

# BRITAIN

## FOR LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

### List of definitions of tricky words

#### 01 Country and people

| PAGE | WORD               | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|--------------------|---|
| 9    | <b>rostrum</b>     | a small raised platform that a person stands on to make a speech, conduct music, receive a prize, etc.        |
| 10   | <b>rural</b>       | connected with or like the countryside  |
| 13   | <b>immigration</b> | the process of coming to live permanently in a country that is not your own; the number of people who do this |

#### 02 History

| PAGE | WORD            | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|-----------------|--|
| 15   | <b>mystery</b>  | the quality of being difficult to understand or explain, especially when this makes sb/sth seem interesting and exciting |
| 15   | <b>esoteric</b> | likely to be understood or enjoyed by only a few people with a special knowledge or interests                            |
| 15   | <b>caste</b>    | a social class, especially one whose members do not allow others to join it  |
| 17   | <b>folklore</b> | the traditions and stories of a country or community   |
| 17   | <b>chivalry</b> | the religious and moral system of behaviour which the perfect knight was expected to follow                              |

#### 03 Geography

| PAGE | WORD                 | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|----------------------|---|
| 32   | <b>precipitation</b> | rain, snow, etc. that falls; the amount of this that falls  |
| 41   | <b>topography</b>    | the physical features of an area of land, especially the position of its rivers, mountains, etc.; the study of these features |

#### 04 Identity

| PAGE | WORD                  | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|-----------------------|---|
| 44   | <b>allegiance</b>     | a person's continued support for a political party, religion, ruler, etc.                         |
| 48   | <b>aspiration</b>     | a strong desire to have or do sth   |
| 49   | <b>nuclear family</b> | a family that consists of father, mother and children, when it is thought of as a unit in society |

#### 05 Attitudes

| PAGE | WORD              | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 59   | <b>prowess</b>    | great skill at doing sth   |
| 59   | <b>effeminate</b> | (of a man or a boy) looking, behaving or sounding like a woman or a girl   |
| 59   | <b>loophole</b>   | a mistake in the way a law, contract, etc. has been written which enables people to legally avoid doing sth that the law, contract, etc. had intended them to do |
| 59   | <b>barbarism</b>  | cruel or violent behaviour   |

## 06 Political life

| PAGE | WORD                  | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|-----------------------|--|
| 69   | satire                | a way of criticizing a person, an idea or an institution in which you use humour to show their faults or weaknesses; a piece of writing that uses this type of criticism |
| 70   | perks                 | something you receive as well as your wages for doing a particular job   |
| 76   | paradoxical           | (from paradox) a person, thing or situation that has two opposite features and therefore seems strange   |
| 77   | political correctness | (PC) the principle of avoiding language and behaviour that may offend particular groups of people  |
| 77   | heckling              | (from heckle) to interrupt a speaker at a public meeting by shouting out questions or rude remarks   |

## 07 The monarchy

| PAGE | WORD         | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|--------------|--|
| 80   | treason      | the crime of doing sth that could cause danger to your country, such as helping its enemies during a war |
| 83   | reign (noun) | the period during which a king, queen, emperor, etc. rules   |
| 83   | abdication   | (from abdicate) to give up the position of being king or queen   |

## 08 The government

| PAGE | WORD            | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|-----------------|---|
| 87   | patronage       | the system by which an important person gives help or a job to sb in return for their support   |
| 87   | interventionist | (from interventionism) the policy or practice of a government influencing the economy of its own country, or of becoming involved in the affairs of other countries |

## 09 Parliament

| PAGE | WORD     | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|----------|--|
| 92   | commoner | a person who does not come from a royal or noble family                                    |
| 94   | oratory  | the skill of making powerful and effective speeches in public                              |
| 95   | verbatim | exactly as spoken or written   |
| 98   | relic    | an object, a tradition, etc. that has survived from a period of time that no longer exists |

## 10 Elections

| PAGE | WORD         | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|--------------|---|
| 99   | illogical    | not sensible or thought about in a logical way  |
| 100  | ballot paper | the piece of paper on which sb marks who they are voting for  |
| 102  | hoarding     | a large board on the outside of a building or at the side of the road, used for putting advertisements on |
| 103  | extravaganza | a large, expensive and impressive entertainment   |

## 11 The law

| PAGE | WORD           | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|----------------|---|
| 107  | counterculture | a way of life and set of ideas that are opposed to those accepted by most of society; a group of people who share such a way of life and such ideas |
| 110  | quash          | to officially say that a decision made by a court is no longer valid or correct   |
| 111  | eloquence      | (from eloquent) able to use language and express your opinions well, especially when you are speaking in public                                     |
| 111  | archaic        | very old-fashioned  |

## 12 International relations

| PAGE | WORD              | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 113  | <b>chauvinism</b> | an aggressive and unreasonable belief that your own country is better than all others                    |
| 114  | <b>colonial</b>   | connected with or belonging to a country that controls another country                                   |
| 114  | <b>imperial</b>   | connected with an empire   |
| 119  | <b>stalemate</b>  | a disagreement or a situation in a competition in which neither side is able to win or make any progress |
| 120  | <b>sectarian</b>  | connected with the differences that exist between groups of people who have different religious views    |

