

Word of the Day

Learn and use a new word every day.

- **RETAIL**
- **GRANDSTAND**
- **PEW**
- **PULSES**
- **OCCUR**

WEEK 1

RETAIL

Week
1A

The sale of goods to customers in small quantities, usually in shops.

The **retail** price of the coat was reduced at the sale.

GRANDSTAND

The main stand for spectators, usually at a racecourse.

The crowds in the
grandstand cheered on
the winning horse.

PEW

Week
1C

A long bench with a back, usually in a church.

The old lady sat quietly
in a **pew** near the front
of the church.

PULSE

Week
1D

The regular beat of the blood as it flows through the arteries, usually felt in the wrists.

The doctor took the **pulse** of the patient as she clung onto life.

OCCUR

Week
1E

To happen, take place or come to pass.

The leader promised
that she would not allow
the event to **occur**.

- **PEARL**
- **FOIL**
- **CYMBAL**
- **JASMINE**
- **AMPLE**

WEEK 2

PEARL

Week
2A

A gemstone, usually white or bluish grey, found in the shell of certain oysters.

The man bought a
pearl necklace for his
wife's birthday.

FOIL

Week
2B

To prevent the success of something, to frustrate.

The security man **foiled** the attempted raid on the bank.

CYMBAL

Week
2C

A brass or bronze plate struck with another or with a stick to create a ringing sound.

The drummer struck the **cymbals** to conclude the performance.

JASMINE

Week
2D

A flowering shrub with white or yellow fragrant flowers, sometimes used in perfumes.

The scent of the
jasmine perfume filled
the air.

AMPLE

Week
2E

Plentiful or enough.

There was an **ample** supply of water on the rural farm.

- **ANTIQUE**
- **FANTASY**
- **SLACK**
- **BRACKET**
- **CAVITY**

WEEK 3

ANTIQUUE

Week
3A

A very old and valuable object, usually furniture or decorative objects.

The lady bought the old mirror from the local **antique** shop.

FANTASY

Week
3B

A made-up mental image or day-dream. Not real.

The boy's description of the UFO was put down to pure **fantasy**.

SLACK

Week
3C

Quiet with little happening. Not tight (as in a rope).

The shop reported that business was **slack** after Christmas.

BRACKET

Week
3D

A support attached to a wall to hold a shelf.

The carpenter secured the **bracket** to the wall before mounting the shelf.

CAVITY

Week
3E

A decayed part of a tooth. A hollow space within a solid block.

The dentist had to remove the tooth with the **cavity**.

- **DABBLE**
- **VACUUM**
- **TALON**
- **BAIZE**
- **SCAM**

WEEK 4

DABBLE

Week
4A

To take a casual interest in something, for example a hobby.

The doctor liked to **dabble** in a spot of fishing at weekends.

VACUUM

Week
4B

A space without any air or where the air has been removed.

The **vacuum** in the flask ensured the coffee remained hot.

TALON

Week
4C

The claw, especially of a bird of prey.

The hawk held its prey
tightly in its sharp
talons.

BAIZE

Week
4D

A green felt-like material usually used as a covering for pool, snooker and card tables.

The black ball rolled along the **baize** and into the corner pocket.

SCAM

Week
4E

A trick, a fraud or a swindle.

The old lady donated a large sum of money to the internet **scam**.

- **DEFRAY**
- **ESSAY**
- **HEYDAY**
- **MAYHEM**
- **GAIT**

WEEK 5

DEFRAY

Week
5A

To get money to pay for a cost or expense.

The grant helped
defray the cost of the
expensive trip abroad.

ESSAY

Week
5B

A short composition in prose on any subject.
An old name for a story in school.

The pupil was asked to write an **essay** about his summer holiday.

HEYDAY

Week
5C

A period of time when something or someone was at its most popular or most successful.

The singer could sell out a 50,000 seater stadium in his **heyday**.

MAYHEM

Week
5D

Actions creating random or deliberate violence or damage.

Mayhem ensued as the rioters broke shop windows and threw stones.

GAIT

Week
5E

A manner of walking or running. The way a person holds themselves as they move.

The witness noticed that the thief had an unusual **gait** as he escaped.

