

CHAPTER 10 VOCABULARY GLOSSARY

Britt-Marie Was Here by Fredrik Backman

abruptly (adverb) /ə'brʌptli/ uh-BRUPT-lee: "And then their silence is so abruptly broken by the children's howls of euphoria from within that Britt-Marie is startled" (p. 86).

Definition: If something happens abruptly, it happens suddenly and unexpectedly.

admittedly (adverb) /əd'mɪtɪdli/ ud-MIT-id-lee: "Admittedly there weren't any proper coasters, so Britt-Marie has used two pieces of toilet paper folded over" (p. 81).

Definition: You use admittedly to introduce a fact or opinion which weakens or contradicts what you have just said.

agitation (noun) /,ædʒɪ'teɪʃən/ aj-ih-TAY-shun: "She catches hold of his collar but he's already wearing his shoes and has already gone over the threshold. Britt-Marie, in absolute agitation, gets into her own shoes and runs after him" (p. 85).

Definition: Agitation is the state of being very worried or upset.

aim (verb) /eɪm/ aym: "'I'm the one who shot the soccer ball at your head yesterday. I didn't do it on purpose. I'm pants at aiming'" (p. 82).

Definition: If you aim a weapon or another object at something or someone, you point it towards them before firing or throwing it.

altogether (adverb) /,ɔːltə'geðər/ awl-tuh-GETH-ur: "The boy immediately starts nodding with altogether worrying enthusiasm" (p. 86).

Definition: You use altogether to emphasize that something has stopped, been done, or finished completely.

anytime (adverb) /'eni,tʌɪm/ EN-ee-tym: "'It doesn't matter! I can make it anytime tomorrow!'" (p. 86).

Definition: You use anytime to mean at any time when referring to a period of time. [Note that the word here is ONE word, not two. There is also a two-word phrase, "any time," which means every time, each time, whenever: "I get dizzy **any time** I bend down to tie my shoes."]

apologize (verb) /ə'pɒlədʒaɪz/ uh-POL-uh-jyz: "'Sorry,' he mumbles, staring down at the leather. Britt-Marie doesn't know if he is apologizing to her or to the soccer ball" (p. 85).

Definition: When you apologize to someone, you say that you are sorry that you have hurt them or caused trouble for them.

apart from (phrase) /ə'pɑːrt frəm/ uh-PART frum: "'What animal apart from human beings can drink from a can?'" (p. 82).

Definition: Apart from means except for or besides.

apparently (adverb) /ə'pærəntli/ uh-PAIR-unt-lee: "She has popped up next to Britt-Marie. Apparently it's what she does: pops up, all the time" (p. 83).

Definition: You use apparently to refer to something that seems to be true, although you are not sure whether it is or not.

articulation (noun) /ɑːrtɪkjʊ'leɪʃən/ ar-tik-yuh-LAY-shun: "'You certainly won't, here we drink from glasses,' Britt-Marie interjects with uncompromising articulation" (p. 81).

Definition: Articulation is the act of saying or expressing something clearly.

avoid (verb) /ə'vɔɪd/ uh-VOYD: "Britt-Marie takes a deep breath and avoids his avoidance of eye contact" (p. 86).

Definition: If you avoid something, you take action in order to prevent it from happening or you choose not to do it.

avoidance (noun) /ə'vɔɪdəns/ uh-VOYD-unss: "Britt-Marie takes a deep breath and avoids his avoidance of eye contact" (p. 86).

Definition: Avoidance of someone or something is the act of avoiding them.

bounce (verb) /baʊns/ bowns: "As soon as she's done it she bounces back in terror when the until-now timid boys on the sofa all roar 'Nooo!' as if she's flung the remote controls in their faces" (p. 82).

Definition: If you bounce somewhere, you move there in an energetic way, because you are feeling happy.

bray (verb) /breɪ/ bray: "Half a second later the men in the pizzeria burst into fits of braying until the neon sign above the door rattles" (p. 86).

Definition: If you say that someone brays, you mean that they laugh or talk in a loud, harsh way.

burp (verb) /bɜːrp/ burp: "'Toad we called Toad because he can burp so loud that it's just sick'" (p. 84).

Definition: When someone burps, they make a noise because air from their stomach has been forced up through their throat.

capable (adjective) /'keɪpəbl/ KAY-puh-bul: "'Pirate,' echoes Britt-Marie, in the way that Britt-Marie echoes when she has to drum up all the well-meaning feelings she's capable of" (p. 83).

Definition: If someone is capable of doing something, they have the ability to do it.

chain (noun) /tʃeɪn/ chayn: "Before Britt-Marie has time to realize what's going on, a chain of Stones and Scissors being put in Paper Bags is initiated across the room" (p. 85).

Definition: A chain is a series of connected things or events.

Christmas holiday (noun) /'krɪsməs 'hɒlɪdeɪ/ KRIS-mus HOL-ih-day: "'It's still Christmas holiday'" (p. 86).

