Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

1. THINK FIRST

anxious

TURN TO CHECK

Feeling worried and nervous about something that might happen.

adjective. Similar meanings: worried, nervous, uneasy. Opposite meanings: calm, relaxed.

With the storm rolling in, Priya grew anxious about her dad's boat still out at sea.

2. THINK FIRST

content

TURN TO CHECK

Quietly happy and satisfied with the way things are.

adjective. Similar meanings: satisfied, pleased, comfortable. Opposite meanings: dissatisfied, restless.

Curled up by the fire with a purring cat on her lap, Gran seemed perfectly content.

3. THINK FIRST

dread

TURN TO CHECK

A strong feeling of fear about something that is going to happen.

noun. Similar meanings: fear, terror, foreboding. Opposite meanings: eagerness, confidence.

A cold dread crept over Amir as the dentist's door creaked open and his name was called.

4. THINK FIRST

envy

TURN TO CHECK

An unhappy wish to have what someone else has.

noun. Similar meanings: jealousy, longing. Opposite meanings: contentment, goodwill.

Chloe gazed at her cousin's shiny new scooter with a pang of envy she tried to hide.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

5. THINK FIRST

furious

TURN TO CHECK

Extremely angry, often in a way that is hard to hide.

adjective. Similar meanings: enraged, livid, fuming. Opposite meanings: calm, pleased.

Dad was furious when he discovered the goat had eaten every lettuce on the allotment.

6. THINK FIRST

grief

TURN TO CHECK

Deep sadness, especially after someone or something is lost.

noun. Similar meanings: sorrow, heartache, mourning. Opposite meanings: delight, happiness.

The whole village shared the farmer's grief when his faithful old sheepdog died.

7. THINK FIRST

relief

TURN TO CHECK

A feeling of comfort after worry, pain or danger has passed.

noun. Similar meanings: comfort, reassurance, ease. Opposite meanings: worry, distress.

Relief flooded through the whole family as the missing tortoise plodded out from under the shed.

8. THINK FIRST

sulk

TURN TO CHECK

To stay silent and grumpy because you are annoyed about something.

verb. Similar meanings: mope, brood, pout. Opposite meanings: cheer up, brighten.

Rather than join the game, Leo chose to sulk in the corner with his arms folded.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

9. THINK FIRST

arrogant

TURN TO CHECK

Behaving as if you are more important or clever than everyone else.

adjective. Similar meanings: conceited, big-headed, haughty. Opposite meanings: modest, humble.

The arrogant new striker told everyone he was the only player on the team worth watching.

10. THINK FIRST

loyalty

TURN TO CHECK

Staying faithful to a person, team or promise through good times and bad.

noun. Similar meanings: faithfulness, devotion, allegiance. Opposite meanings: betrayal, disloyalty.

Out of loyalty to her village team, Beth cheered even when they were losing six-nil.

11. THINK FIRST

meddle

TURN TO CHECK

To interfere in something that is not your business.

verb. Similar meanings: interfere, tamper, pry. Opposite meanings: keep out, refrain.

Gran told us not to meddle in the neighbours' argument, but Josh marched over to give his opinion anyway.

12. THINK FIRST

mischievous

TURN TO CHECK

Fond of playing tricks and causing small amounts of trouble.

adjective. Similar meanings: naughty, playful, impish. Opposite meanings: well-behaved, obedient.

The mischievous kitten had unravelled the entire ball of wool across the landing by breakfast.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

13. THINK FIRST

patience

TURN TO CHECK

The ability to wait calmly or put up with problems without complaining.

noun. Similar meanings: calmness, forbearance, tolerance. Opposite meanings: impatience, restlessness.

Fishing from the harbour wall takes patience, as the mackerel may not bite for an hour.

14. THINK FIRST

pester

TURN TO CHECK

To keep bothering or annoying someone, often by asking for something again and again.

verb. Similar meanings: nag, badger, hound. Opposite meanings: ignore, leave alone.

The seagulls will pester anyone eating chips on the pier until every last one is gone.

