

Complete list of items

1 board, bored

board (Noun)

Two restaurant executives are talking about expanding to a new location downtown.

B: Getting this construction permit is going to be more of a headache than I thought. I was hoping we could just get the city planning committee chairman to sign off on it, so we wouldn't have to bring it before the whole committee. But the chairman said we need to go to the next meeting.

A: Do you think we can still just ask the committee chairman at the meeting?

B: No...now we'll have to ask the board at the meeting.

bored (Adjective, participle)

Two neighbors are talking about volunteering with their city government.

B: The planning committee released their meeting schedule this week. They're not discussing my proposal for the new library exhibit until January.

A: I'm sorry to hear that. Are you still excited about volunteering at the meetings?

B: No...now I think I'll just be bored at the meetings.

2 booze, boos

booze (Noun)

Two friends are talking about a football game that B went to with their mutual friend, Tim.

A: How was the football game yesterday? I heard Tim got really drunk and started a fight!

B: It was great—we won in double overtime!

A: How could he get angry about winning?

B: Well...I think Tim just had too much booze.

boos (Noun, plural noun)

Two friends are talking about a football game that B went to with their mutual friend, Tim.

A: How was the football game? I'm impressed that you drove all the way up to Portland just to see your team play.

B: It was fine—we won, but Tim got pretty upset that he was the only one cheering for our team.

A: I bet that must have been frustrating.

B: Yeah...all his cheers were drowned out by boos.

3 brood, brewed

brood (Verb)

Two high school students are talking about their college applications.

A: Are you still upset about your SAT scores?

B: A little bit. I'm really worrying about my chances. My grades haven't been so great this year either.

A: Oh, I'm sorry. You've been stressing about this a lot. Do you want to talk about it?

B: I just brood sometimes. Thanks anyway, though.

brewed (Verb, past)

Two accountants are working together in an office in the late afternoon.

A: I'm heading out for lunch. Do you want anything?

B: I brought my lunch today. I'm feeling really tired anyway.

A: Oh, maybe you need some caffeine! Do you want me to pick up some tea while I'm out?

B: I just brewed some tea. Thanks anyway, though.

4 bruise, brews

bruise (Noun)

Two friends are talking about an intramural baseball game.

B: Anderson got hit with a baseball yesterday. The pitcher was trying to throw a fastball but missed.

A: Is Anderson all right?

B: Yeah, but he got a bad bruise.

brews (Noun, plural noun)

A has just arrived at a housewarming party. Most of the guests have been there for a little while.

B: If you're thirsty, Anderson brought all of this beer. He went to that fancy beer place he's always talking about.

A: Oh, I think he spends too much money there.

B: Yeah, but he got these good brews.

5 chard, charred

chard (Noun)

B is giving A a tour of a newly-planted vegetable garden.

A: You have a huge garden! I can't wait to come over for dinner in a few months.

B: Thanks! I've got some great Mediterranean recipes planned out. Be careful when you're stepping over the fence.

A: Oops, I think I stepped on something! What's growing here?

B: Hm... it looks like it's chard. It'll be fine, don't worry.

charred (Adjective, participle)

A is out on some errands, and is calling B on the phone.

A: Hi, I forgot to take the lasagna out of the oven. Could you check on it for me?

B: Sure, I'll go take a look.

A: Does it look okay? Did it burn around the sides of the pan?

B: Hm... it looks like it's charred. It's fine in the middle, though.

6 choose, chews

choose (Verb)

Two college students are walking back to their dorm.

B: We should get back soon, so we don't miss our course enrollment time.

A: Are you worried about getting a math section with a bad TA?

B: If we choose one, we'll be fine. I looked through the course reviews.

chews (Verb, third singular)

Two roommates are talking.

B: I read that lilies can be dangerous to animals.

A: Do you think we should keep them away from the cat?

B: If he chews one, he'll get sick. We should just put them outside.

7 clause, claws

clause (Noun)

Two lawyers are revising a contract that they've been hired to write.

B: Pat added this one sentence to the contract that I think is going to cause us a lot of trouble.

A: Yeah, and he also gave us a big list of other changes that he wanted us to make.

B: I think those are mostly low priority. We can work on those later.

A: So which of Pat's ideas do you want to start with?

B: Let's try changing his clause.

claws (Noun, plural noun)

Two roommates are talking about a cat that they just adopted.

