

**acquaintance** /{speaker}{e}kweInt{e}ns/ noun

1 [C] a person that you know but who is not a close friend:  
Claire has a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. \* He's just a business acquaintance. \* I bumped into an old acquaintance on the train.

2 [U,C] ~ (with sb) (formal) slight friendship:  
He hoped their acquaintance would develop further.

3 [U,C] ~ with sth (formal) knowledge of sth:  
I had little acquaintance with modern poetry.

#### IDIOMS

make sb's acquaintance | make the acquaintance of sb (formal)  
to meet sb for the first time:

I am delighted to make your acquaintance, Mrs Baker. \* I made the acquaintance of several musicians around that time.

of your acquaintance (formal) that you know:  
No one else of my acquaintance was as rich or successful.

on first acquaintance (formal) when you first meet sb:  
Even on first acquaintance it was clear that he was not 'the right type'.  
moreatNODv.

**aunt** /{speaker}a:nt; AmE {speaker}ɑ̃ nt/ noun

1 the sister of your father or mother; the wife of your uncle:  
Aunt Alice \* My aunt lives in Canada.

2 (informal) used by children, with a first name, to address a woman who is a friend of their parents  
see also AGONY AUNT

**boss** /{speaker}b{a}s; AmE {speaker}b{o}:s/ noun, verb, adjective  
noun

1 a person who is in charge of other people at work and tells them what to do:

I'll ask my boss if I can have the day off. \* I like being my own boss (= working for myself and making my own decisions). \* Who's the boss (= who's in control) in this house?

2 (informal) a person who is in charge of a large organization:

the new boss at IBM \* Hospital bosses protested at the decision.

IDIOMS see SHOWv.

verb [VN] ~ sb (about / around) to tell sb what to do in an aggressive and/or annoying way:

I'm sick of you bossing me around!

adjective (slang, especially BrE) very good

**classmate** /{speaker}kla:smeIt; AmE {speaker}klɑ̃ s-/ noun

a person who is or was in the same class as you at school or college

**colleague** /{speaker}k{a}li:g; AmE {speaker}ka:-/ noun  
a person that you work with, especially in a profession or a business:  
a colleague of mine from the office \* We were friends and colleagues  
for more than 20 years. \* the Prime Minister and his Cabinet  
colleagues

**cousin** /{speaker}k{A}zn/ noun

1 (also first cousin) a child of your aunt or uncle:  
She's my cousin. \* We're cousins.  
seealsoSECONDCOUSIN, REMOVE

2 a person who is in your wider family but who is not closely  
related to you:

He's a distant cousin of mine.

3 [usuallypl.] a way of describing people from another  
country who are similar in some way to people in your own country:  
our American cousins

**flatmate** /{speaker}flætmeIt/ (BrE) (AmE room-mate) noun  
a person who shares a flat/apartment with one or more others

**principal** /{speaker}prɪns{e}pl/ adjective, noun

adjective [onlybeforenoun] most important; main:  
The principal reason for this omission is lack of time. \* New roads will  
link the principal cities of the area. \* Tourist revenue is now our  
principal source of wealth. \* My principal concern is to get the job  
done fast. \* The violins have the principal tune.

noun

1 (BrE) the person who is in charge of a college or a  
university:

Peter Brown, principal of St John's college

seealsoDEAN

2 (AmE) = HEADTEACHER:  
Principal Ray Smith

3 [usuallysing.] (finance) an amount of money that you lend  
to sb or invest to earn interest

4 the person who has the most important part in a play, an  
opera, etc:

The performance of the two principals is disappointing.

5 (technical) a person that you are representing, especially  
in business or law:

The shareholders are principals and the managers are agents.

mother-in-law noun

(plural mothers-in-law) the mother of your husband or wife  
compare FATHER-IN-LAW

**niece** /{speaker}ni:s/ noun

the daughter of your brother or sister; the daughter of your husband's or wife's brother or sister  
compare NEPHEW

**stepmother** /{speaker}stepm{A}{e}(r)/ noun

the woman who is married to your father but who is not your real mother

**mother-in-law** noun

(plural mothers-in-law) the mother of your husband or wife  
compare FATHER-IN-LAW

**neighbour** (BrE) (AmE neighbor) /{speaker}neIb{e}(r)/ noun

- 1 a person who lives next to you or near you:  
We've had a lot of support from all our friends and neighbours. \* Our next-door neighbours are very noisy.
- 2 a country that is next to or near another country:  
Britain's nearest neighbour is France. \* peace treaties between Israel and its neighbours
- 3 a person or thing that is standing or situated next to another person or thing:  
Stand quietly, children, and try not to talk to your neighbour. \* The tree fell slowly, its branches caught in those of its neighbours.
- 4 (literary) any other human being:  
We should all love our neighbours.