Glossary

This glossary contains meanings and pronunciations for some of the words in this book. The Full Pronunciation Key shows how to pronounce each consonant and vowel in a special spelling. At the bottom of the glossary pages is a shortened form of the full key.

Full Pronunciation Key

Consonant Sounds

b	bib , ca bb age	kw	cho ir, qu ick	t	tight, stopp ed
ch	church, stitch	I	lid, need le , ta ll	th	ba th, th in
d	d ee d , mail ed ,	m	a m, m an, du mb	th	ba th e, th is
	pu dd le	n	n o, sudde n	v	ca v e, val v e, v ine
f	f ast, fif e, o ff, ph rase,	ng	thi ng , i n k	W	with, wolf
	rou gh	р	pop , ha pp y	У	y es, y olk, on i on
g	g a g, g et, fin g er	r	roar, r h yme	z	ro s e, si z e, xyl ophone
h	hat, who	S	mi ss, s au c e, sc ene,		z ebra
hw	which, where		see	zh	gara g e, plea s ure,
j	j u dg e, g em	sh	di sh , sh ip, s ugar,		vi s ion
k	c at, kick , s ch ool		ti ss ue		
Vowel Sounds					
ă	p a t, lau gh	ŏ	h o rrible, p o t	ŭ	c u t, fl oo d, r ou gh,
ā	a pe, ai d, p ay	ō	g o , r ow , t oe , th ough		some
â	air, care, w ea r	ô	all, c augh t, f o r, p aw	û	circle, f u r, h ea rd,
ä	f a ther, ko a la, y a rd	oi	b oy , n oi se , oil		t e rm, t u rn, u rge, w o rd
ĕ	p e t, pl ea sure, a ny	ou	c ow, ou t		
ē	b e , b ee , ea sy, p i ano	ŏŏ	f u ll, b oo k, w o lf		cure
ĭ	if, pit, b u sy	ōō	b oo t, r u de, fr ui t, fl ew		abuse, use
ī	ride, b y , pi e , high			Ð	a go, sil e nt, penc i l, lem o n, circ u s
î	d ea r, d ee r, f ie rce,				N - M
	m e re				

Stress Marks

Primary Stress ': bi•ol•o•gy [bī **ŏl**' ə jē] Secondary Stress ': bi•o•log•i•cal [bī' ə **lŏj**' ĭ kəl]

Pronunciation key and definitions copyright (c) 2007 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Reproduced by permission from The American Heritage Children's Dictionary and The American Heritage Student Dictionary.

A

a-board (*Ə* **bôrd**') adverb and preposition On, onto, or inside a vehicle, such as a ship, train, or bus: The captain welcomed us **aboard** as we stepped onto the ship's deck.

ab•sorb (əb sôrb') verb Take in or soak up: A sponge can **absorb** lots of water.

ac•ci•dent (ăk' sĭ dənt)

noun An event that is not expected and not wanted: *Traffic was held up by two accidents on the highway.*

al•ti•tude (ăl´tĭtood´)

noun A height measured from sea level or from the earth's surface: *The plane flew at an altitude of 30,000 feet.*

an-chor (**ăng**' kər) *noun* A heavy metal object, attached to a ship, that is dropped overboard to keep the ship in place: *It took two sailors to raise the heavy anchor when the ship was ready to sail.*

ap-proach (**ə proch**') verb To come near or nearer: As the storm **approached**, people were told to leave their seaside homes. **ar**•**riv**•**al** (\exists **ri**['] \lor \exists) *noun* The act of reaching a place: We waited for the **arrival** of our guests.

av-a-lanche (**ăv**['] ə lănch[']) noun A large amount of snow, ice, or earth that falls down a mountain: Skiers should be warned of the danger of **avalanches** on this mountain.

