

## epilepsy

**NOUN** a condition of the brain that causes seizures and periods of unconsciousness

## epileptic

**ADJECTIVE** caused by a brain condition that makes someone have seizures and periods of unconsciousness • *an epileptic seizure*

## epilogue epilogues

**NOUN** a passage or speech which is added to the end of a book or play as a conclusion

## episode episodes

**NOUN 1** one of the programmes in a serial on television or radio

**NOUN 2** an event or period of time, especially one that is important or unusual

## epitaph epitaphs

**NOUN** words about a person who has died, usually found on their gravestone

## equal equals, equalling, equalled

**ADJECTIVE 1** being the same in size, number or amount

**VERB 2** In mathematics, the symbol (=) stands for **equals**. The numbers before it equal the numbers after it. For example,  $3 + 3 = 6$ .

## equally

**ADVERB** to the same extent or in the same amounts • *We shared the sweets equally between the three of us.*

## equation equations

**NOUN** a mathematical number sentence stating that two amounts or values are the same •  $3 + 6 = 9$  is an **equation** because what is on the left equals what is on the right.

## equator

**NOUN** an imaginary line drawn round the middle of the Earth, lying halfway between the north and south poles

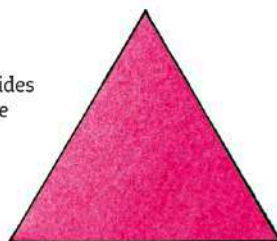
→ Have a look at the illustration

## equatorial

**ADJECTIVE** at or near the equator

## equilateral

**ADJECTIVE** An **equilateral** triangle has sides that are all the same length, and angles that are all the same size.



## equinox equinoxes

**NOUN** one of the two days in the year when the day and night are of equal length. The spring **equinox** occurs in March and the autumn **equinox** in September.

## WORD HISTORY

from Latin *aequinoctium* meaning equal night

## equip equips, equipping, equipped

**VERB** If you **equip** yourself, you collect together everything that you need to do a particular thing.

## equipment

**NOUN** all the things that are needed or used for a particular job or activity • *camping equipment*

## equivalent equivalents

**ADJECTIVE 1** equal in use, size, value or effect

**ADJECTIVE 2** In mathematics, **equivalent** means of equal value. Fractions can be **equivalent** if they are of equal value, for example  $\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$ . Different forms can be **equivalent**, for example  $0.5 = \frac{1}{2} = 50\%$ .

**NOUN 3** Something that has the same use, size, value or effect as something else. • *One mile is the equivalent of 1.6 kilometres.*

## erase erases, erasing, erased

**VERB** If you **erase** writing, you rub it out.

## erect erects, erecting, erected

**VERB** If you **erect** something, you put it up or construct it. • *They erected the tent in the garden.*

## erosion

**NOUN** the gradual wearing away of rock or soil by the weather, the sea or a river • *soil erosion*

## errand errands

**NOUN** If you run an **errand** for someone, you go a short distance to do a job for them, such as taking a message or fetching something.

## erratic

**ADJECTIVE** not following a regular pattern • *His attendance at school was erratic.*

## erratically

**ADVERB** in a way that does not follow a regular pattern

## error errors

**NOUN** a mistake, or something that is wrong

## erupt erupts, erupting, erupted

**VERB 1** When a volcano **erupts**, it throws out a lot of hot lava and ash.

**VERB 2** When a situation **erupts**, it begins suddenly and violently. • *A family row erupted.*

## escalator escalators

**NOUN** a mechanical, moving staircase

## escape escapes, escaping, escaped

**VERB 1** If you **escape** from someone or something, you succeed in getting away from them.

**VERB 2** If you **escape** something unpleasant or difficult, you succeed in avoiding it. • *She was lucky to escape serious injury.*

**NOUN 3** If you make an **escape** from somewhere, you manage to get away.

## escort escorts, escorting, escorted

**NOUN 1** a person or vehicle that travels with another in order to protect or guide them

**VERB 2** If you **escort** someone, you go with them somewhere, especially in order to protect or guide them. • *I will escort you round the new buildings.*

## Eskimo Eskimos

**NOUN** a name that used to be used for a member of a group of people who live in North America, Greenland and eastern Siberia. This name is not used now because it is rude. Those people in this group who come from North America and Greenland are called Inuits.

## especially

**ADVERB** You say **especially** to show that something applies more to one thing, person or situation than to others. • *It is always cold at the top of the mountain, especially when the wind is blowing.*

## espionage

**NOUN** the act of spying to get secret information, especially to find out military or political secrets

## WORD HISTORY

from French *espionner* meaning to spy

## essay essays

**NOUN** a short piece of writing on a particular subject, especially one written as an exercise by a student