Chapter 3 The Fight

**thick**1 S2 W2 *comparative* **thicker***, superlative* **thickest**

**1** **not thin** if something is thick, there is a large distance or a larger distance than usual between its two opposite surfaces or sides:

*a thick slice of homemade bread; He was wearing thick glasses.*; *short thick fingers*

**thick with** *The furniture was* ***thick with dust*** (=there was thick dust on the furniture)*.*

**2** **measurement** measuring a particular distance between two opposite sides or surfaces of something

**3 feet/1cm/two inches etc thick** *The walls are about two meters thick.*

**3** **trees/bushes etc** HBPgrowing very close together or having a lot of leaves [= dense]:

*birds hiding in the thick undergrowth*

**thick with** *The walls were thick with ivy.*

**4** **smoke/cloud etc**

filling the air, and difficult to see through or breathe in [= dense]: *thick fog*

**thick with** *The air was* ***thick with*** *cigarette* ***smoke****.*

**5** **liquid** almost solid, and therefore flowing very slowly, or not flowing at all:

*For a thicker gravy, add more flour.* *The paint is too thick.*

**6** **hair/fur** having a lot of hair or fur: *She ran her fingers through her thick brown hair.*

**7** **stupid** *British English informal* a thick person is stupid: *He's a nice guy, but he's a bit thick.*

**(as) thick as two short planks** (=very stupid)

**8** **voice**

**a)** if someone has a thick accent, the way they speak shows clearly which particular place or part of a country they come from **a thick German/Yorkshire etc accent**

*Andre speaks English with a thick Russian accent.*

**b)** if someone's voice is thick, it is not as clear or high as usual, for example because they are upset:

*Bill's voice was thick and gruff.*

**thick with** *Her voice was thick with emotion.*

**9** **large amount** *especially written* containing a lot of people or things:

**thick with** *The roads were thick with holiday traffic.*

**11** **have a thick skin** to not care if people criticize you or do not like you [**➔ thick-skinned**](http://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/thick-skinned#p008-000457391)

**WORD CHOICE: **
**wide, thick, broad**

**Wide** is used to talk about the distance across something such as a road or river. It is also used to talk about the distance from one side to the other of an object *• a doorway two metres wide*

**Thick** is usually used to talk about the distance between the two largest surfaces of an object *• The steel doors are four inches thick.*

**Broad** can often be used instead of **wide**, but it is slightly literary *• broad, graceful avenues*

**Broad** is always used with **shoulders** and **back** *• a big man with broad (NOT wide) shoulders*

**Wide** is used with nouns such as **range**, **variety**, and **choice** to say that something includes a lot of different things.

**Broad** is used with nouns such as **outline**, **picture**, and **description** to say that a description is general rather than specific.

**fat**1 S2 W3 *comparative* **fatter***, superlative* **fattest**

**1** **flesh** weighing too much because you have too much flesh on your body [≠ thin]:

*You'll* ***get fat*** *if you eat all that chocolate.*

**2** **object** thick or wide [≠ thin]: *Dobbs was smoking a fat cigar; a big fat book*

**3** **money** [only before noun] *informal* containing or worth a large amount of money: *a* ***fat cheque***

**4** **fat chance** *informal* used to say that something is very unlikely to happen

 **fat chance of** *'You can go to bed now and sleep easy.' 'Fat chance of that!'*

**5** **(a) fat lot of good/use** *spoken* not at all useful or helpful: *Fat lot of use you are in the kitchen.*

**6** **fat cat** *informal* someone who has too much money, especially someone who is paid too much for their job - used in order to show disapproval:

*the fat cats at the top who have recently been given obscene pay increases*

**7 in fat city** *American English old-fashioned* having plenty of money

**8** **grow fat on something** to become rich because of something used to show disapproval:

*The finance men had grown fat on managing other people's money.*

**9** **a fat lip** *informal* a lip that is swollen because it has been hit:

*My friend was badly injured with bruised ribs and a fat lip.*

**10** **approval** *informal* another spelling of phat; used to show approval, especially of someone or something that is fashionable, interesting, or attractive

**fat/phat beats** (=music that sounds good) *Check out these fat beats.*

**—fatness** *noun* [uncountable]

**WORD CHOICE: **
**fat, overweight, obese, chubby, plump, big, well-built**

In general, people do not like to be called fat. But some ways to say 'fat' are less rude than others.

