

CAMBRIDGE

Learner's Dictionary



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

<http://www.cambridge.org>

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521682029

© Cambridge University Press 2007

The pages in this book marked **PHOTOCOPIABLE** © Cambridge University Press 2007 may be photocopied free of charge by the purchasing individual or institution. This permission to copy does not extend to branches or additional schools of an institution. All other copying is subject to permission from the publisher.

First published 2001

Second edition 2004

Third edition 2007

Printed in Italy by LegoPrint S.p.A.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-681964 paperback

ISBN 978-0-521-682022 paperback + CD-ROM

Defined words that we have reason to believe constitute trademarks have been labelled as such. However, neither the presence nor absence of such labels should be regarded as affecting the legal status of any trademarks.



assemble /ə'sembl/ *verb* **1** [I, T] to join other people somewhere to make a group, or to bring people together into a group *They assembled in the meeting room after lunch.* **2** [T] to build something by joining parts together

assembly /ə'sembl/ *noun* **1** [SCHOOL] [C, U] UK a regular meeting of all the students and teachers at a school *morning assembly* **2** [GROUP] [C] a group of people, such as a government, who meet to make decisions, laws, etc *the national assembly* **3** [BUILD] [U] when you build something by joining parts together *The pack said 'assembly required'.*

assent /ə'sent/ *noun* [U] *formal* agreement or approval *Has she given her assent?* • **assent** *verb* [I] *formal* to agree to something

assert /ə'sɜ:t/ *verb* **1** **assert yourself** to behave or speak in a strong, confident way *She has to learn to assert herself.* **2** **assert your authority/control/independence, etc** to do something to show other people that you have power **3** [T] *formal* to say that something is certainly true [+ that] *He asserts that she stole money from him while they were working together.*

assertion /ə'sɜ:ʃn/ *noun* [C, U] *formal* when you say that something is certainly true [+ that] *I don't agree with his assertion that men are safer drivers than women.*

assertive /ə'sɜ:tɪv/ *adjective* behaving or speaking in a strong, confident way *You need to be much more assertive.* • **assertively** *adverb* • **assertiveness** *noun* [U]

assess /ə'ses/ *verb* [T] to make a judgment about the quality, size, value, etc of something *The tests are designed to assess a child's reading skills.* • **assessment** *noun* [C, U]

asset /'æset/ *noun* [C] **1** a person, skill, or quality which is useful or helps you to succeed *He'll be a great asset to the team.* **2** something which a person or company owns which has a value [usually plural] *The company has \$70 billion in assets.*

assiduous /ə'sɪdʒuəs/ *adjective* *formal* showing a lot of effort and determination • **assiduously** *adverb*

assign /ə'saɪn/ *verb* [T] to give someone a particular job or responsibility [+ two objects] *UN troops were assigned the task of rebuilding the hospital.* ○ [often passive] *The case has been assigned to our most senior officer.*

assign sb to sth to give someone a particular job or place to work [often passive] *Which police officer has been assigned to this case?*

assignment /ə'saɪnmənt/ *noun* [C, U] a piece of work or job that you are given to do *a written assignment* ○ *He's on assignment in Brazil.*

assimilate /ə'sɪmɪleɪt/ *verb* *formal* **1** [T] to understand and remember new information **2** [I, T] to become part of a group, society, etc, or to make someone or something become part of a group, society, etc *The refugees have now assimilated into the local community.* • **assimi-**

to assist in the search. ○ *He's assisting the police with their investigation.*

assistance /ə'sɪstəns/ *noun* [U] *formal* help *financial/medical assistance* ○ *Can I be of any assistance?* (= Can I help you?) ○ *They have asked for financial assistance from the government.*

assistant /ə'sɪstənt/ *noun* [C] **1** someone whose job is to help a person who has a more important job *an administrative assistant* ○ *assistant manager* **2** **a sales/shop assistant** *mainly UK* someone who helps customers in a shop *The sales assistant was very helpful.*

associate¹ /ə'səʊʃieɪt/ *verb* [T] to relate two things, people, etc in your mind *Most people associate this brand with good quality.*

associate with sb *formal* to spend time with someone

be associated with sth to be related to something or caused by something *There are many risks associated with smoking.*

associate² /ə'səʊʃɪət/ *noun* [C] someone who you know because of work or business *She's a business associate of mine.*

associate³ /ə'səʊʃɪət/ *adjective* **associate director/editor/producer, etc** someone in a slightly less important position than the main person

association /ə,səʊʃi'eɪʃn/ *noun* **1** [C] an organization of people with the same interests or with a particular purpose *the Football Association* **2** [C, U] a connection or relationship between two things or people **3** **in association with** working together with *The event was organized in association with the Sports Council.* ☞ See also: savings and loan association.

assorted /ə'sɔ:tɪd/ *adjective* of different types *a box of assorted chocolates*

assortment /ə'sɔ:tmənt/ *noun* [C] a group of different types of something *an assortment of vegetables*

assuage /ə'sweɪdʒ/ *verb* [T] *formal* to make unpleasant feelings less strong *The government tried to assuage the public's fears.* ○ *I'll take the kids out this afternoon and assuage my guilt for not having seen them all week.*

○ **assume** /ə'sju:m/ *verb* [T] **1** to think that something is likely to be true, although you have no proof [+ (that)] *Everything was quiet when I got home so I assumed that you had gone out.* **2** **assume control/power/responsibility, etc** to take a position of control/power/responsibility, etc *He has assumed the role of spokesman for the group.* **3** **assume an air/expression, etc** *formal* to pretend to have a feeling that you do not have *He assumed an air of indifference though I knew how he really felt.* **4** **assume a false identity/name, etc** to pretend to be someone else *an assumed name*

WORD PARTNERS FOR assumption

make an assumption • **be based on an assumption** • **a basic/common/false/underlying assumption** • **do sth under the assumption that** • **an assumption about sth**