

# Word list

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

## Unit 9

**at the mercy of** *phrase* in a situation where someone or something has complete power over you Poor people are increasingly at the mercy of money-lenders.

**at this juncture** *phrase* at this particular point in time At this juncture, it is impossible to say whether she will make a full recovery.

**barbarism** *noun* extremely cruel and unpleasant behaviour He witnessed some appalling acts of barbarism during the war.

**behind the wheel** *phrase* driving a motor vehicle I'm a different person when I'm behind the wheel.

**blow something out of proportion** *phrase* to treat a particular event or problem far too seriously It's ridiculous – we have a tiny disagreement and you blow the whole thing out of proportion!

**conserve energy** *phrase* to use as little energy as possible The new light bulbs use less electricity and therefore conserve energy.

**criminal record** *noun* Someone with a criminal record has been found guilty of crimes in the past. The company will not employ anyone with a criminal record.

**degenerate** *verb* to become worse The demonstration soon degenerated into violence.

**disorientated** *adjective* confused and not knowing where to go or what to do He woke up feeling completely disorientated.

**feasible** *adjective* able to be made, done, or achieved With the extra resources, the project now seems feasible.

**financial resources** *phrase* the amount of money that is available to spend The country doesn't have the financial resources to invest in housing.

**find something laughable** *phrase* to think something is stupid or ridiculous I found their plan to change fruit into oil laughable.

**flawed** *adjective* not perfect, containing mistakes Further studies show that her data was flawed.

**grab the headlines** *phrase* to be widely reported in the news The museum grabbed the headlines when it paid over £1 million for a pile of bricks.

**hand down** *phrasal verb* to give something to someone in your family who is younger than you I really wanted new clothes when I was younger, but everything was handed down by my brother.

**in broad terms** *phrase* speaking in a general way He described the job in broad terms, without going into details.

**labour-saving device** *phrase* a machine or piece of equipment that saves time and effort Vacuum cleaners and washing machines are labour-saving devices.

**meet regulations** *phrase* to fulfil or satisfy a set of rules The offices do not meet safety regulations.

**predator** *noun* an animal that hunts, kills and eats other animals Hippos do not have many predators.

**relatively few and far between** *phrase* not happening or existing very often You may as well walk, as buses from here are relatively few and far between.

**rock steady** *phrase* not likely to move or break Make sure the fence posts are rock steady.

**world view** *phrase* a way of thinking about the world Our world view is quite different from that of writers in the fourth century BC.