**fat** is a very direct word. You might use it about yourself but it will usually cause offence if you use it about someone else *• I'm so fat at the moment!*

**overweight** is a more polite way to say that someone is fatter than they usually are or than they should be *• She is a little overweight.*

**obese** is a word used especially by doctors to describe people who are very fat, in a way that is bad for their health.

**chubby** is a more informal word and is used especially of children or of rounded body parts such as cheeks or knees.

**plump** means fat and rounded in a pleasant way *• a plump, motherly woman*

**big** and **well-built** are fairly polite ways to describe someone with a large, strong, or fat body *• For big men like him, air travel can be uncomfortable.*

**bring something ↔ down on/upon somebody** *phrasal verb*

to make something bad happen to someone, especially to yourself or to people connected with you:

*His recklessness brought down disaster on the whole family.*

**knock out** *phrasal verb*

**1** **unconscious**

**knock somebody ↔ out** to make someone become unconscious or go to sleep:

*The champion knocked Biggs out in the seventh round.*

**knock yourself out** *His head hit a table as he fell and he knocked himself out.*

*The nurse gave me some medicine which totally knocked me out.*

**2** **defeat**

**knock somebody/something ↔ out**to defeat a person or team in a competition so that they can no longer take part: *The German team were knocked out in the first round.*

**knock somebody/something out of something**

*He first hit the headlines when he knocked Becker out of the French Open Tournament.*

**3** **destroy**

**knock something ↔ out** to damage something so that it does not work:

*The air raids were planned to knock out communications on the ground.*

**4** **admire**

**knock somebody out** *informal* if something knocks you out, it is very impressive and surprises you because it is so good: *She loved the movie. It knocked her out.*

**5** **produce**

**knock something ↔ out** *informal* to produce something easily and quickly:

*Paul has been knocking out new songs for the album.*

**6** **knock yourself out** *informal* to work very hard in order to do something well

**burst**2 [countable] **1** the act of something bursting or the place where it has burst:

*a burst in the water pipe*

**2** **a)** a short sudden effort or increase in activity **burst of** *The van gave a sudden burst of speed.*

 **b)** a short sudden and usually loud sound **burst of**  *sharp bursts of machine gun fire*

 **c)** a sudden strong feeling or emotion

**burst of anger/enthusiasm/temper etc**

**overhang**1 *past tense and past participle* **overhung** [intransitive and transitive]

to hang over something or stick out above it

**strike**1 S3 W3 *past tense and past participle* **struck**

**1** **hit**[transitive] *written* to hit or fall against the surface of something:

*She fell heavily, striking her head against the side of the boat.*

*A snowball struck him on the back of the head.*

! In spoken and ordinary written English it is much more usual to use **hit**.

**2** **hit with hand/weapon etc** [transitive] *formal* to deliberately hit someone or something with your hand or a weapon: *She struck him hard across the face.*

**3** **thought/idea** [transitive not in progressive] if something strikes you, you think of it, notice it, or realize that it is important, interesting, true etc: *A rather worrying thought struck me.*

**it strikes somebody that** *It struck her that losing the company might be the least of her worries.*

**be struck by something** *You can't help being struck by her kindness.*

**4** **strike somebody as (being) something**

to seem to have a particular quality or feature: *His jokes didn't strike Jack as being very funny.*

**5** **stop work** [intransitive] if a group of workers strike, they stop working as a protest against something relating to their work, for example how much they are paid, bad working conditions etc:

*In many countries, the police are forbidden to strike.*

**strike for** *They're striking for the right to have their trade union recognized in law.*

**6** **attack** [intransitive] to attack someone, especially suddenly: *The killer might strike again.*

**7** **harm** [transitive] to damage or harm someone or something

**strike at** *Such prejudices* ***strike*** *right* ***at the heart of*** *any notions of a civilized society.*

**9** **strike a match**

to produce a flame from a match by rubbing it hard across a rough surface

**15** **lightning** [intransitive and transitive] if lightning strikes something, it hits and damages it:

*The temple burned down after it was* ***struck by lightning*** *last year.*

**➔ lightning never strikes twice**

**20** **clock**[intransitive and transitive] if a clock strikes one, two, six etc, its bell makes a sound once, twice, six times etc according to what time it is: *The church clock began to strike twelve.*

**strike the hour** (=strike when it is exactly one o'clock, two o'clock etc)

**key ring** [countable]

D a metal ring that you keep keys on

**set off** *phrasal verb*

**1** to start to go somewhere: *I'll set off early to avoid the traffic.*

**set off for** *Jerry and I set off on foot for the beach.*