

If you know these 15 words, your English is EXCELLENT!

Ready to boost your English word power? Let's explore 15 amazing words together! We've got words you might use every day and some you've probably never heard before. We'll look at what each word means and how to use it in real life. Whether you love learning new words or just want a vocabulary boost, these new words will surely make your English more colourful. So, get your pen ready – it's time to learn some incredible new words!

15 amazing words from easyish to advanced

1

frothy (adj) /'frɒθi/

FROTH-ee

full of or covered with a large number of small bubbles

“The cappuccino was topped with a layer of **frothy** milk.”

The **'th' /θ/ sound** can be a bit tricky. We use the adjective **frothy** to describe liquids which have loads of air bubbles. Perhaps you've ordered yourself **a frothy coffee** or a **frothy hot chocolate**?

2

clock (v) /klɒk/

clock

to notice or become aware of sth.

“He **clocked** their suspicious behaviour and immediately reported it to security.”

No, we aren't talking about the noun 'clock.' Believe it or not, we can use '**clock**' as a verb. Clock actually has several meanings as a verb, such as:

- to achieve a specific time or speed
- to measure the speed of sth. in motion
- to strike or hit sb. especially on the head (informal)
- to illegally reduce a vehicle's odometer reading (British informal)

3

tinker (v) /'tɪŋkə/**TING**-kuh

to attempt to repair or improve something in a relaxed way, often to no useful effect

“He spent days **tinkering** with the old radio in the hope of getting it to work again.”

If you **tinker** with something, you make small changes in an attempt to improve or fix it. And why not just use the verb 'improve' or 'fix'? Well, we'll often choose the verb 'tinker' if we're not very hopeful that the object will be improved or fixed.

4

feign (v) /feɪn/

fayn

to pretend to be affected by something

“She **feigned** surprise when she heard the news, even though she already knew.”

If you **feign** something, you pretend to have a particular feeling. She feigned surprise means she pretended to be surprised. Feign surprise is a very strong collocation. We also often feign -

- enthusiasm
- interest
- illness

Also, notice the ‘**ei**’ spelling in **feign**. We normally write ‘ie’.

5

the sniffles (n) /ðə 'snɪflz/**SNIFF**-uhlz

a mild cold causing a runny nose

“Can you pass me the tissues? I’ve got **the sniffles**.”

The word ‘**sniff**’ is onomatopoeic meaning it sounds very similar to the word it describes. Words like **bang**, **swoosh** and **crack** are all onomatopoeic. Sniff is the sound you make when you breathe in through your nose. Have **the sniffles** is a super cute expression which means you have a slight cold.

6

peruse (v) /pə'ru:z/puh-**ROOZ**

to read something thoroughly or carefully

“There is a selection of newspapers and magazines for you to **peruse** at your leisure.”

We often use this **peruse** in a humorous way to mean read something, especially in a careful or thorough way. Be careful not to mix this up with the word ‘**pursue**’ /pə'sju:/, which means to try and achieve or get something.

7

berserk (adj) /bə'zɜ:k/ or /bə'sɜ:k/buh-**ZURK** or buh-**SURK**

out of control with anger or excitement

“My mum went **berserk** when she found out I took her car without asking.”

I pronounce this word with the **voiced /z/** - /bə'zɜ:k/, but you can also pronounce it with the **unvoiced /s/** - /bə'sɜ:k/. If someone **goes berserk**, they become uncontrollably angry. You can make it even stronger and say “**absolutely berserk**”. We sometimes use it in a slightly more positive way to describe extreme excitement:

- The crowd went **berserk** when Taylor Swift came on stage.



8

antithetical (adj) /,æntɪ'θetɪkl/an-ti-**THET**-uh-kuhl

directly the opposite of someone or something

“The act of violence was **antithetical** to our national values.”

Even though Taylor Swift uses it in one of her songs, **antithetical** is pretty formal, and you'll likely read it more often than you'll hear it.

9

parched (adj) /pɑ:tʃt/

partcht

dried out with heat; extremely thirsty

“I'm **parched** after that long hike.”

This is an informal expression that means very thirsty. We can also use it more generally to describe something that is incredibly dry, like **parched land, soil** or **lips**.

10

inculcate (v) /'ɪnkʌlkeɪt/**IN**-kul-kayt

to instil an attitude, idea or habit by persistent instruction



“My parents tried to **inculcate** a strong sense of responsibility in me from a young age.”

If you **inculcate** something in or into someone, you gradually put an idea, habit or attitude into their mind. This usually involves persistent instruction over a long period of time.

11

doomscrolling (n) /'du:mskrəʊlɪŋ/

DOOM-skroh-ling

the act of spending an excessive amount of screen time scrolling through social media, consuming negative news

“He realised his mood was getting worse because of his habit of **doomscrolling** before bed.”

This is a great word which combines the words ‘**doom**’ and ‘**scrolling**’. The word ‘**doomscrolling**’ refers to the action of addictively consuming negative news on social media, usually on a mobile device.

12

ASMR (n) /,eɪ es em 'ɑ:/

ay-es-em-**AR**

autonomous sensory meridian response: a relaxing sensation often triggered by gentle sounds or movements



“She watches **ASMR** videos to help her relax and fall asleep.”

These kinds of videos have become super popular on YouTube recently - maybe you're a fan? **ASMR** is an abbreviation of 'autonomous sensory meridian response'. It refers to the pleasant sensation you may feel, especially at the top of the head and back of the neck, when you hear certain gentle noises or movements. These feelings are often referred to as '**tingles**' and the noises or movements that cause them '**triggers**'.

