

## Seven billion and counting – Glossary

**advance** noun [countable/uncountable]  
progress or an instance of progress in science, technology, human knowledge etc  
*In spite of all its advances, medical science still knows little about the brain.*

**ancestor** noun [countable]  
someone who is related to you who lived a long time ago  
*Her ancestors went to America with the Pilgrims.*

**as for** [phrase]  
used for introducing a subject that is related to what you have just been talking about  
*As for the children, they were happy enough to spend all day on the beach.*

**case** noun [countable]  
an example or instance of something

**double** verb [intransitive]  
to become twice as big, twice as much, or twice as many  
*The number of people without work has doubled in the last five years.*

**estimate** verb [transitive]  
to say what you think an amount or value will be, either by guessing or by using available information to calculate it  
*It's difficult to estimate the cost of making your house safe.*

**evolve** verb [intransitive]  
when a type of plant or animal evolves, its physical form changes over a long period of time  
*These unique plants evolved undisturbed for millions of years.*

**expert** noun [countable]  
someone who has a particular skill or who knows a lot about a particular subject  
*a safety/health/computer expert*

**figure** noun [countable, often plural]  
an official number that has been counted or calculated  
*Government figures show a continued decline in unemployment.*

**-like** [suffix]  
used with many nouns to make adjectives meaning similar to something  
*The illness causes chest pains and flu-like symptoms.*

**sub-Saharan** adjective  
in the part of Africa that is south of the Sahara Desert

**vary** verb [intransitive]  
to be different in different situations  
*The details may vary, but all of these savings plans have the same basic goal.*