

Word list

The numbers / track references in brackets indicate the first occurrence of each word/phrase in the unit.

Unit 6

bad-hair day *phrase* (informal) a day when you feel that you do not look attractive, especially because of your hair I'm having a bad-hair day.

capture an expression *phrase* to represent the look of someone's face accurately in a picture or photograph The portrait really captures her expression of joy.

commission a portrait *phrase* to arrange for someone to paint a picture of a person in exchange for payment He's so vain, he's commissioned a portrait of himself.

complimentary *adjective* praising or expressing admiration for someone The reviews of his latest film have been highly complimentary.

conspiracy *noun* a secret plan made by a group of people to do something bad or illegal Police uncovered a conspiracy to overthrow the government.

draw your own conclusion *phrase* to consider the facts of a situation and make a decision about what is true, correct, likely to happen, etc. She refused to talk about it – you can draw your own conclusion from that.

eyes boring into you *phrase* If someone's eyes are boring into you, that person is staring very hard at you. I could feel his eyes boring into me.

from the outset *phrase* from the beginning The project was doomed from the outset.

innate *adjective* An innate quality or ability is one that you were born with and not one you have learned. She has an innate gift for working with children.

in your element *phrase* in a place or situation that is completely natural and comfortable for you He's always loved acting and you can see he's in his element when he's on stage.

minor character *phrase* somebody in a story who is not very important I got a part in the play, but it was only a minor character.

overstated *adjective* expressed in a way that is too strong I feel that his complaints were overstated.

passing moods and emotions *phrases* emotional states that do not last long The novel captures the passing moods and emotions of its main character very convincingly.

plead guilty *phrase* to state in court that you are guilty of a crime He was sent straight to prison after pleading guilty.

put the finishing touches to *phrase* to add small details in order to make something perfect I'm just putting the finishing touches to the wedding cake.

self-consciousness *noun* the state of being too aware of how you appear to others She stood up and sang for us, without any self-consciousness.

so to speak *phrase* used to explain that you are using a special or unusual expression In their household it's Lorna who wears the trousers, so to speak.

status symbol *noun* something that someone owns that shows they have a high position in society For lots of people, a sports car is a status symbol.

trail of destruction *phrase* instances of damage in different places along a route The hurricane left a trail of destruction.

turn out *phrasal verb* to happen in a particular way, or to have a particular result The bomb warning turned out to be a false alarm.

unsettling *adjective* making you feel worried or uncomfortable Going back to the place where I grew up was a very unsettling experience.