

A **aversion** *NOUN*

*He had an obvious aversion to work of any kind.*

- **opposition, hostility, loathing** (of), **distaste** (for), **disgust** (for), **revulsion** (for or towards), **repugnance** (for or towards), **abhorrence** (of)

E **avert** *VERB*

*1 The outbreak of war helped avert a financial crisis.*

- **prevent, avoid, forestall**;

(MORE INFORMAL) **nip in the bud**

*2 She was sitting still with her head partly averted.*

- **turn away, turn aside**
- 3 It was difficult to avert the blow.*
- **deflect, avoid, parry, stave off**

J **avid** *ADJECTIVE*

*avid fans of the movies*

- **keen, eager, enthusiastic, ardent, passionate, fervent, devoted, dedicated, zealous**

M **avoid** *VERB*

*1 I try to avoid arguments.*

- **refrain from, stay clear of, steer clear of, eschew, circumvent**

OPPOSITES: **seek, confront**

*2 You cannot avoid responsibility for the decision.*

- **evade, escape, dodge, shirk, sidestep**;

(MORE INFORMAL) **get out of, duck**

OPPOSITE: **face up to**

*3 She had to swerve to avoid a collision.*

- **prevent, avert, circumvent**

*4 There was a woman at the party he was anxious to avoid.*

- **ignore, shun, keep away from, hide from, stay clear of, steer clear of**

OPPOSITE: **seek out**

*5 Women should avoid alcohol during pregnancy.*

- **refrain from, desist from, abstain from, eschew**

OPPOSITE: **indulge in**

X **await** *VERB*

*Relatives of the victims continued to await news.*

- **wait for, hope for, expect, look out for, be ready for, lie in wait for**

awake *ADJECTIVE*

*They are often not awake until ten or eleven. She felt too awake to go back to sleep again.*

- **conscious, alert, sleepless, wakeful, wide awake, lively, restless**

awake *VERB*

*1 The alarm awoke her at six.*

- **wake** (up), **waken, awaken, rouse, arouse**

*2 James awoke with a start.*

- **wake** (up), **waken, awaken, stir, come to**

*3 The accident awoke old fears about passenger safety.*

- **awaken, waken, rouse, arouse, stir up, revive, stimulate, trigger, bring back**

The normal word to use for the main meanings is *wake* or *wake up*. There are three other words, *awake*, *awaken*, and *waken*, but you cannot use *up* with any of these. All four words can be transitive (i.e. can take an object, as in the first example in this entry) or intransitive (i.e. can have no object, as in the second example). *Awaken* and *waken* are rather more formal or literary in effect than *awake* and *wake*.

awaken *VERB*

*1 The noise outside awakened us.*

*We awakened early.*

- **wake** (up), **waken, awake, stir, come to**

*2 The incident awakened strong feelings in her.*

- **awake, waken, rouse, arouse, stir up, revive, stimulate, trigger, bring back**

award *NOUN*

*1 By his third year he had won three awards.*

- **prize, trophy, decoration, medal**

*2 an award of £5,000*

- **payment, grant, subsidy, subvention, bursary**

*3 the award of an honour*

- **granting, bestowal, conferment, conferral**

award *VERB*

*1 MPs plan to award themselves a four per cent pay rise. Referee Hart did not even award a free kick.*

- **grant, give, present, accord, allot, assign**

*2 The college awarded her a scholarship.*

- **grant, present**; (MORE FORMAL) **endow, confer, bestow**

If you use *present* or *endow*, you say *The college presented (or endowed) her with a scholarship*. If you use *bestow* or *confer*,

you say *They bestowed (or conferred) a scholarship on her*. These words are much more formal in effect and are mainly used in official language.

### aware ADJECTIVE

#### > aware of

*The children were aware of the dangers.*

- conscious of, acquainted with, alive to, appreciative of, mindful of, informed about, knowledgeable about, sensitive to, familiar with, attentive to, conversant with, heedful of, observant of, responsive to

### awe NOUN

*He regarded her with awe.*

- wonder, wonderment, amazement, admiration, astonishment, respect, reverence, veneration, dread, fear, terror

### awe-inspiring ADJECTIVE

*The stained-glass windows were awe-inspiring in gold and blue.*

- awesome, breathtaking, dramatic, stunning, stupendous, spectacular, astonishing, grand, imposing, impressive, magnificent, amazing, marvellous, overwhelming, wonderful, fearsome; (POETIC) wondrous

### awful ADJECTIVE

*1 awful weather*

- bad, terrible, dreadful, atrocious, appalling, frightful, poor;

(MORE INFORMAL) lousy

OPPOSITES: wonderful, lovely

*2 an awful smell*

- unpleasant, disgusting, nasty, dreadful, terrible, horrible, horrid, foul, frightful, obnoxious

OPPOSITES: pleasant, lovely

*3 awful news an awful illness*

- grave, serious, bad, terrible, dreadful

OPPOSITE: excellent

*4 I felt awful for losing my temper.*

- guilty, remorseful, regretful, ashamed, sorry

### awkward ADJECTIVE

*1 The case was an awkward object to carry.*

- cumbersome, bulky, unmanageable, unwieldy, inconvenient

OPPOSITE: convenient

*2 He ran with awkward movements.*

- clumsy, ungainly, inept, inexperienced, unskilful, uncoordinated, graceless, blundering, bungling, gauche, gawky, ham-fisted, maladroit

OPPOSITES: skilful, dexterous, adroit

*3 This is an awkward situation to be in.*

- difficult, troublesome, trying, vexatious, vexing, annoying, perplexing

OPPOSITE: straightforward

*4 There was an awkward pause in the conversation.*

- embarrassing, uncomfortable, uneasy, delicate, tricky, unwelcome

OPPOSITE: comfortable

*5 He thought she was being extremely awkward.*

- unreasonable, unhelpful, uncooperative, stubborn, obstinate, perverse, tiresome, exasperating, wayward;

(MORE INFORMAL) bloody-minded, bolshevik

OPPOSITES: cooperative, obliging, amenable

### axe NOUN

*Daniel was walking towards the tree carrying a large axe.*

- hatchet, chopper, cleaver, battleaxe, tomahawk

### axe VERB

*The company will axe thousands of jobs.*

- terminate, discontinue, eliminate, cut, cancel, drop, get rid of, remove, withdraw

### axis NOUN

*The earth spins on its axis once a day.*

- centre line, central line, pivot

### axle NOUN

*Something had broken the car's back axle.*

- rod, shaft, spindle

## Bb

### baby NOUN

*The woman was holding a baby.*

- babe, infant, papoose, toddler, child

### baby ADJECTIVE

*a baby car*

- miniature, mini, micro, small-scale, midget, diminutive