B: The cat has been scratching the sofa a lot.

A: Should we get another scratching post?

B: Well, we don't have a lot of space in that room.

A: So how should we deal with the cat instead?

B: Let's try trimming his claws.

8 cruise, crews

cruise (Noun)

Two young friends are talking about their families' vacation plans.

B: My grandparents fired their travel agent last year. They started booking everything online themselves.

A: I didn't know your grandparents could use the internet.

B: Yeah... that's how they found their cruise.

crews (Noun, plural noun)

A naval historian is giving a lecture about Caribbean piracy.

B: The pirates would go from island to island, robbing townships and abducting young men.

A: Did they mostly just force people into serving on their ships?

B: Yes... that's how they found their crews.

9 daze, days

daze (Noun)

Two political campaign workers are talking about the election results that were announced the day before.

B: When Kate found out that she won the election, she was just in a state of total shock.

A: That's great! What did she say after the shock had worn off?

B: Once she'd gotten past the daze, she thanked all of her supporters. She was very thoughtful.

days (Noun, plural noun)

A journalist is talking to a co-worker about a political convention in New York City.

B: Every morning, we went to two or three fundraising meetings, then we listened to some of the candidates' speeches during lunch, then we had a five-hour press conference with the candidates immediately afterwards.

A: So it sounds like you were pretty busy! Did you get to go out at night, once all the events were over?

B: Once we'd gotten through the days, we just wanted to go to sleep. We were so exhausted.

10 duct, ducked

duct (Noun)

A repair person just arrived at an office on a hot summer day.

A: Maintenance sent me over to fix your broken air conditioning system. They said you're not getting any air flow here. Have you checked to see if your vent is blocked?

B: No...but this duct is blocked.

A: Okay, we'll take a look.

ducked (Verb, past)

Two friends on a baseball team are talking about the last pitch.

B: The pitcher threw a wild fastball. Grace almost got hit!

A: Did you see what happened? Did she swing in time?

B: No...but Grace ducked in time.

A: At least she's okay.

11 flex, flecks

flex (Verb)

Two construction workers are working on a new house.

B: Two more pallets of lumber just arrived. Could you get the forklift and take one of them to Sheila? She's putting up a frame for the shed in the back.

A: Sure, I'll go do that now.

B: Just be careful when you load them up.

A: Why? They look pretty sturdy.

B: We can't let them flex. If they're bent, we can't use them.

flecks (Noun, plural noun)

An art historian is showing a colleague around a Gothic church.

B: This is the area where the earthquake last month caused most of the damage. But there was a silver lining too—when that stairwell collapsed, we found a mural behind the broken stones.

A: Do you know yet if the mural was originally part of the building?

B: Not yet. A forensics team came in to analyze the paint on the mural. They took some samples last week, but we haven't gotten the results back yet.

A: Oh, I hope they didn't damage it! Did they scrape off any of the paint?

B: They scraped off some flecks. It's the normal procedure.

12 freeze, frees

freeze (Verb)

Two housemates are wrapping up a surprise birthday party that they put on for a friend.

B: It looks like most people are leaving now. I guess I'm going to start cleaning up a little bit.

A: There's so much cake leftover. I don't want it to go bad.

B: If we freeze it, it should be fine.

frees (Verb, third singular)

Two rural neighbors are talking about a friend, Rich, who is an avid hiker and animal-lover.

B: Rich decided to take care of the injured hawk that he found yesterday.

A: They don't do well in captivity. Wouldn't it be better to let it go?

B: If he frees it, it won't survive.

13 graze, grays

graze (Verb)

Two farmers are talking about their shared pasture, near a busy highway.

B: I'm worried about my sheep. I think the highway construction is scaring them.

A: Why do you say that?

B: They went back to the barn right away this morning. They usually graze first.

grays (Verb, third singular)

A retired couple is out for lunch together.

B: I keep finding all these white hairs around my temples!

A: I wouldn't worry about it. It makes you look distinguished.

B: I didn't think my hair would turn white right away. Hair usually grays first.

14 guise, guys

guise (Noun)

Two neighbors are talking on the porch.

A: Nice to chat with you. It looks like the plumbing company just got here, so I should go let them in.