15. THINK FIRST

stubborn

TURN TO CHECK

Refusing to change your mind, even when others give good reasons.

adjective. Similar meanings: headstrong, obstinate, unyielding. Opposite meanings: compliant, open-minded.

Too stubborn to ask for help, Uncle Pete drove us around the same roundabout four times.

16. THINK FIRST

tantrum

TURN TO CHECK

A sudden outburst of bad temper, usually by a young child.

noun. Similar meanings: outburst, fit of rage. Opposite meanings: composure, calm.

The toddler threw a tantrum in the supermarket because the trolley had no seat for his teddy.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

17. THINK FIRST

charity

TURN TO CHECK

Giving money, food or help to people who need it.

noun. Similar meanings: generosity, goodwill, kindness. Opposite meanings: meanness, selfishness.

Every autumn the school collects tins for charity so that nobody in town goes hungry at Christmas.

18. THINK FIRST

comfort

TURN TO CHECK

To make someone feel less sad or worried by being kind to them.

verb. Similar meanings: console, soothe, reassure. Opposite meanings: upset, distress.

After the rabbit escaped, Grandma sat on the step to comfort Leah and dry her tears.

19. THINK FIRST

donate

TURN TO CHECK

To give something, such as money or clothes, to help a good cause.

verb. Similar meanings: give, contribute, hand over. Opposite meanings: keep, withhold.

Please donate any outgrown wellies to the box in the porch for the nursery children.

20. THINK FIRST

generous

TURN TO CHECK

Happy to give more time, money or kindness than is expected.

adjective. Similar meanings: giving, open-handed, kind. Opposite meanings: mean, stingy, selfish.

A generous neighbour left a whole box of apples from her tree on our doorstep.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

21. THINK FIRST

rely

TURN TO CHECK

To depend on someone or something to do what is needed.

verb. Similar meanings: depend, count on, trust. Opposite meanings: distrust, doubt.

Islanders rely on the little ferry to bring their post, milk and newspapers across each morning.

22. THINK FIRST

sacrifice

TURN TO CHECK

Giving up something you value in order to help someone else.

noun. Similar meanings: giving up, self-denial, surrender.

Missing the cup final to look after his little sister was a real sacrifice for Marcus.

23. THINK FIRST

sympathy

TURN TO CHECK

A feeling of care and sorrow for someone who is having a hard time.

noun. Similar meanings: compassion, understanding, pity. Opposite meanings: indifference, coldness.

The postman had real sympathy for Mrs Kaur, stopping to carry her shopping up the steps.

24. THINK FIRST

volunteer

TURN TO CHECK

To offer to do a job freely, without being made to or paid for it.

verb. Similar meanings: offer, step forward. Opposite meanings: refuse, shirk.

Half the class chose to volunteer at the beach clean, filling twelve sacks with litter by lunchtime.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

25. THINK FIRST

boast

TURN TO CHECK

To talk proudly about yourself or the things you own, to impress others.

verb. Similar meanings: brag, show off, crow. Opposite meanings: be modest, play down.

Nobody wanted to sit next to Callum after he boasted about his new bike all lunchtime.

26. THINK FIRST

confess

TURN TO CHECK

To admit that you have done something wrong or embarrassing.

verb. Similar meanings: admit, own up, come clean. Opposite meanings: deny, cover up.

Nobody would confess to eating the last biscuit, though there were crumbs on the dog's nose.

27. THINK FIRST

debate

TURN TO CHECK

A discussion in which people give reasons for different opinions.

noun. Similar meanings: discussion, argument, dispute.

The class held a lively debate about whether the school should keep chickens on the field.

28. THINK FIRST

declare

TURN TO CHECK

To say something firmly and openly so that everyone knows it.

verb. Similar meanings: announce, state, proclaim. Opposite meanings: hide, withhold.

"This is the best sandcastle on the whole beach," Dev declared, planting his flag on top.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

29. THINK FIRST

exclaim

TURN TO CHECK

To say something suddenly, often loudly, because of a strong feeling.

verb. Similar meanings: cry out, shout, blurt. Opposite meanings: whisper, mutter.