B

base (bās) *noun* The lowest part; bottom: *We camped at the base of the cliff*.

bat (băt) *verb* To hit or tap: *The baby batted at the ball playfully, trying to make it roll.*

bay (bā) *noun* A part of the sea that cuts into the land: *Have you ever seen sharks swimming in this bay*?

bur-den (**bûr**' dən) *noun* A heavy or difficult load to be carried: *Donkeys are often used to carry a burden*.

bur•**y** (**běr**' ē) *verb* Cover from view; hide: *I buried my face in the pillow.*

buzz (bûz) *verb* To make a low, humming sound like a bee: *The mosquitoes are buzzing, and I can't get to sleep.*

C

car•**ton** (**kär**['] tn) *noun* A cardboard box used to hold goods: Let's pack these gifts into a mailing carton.

chill-y (**chǐl**' ē) *adjective* Unpleasantly cold: *Please take a jacket if the weather is damp and chilly.*

clat-ter (**klăt**´ ûr) *verb* To make a rattling sound: *The pots and pans* **clattered** *as they fell on the floor.*

cli-mate (**klī**' mĭt) *noun* The usual weather that occurs in a place: *The climate in polar areas is very harsh.*

clue (kloo) *noun* Something that helps to solve a problem or mystery: *Here are some more clues to the riddle*.

clump (klump) *noun* Thick cluster or group: Watch out for clumps of poison ivy along the path!

col-o-ny (**kŏl**' ə nē) *noun* A group of living things of the same kind living or growing together: *A* **colony** of bees built a hive in the tree.

com-pli-ca-ted (**kom** plǐ kā tǐd) *adjective* Not easy to understand, deal with, or solve: *Did you do the complicated problem on page 5*?

console (kən sol') verb To make someone feel less sad: Rosa's friends tried to **console** her when she didn't make the soccer team.

con-stant (**kŏn**´stənt) *adjective* Without a break or pause: *The car is in constant use*.

con-ver-sa-tion (**kon**' vər sā' shən) *noun* Informal talk between two or more people: *My sister has some long phone conversations* with her friends.

cov•er•ing (**kuv**' ər ing) noun Something that covers: If it rains during our camping trip, we can put waterproof **coverings** on the tents.

cur-rent-ly (**kûr**' ənt lē) *adverb* At the present time; now: *That movie is currently showing*.

D

dis•solve (dĭ zŏlv´) verb To change from a solid to a liquid: To make hot chocolate, dissolve sugar and cocoa powder in hot milk.

dra•mat•ic (drə măt´ĭk) adjective Exciting: The dramatic ending of the play left the audience stunned. carton



clue

Clue is sometimes spelled *clew*. In a Greek myth, a prince named Theseus was jailed by King Minos. To escape, Theseus had to enter a maze, battle a creature called the Minotaur, and find his way out of the maze again. Theseus used a clew, a ball of thread, to guide him out of the maze.

 \overline{oo} boot / ou out / ŭ cut / û fur / hw which / th thin / th this / zh vision / ə ago, silent, pencil, lemon, circus

drip

drip (drĭp) *verb* To fall or let fall in drops: *Water is dripping into the attic from a leak in the roof.*

drow-sy (**drou** zē) *adjective* Sleepy: *The* **drowsy** *cat took a nap in the garden*.

e•quip•ment (ĭ kwĭp´ mənt) noun The things that are needed for a purpose: This store sells camping equipment.

ev-i-dence (ěv´ĭ dəns) noun Facts or signs that help one find out the truth or decide: The broken window was evidence that a burglary had taken place.

fetch (fĕch) *verb* To go and bring back: *Please fetch a book from the shelf so that I can read*.

fierce (firs) *adjective* Wild and savage; dangerous: *Tigers can be fierce animals*.

fos-sil (fŏs´ əl) noun The remains or traces of a plant or animal of an earlier age: These tiny fossils are the bones of ancient birds.

fright-en-ing (frīt´ nĭng)

adjective Scary: We spent a **frightening** few minutes listening to the bear outside our tent.

G

glance (glănts) *verb* To look and quickly look away: *Just by glancing* at the bear, *I could tell that it was still quite young.*

glide (glīd) *verb* To move smoothly, quietly, and with ease: *Many skaters were gliding* gracefully around the ice rink.

glob•al (**glo**[•] bəl) adjective Worldwide; relating to the entire earth: Many countries are cooperating in a **global** effort to end hunger.

greed-i-ly (**grē**' də lē') adverb In a way that shows you are taking or eating more than you need: The little dog **greedily** ate all of its food and begged for more.

guide (gīd) verb To show the way to; direct: The ranger guided us along the park's trails.