B: Oh, did you call Northern Plumbing? Don't trust them with your money. Remember how Martha and Tony around the corner got scammed? That's them.

A: Are you sure it's the same company? It's a similar van, but I thought they were called Mission Plumbing.

B: It's a different guise, but it's the same company.

A: Oh...I'll keep an eye on them. Thanks.

B: No problem. Talk to you later!

guys (Noun, plural noun)

Two bicycle store employees are talking.

A: Do you have a minute to help me unload the delivery truck?

B: I want to keep an eye on those three customers. I think they're with the ring of bike thieves that's been trying to sell us parts.

A: Are you sure they're part of that group? I don't recognize them.

B: They got different guys, but they all work together.

A: How do you know?

B: I saw their van out in the parking lot.

15 hose, hoes

hose (Noun)

Two neighbors are talking about a community garden.

A: I left some things out yesterday when I was watering the plants. Did you put anything away?

B: Yeah, I put the hose away, back in the shed.

A: Thanks—sorry for leaving a mess everywhere.

hoes (Noun, plural noun)

Two neighbors are talking about a community garden.

A: I left some tools out yesterday when I was weeding the garden. Did you put any of them away?

B: Yeah, I put the hoes away, back in the shed.

A: Thanks—sorry for leaving a mess everywhere.

16 lapse, laps

lapse (Noun)

Two soccer players just finished a game.

B: Miranda was pretty upset after she let that goal through.

A: She went left and the ball went right. She almost never misjudges it like that.

B: Yeah...it was just a lapse. She'll bounce back tomorrow.

laps (Noun, plural noun)

Two athletes just finished a morning workout.

B: I'm exhausted. Let's take it easy this afternoon. My calves are going to be sore.

A: Did we spend too much time on the track?

B: Yeah...it was all the laps. I'll bounce back tomorrow.

17 lax, lacks

lax (Adjective)

Two students are walking to class.

A: The lecture started a couple minutes ago. Do you think the professor is going to mark us late?

B: I heard she doesn't actually care. I think she'll be pretty lax.

A: That's good to know.

lacks (Verb, third singular)

Two students are talking about a mutual friend.

A: Jay just told me that he's going out tonight. But this morning, he said he'd be up all night finishing the final paper for his class.

B: He doesn't have a great work ethic. It's something he really lacks.

A: Well, I'm sure he'll get his paper done eventually. He always manages to pull it off.

18 lynx, links

lynx (Noun)

A park ranger is giving a presentation on how they deal with injured animals.

B: Right now, we're caring for a dog and a wild cat that were injured by non-native predators. We're hoping that the cat will be well enough to be released back into the area soon.

A: Are you going to release the dog too?

B: No, just the lynx. We'll see if the dog can be put up for adoption.

links (Noun, plural noun)

An IT worker is giving a presentation on parental-control software for browsing the internet.

B: This software will keep your kids from clicking on URLs that go to potentially unsafe sites. It actually hides them, so kids won't even see them on their screen.

A: Will it hide the images I don't want my kids to see too?

B: No, just the links. You'll have to use other software to block images.

19 mist, missed

mist (Noun)

Two commuters are chatting in a coffee shop.

B: How has the traffic been so far?

A: The traffic isn't bad, but it's always so foggy in the morning. I can never see the bay on my way to work.

B: Well, it's not bad now. It's just mist out there.

A: That's nice to hear! Maybe it will clear up while I'm driving.

missed (Verb, past)

Two tennis players are talking about the match they just watched.

B: Becca fumbled her first serve attempt, so the other player got to serve first.

A: She's been having trouble with her wrist. Is that still bothering her? Maybe that's the reason she fumbled.

B: No, I think she's fine. She just missed out there.

A: That's too bad.

20 nose, knows

nose (Noun)

A doctor is helping a patient who is having trouble breathing at night.

A: I always wake up feeling short of breath. Do you have any suggestions?

B: Try using this breathing strip for a week first. It should help keep your sinuses open, and relieve congestion while you're sleeping.

A: I'll give it a try—do I put it on my sinuses?

B: Place it on your nose. There's an adhesive that will help it stick.

knows (Verb, third singular)

Two event planners are working on a schedule for an upcoming fundraiser.

A: Did you ask Taylor for her opinion on the fundraiser schedule? I thought we'd start advertising about three weeks before.