"Look, a kingfisher!" Priya exclaimed, nearly dropping her sandwich into the canal.

30. THINK FIRST

mutter

TURN TO CHECK

To speak quietly and unclearly, often because you are annoyed.

verb. Similar meanings: mumble, grumble. Opposite meanings: shout, exclaim.

Grandad muttered something about the rain as he dragged the wheelbarrow back to the shed.

31. THINK FIRST

persuade

TURN TO CHECK

To make someone agree to do or believe something by giving them good reasons.

verb. Similar meanings: convince, talk round, win over. Opposite meanings: dissuade, discourage.

After three weeks of asking, Amira finally persuaded her dad to adopt the scruffy rescue dog.

32. THINK FIRST

remark

TURN TO CHECK

A short comment that someone says or writes about something.

noun. Similar meanings: comment, observation, statement. Opposite meanings: silence.

Auntie Jo made a kind remark about my painting, and I grinned all the way home.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

33. THINK FIRST

clamber

TURN TO CHECK

To climb somewhere awkwardly, using your hands and feet.

verb. Similar meanings: scramble, climb, scale.

The children clambered over the slippery rocks to reach the pool at the far end.

34. THINK FIRST

dawdle

TURN TO CHECK

To walk or do something slowly, wasting time along the way.

verb. Similar meanings: dally, loiter, drag your feet. Opposite meanings: hurry, rush.

We dawdled home from school, stopping to look at every snail on the pavement.

35. THINK FIRST

errand

TURN TO CHECK

A short journey to do a small job, such as delivering something.

noun. Similar meanings: task, job, mission.

Before tea, Mum sent me on an errand to fetch milk from the corner shop.

36. THINK FIRST

fidget

TURN TO CHECK

To keep making small restless movements because you are bored or nervous.

verb. Similar meanings: squirm, wriggle, twitch. Opposite meanings: settle, relax.

The vicar's sermon dragged on, and the choirboys began to fidget in the front pew.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

37. THINK FIRST

hesitate

TURN TO CHECK

To pause before doing something because you are unsure or nervous.

verb. Similar meanings: pause, dither, hold back. Opposite meanings: rush, plunge in.

Rosie hesitated at the edge of the pool, then took a deep breath and jumped.

38. THINK FIRST

hurl

TURN TO CHECK

To throw something with great force.

verb. Similar meanings: fling, throw, toss. Opposite meanings: catch, hold.

Furious with the wind, Tom hurled his broken kite into the hedge.

39. THINK FIRST

hurtle

TURN TO CHECK

To move very fast, often in a wild or out-of-control way.

verb. Similar meanings: race, speed, rush. Opposite meanings: crawl, creep.

The sledge hurtled down the slope so fast that the twins had to bail out into a snowdrift.

40. THINK FIRST

scurry

TURN TO CHECK

To move quickly with short, hurried steps.

verb. Similar meanings: scamper, dash, scuttle. Opposite meanings: dawdle, amble.

A mouse scurried across the kitchen floor and disappeared under the fridge.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

41. THINK FIRST

stride

TURN TO CHECK

To walk with long, confident steps.

verb. Similar meanings: march, pace, step out. Opposite meanings: shuffle, dawdle.

Ignoring the drizzle, the coach strode across the pitch to shake the referee's hand.

42. THINK FIRST

stumble

TURN TO CHECK

To trip or nearly fall while walking or running.

verb. Similar meanings: trip, lurch, totter.

Halfway across the field, Jack stumbled on a molehill and landed in the wet grass.

43. THINK FIRST

concentrate

TURN TO CHECK

To give all your attention to one thing.

verb. Similar meanings: focus, pay attention, apply yourself. Opposite meanings: daydream, drift.

With the telly blaring downstairs, Sofia found it hard to concentrate on her jigsaw.

44. THINK FIRST

doubt

TURN TO CHECK

A feeling of not being sure whether something is true or will happen.

noun. Similar meanings: uncertainty, hesitation, misgiving. Opposite meanings: certainty, confidence, trust.

