

tial, sheer, shimmering, silky, airy, transparent, see-through, translucent, gauzy, *formal* diaphanous  
 ➤ heavy, opaque, thick

### gossip *n, v*

► *n* 1 IDLE TALK, prattle, chitchat, tittle-tattle, rumour, hearsay, report, whisper, scandal, *colloq.* mudslinging, smear campaign 2 GOSSIP-MONGER, scandalmonger, whisperer, prattler, babbler, chatterbox, busybody, talebearer, tell-tale, tattler, blether, *colloq.* nosy parker

► *v* talk, chat, natter, chatter, blether, blather, gabble, prattle, babble, tattle, spread gossip, tell tales, whisper, rumour, spread/circulate a rumour, *colloq.* jabber, rabbit (on), gas, waffle, chinwag, jaw, chew the rag/fat

### gouge *v*

chisel, cut, hack, incise, score, groove, scratch, claw, gash, slash, dig, scoop, hollow, extract

### gourmand *n*

glutton, gourmandizer, *formal* omnivore, *colloq.* gorgier, guzzler, hog, pig  
 ➤ ascetic

### 🔪 gourmand or gourmet?

A *gourmand* is a glutton; a person who enjoys eating large quantities of food. A *gourmet* is a person who has an expert knowledge of, and a passion for, good food and wine.

### gourmet *n*

gastronomie, epicure, epicurean, connoisseur, bon vivant, *colloq.* foodie

### govern *v*

1 RULE, reign, be in power, hold office, direct, manage, administer, be responsible for, superintend, supervise, oversee, preside, lead, head, be in charge of, command, order, control, influence, guide, conduct, steer, pilot 2 *govern your temper* dominate, master, control, regulate, curb, check, keep in check, hold/keep back, restrain, contain, quell, constrain, bridle, rein in, subdue, tame, discipline

### governess *n*

teacher, guide, instructress, tutoress, tutress, mentor, companion, duenna, *old use* governante

### governing *adj*

ruling, controlling, regulatory, commanding, reigning, guiding, leading, supreme, uppermost, dominant, overriding, predominant, prevailing, transcendent, *formal* dominative

### government *n*

1 *blame the government* administration, executive, ministry, Establishment, authorities, state, régime, congress, parliament, council, cabinet, leadership, *colloq.* powers that be 2 RULE, sovereignty, sway, direction, management, superintendence, supervision, surveillance, command, charge, authority, power, guidance, conduct, domination, dominion, control, regulation, restraint

### Government systems include:

absolutism, autocracy, commonwealth, communism, democracy, despotism, dictatorship, empire, federation, hierarchy, junta, kingdom, monarchy, plutocracy, puppet government, republic, theocracy, triumvirate. See also PARLIAMENTS AND POLITICAL ASSEMBLIES.

### governor *n*

ruler, commissioner, administrator, executive, director, manager, leader, head, chief, president, viceroy,

commander, superintendent, supervisor, commander, master, regulator, guide, warden, overseer, controller, *colloq.* boss

### gown *n*

robe, dress, frock, dressing-gown, garment, habit, costume, *colloq.* garb

### grab *v, n*

► *v* seize, snatch, take, pluck, snap up, catch/take/lay hold of, grasp, clutch, grip, catch, capture, commandeer, usurp, annex, *formal* appropriate, *colloq.* nab, bag, collar, nail, swipe

► *n* grasp, grip, clutch, snatch, catch, capture

► **up for grabs** available, obtainable, at hand, *colloq.* for the asking, to be had

### grace *n, v*

► *n* 1 GRACEFULNESS, poise, beauty, attractiveness, loveliness, shapeliness, smoothness, elegance, ease, fluency, finesse, tastefulness, good taste, refinement, polish, breeding, cultivation, manners, etiquette, decorum, decency, consideration, courtesy, charm, *formal* propriety 2 KINDNESS, kindness, compassion, consideration, goodness, virtue, generosity, charity, benevolence, goodwill, favour, forgiveness, indulgence, mercy, mercifulness, leniency, pardon, relieve, quarter, *formal* beneficence, clemency 3 *say grace* blessing, benediction, thanksgiving, prayer

➤ 2 cruelty, harshness

► *v* favour, honour, dignify, distinguish, embellish, enhance, enrich, set off, trim, garnish, decorate, ornament, adorn

➤ spoil, detract from

### graceful *adj*

easy, flowing, fluid, easy, smooth, supple, agile, deft, nimble, natural, slender, fine, tasteful, elegant, beautiful, attractive, appealing, charming, tasteful, cultured, refined, polished, cultivated, suave

➤ graceless, awkward, clumsy, ungainly

### graceless *adj*

clumsy, awkward, unattractive, forced, gauche, gawky, ungainly, ungraceful, inelegant, rough, rude, vulgar, coarse, crude, uncouth, unsophisticated, impolite, improper, unmannerly, ill-mannered, barbarous, shameless, *formal* indecorous

➤ graceful, refined

### gracious *adj*

1 POLITE, courteous, well-mannered, refined, considerate, sweet, obliging, accommodating, kind, compassionate, kind-hearted, kindly, friendly, pleasant, benevolent, generous, magnanimous, charitable, hospitable, forgiving, indulgent, lenient, mild, clement, merciful, *formal* beneficent 2 ELEGANT, luxurious, comfortable, tasteful, sumptuous

➤ 1 ungracious

### gradation *n*

change, progression, degree, grading, sorting, ordering, progress, succession, arrangement, sequence, series, stage, step, level, mark, shading, rank, *formal* array

### grade *n, v*

► *n* rank, status, standing, station, place, position, level, stage, degree, step, rating, rung, notch, mark, brand, quality, standard, condition, size, order, group, type, class, category, classification, *formal* echelon

► **make the grade** succeed, pass, come/win through, reach the expected standard

► *v* sort, arrange, categorize, order, group, class, rate, size, rank, range, classify, evaluate, assess, value, mark, brand, label, pigeonhole, type

### gradient *n*

slope, incline, hill, bank, rise, grade, *formal* acclivity, declivity