B: She said that we aren't going to raise any money if we don't start at least two months in advance.

A: Oh, is that what Taylor thinks?

B: It's what Taylor knows. She's run a lot of fundraisers before.

21 ode, owed

ode (Noun)

Two poets are talking about their friend, Gordon.

A: Gordon's really excited about the open-mic night next week.

B: I know. He said he just finished writing something to present. Now he's busy practicing his performance.

A: Did he write a poem for it?

B: Yeah... he wrote an ode for it.

owed (Verb, past)

Two parents are talking about their college-age daughter, Jan.

A: Jan said she had a great time on the ski trip. She said it turned out to be pretty expensive, though.

B: Yeah, she asked me if she could borrow five hundred dollars and pay me back when her job starts.

A: Five hundred dollars? Was that Jan's share of the trip?

B: Yeah... that's what Jan owed for it.

22 pact, packed

pact (Noun)

Two parents are talking about a backpacking excursion that their teenage sons had been planning.

A: It looks like it's going to rain pretty heavily this weekend. Are Peter and Kevin really still going on a trip to the mountains?

B: Yeah, they made a pact for their trip. They've been planning it for months, and they agreed not to put it off.

A: Well, tell them to bring the snow chains. There might be snow up there.

B: I will. I put the chains in the back of the car already.

packed (Verb, participle)

Two parents are talking about a backpacking excursion that their teenage sons had been planning.

A: Peter and Kevin had a ton of stuff in the car yesterday, but it's empty now. I thought they were going to take a trip.

B: Yeah, they had it packed for their trip. Kevin told me they decided to put it off until next week.

A: Why—what happened? They were really looking forward to going.

B: The weather report said it was going to snow all weekend. They didn't want to drive in the weather.

23 past, passed

past (Noun)

Two congressional representatives are talking about a vote last month.

B: The majority leader wasn't happy that I didn't vote for her bill last month, but I think she understands why. She knows that it would have hurt me in my district's next election, and her bill ended up getting approved anyway, even without my vote.

A: So do you think that she's forgiven you for it?

B: Yeah... it's in the past.

passed (Verb, participle)

Two congressional representatives are talking about a vote the next day.

B: We need to be sure that everybody from our party is there to vote on the conservation bill tomorrow.

A: Are you worried about whether the bill is going to be approved?

B: No... it'll get passed.

24 paste, paced

paste (Verb)

Two office workers are working on a newsletter.

B: Thanks for helping me with the newsletters. Let's put this photo on the front page.

A: Should we just staple it to the front?

B: I thought we'd paste it there instead. Then we won't have to damage the edges.

A: That's a good idea.

paced (Verb, participle)

Two runners are talking about a trail race that goes through a state park next month.

B: Sam said he's been training to run the trail race with Amy next month. Amy's run it every year for the past five years, but Sam said he's pretty nervous about all the hills.

A: Did he say he'd run through the course together with her?

B: He said they'd paced it together. He hasn't run through it with Amy yet.

A: I'm sure he'll do fine. Amy's a great trainer.

25 pause, paws

pause (Verb)

Two friends are watching a news program on TV.

A: This show always has really interesting charts, but they never show them for very long.

B: I pause at them sometimes.

A: I usually watch them live. Maybe I should just record them.

paws (Verb, third singular)

Two friends are talking.

A: I like your aquarium! Does your cat bother the fish when she's climbing up on the mantle?

B: She paws at them sometimes.

A: Be careful. My friend lost a goldfish that way.

26 please, pleas

please (Adverb)

A parent and their child are buying ice cream.

B: Go ahead and ask for your favorite flavor, but be sure to be polite.

A: Do I have to say thank you?

B: You have to say please.

A: Could I have some mint chocolate chip ice cream, please?

B: That's right. Then you should say thank you afterwards.

pleas (Noun, plural noun)

A tour group is being shown around a municipal court room.

B: The next room is where the judge formally presents the charges to people accused of a crime.

A: Does the judge listen to their cases?

B: He listens to pleas.

A: Then what?

B: If someone pleads innocent, their case is assigned to another judge.

27 praise, prays

praise (Noun)

A is talking to a vet about his dog's behavior issues.

B: If you're having trouble with your dog obeying commands, you need to be firm.

A: How should I reward him? Should I give him a treat for obeying?

