

Stranger than fiction – Glossary

absence noun [uncount]

the fact that something does not exist or is not present: *a complete absence of humour*

analyse verb [transitive]

to examine something in detail in order to understand or explain it: *Scientists analysed samples of leaves taken from the area.*

authentic adjective

real, not false or copied:
The letter is certainly authentic.

awe-inspiring adjective

making you feel great respect and admiration

bear something in mind

to remember to think about something when you are involved in doing something else:

beyond grammar word

not within the limits of something outside the range or limits of a subject, quality, or activity:
Their behaviour went far beyond what is acceptable.

blowhole noun [count]

a hole in the top of the head of a sea animal such as a whale or dolphin, through which it breathes.

buzzard noun [count]

large bird that kills other birds or animals for food.

charge verb [transitive]

to put electricity into something

consider verb [intransitive or transitive]

to think that something may exist or be true:
Have you considered the possibility that he just doesn't like you?

conventional adjective

using ordinary or traditional methods, not new ideas or new technology:

costume noun [count or uncount]

clothes that the actors wear in a play or film

creature noun [count]

an imaginary living thing that is strange or frightening:
The Gorgon was a mythical creature.

crop circle noun [count]

a part of a field where the crops have been pushed flat in the shape of a circle. Some people think these are caused by aliens.

deposit verb [transitive]

to put something somewhere

DNA noun [uncount]

a chemical substance in cells that contains genetic information

dolphin noun [count]

a large sea animal, similar to a fish, with a long nose

dorsal [adjective]

connected with the back of a fish or animal:
the shark's large dorsal fin

dust noun [uncount]

very small pieces of dirt or another substance that form a layer on a surface or a cloud in the air:
He drove off, leaving us in a cloud of dust.

evolution noun [uncount]

the way in which something gradually changes and develops

existence noun [uncount]

the state of being a real or living thing, or of being present in a particular place, time, or situation:
The tests confirm the existence of a brain tumour.

extinction noun [uncount]

a situation in which something such as a type of animal or plant stops existing: *Several species of monkey are in danger of extinction.*

extraordinary adjective

very unusual and surprising:
It's an extraordinary story.

feat noun [count]

something that is impressive that someone does

flesh noun [uncount]

the soft substance under your skin that consists mostly of muscle and fat:
The dog's teeth sank into my flesh.

flipper noun [count]

a wide flat part like an arm on the bodies of some sea animals

formation noun [count or uncount]

a pattern that people or things are arranged into:
planes flying in formation

gigantic adjective

extremely large

gorilla noun [count]

a large strong African wild animal that is similar to a monkey but much larger. Gorillas live in forests.

grace verb [transitive]

to make something more attractive, pleasing, or interesting:

Her photograph graced many a magazine cover.

hectare noun [count]

a unit for measuring an area of land, equal to 10,000 square metres

hoax noun [count]

a trick in which someone tells people that something bad is going to happen or that something is true when it is not

insect noun [count] *

a small animal that has six legs and often has wings

jaw noun [count]

the part of your mouth where your teeth grow

jellyfish noun [count]

a soft transparent sea animal that can sting you

legendary adjective

very famous or well known for a long time

lightning noun [uncount]

the bright flashes of light that you see in the sky during a storm: *The ship was struck by lightning soon after it left the port.*

lightning bolt a flash of lightning in the sky

messy adjective

dirty or very untidy

migrate verb [intransitive]

if a bird or animal migrates, it travels to another part of the world for warmer weather

mount verb [transitive] to fix something in position:

mountain range [noun count]

a number of mountains considered as a group

nostril noun [count]

one of the two holes at the end of your nose

pale adjective

light and not bright in colour:

pale blue/yellow/green

pattern noun [count]

a set of lines, shapes, or colours that are repeated regularly: *a carpet with a pretty pattern*

pour verb [intransitive]

to rain very hard: *The thunder and lightning stopped, but it continued to pour.*

sample noun [count] *

a small amount of a substance that is used for scientific or medical tests:

Tests were performed on hair and blood samples.

shower noun [count] *

a short period when it rains:

Tonight there's a 50% chance of showers.

sighting noun [count]

an occasion when you see someone or something that you do not often see

special effects noun [plural]

the artificial images or sounds in a film that are created with technology

spot verb [transitive]

to notice someone or something:

Maria spotted the book lying under the chair.

thunderstorm noun [count]

a storm with thunder (=loud noise) and lightning (=flashes of light) in the sky

tear (past tense **tore**; past participle **torn**) verb

tear something apart

to damage or destroy something completely by breaking it into pieces:

The building was torn apart by the explosion.

video camera noun [count]

a piece of equipment that you use for recording something onto videotape

whale noun [count]

a very large sea animal that looks like a fish but breathes air through a hole on the top of its head