to aTTRACT	verb	to draw physically towards one or by appeal to natural or excited interest, emotion or aesthetic sense Working for the U.N. doesn't attract me at all. This museum attracts many visitors in July.
attRACted	adj	pulled towards something: I was attracted to him by his sense of humour.
an atTRACtion	noun	something which is attractive: There was an instant attraction between us.
to conTRACT	verb	1) to get smaller (i.e. "pull itself together"): Iron contracts when it is cooled. 2) to get a disease: He contracted ebola while in The Congo. CLICK HERE FOR A PDF VERSION
a contRACtion	noun	1) a reduction in size/volume 2) what a female experiences as she is about to give birth
a CONtract	noun	a legally-binding document
conTRACtual	adj	legally bound: We have a contractual obligation to carry out the work.
conTRACted	adj	ditto
to deTRACT from	verb	to take away from, but NOT in a calculation : His scruffy hair detracts from his appearance.
a deTRACtor	noun	a person who says something negative about someone: He's a good man; don't listen to his detractors!
to disTRACT	verb	to disturb the concentration
disTRACting	adj	something disturbing your concentration: Mobiles are extremely distracting if you are driving.
disTRACted	adj	not concentrating / having one's attention disturbed
a disTRACtion	noun	something diverting your attention: I can't work at home; there are just too many distractions.
to exTRACT	verb	to take a part out of something smaller to remove a tooth: Dentists EXTRACT teeth; they don't say "pull out"!
an EXtract	noun	a part of A taken from A for some special purpose: The guest author read an extract from her new book.
an exTRACtion	noun	having a tooth pulled out: I'm sorry, but you need three more extractions, Mr Snuggs
inTRACtable	adj	a (lasting) problem very hard to (re) solve or fix: Bringing up the sunken cruise ship is going to be an intractable task.
to reTRACT	verb	to take back in or withdraw : A plane retracts its undercarriage. Cats can retract their paws. He refused to retract his insulting remarks.
reTRACtable	adj	capable of being retracted : A new arena with a retractable roof is planned.
to SUBtract	verb	to take away from, especially maths
subTRACtion	noun	for example: 21-3 = 18: In Scrabble you need to subtract your remaining points.
TRACtion	noun	1) the action of drawing or pulling something over a surface, especially a road or track 2) the extent to which a product, idea, etc. gains popularity or acceptance: I don't think your idea will gain traction in Asia. 3) the application of a sustained pull on a limb or muscle, especially to maintain in position a fractured bone or to correct a deformity: After his motorbike accident he spent three weeks in hospital in traction.
a TRACtor	noun	a motorised vehicle for pulling things on the farm