- **SLAY**
- **PREY**
- **SURVEY**
- **FREIGHT**
- **CROCHET**

WEEK 6

SLAY

Week
6A

To kill or murder.

The prince had no choice but to **slay** the dragon.

PREY

Week
6B

An animal that is hunted or killed by another for food.

The lion followed its **prey** for miles before pouncing on it near a clearing.

SURVEY

Week
6C

To make a formal inspection of something eg. a house. To ask people a series of questions.

The engineer conducted a **survey** of the house after the damaging storm.

FREIGHT

Week
6D

Goods or cargo transported, usually in containers, by land, sea or air.

The company shipped their goods by **freight** overnight to their customers.

CROCHET

Week
6E

A handicraft in which yarn is made into a patterned fabric using a hooked needle.

The lady was an expert in **crochet** and created a baby shawl with ease.

- **HAZARD**
- **VALID**
- **AILMENT**
- **BRAILLE**
- **RELY**

WEEK 7

HAZARD

Week
7A

A danger or risk.

The building collapsed
creating a dangerous
hazard to passers-by.

VALID

Week
7B

Legally sound or acceptable, not having reached its expiry date.

The lady presented her **valid** passport to the customs officer.

AILMENT

Week
7C

An illness, especially a minor one.

The man went to the
doctor and told her of his
ailment.

BRAILLE

Week
7D

A system of writing and printing for the blind.

The blind pupil expertly used his fingertips to read the book in **Braille**.

RELY

Week
7E

To depend on with confidence. To put your trust in someone.

The dancer had to **rely** on her friend for a lift to the afternoon rehearsal.

- **RARE**
- **QUANTITY**
- **DARN**
- **GRASP**
- **BOTCH**

WEEK 8

RARE

Week
8A

Seldom done or found. Uncommon or unusual.

The lizard species was so **rare**, no-one had ever photographed it before.

QUANTITY

Week
8B

An amount or measure of something.

The baker followed the recipe using the recommended **quantity** of flour.

DARN

Week
8C

To mend a hole, especially in a knitted garment, by weaving yarn across the hole with a needle.

The sailor had to **darn** the socks as he only had two pairs for the journey.

GRASP

Week
8D

To hold or grip firmly. To understand a fact, meaning or concept.

The climber had a firm **grasp** of the rope as he abseiled down the cliff.

BOTCH

Week
8E

A clumsy or poor piece of work, especially on a repair job.

The mechanic made a **botch** of repairing the oil tank in the car.

- **BOBBIN**
- **LATCH**
- **SQUABBLE**
- **NABBED**
- **DOZE**

WEEK 9

BOBBIN

Week
9A

A spool holding thread or yard especially used in machine sewing.

The thread got caught in the **bobbin** as the machinist sewed the garment.

LATCH

Week
9B

A bar with a catch and lever used to fasten a gate or door.

The sheep escaped from the field as the **latch** on the gate had been left opened.

SQUABBLE

Week
9C

A petty quarrel or dispute.

The small children
squabbled over who
should be first in the line.

NABBED

Week
9D

To seize, grab, catch or arrest especially in wrongdoing.

The security officers
nabbed the thieves as they
emerged from the shop.

DOZE

Week
9E

A short, light sleep; to be half asleep.

The old man **dozed** in his armchair after a late lunch.

- **DAWDLE**
- **BELLOWS**
- **HEADSTRONG**
- **LEISURE**
- **MAIMED**

WEEK 10

DAWDLE

Week
10A

To walk slowly and idly, usually in order to delay or waste time.

The children **dawdled** as they returned to class after the morning break.

BELLOWS

Week
10B

A device with an air bag that emits a stream of air, used to blow air into a fire.

The servant had to use the **bellows** to spark the fire into life again.

HEADSTRONG

Week
10C

Determined to have one's own way; obstinate, stubborn.

The **headstrong** girl hurled herself into the path of the oncoming carriage.

LEISURE

Week
10D

Free time from work or other commitments to enjoy hobbies, pastimes or sport.

The boy used his **leisure** time to engage in his favourite pastime of swimming.

MAIMED

Week
10E

To cripple, injure, disable or wound

The lady was **maimed** as a result of the terrible explosion.

- **TOMB**
- **PINED**
- **VENEER**
- **PUNY**
- **REMEDY**

WEEK 11

TOMB

Week
11A

A large vault, usually under the ground, for burial of the dead.