Definition: Christmas holiday is the period around Christmas when many people have time off work or school.

circle (verb) /'sɜːrkl/ SUR-kul: "Omar uses the stoppage time to climb up on one of the kitchen stools and start changing the lightbulbs on credit. Britt-Marie circles nervously" (p. 84).

Definition: If you circle an area or place, you move around its edge.

coaster (noun) /'kəʊstər/ KOH-stur: "It goes without saying that they have coasters under their soft drinks" (p. 81).

Definition: A coaster is a small mat that you put underneath a glass or cup.

coiffure (noun) /kwɑː'fjʊər/ kwah-FYOOR: "She holds her hands over her hair so the rain doesn't ruin her coiffure" (p. 85).

Definition: A coiffure is the way your hair is arranged. [More commonly, in American English, we say "hairdo".]

collar (noun) /'kɒlər/ KOL-ur: "'Mother of God! Not in your newly washed jersey! No!' She catches hold of his collar but he's already wearing his shoes" (p. 85).

Definition: The collar of a shirt or coat is the part which fits round the neck and is usually folded over.

comprehend (verb) /,kɒmpri'hænd/ kom-prih-HEND: "Vega doesn't seem to comprehend the difference" (p. 84).

Definition: If you cannot comprehend something, you cannot understand it.

confounded (adjective) /kən'faʊndɪd/ kun-FOWN-did: "Britt-Marie wanders about inside the recreation center like a confounded spirit whose grave someone has opened in order to start a discotheque" (p. 81).

Definition: If you say that someone is confounded, you mean that they are confused or puzzled.

conviction (noun) /kən'vɪkʃən/ kun-VIK-shun: "'We will!' he repeats with conviction, as if this somehow explains anything" (p. 82).

Definition: A conviction is a strong belief or opinion.

credit (noun) /'krɛdɪt/ KRED-it: "Omar uses the stoppage time to climb up on one of the kitchen stools and start changing the lightbulbs on credit" (p. 84).

Definition: If you buy something on credit, you are allowed to take it and pay for it later.

curious (adjective) /'kjʊəriəs/ KYOOR-ee-us: "Soccer is a curious game, because it doesn't ask to be loved. It demands it" (p. 81).

Definition: If you describe something as curious, you mean that it is unusual or difficult to understand.

date (noun) /deɪt/ dayt: "'I have a date tomorrow. I was going to . . . I was thinking . . . I wanted to ask if you could help me fix my hair,' he manages to say" (p. 85).

Definition: A date is an appointment to meet someone or go out with them, especially someone with whom you are having, or may soon have, a romantic relationship.

defensive (adjective) /dɪ'fɛnsɪv/ dih-FEN-siv: "'They're superstitious, everything has to be the same as the last time we won,' says the boy, at the same time explanatory and defensive" (p. 82).

Definition: If someone is defensive, they are trying to protect themselves or their interests because they feel they are being criticized.

demand (verb) /dɪ'mænd/ dih-MAND: "Soccer is a curious game, because it doesn't ask to be loved. It demands it" (p. 81).

Definition: If someone or something demands your attention or respect, they need it and deserve it.

difference (noun) /'dɪfərəns/ DIF-ur-unss: "Vega doesn't seem to comprehend the difference" (p. 84).

Definition: A difference between things is a way in which they are unlike each other.

Dino (noun) /'diːnoʊ/ DEE-noh: "'When Dino moved to Borg and Omar heard that he was a Somalian he thought it sounded like a 'sommelier,' you know one of those people who drink wine on the TV. So we called him 'Wino.' And it rhymes with 'Dino.' So now we just call him 'Dino'" (p. 83).

Definition: Dino is a nickname given to one of the boys in the story.

discotheque (noun) /'dɪskəʊtɛk/ DIS-kuh-tek: "Britt-Marie wanders about inside the recreation center like a confounded spirit whose grave someone has opened in order to start a discotheque" (p. 81).

Definition: A discotheque is a place or event where people dance to pop music.

dismay (noun) /dɪs'meɪ/ dis-MAY: "Britt-Marie spins around in pure dismay and starts running towards it" (p. 87).

Definition: Dismay is a strong feeling of fear, worry, or sadness that is caused by something unpleasant and unexpected.

drum up (phrasal verb) /dɹʌm ʌp/ drum up: "'Pirate,' echoes Britt-Marie, in the way that Britt-Marie echoes when she has to drum up all the well-meaning feelings she's capable of" (p. 83).
Definition: If you drum up support or business, you try to get it.

echo (verb) /'ekəʊ/ EK-oh: "'Pirate,' echoes Britt-Marie, in the way that Britt-Marie echoes when she has to drum up all the well-meaning feelings she's capable of" (p. 83).
Definition: If you echo someone's words, you repeat them or express agreement with them.

ecstatically (adverb) /ɪk'stætɪkli/ ik-STAT-ik-lee: "'We scored a goal!' howls the Pirate boy ecstatically" (p. 87).
Definition: If you do something ecstatically, you do it in a way that shows you are extremely happy or excited.