B: You should give him praise. You can give him a treat sometimes, but you shouldn't do it very often.

A: Okay, I'll remember that.

prays (Verb, third singular)

Two football fans are talking about how their favorite players celebrate when they score a touchdown.

B: I think John is very professional. He never rubs it in the other team's face when he scores.

A: Really? Isn't John the guy that dances every time he scores a touchdown?

B: John's the guy who prays. Terry is the one that dances. He got a penalty for it last year.

A: I remember when that happened.

28 pride, pried

pride (Noun)

Two college-age friends are chatting.

A: How did Sarah's blind date with Franklin go?

B: She said it didn't go very well. She thought he was really irritating.

A: What about him annoyed her?

B: His pride annoyed Sarah. He would never admit he was wrong.

prided (Verb, past)

Two neighbors are talking after a burglary at one of their houses.

A: Do you know how the burglar got in? Were any of the windows broken?

B: He probably came in through the front door. He left some mud on the carpet.

A: How was he able to get your door open?

B: He prided our door open. We found the broken crowbar he used.

29 prize, pries

prize (Noun)

Two neighbors are chatting at a barbecue.

A: Oh, here comes Don. He's got his poodle with him.

B: It looks like that poodle has gotten groomed pretty recently.

A: Didn't Don just enter him in a dog show?

B: Yeah, he won a prize. Don's been doing well now that he's retired.

pires (Verb, third singular)

Two neighbors are chatting at a barbecue.

A: Oh, here comes Don. He looks like he's got something on his mind.

B: Uh oh. I'm going to go see how the grill is doing.

A: Why don't you want to talk to Don?

B: Well, he really pries. He always asks very personal questions.

30 quartz, quarts

quartz (Noun)

A museum director is talking to an artist.

A: Do you need any more stone to finish the sculpture?

B: I need some more quartz.

A: Sure, we'll order some right away.

quarts (Noun, plural noun)

Two chefs are starting their morning shift.

A: Do we still need two more pints of milk to make the cheese for today?

B: We need two more quarts.

A: Okay, I'll go get some from the fridge.

31 raise, rays

raise (Noun)

Two coworkers are chatting.

B: I just had my performance review yesterday. Did I tell you about that?

A: No! How did it go? Did you get a good evaluation?

B: Yeah... it went pretty well. I got a good raise.

A: That's great! I scheduled mine next week, so I'm crossing my fingers.

rays (Noun, plural noun)

Two friends are chatting.

B: Daniel looks really tan! Did he go to the beach this weekend?

A: He said he spent the whole day there. He definitely got a good tan.

B: Yeah... it looks like he did. He got some good rays.

A: I guess we missed out. I always get sunburned anyway.

32 rapt, wrapped

rapt (Adjective)

A is running for city mayor.

A: How do you think that speech went?

B: It went really well! You had great delivery, and you covered all the key issues.

A: Thanks—did it seem like the audience was paying careful attention?

B: They were paying rapt attention.

wrapped (Verb, participle)

B just gotten a call from a friend who's getting married soon.

A: Thanks for RSVPing to our wedding reception! A couple people have asked about what kind of gifts would be appropriate, so I just wanted to call to let you know that we're not expecting attendees to bring anything.

B: Oh, thanks... I need to tell James that.

A: Uh-oh. Did he already buy a present?

B: He's already wrapped a present.

33 ruse, ruses

ruse (Noun)

Two roommates are talking.

A: Who was that at the door?

B: It was someone asking if we needed carpet cleaning services. I said no, but he claimed he needed to come in anyway because city hall had designated our house as the possible source of a mold infestation on

this block, and his company was the only one licensed to deal with it.

A: Isn't that kind of a complicated story?

B: It's a complicated ruse. I've read about this scam online.

rues (Verb, third singular)

Two neighbors are chatting about their friend, Ed.

A: Did you hear that Ed broke his leg on his sky-diving trip last month? He was really upset! He was even planning to sue the tour company.

B: Yeah, he told me about it. He said that they ended up paying him six hundred dollars to waive his rights to a lawsuit. But then his lawyer told him he could have won a lot more in court if he hadn't signed the waiver.

A: Is that a decision Ed regrets?

B: It's a decision Ed rues. He's been dwelling on it too much.

34 sax, sacks

sax (Noun)

A is helping B, a musician, pack up the car for an out-of-town gig.