The princess was laid to rest in a specially created **tomb** near the palace.

PINED

Week
11B

To yearn or long eagerly for; usually to yearn for someone deceased or away from home.

The carpenter **pined** for his wife who had been missing for two weeks.

VENEER

Week
11C

To give a deceptive outward appearance of good quality

She was really a cruel person, with a **veneer** of kindness.

PUNY

Week
11D

Small in size or stature; weak, feeble.

The **puny** servant was unable to lift the heavy tray to the table.

REMEDY

Week
11E

Something that cures or relieves a disease, like a medicine or potion.

The mother sought a **remedy** for her daughter's strange illness.

- **DECEIVE**
- **RALLY**
- **FEMUR**
- **WIELDED**
- **GIRTH**

WEEK 12

DECEIVE

To make a person believe something that is false; to mislead purposely.

The secretary was **deceived** into thinking that she had missed the meeting.

RALLY

Week
12B

To come together as support or encouragement for a cause or action.

The community **rallied** around the family who had lost their home in a fire.

FEMUR

Week
12C

The large bone between the hip and the knee;
the thigh bone.

The cyclist broke his
femur in a collision on the
country road.

WIELDED

Week
12D

To exercise or command power or authority.

The heartless king **wielded** power over his poor and deprived subjects.

GIRTH

Week
12E

A band around the body of a horse to secure the saddle.

The **girth** snapped, causing the rider to fall awkwardly from the horse.

- **LIBERTY**
- **SOLAR**
- **EAGER**
- **VISOR**
- **BURGLE**

WEEK 13

LIBERTY

Week
13A

Freedom from captivity, imprisonment, slavery or control.

After proving his innocence, the prisoner regained his **liberty**.

SOLAR

Week
13B

Relating to the sun.

The **solar**-powered house made huge energy savings every year.

EAGER

Week
13C

Having a keen desire; enthusiastic.

The athlete was **eager** to prove herself by running a record time.

VISOR

Week
13D

The projecting front part of a cap.

The criminal pulled his **visor** down low to avoid being recognised.

BURGLE

Week
13E

To break into a place with the intent to steal.

The house on the corner of the road had been **burgled** twice in the past week.

- **DEBT**
- **GINGHAM**
- **STRUGGLE**
- **STIFLE**
- **RUGGED**

WEEK 14

DEBT

Week
14A

Something that is owed to someone else,
especially money.

The man paid off his **debts**
after winning a large sum
of money on the Lottery.

GINGHAM

Week
14B

A type of cotton material, usually striped or checked.

The girl bought a **gingham** dress to wear to the summer party.

STRUGGLE

Week
14C

To make determined efforts, especially under great difficulties.

The woman **struggled** to maintain a grip on the heavy parcels.

STIFLE

Week
14D

To smother, suppress, withhold or curb.

The teenager **stifled** a yawn as she tried to listen to the speaker on stage.

RUGGED

Week
14E

Ground having a rough, uneven, jagged, rocky or hilly surface.

Standing on the clifftop, the detective took in the **rugged** view before her.

- **FEUD**
- **HOIST**
- **WICK**
- **PERSPIRE**
- **OCCUPY**

WEEK 15

FEUD

Week
15A

A prolonged or bitter quarrel or dispute, especially between two families or tribes.

The youngest son continued the family **feud** by attacking his cousin online.

HOIST

Week
15B

To raise, lift or haul up, especially using ropes, pulleys or by other mechanical means.

The builder used the pulley to **hoist** the bundle of tiles onto the roof.

WICK

Week
15C

Strip of thread or material feeding a flame with fuel in the centre of a candle or lamp.

The orange flame danced around the **wick** in the lamp on the nightstand.

PERSPIRE

Week
15D

To sweat, especially when very warm as a result of heat or exercise.

She had no sooner started her exercise regime when she began to **perspire**.

OCCUPY

Week
15E

To live in or be the tenant of; to take up or fill (either a space or time or place).

The jigsaw managed to **occupy** the small boy for the afternoon.

- **JOVIAL**
- **DYED**
- **KERB**
- **LAUNDRY**
- **NUMB**

WEEK 16

JOVIAL

Week
16A

Good humoured, hearty, merry, joyous.

