

Languages – Glossary

abroad adverb

in or to a foreign country:

We try to go abroad at least once a year.

attitude noun [count or uncount]

opinions or feelings that you show by your behaviour:

Attitudes towards the older members of the group will have to change.

bother verb

if you do not bother to do something, you do not do it because it is not sensible or because you feel lazy:

It was such a stupid question, I didn't even bother to reply.

care verb

to be interested in someone or something and think that they are important:

They cared deeply about the environment.

compulsory adjective

something that is compulsory must be done or used because of a rule or law:

compulsory exams

destination noun [count]

the place where someone or something is going

do with something phrasal verb

to be connected with something:

The problem had something to do with his mother.

effort noun [count or uncount]

an attempt to do something that is difficult or involves hard work:

I've made an effort to drink less tea and coffee.

embarrassed adjective

feeling slightly ashamed, and worried about what other people will think of you:

She looked embarrassed when we asked her about her boyfriend.

fiancé noun [count]

the man that a woman is going to marry

fluent adjective

able to speak a foreign language very well:

I'm fluent in three languages.

frustrating adjective

making you feel annoyed and impatient because you are prevented from achieving something:

It's frustrating to wait all day for a repairman who doesn't show up.

get by phrasal verb

to have just enough of something such as money or knowledge so that you can do what you need to do:

You could probably get by with that computer, but a more powerful one would be better.

get one's head around phrase

to understand something

guess noun [count]

an occasion when you say what you think is true without being certain:

We can only hazard a guess at what happened (=make a guess that will probably not be accurate).

indigenous adjective

indigenous people lived in a place for a very long time before other people came to live there

local adjective

in or related to a particular area, especially the place where you live:

Local calls cost 2p a minute.

local noun [count]

someone who lives in a particular place

Mandarin noun [uncount]

the official language of China

main adjective

most important, or largest:

The main entrance to the building is on George Street.

native speaker noun [count]

someone who speaks a particular language as their first language

power noun [uncount]

the ability to achieve something or make something happen:

purchasing/bargaining power

pretty adverb

fairly:

Tom looks pretty tired.

prospects noun [plural]

chances of success in a career:

Your employment prospects would be much better if you finished your degree.

proud adjective

feeling happy about your achievements, your possessions, or people who you are connected with:

I'm proud to say we made the right decision.

pupil noun [count]

someone who goes to school or who has lessons in a particular subject

reckon verb

to believe that something is true:

I reckon there's something wrong with him.

rude adjective

not polite:

It's rude to keep people waiting.

slang noun [uncount]

words or expressions that are very informal and that are not considered suitable for formal situations