

Word/Phrase	Part of speech	IPA (UK)	IPA (US)	Definition	Sample sentence
Describing art					
acclaimed	adjective	ə'kleɪmd		publicly written and talked about in an admiring way	It was an internationally acclaimed production, praised by critics worldwide.
appalling	adjective	ə'pɔ:lɪŋ	ə'pɔ:lɪŋ	very bad or disappointing	The jokes were absolutely appalling .
awesome	adjective	'ɔ:s(ə)m	'ɔ:səm	extremely good	My trip around the world was an awesome experience.
groundbreaking	adjective	'graʊn(d),breɪkɪŋ		using new methods or achieving new results	This study is groundbreaking , with many new findings on plant diversity.
hilarious	adjective	hɪ'leəriəs	hɪ'lerɪəs	extremely funny	For some reason, she finds his jokes hilarious .
iconic	adjective	aɪ'kɒnɪk	aɪ'kənɪk	very famous and well-known, and believed to represent a particular idea	His photographs have become iconic images of war.
overrated	adjective	əʊvə'reɪtɪd	oʊvər'reɪtəd	not as good or important as some people believe	The movie is so overrated and just doesn't live up to its publicity.
pretentious	adjective	pri'tenʃəs		intended to impress other people but seeming false or too deliberate	Most of the songs have such pretentious lyrics.
repetitive	adjective	rɪ'petətɪv		involving repeating the same action over long periods of time	A lot of my work is very repetitive and I'm just doing the same things all day long.
sensational	adjective	sen'seɪf(ə)nəl		very attractive, impressive or good	The best part of the performance was the singing, which was just sensational !
tedious	adjective	'ti:diəs	'tɪdiəs	boring and continuing for too long	It was such a tedious trip with nothing to see or do the whole time we were traveling.
thought-provoking	adjective	'θɔ:t prə,vʊkɪŋ	'θɔt prə,vʊkɪŋ	interesting in a way that makes you think of new ideas or that changes your attitude to something	It was an incredibly thought-provoking documentary.
unconventional	adjective	ʌnkən'venʃ(ə)nəl		different from what most people consider to be usual or normal	He has a really unconventional sense of style.
underrated	adjective	ʌndə'reɪtɪd		if a person or thing is underrated, especially a performer, writer or athlete, most people do not recognize how good that person or thing really is	He's seriously underrated as an actor.
Ideas and inspiration					
bounce ideas off someone	verb phrase	baʊns aɪ'diəz ɒf	baʊns aɪ'diəz ɒf	to discuss something with someone in order to get their opinion and make a decision	If you have a moment, can I bounce a few ideas off you ?
draw inspiration from something	verb phrase	dɹɔ: ɪnspə'reɪʃən frəm	dɹɔ ɪnspə'reɪʃən frəm	to get a new idea that helps you to do or create something	I drew inspiration from the surrealists when painting and copied some elements from their style.

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get a fresh perspective on something	verb phrase	get ə freʃ pə'spektɪv ɒn	get ə freʃ pər'spektɪv ən	to get a new way of thinking about something	I got a fresh perspective on life when I took a break from work.
get into the right state of mind	verb phrase	get 'ɪntuː ðə raɪt steɪt ɒv maɪnd		to start thinking or feeling appropriately for a task ahead	Meditation helps me get into the right state of mind for work.
hit a wall	verb phrase	hɪt ə wɔːl	hɪt ə wɔl	to reach a point where you are physically or mentally unable to make progress or to continue doing something	Emily's teacher says she has hit a wall with her schoolwork.
immerse yourself in something	verb phrase	ɪ'mɜːs jɔː'self ɪn	ɪ'mɜrs jər'self ɪn	to spend most of your time doing something or thinking about it	Sandra immersed herself in work to try and forget her problems at home.
jump start someone's creativity	verb phrase	dʒʌmp stɑːt	dʒʌmp stɑrt	to make someone more creative in a very active and successful way	Going for a run usually jump starts my creativity .
run with an idea	verb phrase	rʌn wɪð ən aɪ'dɪə		to take control of something such as a plan or a problem and add your own ideas in order to make it successful	Let's pick up this idea and run with it .
trust your instincts	verb phrase	trʌst jɔːr 'ɪnstɪŋkts	trʌst jʊər 'ɪnstɪŋkts	to behave according to your natural ability to know what to do in a particular situation	If in doubt, trust your instincts .
work from a blank canvas	verb phrase	wɜːk frəm ə blæŋk 'kænvəs	wɜrk frʌm ə blæŋk 'kænvəs	to start a project with no pre-set ideas about what to do or how to do it	I'd never done anything like this before, so I was working from a blank canvas .
Compound adjectives					
highly-motivated	adjective	'haɪli 'məʊtɪveɪtɪd	'haɪli 'moʊtə'veɪtəd	extremely enthusiastic and determined to achieve success	We have very highly-motivated teachers who are enthusiastic and serious about their work.
late-night	adjective	leɪt naɪt		happening late at night	I bought some snacks at a late-night store.
open-minded	adjective	'əʊpən 'maɪndɪd	'əʊpən 'maɪndəd	willing to consider new ideas	She's very open-minded about trying new food.
part-time	adjective	pɑːt taɪm	part taɪm	done for only part of the time that an activity is usually performed	I need a part-time job so I still have time to study when I'm not working.
self-employed	adjective	ˌself ɪm'plɔɪd		working for yourself instead of for an employer and paid directly by the people who you provide a product or service to	Have you ever considered being self-employed ?
thick-skinned	adjective	ˌθɪk 'skɪnd		not easily upset or offended by what other people say about you	You have to be thick-skinned to be a police officer.
well-paid	adjective	wel peɪd		a well-paid person receives a good amount of money for work	She's very well-paid with one of the highest salaries in the company.
world-famous	adjective	wɜːld 'feɪməs	wɜrld 'feɪməs	known by people in all parts of the world	The world-famous hotel has hosted many celebrities.