There was some doubt about whether the frozen pond was thick enough to walk on.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

45. THINK FIRST

hunch

TURN TO CHECK

A feeling that something is true, even without any proof.

noun. Similar meanings: feeling, instinct, suspicion.

Following a hunch, Dan checked under the shed and found the missing football.

46. THINK FIRST

memorise

TURN TO CHECK

To learn something so well that you can repeat it exactly.

verb. Similar meanings: learn by heart, commit to memory, remember. Opposite meanings: forget.

Over the weekend Finn memorised every line of his part in the school play.

47. THINK FIRST

realise

TURN TO CHECK

To suddenly notice or understand something that you did not know before.

verb. Similar meanings: notice, grasp, become aware. Opposite meanings: overlook, miss.

Halfway to the bus stop, Zara realised she had left her packed lunch on the table.

48. THINK FIRST

recall

TURN TO CHECK

To bring a memory back into your mind.

verb. Similar meanings: remember, recollect, call to mind. Opposite meanings: forget.

Try as she might, Nan could not recall where she had put her reading glasses.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

49. THINK FIRST

reckon

TURN TO CHECK

To think or believe that something is likely to be true.

verb. Similar meanings: think, suppose, believe.

I reckon the tide will be far enough out by four o'clock for us to explore the rock pools.

50. THINK FIRST

theory

TURN TO CHECK

An idea that tries to explain why something happens.

noun. Similar meanings: idea, explanation, hypothesis.

Milo's theory was that the birds sang louder whenever next door's cat was indoors.

51. THINK FIRST

bluff

TURN TO CHECK

To pretend to be confident or to know something so that other people believe you.

verb. Similar meanings: pretend, fake, put on an act. Opposite meanings: admit, own up.

Sam had not read the book, but he tried to bluff, nodding wisely and making up answers.

52. THINK FIRST

cunning

TURN TO CHECK

Clever at getting what you want by using tricks.

adjective. Similar meanings: crafty, sly, wily. Opposite meanings: honest, naive.

The cunning fox waited until the farmer had gone indoors before creeping towards the hen house.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

53. THINK FIRST

deceive

TURN TO CHECK

To make someone believe something that is not true.

verb. Similar meanings: mislead, trick, fool. Opposite meanings: enlighten, inform.

Every person in the audience was deceived by the trick, certain the coin had truly vanished.

54. THINK FIRST

exaggerate

TURN TO CHECK

To describe something as bigger, better or worse than it really is.

verb. Similar meanings: overstate, embellish, inflate. Opposite meanings: understate, minimise.

Dad always exaggerates the size of the fish he caught, and it grows with every retelling.

55. THINK FIRST

genuine

TURN TO CHECK

Real, and exactly what it claims to be.

adjective. Similar meanings: real, authentic, true. Opposite meanings: fake, false.

Grandad checked the old coin with a magnifying glass and declared it a genuine Roman one.

56. THINK FIRST

sincere

TURN TO CHECK

Honestly meant, without any pretending.

adjective. Similar meanings: heartfelt, honest, earnest. Opposite meanings: false, hypocritical.

Her apology was so sincere that Ravi forgave her before she had even finished speaking.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

57. THINK FIRST

trustworthy

TURN TO CHECK

Describing a person who can be relied on to be honest.

adjective. Similar meanings: reliable, dependable, honest. Opposite meanings: dishonest, unreliable.

Only the most trustworthy pupils were allowed to collect the dinner money from each classroom.

58. THINK FIRST

courageous

TURN TO CHECK

Describing someone who faces fear or hardship without giving up.

adjective. Similar meanings: brave, fearless, plucky. Opposite meanings: cowardly, timid.

It was courageous of Aisha to speak up for the new boy when everyone else stayed silent.

59. THINK FIRST

cowardly

TURN TO CHECK

Too afraid to face difficulty, and quick to run from it.

adjective. Similar meanings: timid, spineless, fearful. Opposite meanings: brave, courageous.

Leaving your friend to face the angry goose alone was a cowardly thing to do, Tom.

60. THINK FIRST

defend

TURN TO CHECK

To protect someone or something from attack or harm.

verb. Similar meanings: protect, guard, shield. Opposite meanings: attack, abandon.