The homeless woman was **jovial** in manner, despite her difficult situation.

DYED

Week
16B

To change the colour of something like hair, fabric or wood.

The principal's face betrayed her disapproval of the girl's blue-**dyed** hair.

KERB

Week
16C

The stone edging to a pavement or path,
separating it from the road.

The chauffeur parked the
limousine along the **kerb**
outside the courthouse.

LAUNDRY

Week
16D

Articles of clothing that have been or are to be washed.

The girl dropped her dirty soccer kit into the **laundry** basket after training.

NUMB

Week
16E

Deprived of feeling or the ability to move.

The old lady's toes were **numb** as she waited for the bus in the perishing cold.

- **GNOME**
- **NOVICE**
- **MURMUR**
- **MOCK**
- **STOWAWAY**

WEEK 17

GNOME

Week
17A

A dwarfish, colourful character usually displayed in a garden.

The detective noticed the impish smile on the garden **gnome** as he knocked on the door.

NOVICE

Week
17B

A beginner or an inexperienced person.

The supervisor showed the **novice** how to work the machine in the factory.

MURMUR

Week
17C

A mumbled or private expression of
discontent.

There was a **murmur** of
dissatisfaction in the room
due to the loss of jobs.

MOCK

Week
17D

To ridicule, scoff at, tease, mimic or imitate

The group of boys **mocked** the rider who fell off his bicycle.

STOWAWAY

Week
17E

A person who hides aboard a ship or aircraft to avoid paying the fare.

The **stowaway** was found hiding behind two large cases in the luggage hold.

- **MAUL**
- **TRIVIAL**
- **ERODE**
- **OMEN**
- **UNEARTH**

WEEK 18

MAUL

Week
18A

To beat, bruise or injure while being shoved or handled roughly.

The wild dogs **mauled** the terrified climber as he entered the forest.

TRIVIAL

Week
18B

Of very little importance or value.

The rich queen was only concerned with **trivial** matters, much to her aide's dismay.

ERODE

Week
18C

To wear away, destroy or be destroyed gradually.

The sand dunes had been **eroded** by the constant crashing of the waves.

OMEN

Week
18D

Something that happens that is believed to foretell good or evil circumstances in the future.

The sight of the bird, so early in the season, was a good **omen** for the tribe.

UNEARTH

Week
18E

To discover by searching or by digging or rummaging.

Her grandson **unearthed** evidence of his relation's heroism in the trunk in the attic.

- **FLAW**
- **HOARD**
- **TOXIC**
- **DOWNPOUR**
- **CITRUS**

WEEK 19

FLAW

A defect or fault that spoils the perfection of something; an imperfection, a blemish, a crack.

The vase was on sale as it had a **flaw** in the design on the front.

HOARD

Week
19B

A stock, supply or store of something for future use eg. money or treasure.

The elderly man had a **hoard** of valuables stored secretly in his garage.

TOXIC

Week
19C

Of or related to poison; caused by poison.

The flames rising from the burning building caused a plume of **toxic** smoke.

DOWNPOUR

Week
19D

A heavy fall of rain.

The skies darkened,
causing a sudden and
unexpected **downpour**.

CITRUS

Week
19E

Relating to juicy fruits such as orange, lemon, lime, grapefruit

The restaurant offered a variety of **citrus** fruits as part of its breakfast menu.

- **THWART**
- **PROWL**
- **PECAN**
- **ASCEND**
- **POTION**

WEEK 20

THWART

Week
20A

To frustrate or spoil a plan or purpose; to oppose successfully.

The businesswoman succeeded in **thwarting** the plan to fire her.

PROWL

Week
20B

To roam about, in search of prey or for something to steal.

The teenager seemed to **prowl** in the alley, near the estate.

PECAN

Week
20C

A tall hickory tree or the edible nut produced by this tree.

The chef emptied the **pecans** onto a tray and placed them in the oven to toast.

ASCEND

Week
20D

To move, climb or go upwards.

The girl quickly **ascended** the tall tree and hid among the leaves.

POTION

Week
20E

A drink, especially one supposed to have medicinal, poisonous or magical powers.

The princess drank the dark **potion** and immediately fell into a deep sleep.

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