embarrassed (adjective) /ɪm'bærəst/ im-BAIR-ust: "He looks embarrassed. Britt-Marie cups one hand into the other and doesn't look ready for more conversation" (p. 82).
Definition: If you are embarrassed, you feel shy, ashamed, or guilty about something.

ensure (verb) /ɪn'ʃʊə/ in-SHOOR: "Britt-Marie has obviously ensured that they are sitting on towels, because she doesn't have enough baking soda to clean all the children" (p. 81).
Definition: To ensure something, or to ensure that something happens, means to make certain that it happens.

enthusiasm (noun) /ɪn'θu:ziæzəm/ in-THOO-zee-az-um: "The boy immediately starts nodding with altogether worrying enthusiasm" (p. 86).
Definition: Enthusiasm is great eagerness to be involved in a particular activity which you like and enjoy or which you think is important.

euphoria (noun) /ju:'fɔ:riə/ yoo-FOR-ee-uh: "And then their silence is so abruptly broken by the children's howls of euphoria from within that Britt-Marie is startled" (p. 86).
Definition: Euphoria is a feeling of intense happiness and excitement.

expert (noun) /'ɛkspɜ:rt/ EK-spurt: "Possibly she's not an expert at this, she'd be willing to admit" (p. 86).
Definition: An expert is a person who is very skilled at doing something or who knows a lot about a particular subject.

explanatory (adjective) /ɪk'splænətɔ:ri/ ik-SPLAN-uh-tor-ee: "'They're superstitious, everything has to be the same as the last time we won,' says the boy, at the same time explanatory and defensive" (p. 82).
Definition: Explanatory statements or actions are intended to explain something.

fearfully (adverb) /'fɪəfəli/ FEER-fuh-lee: "'No remotes on the table!' hisses the lemonade boy fearfully" (p. 82).

Definition: If you do something fearfully, you do it in a way that shows you are afraid.

firmly (adverb) /'fɜːrmlɪ/ FURM-lee: "'In my days it was known as a 'meeting,'" says Britt-Marie firmly" (p. 86).

Definition: If you say or do something firmly, you do it in a way that shows you believe it or feel strongly about it.

fling (verb) /flɪŋ/ fling: "As soon as she's done it she bounces back in terror when the until-now timid boys on the sofa all roar 'Nooo!' as if she's flung the remote controls in their faces" (p. 82).

Definition: If you fling something somewhere, you throw it there using a lot of force.

fluid (adjective) /'fluːɪd/ FLOO-id: "Before Britt-Marie has time to realize what's going on, a chain of Stones and Scissors being put in Paper Bags is initiated across the room, until ginger-haired Pirate in some way loses and is on his way up from the sofa towards the door in a fluid movement" (p. 85).

Definition: Fluid movements or lines or designs are smooth and graceful.

fold (verb) /foʊld/ fohld: "Admittedly there weren't any proper coasters, so Britt-Marie has used two pieces of toilet paper folded over" (p. 81).

Definition: If you fold something such as a piece of paper or cloth, you bend it so that one part covers another part.

frantically (adverb) /'fræntɪkli/ FRAN-tik-lee: "'What on earth are you trying to say?' Britt-Marie demands and tugs frantically at the door handle" (p. 87).

Definition: If you do something frantically, you do it in a hurried, disorganized, or desperate way.

fume (verb) /fjuːm/ fyoom: "'Surely the boy has a proper name,' she fumes" (p. 84).

Definition: If you fume, you express annoyance or anger about something.

gangster (noun) /'gæŋstər/ GANG-stur: "'I don't appreciate yelling indoors. I also don't appreciate the wearing of clothes back to front like gangsters,' she points out" (p. 82).

Definition: A gangster is a member of a group of violent criminals.

gasp (verb) /gæsp/ gasp: "'You can't possibly be thinking about bringing that ball in here!' gasps Britt-Marie in terror" (p. 85).

Definition: When you gasp, you take a short quick breath through your mouth, especially because you are surprised, shocked, or in pain.

ginger-haired (adjective) /'dʒɪndʒər hæəd/ JIN-jur haird: "Before Britt-Marie has time to realize what's going on, a chain of Stones and Scissors being put in Paper Bags is initiated across the room, until ginger-haired Pirate in some way loses" (p. 85).

Definition: Someone who is ginger-haired has orange-brown hair.

goal (noun) /gəʊl/ gohl: "'We scored a goal!' howls the Pirate boy ecstatically" (p. 87).

Definition: In games such as football, rugby, or hockey, a goal is when a player gets the ball into the goal, or the point that is scored by doing this.

graciously (adverb) /'grɛɪʃəsli/ GRAY-shus-lee: "She nods towards the ginger-haired boy, who still can't be seen. Britt-Marie smiles graciously and says" (p. 84).

