, they start to shake because you are frightened or nervous

**6 jellies** [plural] BrE informal drugs that make you feel relaxed and sleepy, which some people use illegally

**7 jellies** [plural] shoes made of clear coloured plastic

**'jelly baby** n [C] BrE a small soft sweet made in the shape of a baby, that comes in a variety of colours

**'jelly bean** n [C] a small soft sweet with different tastes and colours that is shaped like a bean

**jelly-fish** /ˈdʒelɪfɪʃ/ n (plural **jellyfish**) [C] a sea animal that has a round transparent body and can sting you

**'jelly roll** n [C] AmE a long thin cake that is rolled up with JAM or cream inside [SYN] **Swiss roll** BrE

**jem-my** /ˈdʒemi/ n (plural **jimmies**) BrE, **jimmy** (plural **jimmies**) AmE [C] a short strong metal bar used especially by thieves to break open locked doors, windows etc — **jimmy** v [T]

**je ne sais quoi** /ʒə nə seɪ ˈkwɑ:z/ n [singular] a good quality that you cannot easily describe - often humorous: *the je ne sais quoi that makes the village magical*  
**jeop-ar-dize** (also **-ise** BrE) /ˈdʒepədəɪz \$ -ər-/ v [T] to risk losing or spoiling something important: *large-scale military offensives which could jeopardize the UN peace process*

**jeop-ar-dy** /ˈdʒepədi \$ -ər-/ n in **jeopardy** in danger of being lost or harmed: *Thousands of jobs are in jeopardy.* | **put/place sth in jeopardy** *The killings could put the whole peace process in jeopardy.*

**jer-e-mi-ad** /dʒərəˈmeɪəd/ n [C] formal a long speech or piece of writing that complains about a situation, or says that bad things will happen

**jerk<sup>1</sup>** /dʒɜ:k \$ dʒɜ:rk/ ●●● v **1** [I,T] to move with a quick sudden movement, or to make part of your body move in this way: *Wilcox jerked his head to indicate that they should move on.* | *'Is that the only way out of here?' he asked, jerking a thumb at the door.* | [+back/up/forwards etc] *Suddenly, he jerked back in his chair.* | *The sound of the phone jerked me awake.*

**2** [I,T] to pull something suddenly and roughly: [+at] *Doyle jerked at the girl's hair to make her sit down.* | *She jerked open the car door and got out.*

**jerk sb around** phr v AmE informal to waste someone's time or deliberately make things difficult for them

**jerk off** phr v especially AmE informal not polite to MASTURBATE

**jerk out sth** phr v written to say something quickly and nervously: *'Don't lie,' she jerked out.*

**jerk<sup>2</sup>** n [C] **1** a sudden quick movement: *He gave a sudden jerk of his head.* | **with a jerk** *She started the car with a jerk and hit the bumper of the car in front.*

**2** informal someone, especially a man, who is stupid or who does things that annoy or hurt other people [SYN] **idiot**: *I swore at him for being such a jerk.*

**jerk<sup>3</sup>** adj  **jerk chicken/pork etc** meat that has been left in spices or covered with spices before being cooked

**jer-kin** /ˈdʒɜ:kɪn \$ -ɜ:r-/ n [C] a short jacket that covers your body but not your arms, worn in the past

**jerk-y<sup>1</sup>** /ˈdʒɜ:kɪ \$ -ɜ:r-/ adj  **jerk-y** movements are rough, with many starts and stops [OPP] **smooth**: *His skin was dry and hot, his breathing rapid and jerky.* | *The bus came to a jerky halt.* —  **jerkily** adv —  **jerkiness** n [U]

**jerk-y<sup>2</sup>** n [U] AmE meat that has been cut into thin pieces and dried in the sun or with smoke

