

**inquire***verb*

When you **inquire**, you try to find out something by asking a question.

For information on when the movie begins, you can **inquire** at the ticket window.

Are you **inquiring** when you:

- call your grandma to wish her a happy birthday?
- ask a librarian where to find a book?
- call your friend to ask when his party starts?
- ask your mom to check your homework?
- ask someone for directions to a new store?

Do you think it's a good idea to **inquire** when you aren't sure about something? Why or why not?

**clench***verb*

You **clench** something when you squeeze it tightly.

The baseball player **clenched** the bat as he stepped up to home plate.

Which of these could you **clench**?

- a hammer when you're building a bookcase
- a hot dog at a picnic
- your teeth during a scary movie
- a fragile cup as you drink tea
- your friend's arm on a roller coaster ride

When do you **clench** your teeth?

When do you **clench** your fists?

**monotone**

*noun*

When you speak in a **monotone**, you don't use any expression in your voice.

The speaker's **monotone** almost put the audience to sleep.

Which of the following might sound like a **monotone**?

- words spoken by a computer
- a dramatic poem read by its author
- an electronic voice on an answering machine
- a person calling out for help
- someone telling a joke

Say your name, age, favorite color, and favorite food in a **monotone**. Then try it again with lots of expression. Which do you prefer? Why?

**attire**

*noun*

Your **attire** is the clothing you wear.

The proper **attire** for the banquet and dance is a suit or a gown.

Which of these could be part of a bride's **attire**?

- a white gown
- hiking boots
- a baseball cap
- a veil
- high-heeled shoes

What was your **attire** the last time you had to dress up for a special occasion?