## 13 Religion

| PAGE | WORD               | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|--------------------|--|
| 122  | <b>secular</b>     | not connected with spiritual or religious matters  |
| 123  | <b>veto (noun)</b> | the right to refuse to allow sth to be done, especially the right to stop a law from being passed or a decision from being taken |
| 124  | <b>doctrine</b>    | a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a Church, a political party, etc.  |
| 126  | <b>austere</b>     | allowing nothing that gives pleasure   |
| 128  | <b>dogma</b>       | a belief or set of beliefs held by a group or organization, which others are expected to accept without argument                 |
| 128  | <b>pagan</b>       | used in the past by Christians to describe a person who did not believe in Christianity  |

## 14 Education

| PAGE | WORD             | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|------------------|---|
| 130  | <b>elite</b>     | a group of people in a society, etc. who are powerful and have a lot of influence, because they are rich, intelligent, etc. |
| 136  | <b>streaming</b> | the policy of dividing school students into groups of the same level of ability   |

## 15 The economy and everyday life

| PAGE | WORD                 | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|----------------------|---|
| 41   | <b>encapsulate</b>   | to express the most important parts of sth in a few words, a small space or a single object                     |
| 143  | <b>confederation</b> | an organization consisting of countries, businesses, etc. that have joined together in order to help each other |
| 146  | <b>disparity</b>     | a difference, especially one connected with unfair treatment  |

## 16 The media

| PAGE | WORD               | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|--------------------|--|
| 151  | <b>circulation</b> | the usual number of copies of a newspaper or magazine that are sold each day, week, etc.   |
| 153  | <b>mainstream</b>  | the ideas and opinions that are thought to be normal because they are shared by most people; the people whose ideas and opinions are most accepted |
| 157  | <b>tacit</b>       | that is suggested indirectly or understood, rather than said in words  |
| 159  | <b>impetus</b>     | something that encourages a process or activity to develop more quickly  |

## 17 Transport

| PAGE | WORD                | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|---------------------|---|
| 161  | <b>commuter</b>     | a person who travels into a city to work each day, usually from quite far away    |
| 166  | <b>thoroughfare</b> | a public road or street used by traffic, especially a main road in a city or town |

## 18 Welfare

| PAGE | WORD           | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|----------------|--|
| 167  | superannuation | a pension that you get, usually from your employer, when you stop working when you are old and that you pay for while you are working; the money that you pay for this |
| 168  | means test     | an official check of sb's wealth of income in order to decide if they are poor enough to receive money from the government, etc. for a particular purpose              |
| 169  | capitation     | a tax or payment of an equal amount for each person; the system of payments of this kind   |

## 19 Housing

| PAGE | WORD                  | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|-----------------------|--|
| 173  | status symbol         | a possession that people think shows their high social status and wealth |
| 176  | reverence             | a feeling of great respect or admiration for sb/sth                      |
| 177  | aesthetic (adjective) | concerned with beauty and art and the understanding of beautiful things  |

## 20 Food and drink

| PAGE | WORD     | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|----------|---|
| 183  | bland    | not having a strong or interesting taste  |
| 185  | decadent | having or showing low standards, especially moral ones, and an interest only in pleasure and enjoyment rather than serious things |
| 186  | brewery  | a factory where beer is made; a company that makes beer   |

## 21 Sport and competition

| PAGE | WORD              | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 193  | intelligentsia    | the people in a country or society who are well educated and are interested in culture, politics, literature, etc. |
| 195  | antagonism        | feelings of hatred and opposition  |
| 197  | somersault (verb) | to turn over completely in the air   |
| 198  | steeplechase      | a long race in which horses have to jump over fences, water, etc.  |

## 22 The arts

| PAGE | WORD        | OALD DEFINITION   |
|------|-------------|---|
| 200  | apathy      | the feeling of not being interested in or enthusiastic about anything                           |
| 201  | philistine  | a person who does not like or understand art, literature, music, etc.                           |
| 201  | whodunnit   | a story, play, etc. about a murder in which you do not know who did the murder until the end    |
| 202  | avant-garde | new and very modern ideas in art, music or literature that are sometimes surprising or shocking |

## 23 Holidays and special occasions

| PAGE | WORD            | OALD DEFINITION  |
|------|-----------------|--|
| 208  | funfair         | a type of entertainment in a field or park at which people can ride on large machines and play games to win prizes   |
| 208  | bingo (noun)    | a game in which each player has a card with numbers on. Numbers are called out in no particular order and the first player whose numbers are all called out, or who has a line of numbers called out, wins a prize |
| 208  | pier            | a long structure built in the sea and joined to the land at one end, often with places of entertainment on it  |
| 209  | package holiday | a holiday/vacation that is organized by a company at a fixed price and that includes the cost of travel, hotels, etc.  |