

2 a meeting with someone important *The prime minister was granted an audience with the King.*

**audio** *adjective*

connected with sound that is recorded with electronic equipment *an audio book*

**audiovisual** *adjective*

audiovisual aids or materials use recorded sounds and pictures

**audition** *noun* **auditions**

a short performance in which someone does something creative such as sing, dance, act or play music. Judges decide if they are good enough to be in the show, film, play or band, for example.

**audition** *verb*

**auditions, auditioning, auditioned**  
to take part in an audition

**auditorium** *noun* **auditoriums**

an auditorium is the part of a theatre, cinema or concert hall where the audience sits

**August** *noun*

the eighth month of the year, between July and September. August has 31 days.

ORIGIN from *Augustus*, the name of the first emperor of Rome (27 BC)

**unt** *noun* **aunts**

someone's aunt is the sister of their father or mother, or the wife of their uncle

**auntie** or **aunty** *noun* **aunties**

an informal word for an aunt

**au pair** ['oh-pair'] *noun* **au pairs**

a young person who stays with a family in another country, looking after the children and doing the housework, so that he or she can learn a foreign language

ORIGIN from French *au pair* 'on an equal footing', because an au pair helps in the house instead of paying for meals and a place to stay

**aura** *noun* **auras**

a particular feeling that you get from a place or person *There was an aura of mystery surrounding the old house.*

**aural** *adjective*

connected with hearing *The film has some strange aural effects.*

LANGUAGE EXTRA be careful not to confuse *aural* and *oral*. *Oral* means 'connected with speaking', as in *a Spanish oral exam*.

**austere** *adjective*

- 1 simple and without anything pleasant or comfortable *the austere life of a monk*
- 2 plain and simple *the austere style of the old church*
- 3 someone who is austere is very strict

**austerity** *noun*

- 1 a government policy of reducing the money it spends *tough austerity measures*
- 2 a time when people are poorer because the money situation of a country is bad

**Australia** *noun*

a continent and country south-east of Asia and south of the Equator

**Australian** *adjective*

connected with Australia

**Australian** *noun* **Australians**

someone from Australia

**Austria** *noun*

a country in Central Europe

**Austrian** *adjective*

connected with Austria

**Austrian** *noun* **Austrians**

someone from Austria

**authentic** *adjective*

- 1 real *an authentic painting by Matisse; authentic Italian food*
  - 2 correct in every way *an authentic description of the Battle of Hastings*
- authenticity** *noun*

**authenticate** *verb*

**authenticates, authenticating, authenticated**  
to prove that something is not false, such as a painting or computer software

**author** *noun* **authors**

someone who writes a book or something else such as an article, poem or report

**authorisation** *noun* **authorisations**

official permission

LANGUAGE EXTRA also spelt *authorization*

**authorize** *verb*

**authorises, authorising, authorised**  
to give official permission for something  
*Who authorised the class to leave?*

LANGUAGE EXTRA also spelt *authorize*

**authority** *noun* **authorities**

- 1 the power to tell people what to do *You have no authority to order me around.*
- 2 the authorities are the people in charge of a country, area or town, such as the police or the government
- 3 an organisation that controls a public service *She complained about the noise to the local authority.*
- 4 a person that people trust because he or she knows a lot about a subject *My teacher is an authority on Dickens.*
- 5 a book that has a lot of very accurate information about something

**autistic** *adjective*

if someone is autistic, they have a disability that makes it difficult for them to communicate with other people

**autism** *noun*

**auto-** *prefix*

- 1 of or done by yourself *autobiography*
- 2 working by itself *automatic*

**autobiography** *noun* **autobiographies**

a book someone writes about their own life

**autobiographical** *adjective*

LANGUAGE EXTRA a book someone writes about someone else's life is called a *biography*

**autograph** *noun* **autographs**

a famous person's name that they write down somewhere, for example in a book, for someone else to keep so that they remember the famous person

SYNONYM *signature*

ORIGIN from Greek *autographos* (*autos* 'self' and *graphos* 'written')

**automate** *verb*

**automates, automating, automated**  
to make computers and machines do something instead of people *a fully automated office*

**automatic** *adjective*

- 1 working by itself *an automatic door*
- 2 an automatic action that someone does is one done without thinking
- 3 if something that someone gets or gives is automatic, it happens because of a rule or a particular situation and nothing can stop it happening *an automatic fine*
- 4 an automatic car is one in which the gears change by themselves

**automatically** *adverb*

- 1 if something such as a machine works automatically, it works by itself without people doing anything
- 2 without thinking *I automatically answered the phone.*
- 3 because of a rule or a particular situation *You automatically receive a £10 voucher.*

**automation** *noun*

using computers and machines to do work instead of people

**automobile** *noun* **automobiles**

an American word for a car

**autopsy** *noun* **autopsies**

an examination of someone's dead body to find out how they died

SYNONYM *post-mortem*

**autumn** ['ort-erm'] *noun* **autumns**

the season between summer and winter when the leaves fall off trees and the weather starts to get cold **autumnal** *adjective*

**auxiliary** *adjective*

- 1 an auxiliary worker helps another worker *an auxiliary nurse*
- 2 an auxiliary piece of equipment helps the main equipment to work or makes it work again if it stops working *an auxiliary engine*
- 3 an auxiliary verb helps other verbs, for example to form different tenses

LANGUAGE EXTRA in English, an *auxiliary verb* is a very common verb such as *to have, to be* or *to do*. You use auxiliary verbs to make tenses such as *I have eaten, she is running* or *they did go, or passive forms such as you were seen*.

*compare:* **modal verb**

**auxiliary** *noun* **auxiliaries**

- 1 an auxiliary worker
- 2 an auxiliary verb

ORIGIN from Latin *auxilium* 'help'

**availability** *noun*

- 1 the availability of something is when you can find, use or buy it
- 2 the availability of someone is when they are not busy and are able to do something

**available** *adjective*

- 1 if something is available, you can find it, use it or buy it somewhere *Tickets are available now. Information is available online.*
- 2 if someone is available, they are not busy and they are able to do something *The head teacher is available to speak to us this afternoon.*