The mother swan spread her wings wide to defend her cygnets from the curious dog.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

61. THINK FIRST

hazard

TURN TO CHECK

A thing that could cause harm or an accident.

noun. Similar meanings: danger, risk, peril. Opposite meanings: safety, protection.

Loose stones on the cliff path were a real hazard for walkers after the heavy rain.

62. THINK FIRST

quarrel

TURN TO CHECK

An angry argument between people who disagree.

noun. Similar meanings: argument, row, dispute. Opposite meanings: agreement, reconciliation.

A silly quarrel over whose turn it was on the swing ended with both cousins in tears.

63. THINK FIRST

surrender

TURN TO CHECK

To stop fighting and admit that the other side has won.

verb. Similar meanings: give in, yield, submit. Opposite meanings: resist, fight on.

After an hour of snowball fighting, the soaked and shivering red team finally surrendered.

64. THINK FIRST

threaten

TURN TO CHECK

To say you will hurt or punish someone if they do not do what you want.

verb. Similar meanings: menace, intimidate, bully. Opposite meanings: reassure, protect.

The older boys threatened to throw our football over the fence unless we let them play.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

65. THINK FIRST

alter

TURN TO CHECK

To change something slightly, or to become different.

verb. Similar meanings: change, adjust, modify. Opposite meanings: preserve, keep.

Mum had to alter the costume because the sleeves hung right down over Josh's hands.

66. THINK FIRST

expand

TURN TO CHECK

To become larger, or to make something larger.

verb. Similar meanings: grow, enlarge, swell. Opposite meanings: shrink, contract.

Watch the balloon expand as you blow into it, then let go and see it shoot across the room.

67. THINK FIRST

fragile

TURN TO CHECK

Easily broken or damaged.

adjective. Similar meanings: delicate, breakable, flimsy. Opposite meanings: sturdy, tough.

The eggs were so fragile that Nan wrapped each one in a tea towel for the journey.

68. THINK FIRST

mighty

TURN TO CHECK

Very powerful or very large.

adjective. Similar meanings: powerful, strong, huge. Opposite meanings: weak, puny.

With one mighty heave, the three of them dragged the fallen branch off the footpath.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

69. THINK FIRST

shrivel

TURN TO CHECK

To become smaller, dry and wrinkled, usually from heat or lack of water.

verb. Similar meanings: wrinkle, shrink, wither. Opposite meanings: swell, plump up.

Without rain for a month, the lettuces began to shrivel and the soil cracked like old paint.

70. THINK FIRST

sturdy

TURN TO CHECK

Strongly built and not easily broken.

adjective. Similar meanings: strong, solid, robust. Opposite meanings: flimsy, fragile.

Twenty winters on the seafront had not put a single wobble in the sturdy wooden bench.

71. THINK FIRST

swell

TURN TO CHECK

To grow bigger than usual, often by filling with something.

verb. Similar meanings: expand, bulge, grow. Opposite meanings: shrink, deflate.

The stream began to swell after the storm, spilling over its banks into the meadow.

72. THINK FIRST

vast

TURN TO CHECK

Extremely large in size or amount.

adjective. Similar meanings: enormous, huge, immense. Opposite meanings: tiny, minute.

From the top of the hill, the moor stretched away, a vast sea of purple heather.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

73. THINK FIRST

gradually

TURN TO CHECK

Slowly and steadily, a little at a time.

adverb. Similar meanings: slowly, steadily, bit by bit. Opposite meanings: suddenly, abruptly.

The tide crept in gradually, until the sandcastle's moat was full and its walls began to crumble.

74. THINK FIRST

hasty

TURN TO CHECK

Done in a hurry, often without enough thought.

adjective. Similar meanings: hurried, rushed, rash. Opposite meanings: careful, leisurely.

In her hasty dash for the bus, Nia left her packed lunch sitting on the kitchen table.

75. THINK FIRST

postpone

TURN TO CHECK

To move an event to a later time than planned.

verb. Similar meanings: delay, put off, defer. Opposite meanings: bring forward, advance.