Definition: If you do something graciously, you do it in a polite and pleasant way.

grave (noun) /ɡreɪv/ grayv: "Britt-Marie wanders about inside the recreation center like a confounded spirit whose grave someone has opened in order to start a discotheque" (p. 81).

Definition: A grave is a place where a dead person is buried.

hairdresser (noun) /'hæərdresər/ HAIR-dres-ur: "'I don't suppose you have any hairdressers in Borg, oh no'" (p. 86).

Definition: A hairdresser is a person who cuts, colors, and arranges people's hair.

handle (noun) /'hændl/ HAN-dul: "'What on earth are you trying to say?' Britt-Marie demands and tugs frantically at the door handle" (p. 87).

Definition: A handle is a part of an object such as a door, drawer, or cup that you hold in order to open, close, or move the object.

helpfulness (noun) /'hɛlpfʊlnəs/ HELP-ful-ness: "Britt-Marie nods with absolute, absolute helpfulness" (p. 84).

Definition: Helpfulness is the quality of being willing to help people.

hiss (verb) /hɪs/ hiss: "'No remotes on the table!' hisses the lemonade boy fearfully" (p. 82).

Definition: If you hiss something, you say it forcefully in a whisper.

holler (verb) /'hɒlər/ HOL-ur: "'I mean it's important that we stay out here, because while we were out here we scored! We're bringing good luck out here!' hollers the boy as if that's reasonable" (p. 87).

Definition: If you holler, you shout loudly.

howl (noun) /haʊl/ howl: "And then their silence is so abruptly broken by the children's howls of euphoria from within that Britt-Marie is startled" (p. 86).

Definition: A howl is a long, loud cry expressing pain, anger, or unhappiness.

human being (noun) /'hju:mən 'bi:ɪŋ/ HYOO-mun BEE-ing: "'What animal apart from human beings can drink from a can?'" (p. 82).

Definition: A human being is a man, woman, or child.

immediately (adverb) /'ɪmɪdiətli/ ih-MEE-dee-ut-lee: "The boy immediately starts nodding with altogether worrying enthusiasm" (p. 86).

Definition: If something happens immediately, it happens without any delay.

initiate (verb) /'ɪnɪʃiət/ ih-NISH-ee-ayt: "Before Britt-Marie has time to realize what's going on, a chain of Stones and Scissors being put in Paper Bags is initiated across the room" (p. 85).

Definition: If you initiate something, you start it or cause it to happen.

interject (verb) /'ɪntər'dʒekt/ in-tur-JEKT: "'You certainly won't, here we drink from glasses,' Britt-Marie interjects with uncompromising articulation" (p. 81).

Definition: If you interject something, you say it and interrupt someone else who is speaking.

irritation (noun) /'ɪrɪ'teɪʃən/ ir-ih-TAY-shun: "Britt-Marie snorts hard through her nose, because that's how Britt-Marie's irritation comes steaming out when it grows too large inside her head" (p. 84).

Definition: Irritation is a feeling of annoyance, especially when something is happening that you cannot easily stop or control.

jersey (noun) /'dʒɜ:zɪ/ JUR-zee: "The children sit on the sofa, wearing the white jerseys and drinking soft drinks" (p. 81).

Definition: A jersey is a shirt that is worn by a sports player and that has the player's number or the team's name on it.

jinx (noun) /dʒɪŋks/ jingks: "'That's the worst jinx! We'll lose if you do that!' yells Omar" (p. 82).

Definition: A jinx is something that is considered to cause bad luck.

jubilant (adjective) /'dʒu:bɪlənt/ JOO-bih-lunt: "'Like, they've locked it so we can't come in! Because we were out here when we scored!' puffs Pirate, jubilant and out of breath" (p. 87).

Definition: If you are jubilant, you feel extremely happy because of a success.

laundry (noun) /'ləʊndri/ LAWN-dree: "Britt-Marie doesn't even know how to respond to such nonsense, so she takes the remote controls and the children's muddy clothes into the laundry" (p. 82).

Definition: Laundry is the dirty clothes and sheets that need to be washed or that have just been washed.

leather (noun) /'leðər/ LETH-ur: "'Sorry,' he mumbles, staring down at the leather" (p. 85).

Definition: Leather is treated animal skin which is used for making shoes, clothes, bags, and furniture.

lemonade (noun) /ˌlɛməˈneɪd/ lem-uh-NAYD: "The boy looks at his lemonade can, thinks about it, and then asks" (p. 82).

Definition: Lemonade is a drink that is made from lemons, sugar, and water.

level (noun) /ˈlɛvl/ LEV-ul: "'You can't just stay out there in the rain!' says Vega, with a similar level of terror in her voice, as if this was a question of a human life" (p. 85).

Definition: A level is the amount or degree of something.

lightbulb (noun) /ˈlaɪtbʊlb/ LYT-bulb: "Omar uses the stoppage time to climb up on one of the kitchen stools and start changing the lightbulbs on credit" (p. 84).