B: Thanks for helping me with all this stuff.

A: No problem. Should I get your instrument first, or the recording equipment?

B: Let's start with the sax.

A: Sure. I'll put it in the front of the car so it doesn't get damaged.

sacks (Noun, plural noun)

A is helping B pick up supplies for a new garden shed that B is building.

B: Thanks for helping me get all this stuff home.

A: No problem. Should we carry the bags of cement first, or the roofing material?

B: Let's start with the sacks.

A: Sure. These are heavy!

35 seize, sees

seize (Verb)

Two TSA officers have identified a suspicious package in the concourse.

A: That piece of luggage doesn't belong to any passengers on this plane. Should we confiscate it now?

B: If we seize it, there might be a big scene. Let's just tell the baggage handlers.

A: That's a good idea. Let's do that instead.

sees (Verb, third singular)

Two travelers are waiting in an airport security line.

A: Do you think it's okay to take this pocket knife through security? It looks like the guy at the X-ray machine isn't paying very close attention.

B: If he sees it, there might be a big scene. You should just drop it in the mail.

A: That's a good idea. Let's do that instead.

36 size, sighs

size (Noun)

B is at the customer service desk at a department store.

B: I bought a shirt from your company's online store, but you guys sent me this one instead of what I ordered.

A: Sure, I can exchange that for you. Is it the wrong color?

B: No, it's the wrong size. I ordered a medium.

sighs (Noun, plural noun)

Two political analysts are watching a candidate give a speech on TV.

B: I don't think Allan is going to win the election. He has a good record, but he doesn't relate well to the voters.

A: Do you think it's his body language?

B: No, it's all the sighs. He doesn't seem excited.

37 suede, swayed

suede (Adjective)

B has just walked into a shoe store.

A: Good morning! Just let me know if you need help finding anything.

B: Hello. I was hoping to find a pair of leather boots.

A: Of course. Are you looking for a particular kind of leather boots today? Fancy ones, or boots for when it rains?

B: I was looking for suede ones today...so they won't be for rain.

A: No problem—please follow me.

swayed (Verb, past)

Two neighbors are chatting.

A: That was some storm yesterday! The weather channel said the wind speed got up to fifty miles per hour.

B: Wow! I guess we got pretty lucky. I was watching the willow tree in our yard get blown around for a couple hours.

A: Did your tree end up losing any branches in the wind?

B: It definitely swayed in the wind...but it's fine, thankfully.

A: That's good to hear.

38 tease, teas

tease (Verb)

Two parents are talking while their son Eugene is playing a game with his cousins.

A: I'm glad Eugene is finally playing Jenga with his little cousins.

B: Maybe...I wish he would be nicer to them.

A: He keeps saying how well they're doing at the game. It seems like he's trying to be nice!

B: He's trying to tease them. They don't realize he's being sarcastic yet.

A: Oh...maybe we should say something to him.

teas (Noun, plural noun)

Two coffee shop customers are waiting at a table for their order to be ready.

A: I don't know why we keep coming back here.

B: I know... we've been here for twenty minutes and our order still isn't up!

A: Can you see what's on the counter? Are there two coffees there for us?

B: It looks like two teas there. That must be another customer's order.

A: Let's go somewhere else next time. This place takes forever.

39 tide, tied

tide (Noun)

Two friends are staying at a beach cabin in the summer.

A: Do you want to go fishing this morning?

B: The conditions out there aren't good for fishing right now.

A: Is the wind too high?

B: No...the tide is too high.

tied (Verb, participle)

Two parents are talking before a little league awards ceremony.

A: Did you put together the award yourself?

B: Sort of. I added all these blue ribbons to this medal I bought.

A: What's keeping the ribbons together? Are they all glued underneath?

B: No...they're tied underneath.

40 tract, tracked

tract (Noun)

Two friends are talking.

B: Did you see Russell trying to hand out all those copies of "Our World's Promise" at the book fair?

A: What's that? Is it another religious book that he wrote?

B: Well...it's a tract he wrote.

tracked (Verb, past)

Two camp directors are planning for the summer.

B: Russell said that there was a bear last year that had been getting close to the cabins. But he talked to the park rangers, and they think they've scared it off for good.

A: Were they able to find the bear's den?

B: Yeah...once they tracked it there.