Because of the thunderstorm, the head teacher decided to postpone sports day until the following week.

76. THINK FIRST

punctual

TURN TO CHECK

Describing someone who arrives or does things exactly on time.

adjective. Similar meanings: prompt, on time, timely. Opposite meanings: late, tardy.

Mr Das is so punctual that the class can set the clock by the moment he walks in.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

77. THINK FIRST

sequence

TURN TO CHECK

A set of things that follow one another in a particular order.

noun. Similar meanings: order, series, succession. Opposite meanings: jumble, muddle.

The recipe only works if you follow the sequence: cream the butter first, then add the eggs.

78. THINK FIRST

swift

TURN TO CHECK

Moving or happening very quickly.

adjective. Similar meanings: quick, speedy, rapid. Opposite meanings: slow, sluggish.

A swift reply came back from the library: the book we wanted was already on its way.

79. THINK FIRST

dense

TURN TO CHECK

Packed closely together, with little space between the parts.

adjective. Similar meanings: thick, packed, crowded. Opposite meanings: sparse, thin.

The fog was so dense that Priya could not see the bus stop from the corner.

80. THINK FIRST

drought

TURN TO CHECK

A long period with little or no rain, when the land dries out.

noun. Similar meanings: dry spell, water shortage. Opposite meanings: flood, deluge.

During the summer drought the reservoir shrank and cracked mud appeared where water had been.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

81. THINK FIRST

horizon

TURN TO CHECK

The distant line where the land or sea seems to meet the sky.

noun. Similar meanings: skyline, far distance.

A tiny ship crept along the horizon, so far off that it looked like a toy.

82. THINK FIRST

overcast

TURN TO CHECK

Describing a sky that is covered in cloud, with no sun showing.

adjective. Similar meanings: cloudy, grey, dull. Opposite meanings: sunny, cloudless.

The morning was overcast and dull, so the beach was almost empty when we arrived.

83. THINK FIRST

remote

TURN TO CHECK

Far away from towns and hard to reach.

adjective. Similar meanings: faraway, distant, out-of-the-way. Opposite meanings: nearby, central.

The stone hut stood on a remote hillside, miles from the nearest road or shop.

84. THINK FIRST

rural

TURN TO CHECK

Describing the countryside rather than a town or city.

adjective. Similar meanings: country, pastoral, agricultural. Opposite meanings: urban.

Gran's rural cottage had fields on three sides and a farm track instead of a street.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

85. THINK FIRST

summit

TURN TO CHECK

The highest point of a mountain or hill.

noun. Similar meanings: peak, top, crest. Opposite meanings: base, foot.

After four hours of climbing, we reached the summit and could see three counties below us.

86. THINK FIRST

urban

TURN TO CHECK

Describing a town or city rather than the countryside.

adjective. Similar meanings: city, built-up, metropolitan. Opposite meanings: rural.

Pigeons and foxes have adapted well to urban life, raiding bins behind busy high streets.

87. THINK FIRST

dazzling

TURN TO CHECK

So bright that it is hard to look at.

adjective. Similar meanings: blinding, brilliant, glaring. Opposite meanings: dim, dull.

Sunlight bounced off the snow in a dazzling glare that made everyone squint and reach for sunglasses.

88. THINK FIRST

deafening

TURN TO CHECK

Extremely loud.

adjective. Similar meanings: ear-splitting, thunderous, booming. Opposite meanings: silent, hushed.

The thunder was deafening, and the dog dived under the table with his paws over his ears.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

89. THINK FIRST

dim

TURN TO CHECK

Describing light that is weak and makes things hard to see.

adjective. Similar meanings: weak, shadowy, murky, gloomy. Opposite meanings: bright, dazzling.

In the dim glow of the torch, the tent looked much bigger than it really was.

90. THINK FIRST

flicker

TURN TO CHECK

To burn or shine unsteadily, going bright and dark very quickly.

verb. Similar meanings: flutter, twinkle, quiver.

The candle began to flicker in the draught, throwing jumpy shadows across the ceiling.

