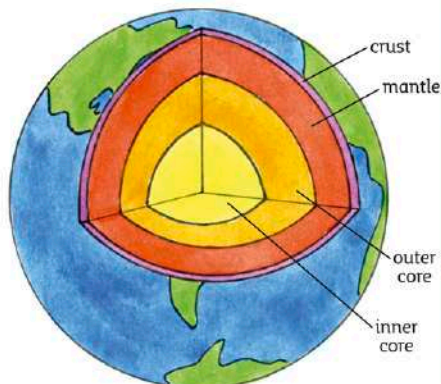


## earth

NOUN **1** The **Earth** is the planet we live on.

→ Have a look at the illustrations at **greenhouse effect**; **solar system**

NOUN **2** another word for **soil**



the structure of the Earth

## earthquake earthquakes

NOUN a violent shaking of the ground caused by movement of the Earth's crust

## earthworm earthworms

NOUN a worm that lives in the soil

## earwig earwigs

NOUN a small, brown insect with pincers at the tail end of its body

## WORD HISTORY

from Old English *earwiga* meaning ear insect, because it was once believed that earwigs would creep into people's ears

## ease eases, easing, eased

VERB **1** When something **eases**, it becomes less difficult or intense. • *The rain eased as the dark clouds were blown away.*

NOUN **2** a lack of difficulty or trouble • *She finished her homework with ease.*

VERB **3** If you **ease** something, you move it gently and slowly. • *He eased himself into the chair.*

## easel easels

NOUN an upright frame that supports a picture that someone is painting

## easily

ADVERB If you do something **easily**, you do it without difficulty.

## east

NOUN one of the four main points of the compass. The sun rises in the **east**. The abbreviation for **east** is E.

→ Have a look at the illustration at **compass point**

## Easter

NOUN a Christian religious festival celebrating Christ's return to life after his death

## WORD HISTORY

from Old English *Eostre*, a goddess whose festival was at the spring equinox

## eastern

ADJECTIVE in or from the east

## easy easier, easiest

ADJECTIVE If something is **easy**, you can do it without difficulty.

## eat eats, eating, ate, eaten

VERB When you **eat** food, you chew it and swallow it.

## ebb ebbs, ebbing, ebbd

VERB When the sea or the tide **ebbs**, it goes out.

## ebony

NOUN a hard, dark-coloured wood

## e-book e-books

NOUN a book for reading on an electronic device

## e-card e-cards

NOUN a digital card that you send over the internet • *I sent her an e-card on her birthday.*

## eccentric

ADJECTIVE Someone **eccentric** has habits or opinions that other people think are odd or peculiar.

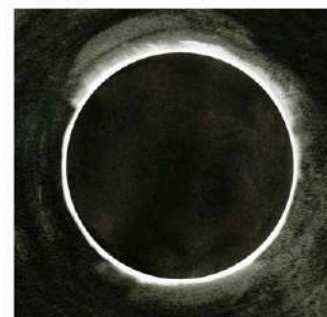
## echo echoes, echoing, echoed

NOUN **1** the repeat of a sound caused by the sound being reflected off a surface

VERB **2** When a sound **echoes**, it is reflected off a surface so that it can be heard again. • *Their cries echoed back from the mountain.*

## eclipse eclipses

NOUN A solar **eclipse** happens when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth and part or all of the sun is hidden from view. A lunar **eclipse** happens when the Earth is between the sun and the moon, so that for a short time you cannot see part or all of the moon.



solar eclipse



lunar eclipse

## ecological

ADJECTIVE involving the relationship between living things and their environment

## ecologically

ADVERB in a way that involves the relationship between living things and their environment

## ecologist ecologists

NOUN someone who studies the relationship between living things and their environment

## ecology

NOUN the relationship between living things and their environment, or the study of this relationship

## economical

ADJECTIVE If you are **economical**, you are not wasteful with money or things.

## economically

ADVERB **1** in a way that involves the way that industries, banks and businesses are organised to make money

ADVERB **2** in a way that is not wasteful with money or things

## economics

NOUN the system of organising the money, production and trade of a country, region or group

## economist economists

NOUN someone who studies the way in which the industries, banks and businesses are organised to make money

## economy economies

NOUN The **economy** of a country or region is the way in which the industries, banks and businesses are organised to make money.

## ecosystem ecosystems

NOUN the relationship between plants and animals and their environment

## ecstasy

NOUN a feeling of extreme happiness

## ecstatic

ADJECTIVE feeling extremely happy

## eczema

NOUN a skin condition that makes the skin rough and itchy

## edge edges

NOUN the part along the side or end of something

## edible

ADJECTIVE Things that are **edible** are safe to eat.

## edit edits, editing, edited

VERB **1** If you **edit** a piece of writing, you correct it.

VERB **2** If you **edit** a film or a television programme, you select different parts of it and arrange them in a particular order.

## edition editions

NOUN An **edition** of a book or newspaper is one or all of the copies printed at one time.

## editor editors

NOUN **1** someone who is responsible for the contents of a newspaper or magazine

NOUN **2** someone who edits a piece of writing, a film or a television programme

## editorial editorials

NOUN an article in a newspaper or magazine which expresses the opinion of the editor

## educate educates, educating, educated

VERB If you **educate** someone about something, you teach them so that they learn about it.

## education

NOUN When you receive an **education**, you get knowledge and understanding through learning.