

27 I can talk about change

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A Words describing change

Word	Example	Meaning
transform sth	<i>Computers have transformed our lives.</i>	completely change the appearance or character of sth, often to make it better. transformation N.
amend sth	<i>Civil servants are now amending the document.</i>	make changes to correct a mistake or improve a law, statement, document, etc. amendment N.
adapt to sth	<i>We must adapt to a changing world.</i>	change your behaviour in order to be more successful in a new situation. SYN adjust (to sth) .
assimilate sth	<i>It takes time to assimilate new ideas.</i>	learn and get used to sth which is new and different. assimilation N.
evolve	<i>Democracy has evolved over hundreds of years.</i>	change gradually, often from something simple to something more complicated. evolution N.
transition FML	<i>We hope for a smooth transition.</i>	a process or period of change from one state to another (a society in transition is changing).
revert (back) to sth	<i>After weeks of unrest, life has reverted to normal.</i>	change back to a state or situation that existed in the past. SYN go back .
restore sth	<i>Some people want to restore the monarchy.</i>	return sth to its former state or condition. restoration N.
reverse sth	<i>They were going to let him go, but they reversed their decision.</i>	change sth so it is the opposite of what it was before (reverse a decision/trend/policy , etc.). reversal N. reversible ADJ. OPP irreversible .
reform sth	<i>There are new proposals to reform the prison system.</i>	improve a system, an organization, a law, etc. by making changes to it. reform N.

1 Organize these words into the categories below.

evolve restore amend assimilate adapt
transition revert reform reverse transform

- 1 a word that describes complete change: _____
- 2 words that describe a change to improve something: _____
- 3 words that describe changing back: _____
- 4 words that describe a gradual change: _____

2 Complete the sentences with a suitable word.

- 1 There will be a period of _____ when the new government takes over.
- 2 The building was badly damaged, but they are planning to _____ it.
- 3 As a company we believe in _____, not revolution.
- 4 They've changed their minds completely: this is a _____ of the previous policy.
- 5 After years of civil war, the country will find it difficult to _____ back to normal.
- 6 We will all have to _____ to climate change, or it will be a disaster for the planet.
- 7 Once the ice caps melt at the poles, the change is completely _____.
- 8 We'll need time to _____ all the new ideas in their proposed plan.