91. THINK FIRST

glisten

TURN TO CHECK

To shine with a wet or sparkling light, like dew or raindrops.

verb. Similar meanings: sparkle, shimmer, twinkle, glitter. Opposite meanings: dull, darken.

After the shower the cobwebs began to glisten, each thread strung with tiny drops.

92. THINK FIRST

hush

TURN TO CHECK

A sudden silence, especially after there has been noise.

noun. Similar meanings: silence, quiet, stillness. Opposite meanings: uproar, racket.

A hush fell over the hall as the curtain twitched and the lights went down.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

93. THINK FIRST

peculiar

TURN TO CHECK

Describing something strange or odd, unlike what you would usually expect.

adjective. Similar meanings: strange, odd, curious, bizarre. Opposite meanings: ordinary, normal.

A peculiar smell, like burnt toast mixed with seaweed, drifted out of the science cupboard.

94. THINK FIRST

reek

TURN TO CHECK

To give off a very strong and unpleasant smell.

verb. Similar meanings: stink, smell, whiff. Opposite meanings: freshen.

The changing rooms reek of damp socks by the end of every Friday swimming lesson.

95. THINK FIRST

rustle

TURN TO CHECK

To make a soft, dry, whispering sound, like leaves moving.

verb. Similar meanings: swish, whisper, crackle.

Something began to rustle in the hedge, and a hedgehog shuffled out onto the path.

96. THINK FIRST

alliteration

TURN TO CHECK

The use of the same first sound in several words close together.

noun. Similar meanings: repeated initial sounds, initial sound repetition.

'Slippery slugs slide slowly' is packed with alliteration, all those hissing s sounds.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

97. THINK FIRST

metaphor

TURN TO CHECK

A way of describing something by saying it is something else.

noun. Similar meanings: figurative comparison, implied comparison.

Calling the playground 'a zoo at feeding time' is a metaphor, since it is not really a zoo.

98. THINK FIRST

narrator

TURN TO CHECK

The person or character who tells a story to the reader.

noun. Similar meanings: storyteller, teller.

The narrator of the book is a ten-year-old girl, so we only know what she notices.

99. THINK FIRST

setting

TURN TO CHECK

The place and time in which the events of a story happen.

noun. Similar meanings: location, backdrop, scene.

The story's setting is a snowy Scottish village in 1950, and most scenes take place in a cottage by the harbour.

100. THINK FIRST

simile

TURN TO CHECK

A comparison of two things using the words 'like' or 'as'.

noun. Similar meanings: comparison using like or as, explicit comparison.

'Her hands were as cold as frogs' is a simile that made the whole class shiver.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

101. THINK FIRST

although

TURN TO CHECK

Used to join two ideas when the second one is surprising after the first.

conjunction. Similar meanings: though, even though, while.

Although the pool was freezing, Tomasz swam twenty lengths before breakfast.

102. THINK FIRST

barely

TURN TO CHECK

Only just; by a very small amount.

adverb. Similar meanings: hardly, scarcely, only just. Opposite meanings: easily, amply.

The kite barely cleared the telephone wires before the wind snatched it higher.

103. THINK FIRST

despite

TURN TO CHECK

Used to say that something happened even though another thing might have stopped it.

preposition. Similar meanings: in spite of, regardless of, notwithstanding.

Despite the drizzle, the whole street turned out for the summer fete on the green.

104. THINK FIRST

however

TURN TO CHECK

Used to add a point that goes against what was just said.

adverb. Similar meanings: nevertheless, but, still, yet.

The forecast promised sunshine; however, we spent the whole afternoon sheltering under the pier.

Foundation vocabulary flashcards

Cut each card along its outer border. Fold along the dotted middle line, with the text facing out.

105. THINK FIRST

otherwise

TURN TO CHECK

Used to say what will happen if something is not done.

adverb. Similar meanings: or else, if not.

Put the lid on the box; otherwise, the pieces may fall out.

106. THINK FIRST

therefore

TURN TO CHECK

For that reason; as a result of what has just been said.

adverb. Similar meanings: so, consequently, thus, hence.

The river had burst its banks; therefore the footpath to school was closed for a week.