halt (hôlt) *verb* To come or bring to a stop: *Police will halt traffic to let the parade pass.*

hard•ly (härd´lē) adverb Barely; only just: This box is so heavy I can hardly lift it.

he-ro-ic (hə **ro**[~] ĭk) adjective Like a hero; brave: It is **heroic** when firefighters save people from burning buildings.

hesitation (hě´ zĭ tā´ shən) noun A pause before doing something: After some hesitation, I decided to try the broccoli.

ig•nore (ĭg nôr´) verb To purposely pay no attention to: Edwin ignores his alarm clock on the weekend.

in-crease (in krēs') verb To make or become greater or larger: As your height increases, you usually gain weight, too.

in-spire (in **spir**) verb To move to action: The promise of money **inspired** me to work extra hard. **land-scape** (**lănd** skāp') noun A stretch of land that is viewed as scenery: We watched the desert **landscape** from the car window.

la·va (**lä**´və) *noun* Melted rock that flows from a volcano: *Hot lava oozed down the side of the volcano.*

lay-er (**lā**' ər) *noun* A single thickness, coating, or sheet of material covering a surface: Sprinkle a **layer** of cheese on top of the tomato sauce.

load (lōd) *verb* To put into a vehicle or structure for carrying: *The dock workers loaded* grain onto the ship.

lo-ca-tion (lō **kā**' shən) noun A place where something is or can be found: We finally found the **location** of the airport.

love-ly (**lŭv**' lē) *adjective* Beautiful; very pleasing: *Their* garden is the **loveliest** one I have ever seen.

lava

The word *lava* comes from an Italian word. The Italian word, in turn, came from the Latin word *labes*, meaning "fall."

oo boot / ou out / ŭ cut / û fur / hw which / th thin / th this / zh vision / ago, silent, pencil, lemon, circus

M

man-age (**mǎn**['] ĭj) verb To succeed in doing something: I managed to finish my work ahead of time.

mi-grate (**mī**' grāt) verb To move regularly from one region or climate to another: Many birds **migrate** to warmer places for the winter.

0

o-ver-heat-ed (ō´ vər **hēt**´ ĭd) adjective Too hot: Pets can easily get **overheated** on hot summer days.

P

pas•sage (păs ĭj)

noun Narrow pathway or channel: Busy ants dig a maze of **passages** in each anthill.

pleas-ure (**plězh**' ər) noun A feeling of happiness or enjoyment; delight: She smiled with **pleasure** when she saw the puppies.

plen•ty (**plěn**' tē) *noun* A full supply or amount: *Children need plenty of exercise*. **pol-len** (**pŏl'** ən) *noun* Tiny grains that fertilize female plants to produce seeds: Flower **pollen** makes new plants grow, but it also makes me sneeze all spring!

pol-lu-tion (pə loo' shən)

noun The act of making dirty, impure, or harmful; the condition of being dirty, impure, or harmful: *Smog is a kind of air pollution*.

prai-rie (**prâr**' ē) noun A large, mostly flat grassland with few trees: Wheat and other grains grow well on the flat lands of the **prairie**.

proj-ect (**prŏj´** ĕkt´) *noun* A plan for doing something; scheme: *The town's voters approved the building project.*

prove (proov) verb To show to be true by backing up with facts: Getting an A on the test will prove that you studied.

R

re-cy-cle (rē **sī** kəl) *verb* To treat materials that have been thrown away in order to use them again: *Many cities* **recycle** glass, cans, and *newspapers*. **re-gion** (**rē**' jən) *noun* A usually large area of the earth's surface: *This region receives very little rainfall each year*.

re•mains (rǐ mānz') noun All or part of a dead body: The remains of this polar bear were covered by ice for hundreds of years.

re-un-ion (rē **yoon**' yən) *noun* A gathering of the members of a group who have been separated: *Our family has a yearly reunion*.

rip-ple (**rip**' əl) *verb* To form or cause to form small waves: The surface of the river **rippled** when I skipped a stone across it.

rough (rŭf) *adjective* Not smooth to the touch: *The outside of a pineapple is* **rough**, *but the skin of a banana is smooth.*

rub•**bish** (**rŭb**´ĭsh) noun Trash: Please take this **rubbish** out to the trash can.

