**Chapter 16**The showdown: London, June 1990

**show‧down** [countable usually singular]

a meeting, argument, fight etc that will settle a disagreement or competition that has continued for a long time

**showdown with** *a showdown with the striking workers*

**word‧ed**
**carefully/clearly/strongly etc worded**

using words that express an idea carefully or clearly:

*a carefully worded question; a strongly worded letter*

**drizzle**2 [singular, uncountable]

DN weather that is a combination of light rain and mist:

*A light drizzle had started by the time we left.*

**re‧luc‧tant**

slow and unwilling: *She gave a reluctant smile.*

**reluctant to do something** *Maddox was reluctant to talk about it.*

**—reluctantly** *adverb*: *Reluctantly, he agreed.*

**stairs**[countable] a set of stairs between one floor and the next: *Bert lives two flights down from here.* **a flight of stairs/steps** *She fell down a whole flight of stairs.*

**pin‧stripe** [countable]

**1**DC one of the thin pale lines that form a pattern on cloth against a darker background
**2**DCC **pinstripe suit**
a suit made from cloth with a pinstripe pattern, worn especially by business people:
*a navy-blue pinstripe suit*

**ven‧om‧ous**

**1** full of hatred or anger: *Lisa shot him a venomous glance.*

**2**HB a venomous snake, insect etc produces poison [= poisonous]

**pluck**1

**1** **pull something**

[transitive] *written* to pull something quickly in order to remove it

**pluck something from/off etc something**

*Reaching up, she plucked an apple off the tree.*

**2** **pluck your eyebrows**

to make your eyebrows the shape you want, by pulling out some of the hairs

**3** **take somebody/something away**

[transitive always + adverb/preposition] to take someone away from a place or situation that is dangerous or unpleasant in a quick and unexpected way

**pluck somebody/something from/out of something**

*Some refugee children were plucked out of the country in a number of mercy missions.*

**4** **chicken**

[transitive]DFC to pull the feathers off a dead chicken or other bird before cooking it

**5** **pluck up (the) courage (to do something)**

to force yourself to be brave and do something you are afraid of doing:

*He finally plucked up enough courage to ask her out.*

**6** **music**

[intransitive and transitive]APM to pull the strings of a musical instrument

**pluck at** *Someone was plucking at the strings of an old guitar.*

**in‧ces‧sant** [usually before noun]

continuing without stopping [= constant]:

*The child's incessant talking started to irritate her.*

*incessant rain*