Definition: A lightbulb is the glass part of an electric light which gives out light when electricity passes through it.

manage (verb) /ˈmænɪdʒ/ MAN-ij: "'I have a date tomorrow. I was going to . . . I was thinking . . . I wanted to ask if you could help me fix my hair,' he manages to say" (p. 85).

Definition: If you manage to do something, especially something difficult, you succeed in doing it.

marrying (verb) /ˈmæriɪŋ/ MAIR-ee-ing: "She has only ever been on two meetings with boys. One of them she ended up marrying" (p. 86).

Definition: When two people marry, they become each other's husband and wife during a special ceremony.

meeting (noun) /ˈmiːtɪŋ/ MEE-ting: "'In my days it was known as a 'meeting,'" says Britt-Marie firmly" (p. 86).

Definition: A meeting is an event in which people come together.

mud (noun) /mʌd/ mud: "She gets mud on her jacket" (p. 86).

Definition: Mud is a sticky mixture of earth and water.

muddy (adjective) /ˈmʌdi/ MUD-ee: "Britt-Marie doesn't even know how to respond to such nonsense, so she takes the remote controls and the children's muddy clothes into the laundry" (p. 82).

Definition: Something that is muddy contains mud or is covered in mud.

mumble (verb) /ˈmʌmbəl/ MUM-bul: "'Sorry,' he mumbles, staring down at the leather" (p. 85).

Definition: If you mumble, you speak very quietly and not at all clearly with the result that the words are difficult to understand.

necessity (noun) /nəˈsɛsɪti/ nuh-SES-ih-tee: "Necessity has no rule, but even necessity has to understand that you can't just put a soft-drink can on the table" (p. 81).

Definition:

Necessity is something that you must have in order to live or achieve something.

neon sign (noun) /'ni:ɒn saɪn/ NEE-on syn: "Half a second later the men in the pizzeria burst into fits of braying until the neon sign above the door rattles" (p. 86).

Definition: A neon sign is an illuminated advertisement or sign made using neon lights.

nervously (adverb) /'nɜ:rvəsli/ NUR-vus-lee: "Omar uses the stoppage time to climb up on one of the kitchen stools and start changing the lightbulbs on credit. Britt-Marie circles nervously" (p. 84).

Definition: If you do something nervously, you do it in a worried or slightly frightened way.

nickname (noun) /'nɪkneɪm/ NIK-naym: "And that's Toad. And that's Dino" (p. 83).

Definition: A nickname is an informal name for someone or something.

nonsense (noun) /'nɒnsəns/ NON-senss: "Britt-Marie doesn't even know how to respond to such nonsense" (p. 82).

Definition: If you say that something spoken or written is nonsense, you mean that you consider it to be untrue or silly.

obviously (adverb) /'ɒbvɪəslɪ/ OB-vee-us-lee: "Britt-Marie has obviously ensured that they are sitting on towels" (p. 81).

Definition: You use obviously to indicate that something is easily understood or noticed.

out of breath (phrase) /aʊt əv brɛθ/ owt uv breth: "'Like, they've locked it so we can't come in! Because we were out here when we scored!' puffs Pirate, jubilant and out of breath" (p. 87).

Definition: If you are out of breath, you are breathing very quickly and with difficulty because you have been doing something energetic.

out of sight (phrase) /aʊt əv saɪt/ owt uv syt: "He sits on the far side against the wall behind the boy with black hair and the boy who's had the most soft drinks, so that he's out of sight" (p. 83).

Definition: If something is out of sight, you cannot see it.

overweight (adjective) /'oʊvər'weɪt/ oh-vur-WAYT: "One of them, the one that Britt-Marie would obviously never refer to as 'overweight' but who looks as if he's had quite a few soft drinks belonging to other children" (p. 81).

Definition: Someone who is overweight weighs more than is considered healthy or attractive.

palms (noun) /pɑ:mz/ pahmz: "Britt-Marie is still holding the palms of her hands like a pitched roof over the top of her head" (p. 86).

Definition: The palm of your hand is the inside surface of your hand, between your fingers and your wrist.

panic (noun) /'pænik/ PAN-ik: "'What's going on?' Britt-Marie wants to know, with panic in her eyes, as she throws the ball on the ground" (p. 87).

Definition: Panic is a very strong feeling of anxiety or fear which makes you act without thinking carefully.

pants (adjective) /pænts/ pants: "'I'm the one who shot the soccer ball at your head yesterday. I didn't do it on purpose. I'm pants at aiming'" (p. 82).

Definition: If you say that something is pants, you mean that it is very poor in quality.

parking area (noun) /'pɑ:rkɪŋ 'eɪrɪə/ PAR-king AIR-ee-uh: "But then they stand in the parking area, despite the rain that's falling again" (p. 87).

Definition: A parking area is a place where vehicles can be left temporarily.

pass (verb) /pæs/ pass: "'He can't have the same name as us, can he? Or we wouldn't know who to pass to when we're playing'" (p. 84).