13

cringeworthy (adj) /'krɪndʒwɜːði/

KRINJ-wur-dhee

so awkward or embarrassing that it makes you cringe (physically react with a feeling of discomfort)

“His attempt at telling a joke during the meeting was so **cringeworthy** that everyone fell silent and avoided eye contact.”

When you 'cringe', you feel horrendously embarrassed. Something you describe as **cringeworthy** makes you feel this way.

14

nimby (n) /'nɪmbi/

NIM-bee

not in my backyard

“The **nimbies** are opposing the development of a new wind farm in East Lancashire.”

Like ASMR, this is also an abbreviation, but we don't pronounce each letter separately. And, in British English, we don't write it in capital letters. In the US, you'll likely see it written like this - **NIMBY**.

Nimby stands for '**not in my backyard**' and refers to when people oppose developments close to them but do not object to them being built elsewhere. We can use **nimby** to describe the person and the attitude.

A backyard is similar to a garden, so you're essentially saying “No! I don't want that in my garden! You can build it in someone else's though.”

15 **bouncebackability** (n) / ˌbaʊnsbækəˈbɪləti/

bowns-back-uh-**BIL**-uh-tee

the ability to recover quickly from setbacks

“United's **bouncebackability** was evident when they won the match after losing their star player to injury early in the game.”

This phrase refers to the ability to recover quickly from setbacks, especially in sport. It comes from the phrasal verb '**to bounce back**', which means 'to recover.'



Bonus Words

Word	IPA Transcription	Meaning	Example Sentence
1 to muddle through phrasal verb	/ˌmʌdl 'θruː/ muh-dl THROO	to manage to cope or get by despite difficulties, often without a clear plan	"He muddled through the instructions, unsure of what to do next."
2 knack noun	/næk/ nack	a special skill or talent for doing something	"She has a knack for solving puzzles quickly."
3 clumsy adjective	/'klʌmzi/ KLUM-zee	awkward in movement or handling things	"Manny felt clumsy trying to use chopsticks for the first time."
4 gist noun	/dʒɪst/ jisst	the main or essential part of a matter	"I didn't catch every word, but I understood the gist of the conversation."
5 quirky adjective	/'kwɜːki/ KWUR-kee	unusual in an interesting or appealing way	"We loved the restaurant's quirky decor and atmosphere."
6 haphazard adjective	/hæp'hæzəd/ hap-HAZ-uhd	poorly organised with no clear plan or order	"The books were arranged on the shelves in a haphazard manner."
7 synergy noun	/'sɪnədʒi/ SIN-uh-jee	the combined power of a group of things when they are working together	"The synergy between the two departments improved overall productivity."



Word	IPA Transcription	Meaning	Example Sentence
8 stifling adjective	<i>/'stɑːflɪŋ/</i> STIGH-fling	extremely hot and uncomfortable; oppressive	"The stifling heat in the crowded room made it hard to concentrate."
9 meticulous adjective	<i>/mə'tɪkjələs/</i> muh-TICK-yuh-luhss	showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise	"The meticulous chef prepared each dish with perfect precision."
10 to squander verb	<i>/'skwɒndə/</i> SKWON-duh	to waste something, especially money or time, in a reckless way	"His uncle squandered his inheritance on luxury cars and holidays."
11 uncanny adjective	<i>/ʌn'kæni/</i> un-KAN-ee	strange or mysterious in an unsettling way	"The uncanny resemblance between the twins often confused people."
12 to ponder verb	<i>/'pɒndə/</i> PON-duh	to think about something carefully for a period of time	"She sat by the window, pondering her next career move."
13 vehemently adverb	<i>/'viːəməntli/</i> VEE-uh-muhnt-lee	in a forceful, passionate or intense manner	"He vehemently denied cheating on his wife."
14 conundrum noun	<i>/kə'nʌndrəm/</i> kuh-NUN-druhm	a confusing and difficult problem or question	"Solving the energy crisis is one of the great conundrums of our time."
15 serendipity noun	<i>/.serən'dɪpəti/</i> se-ruhn-DIP-uh-ti	the occurrence of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way	"Finding his dream job advertised in a newspaper someone had left in the taxi was a moment of serendipity for Tom."



Activity

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. The chef added egg whites to create a _____ texture for the mousse.
 - a. frothy
 - b. parched
 - c. berserk

2. The team's _____ was impressive, winning three games in a row after a bad start.
 - a. doomscrolling
 - b. bouncebackability
 - c. ASMR

3. After catching a mild cold, Lisa complained of having _____ all week.
 - a. ASMR
 - b. the sniffles
 - c. bouncebackability

4. The company's new policy was _____ to its previous stance on remote work.
 - a. antithetical
 - b. cringeworthy
 - c. parched

5. Despite feeling nervous, the actor tried to _____ confidence during the audition.
 - a. inculcate
 - b. peruse
 - c. feign

6. The mechanic spent hours _____ with the old engine, trying to improve its performance.
 - a. perusing
 - b. tinkering
 - c. inculcating

7. Emma quickly _____ the mistake in her colleague's report during the meeting.
 - a. clocked
 - b. tinkered
 - c. feigned

8. The librarian invited visitors to _____ the new collection of rare books.
 - a. clock
 - b. feign
 - c. peruse

Answers:

1.a, 2.b, 3.b, 4.a, 5.b, 6.b, 7.c, 8.c