rus-tle (**rŭs**^{*} əl) *noun* A soft crackling sound like dry leaves: *I love to hear the rustle of paper when I unwrap a package.*

S

scold (skôld) *verb* To angrily tell someone about his or her mistakes: *Jake's mother was scolding him for being careless with his new toy.*

sec-tion (**sěk**['] shən) *noun* A part taken from a whole: A slice is a **section** of a cake or pie.

shade (shād) *noun* An area that is partly dark because light has been blocked off from it: *It is too cold to sit in the shade*.

shel-ter (shěl' tər) noun Something that protects or covers: Stand under the shelter at the bus stop if it's raining.

sin•cere (sĭn sîr') adjective
Honest; real; genuine: Our
feelings are sincere.

skel-e-ton (**skěl**' ĭ tn) *noun* The framework of bones in the body of a human being or an animal having a backbone: *People training to be doctors study* **skeletons** *to learn about human bones*.

slick (slĭk) *adjective* Very smooth and slippery: *After the rain, the sidewalks were* **slick** *so we had to step carefully.*

reunion

The word *reunion* was formed by joining the Latin prefix *re*-, meaning "again," with the Late Latin word *unire*, meaning "to unite." Therefore *reunion* means "to unite again."

section



slope • thunderous

slope (slop) *noun* A stretch of ground that slants upward or downward: *The slopes on the hills behind our house are great for sledding.*

sniff (snĭf) *verb* To breathe in through the nose quickly and with a soft noise: *Mom likes to sniff* the fresh herbs from her kitchen garden.

sol·id (**sŏl**' ĭd) *adjective* Hard, firm; not hollow: *Those statues are made of* **solid** *ice*.

spine (spīn) *noun* Part of a plant or animal that sticks out with a sharp point: *Porcupines are covered in prickly spines, or quills.*

spot (spŏt) *verb* To see, find, or locate: *The bird watchers spotted a huge woodpecker on their walk.*

store (stôr) verb Put away for future use: Squirrels store acorns for winter.

suc-ceed (sək **sēd**') verb To carry out something desired or tried: We will **succeed** at reaching our goal if we all work together.

sur-viv-al (sər **vī**' vəl) *noun* The act or fact of staying alive: The family's **survival** is due to the firefighters' quick action.

tank (tăngk) *noun* A container for holding or storing liquids or gases: *Divers always check to be sure that their tanks are filled with air.*

tem•per•a•ture (těm´ pər ə chər)

noun Hotness or coldness as measured on a standard scale: *The temperature* is warmer in the sun than in the shade.

ter-ror (**těr**' ər) noun Very great fear: I screamed in terror as the roller coaster turned upside down.

through-out (throo **out**') preposition In, to, or through every part of: We walked **throughout** the city and saw all the sights.

thump (thump) *verb* To hit in a way that makes a low, dull sound: *The children thumped their feet to the beat of the music*.

thun•**der**•**ous** (**thŭn**´ dər əs) *adjective* Loud and rumbling: *A* **thunderous** *noise woke everyone up*.

temperature



tropical • wilderness

trop•i•cal (trop ĭ kəl)

adjective From or typical of the tropics, the warm areas of Earth near the equator: *Mangoes and bananas are both tropical fruits*.

twist (twist) *verb* To wind together to form a single strand: *I watched as the woman twisted her long hair into a beautiful braid.*

U

un•cov•er (ŭn kŭv´ər)

verb To reveal or remove the cover from: *Workers digging* the tunnels are **uncovering** many objects from an earlier time.

un•ex•pect•ed (ŭn´ik spěk´

tĭd) *adjective* Taking place without warning: *We gasped when we heard the* **unexpected** *news*. V

voy-age (**voi** *č***j**) noun A long journey made on a ship, aircraft, or spacecraft: The astronauts will remember their voyage into space for the rest of their lives.

W

wil-der-ness (wil dər nis) noun An area in a wild, natural state in which there are no people: You might see unusual animals and plants in a wilderness. voyage



ōo b**oo**t / ou **ou**t / ŭ c**u**t / û f**u**r / hw **wh**ich / th **th**in / *th* **th**is / zh vi**s**ion / ə **a**go, sil**e**nt, penc**i**l, lem**o**n, circ**u**s