Definition: In football, rugby, and some other team sports, if you pass the ball to someone in your team, you kick it or throw it to them.

patch (noun) /pætʃ/ pach: "'I'm sorry, what was that?' asks Britt-Marie while she keeps her gaze focused on a patch of mud left by the soccer ball on the boy's newly washed jersey" (p. 85).

Definition: A patch is a small area of something, especially one which is different from the area around it.

peer (verb) /piə/ peer: "The boy peers at her, smiling sincerely, and then, embarrassed, looks down at the ground" (p. 85).

Definition: If you peer at something, you look at it very hard, usually because it is difficult to see clearly.

pitch (noun) /pɪtʃ/ pich: "A player on the TV is rolling about on the pitch" (p. 84).

Definition: A pitch is an area of ground that is marked out and used for playing a game such as football, cricket, or hockey. [In American English, we refer to this as a "field."]

pitched (adjective) /pɪtʃt/ picht: "Britt-Marie is still holding the palms of her hands like a pitched roof over the top of her head, and the rain is running down into her sleeves" (p. 86).

Definition: A pitched roof slopes downwards on one or both sides.

Pirate (noun) /'paɪrət/ PY-rut: "'We call him Pirate,' says Vega" (p. 83).

Definition: Pirate is a nickname given to one of the boys in the story.

player (noun) /'pleɪə/ PLAY-ur: "A player on the TV is rolling about on the pitch" (p. 84).

Definition: A player in a sport or game is a person who takes part, either as a job or for fun.

pop up (phrasal verb) /pɒp ʌp/ pop up: "She has popped up next to Britt-Marie. Apparently it's what she does: pops up, all the time" (p. 83).

Definition: If someone or something pops up, they appear in a place or situation unexpectedly.

preposterous (adjective) /prɪ'pɒstərəs/ prih-POS-tur-us: "'Preposterous,' snorts Britt-Marie" (p. 87).

Definition: If you describe something as preposterous, you mean that it is extremely unreasonable and foolish.

proper (adjective) /'prɒpər/ PROP-ur: "'For goodness' sake, those aren't even proper names!'" (p. 83).

Definition: You use proper to describe things that you consider to be real and satisfactory rather than inadequate in some way.

puff (verb) /pʌf/ puf: "'Like, they've locked it so we can't come in! Because we were out here when we scored!' puffs Pirate, jubilant and out of breath" (p. 87).

Definition: If you are puffing, you are breathing loudly and quickly with your mouth open because you are out of breath after a lot of physical effort.

pure (adjective) /pjʊər/ pyoor: "Britt-Marie spins around in pure dismay and starts running towards it" (p. 87).

Definition: You use pure to emphasize that something consists only of one thing and is not mixed with anything else.

rattle (verb) /'rætl/ RAT-ul: "Half a second later the men in the pizzeria burst into fits of braying until the neon sign above the door rattles" (p. 86).

Definition: When something rattles, it makes short sharp knocking sounds because it is being shaken or it keeps hitting against something hard.

realize (verb) /'ri:əlaɪz/ REE-uh-lyz: "Before Britt-Marie has time to realize what's going on, a chain of Stones and Scissors being put in Paper Bags is initiated across the room" (p. 85).

Definition: If you realize that something is true, you become aware of that fact or understand it.

reasonable (adjective) /'ri:zənəbl/ REE-zuh-nuh-bul: "'I mean it's important that we stay out here, because while we were out here we scored! We're bringing good luck out here!' hollers the boy as if that's reasonable" (p. 87).

Definition: If you say that something is reasonable, you think that it is fair and sensible.

remote control (noun) /rɪ'moʊt kən'troʊl/ rih-MOHT kun-TROHL: "Instead she picks up the remote controls from the floor and puts them on the table" (p. 82).

Definition: A remote control is a device that you use to control a machine or piece of equipment from a distance by using radio or electronic signals.

repeat (verb) /rɪˈpi:t/ rih-PEET: "'We will!' he repeats with conviction, as if this somehow explains anything" (p. 82).

Definition: If you repeat something, you say or write it again.

responsibility (noun) /rɪˌspɒnsɪˈbɪlɪti/ rih-spon-sih-BIL-ih-tee: "'I don't suppose you have any hairdressers in Borg, oh no. I suppose that will also be my responsibility now, is that what you mean? Is it?'" (p. 86).

Definition: If you have responsibility for something or someone, or if they are your responsibility, it is your job or duty to deal with them.

rhyme (verb) /raɪm/ rym: "'When Dino moved to Borg and Omar heard that he was a Somalian he thought it sounded like a 'sommelier,' you know one of those people who drink wine on the TV. So we called him 'Wino.' And it rhymes with 'Dino.' So now we just call him 'Dino'" (p. 83).

Definition: If one word rhymes with another, they have a very similar sound.

roar (verb) /rɔːr/ ror: "As soon as she's done it she bounces back in terror when the until-now timid boys on the sofa all roar 'Nooo!' as if she's flung the remote controls in their faces" (p. 82).

Definition: If someone roars, they shout something in a very loud voice.

roll (verb) /roʊl/ rohl: "A player on the TV is rolling about on the pitch" (p. 84).

Definition: When something rolls, it moves along a surface, turning over many times.

score (verb) /skɔːr/ skor: "'We scored a goal!' howls the Pirate boy ecstatically" (p. 87).

Definition: In a sport or game, if a player scores a goal or a point, they gain a goal or point.

senses (noun) /ˈsɛnsɪz/ SEN-siz: "'What do you mean, 'we'll lose?'" asks Britt-Marie, as if he's taken leave of his senses" (p. 82).

Definition: If you say that someone has taken leave of their senses, you mean that they have started to do things that seem foolish or strange.

shrug (verb) /ʃrʌɡ/ shrug: "Vega shrugs" (p. 84).

Definition: If you shrug or shrug your shoulders, you raise your shoulders to show that you are not interested in something or that you do not know or care about it.

sick (adjective) /sɪk/ sik: "'Toad we called Toad because he can burp so loud that it's just sick'" (p. 84).

Definition: If you say that something makes you sick, you mean that it makes you feel angry.

sigh (verb) /saɪ/ sy: "When Britt-Marie doesn't look as if it does explain everything, Vega sighs in a very bored sort of way and explains" (p. 83).

Definition: When you sigh, you let out a deep breath, as a way of expressing feelings such as disappointment, tiredness, or pleasure.

sincerely (adverb) /sɪn'sɪərli/ sin-SEER-lee: "The boy peers at her, smiling sincerely, and then, embarrassed, looks down at the ground" (p. 85).

Definition: If you say or do something sincerely, you mean it or do it honestly.

slam (verb) /slæm/ slam: "In the next second the sound of a front door being slammed cuts through the January night" (p. 87).

Definition: If you slam a door or window or if it slams, it shuts noisily and with great force.

sleeve (noun) /sli:v/ sleeve: "Britt-Marie is still holding the palms of her hands like a pitched roof over the top of her head, and the rain is running down into her sleeves" (p. 86).

Definition: The sleeves of a coat, shirt, or dress are the parts that cover your arms.

snort (verb) /snɔ:rt/ snort: "Britt-Marie snorts hard through her nose, because that's how Britt-Marie's irritation comes steaming out when it grows too large inside her head" (p. 84).

Definition: If you snort, you make a loud noise by breathing air quickly out through your nose, often in order to show disapproval or amusement.

soft drink (noun) /sɒft drɪŋk/ soft drink: "The children sit on the sofa, wearing the white jerseys and drinking soft drinks" (p. 81).

Definition: A soft drink is a cold, nonalcoholic drink such as lemonade or fruit juice.

Somalian (noun) /sə'mɑ:lɪən/ suh-MAH-lee-un: "'When Dino moved to Borg and Omar heard that he was a Somalian he thought it sounded like a 'sommelier'" (p. 83).

Definition: A Somalian is a person from Somalia.

sommelier (noun) /'sɒməliɛr/ som-ul-YAY: "'When Dino moved to Borg and Omar heard that he was a Somalian he thought it sounded like a 'sommelier,' you know one of those people who drink wine on the TV'" (p. 83).

Definition: A sommelier is a wine waiter.

spin (verb) /spɪn/ spin: "Britt-Marie spins around in pure dismay and starts running towards it" (p. 87).

Definition: If you spin around, you turn around quickly.

spirit (noun) /'spɪrɪt/ SPIR-it: "Britt-Marie wanders about inside the recreation center like a confounded spirit whose grave someone has opened in order to start a discotheque" (p. 81).

Definition: A person's spirit is the part of them that is not physical and that is connected to their deepest thoughts and feelings.

startled (adjective) /'stɑ:rtld/ START-uld: "And then their silence is so abruptly broken by the children's howls of euphoria from within that Britt-Marie is startled and makes a grab for the boy's jersey" (p. 86).

Definition: If you are startled, you are suddenly surprised or slightly shocked by something.

stay (verb) /steɪ/ stay: "'I mean it's important that we stay out here, because while we were out here we scored!'" (p. 87).

Definition: If you stay in a place, you continue to be there and do not leave.

steam (verb) /sti:m/ steem: "Britt-Marie snorts hard through her nose, because that's how Britt-Marie's irritation comes steaming out when it grows too large inside her head" (p. 84).

Definition: If something steams, it gives off steam.

stoppage time (noun) /'stɒpɪdʒ taɪm/ STOP-ij tym: "A player on the TV is rolling about on the pitch. Omar uses the stoppage time to climb up on one of the kitchen stools" (p. 84).

Definition: Stoppage time is extra time added at the end of a football match because of time lost due to injuries and other interruptions.

superstitious (adjective) /,su:pə'stɪʃəs/ soo-pur-STISH-us: "'They're superstitious, everything has to be the same as the last time we won,' says the boy, at the same time explanatory and defensive" (p. 82).

Definition: People who are superstitious believe in things that are not real or possible, such as magic.

supporting (verb) /sə'pɔ:rtɪŋ/ suh-PORT-ing: "'But I mean: our team, the one we're supporting! On the TV!' the boy tries to explain" (p. 87).

Definition: If you support a sports team, you want them to win.

tail off (phrasal verb) /teɪl ɒf/ tayl of: "The rain tails off somewhat" (p. 86).

Definition: If something tails off, it gradually becomes less or smaller.

terror (noun) /'tɛrər/ TAIR-ur: "As soon as she's done it she bounces back in terror when the until-now timid boys on the sofa all roar 'Nooo!'" (p. 82).

Definition: Terror is very great fear.

thoughtfully (adverb) /'θɔ:tfəli/ THAWT-fuh-lee: "'Is that what it's known as these days? A 'date'?" she says, a touch thoughtfully" (p. 86).

Definition: If you do something thoughtfully, you do it in a way that shows you are thinking seriously or carefully about something.

threshold (noun) /'θrɛʃhəʊld/ THRESH-hohld: "She catches hold of his collar but he's already wearing his shoes and has already gone over the threshold" (p. 85).

Definition: The threshold of a building or room is the floor in the doorway, or the doorway itself.

timid (adjective) /'tɪmɪd/ TIM-id: "As soon as she's done it she bounces back in terror when the until-now timid boys on the sofa all roar 'Nooo!'" (p. 82).

Definition: Timid people are shy and nervous and have no courage or confidence in themselves.

Toad (noun) /toʊd/ tohd: "'And that's Toad. And that's Dino'" (p. 83).

Definition: Toad is a nickname given to one of the boys in the story.

toilet paper (noun) /'tɔɪlɪt 'peɪpər/ TOY-lit PAY-pur: "Admittedly there weren't any proper coasters, so Britt-Marie has used two pieces of toilet paper folded over" (p. 81).

Definition: Toilet paper is thin soft paper that people use to clean themselves after using the toilet.

toss (verb) /tɒs/ toss: "Vega, with a similar level of terror in her voice, as if this was a question of a human life. Before Britt-Marie has time to realize what's going on, a chain of Stones and Scissors being put in Paper Bags is initiated across the room, until ginger-haired Pirate in some way loses and is on his way up from the sofa towards the door in a fluid movement" (p. 86).

Definition: If you toss something somewhere, you throw it there lightly.

tug (verb) /tʌg/ tug: "'What on earth are you trying to say?' Britt-Marie demands and tugs frantically at the door handle" (p. 87).

Definition: If you tug something, you give it a quick and usually strong pull.

typical (adjective) /'tɪpɪkəl/ TIP-ih-kul: "Britt-Marie nods as if this was quite typical" (p. 85).

Definition: If something is typical of a person, thing, or group, it shows their usual qualities or characteristics.

uncompromising (adjective) /ʌn'kɒmprəmaɪzɪŋ/ un-KOM-pruh-my-zing: "'You certainly won't, here we drink from glasses,' Britt-Marie interjects with uncompromising articulation" (p. 81).

Definition: If you describe someone as uncompromising, you mean that they are determined not to change their opinions or aims in any way.

wander (verb) /'wɒndər/ WON-dur: "Britt-Marie wanders about inside the recreation center like a confounded spirit whose grave someone has opened in order to start a discotheque" (p. 81).

Definition: If you wander in a place, you walk around there in a casual way, often without intending to go in any particular direction.

washing machine (noun) /'wɒʃɪŋ mə'ʃiːn/ WASH-ing muh-SHEEN: "When she turns around after starting the washing machine, the ginger-haired boy is standing in front of her" (p. 82).

Definition: A washing machine is a machine that you use to wash clothes in.

well-meaning (adjective) /wɛl 'mi:niŋ/ wel MEE-ning: "'Pirate,' echoes Britt-Marie, in the way that Britt-Marie echoes when she has to drum up all the well-meaning feelings she's capable of" (p. 83).

Definition: If you say that someone is well-meaning, you mean that they try to be helpful and kind but are unsuccessful or cause problems.

willing (adjective) /'wɪliŋ/ WIL-ing: "Possibly she's not an expert at this, she'd be willing to admit" (p. 86).

Definition: If someone is willing to do something, they are fairly happy about doing it and will do it if they are asked or required to do it.

Wino (noun) /'waɪnoʊ/ WY-noh: "'When Dino moved to Borg and Omar heard that he was a Somalian he thought it sounded like a 'sommelier,' you know one of those people who drink wine on the TV. So we called him 'Wino'" (p. 83).

Definition: Wino is a nickname that was given to one of the boys before it was changed to Dino.

yell (verb) /jɛl/ yel: "'That's the worst jinx! We'll lose if you do that!' yells Omar and runs up to throw them back on the floor" (p. 82).

Definition: If you yell, you shout loudly, usually because you are excited, angry, or in pain.