

washed, or a business that washes clothes, etc., for customers.

laundry list *n* [C] a long list of things ◦ *There's a whole laundry list of things to do.*

laureate /'lɔːr-iː-ət, 'lɑːr-/ *n* [C] a person who has been given an important job or a prize because of their achievement in a particular subject ◦ *a Nobel laureate*

laurel /'lɔːr-əl, 'lɑːr-/ *n* [C/U] a small evergreen tree that has shiny, dark green leaves and small, pale purple flowers that has a pleasant smell, or its dried flowers and stems which are sometimes kept with sheets and clothes to make them smell pleasant

lava /'lav-ə, 'læv-ə/ *n* [U] hot liquid rock that comes out of a **VOLCANO**, or the solid rock formed when liquid rock cools

lavatory /'læv-ə, tɔːr-iː, -, tɔʊr-i/ *n* [C] a room equipped with a toilet and sink ◦ *Smoking is not permitted in the plane's lavatories.*

lavender <PLANT> /'læv-ən-dər/ *n* [U] a plant with very thin, gray-green leaves and small, pale purple flowers that has a pleasant smell, or its dried flowers and stems which are sometimes kept with sheets and clothes to make them smell pleasant

<COLOR> /'læv-ən-dər/ *adj*, *n* [U] (of) a pale purple color ◦ *a lavender shirt*

lavish /'læv-ɪʃ/ *adj* spending, giving, or using more than is necessary or reasonable; more than enough ◦ *The team has the most lavish training facility in the league.*

lavishly /'læv-ɪʃ-li/ *adv* ◦ *They live in a lavishly furnished apartment overlooking Central Park.*

PHRASAL VERB with **lavish**

• **lavish something on someone/something** to give a lot or too much of something to someone or something ◦ *She lavishes more attention on that dog than she does on her children.*

★ **law** <RULE> /lɔː/ *n* [C/U] **1** a rule made by a government that states how people may and may not behave in society and in business, and that often orders particular punishments if they do not obey, or a system of such rules ◦ [U] *civil/criminal law* ◦ [U] *federal/state law* ◦ [C] *We have a law in this state that drivers must wear seatbelts.* ◦ [U] *She's studying law at Georgetown University.* ◦ [U] *Playing loud music late at night is against the law.* **2** The law is also the police: [U] *He got in trouble with the law as a young man.* **3 Law and order** is the condition of a society in which laws are obeyed, and social life and business go on in an organized way. **4 Law enforcement** is the government activity of keeping the public peace and causing laws to be obeyed: *Several law enforcement officers were sent to Mexico to bring the prisoner back.*

lawful /'lɔː-fəl/ *adj* [not gradable] permitted by law; legal ◦ *The judge concluded that the search of the house had been lawful.*

lawless /'lɔː-ləs/ *adj* [not gradable] not permitted by law or not obeying the law; illegal ◦ *The university promised better police protection at football games to stop the lawless behavior of some beer-drinking fans.*

★ <PRINCIPLE> /lɔː/ *n* [C] a general rule that states what always happens when the same conditions exist ◦ *the laws of physics*

law-abiding *adj* obeying and respecting the law ◦ *a law-abiding citizen*

lawbreaker /'lɔː, breɪ-kər/ *n* [C] a person who does not obey the law, esp. intentionally and often

lawmaker /'lɔː, meɪ-kər/ *n* [C] someone, such as a politician, who is responsible for making and changing laws

lawn /lɔːn, lɑːn/ *n* [C] an area of grass, esp. near a house or in a park, which is cut regularly to keep it short

lawnmower /'lɔːn, moʊ-ər, 'lɑːn-/ *n* [C] a machine used for cutting grass

lawsuit /'lɔː-sʊt/ *n* [C] a disagreement between people or organizations that is brought to a court of law for a decision ◦ *A lawsuit for sexual harassment was brought by two women against their former employer.*

★ **lawyer** /'lɔː-ər, 'lɔː-jər/ *n* [C] someone whose job is to give advice to people about the law and speak for them in court ◦ *Following his arrest, he demanded to see his lawyer before making any statement.*

USAGE

lawyer, counsel, or attorney?

Lawyer is the most general and common of these words. **Attorney** is slightly more formal but has the same meaning; it is used in some official titles, like **attorney general** and **district attorney**. **Counsel** refers to one or more lawyers who are representing a person in a court, legal case, or trial.

lax /læks/ *adj* lacking care, attention, or control; not severe or strong enough ◦ *Security at the airport seemed lax.*

laxity /'læk-sə-ti/, **laxness** /'læk-snəs/ *n* [U] ◦ *Laxity in enforcing safety regulations can cost lives.*

laxative /'læk-sə-tɪv/ *n* [C] a substance that helps a person get rid of the contents of their bowels

★ **lay** <PUT DOWN> /leɪ/ *v* [T] *past laid* **1** to put something down, esp. into a flat or horizontal position ◦ *He laid his coat on a chair.* ◦ *She laid the baby (down) in her crib.* **2** To lay is also to put down in a careful or systematic way for a particular purpose: *We're having a new carpet laid in the hall next week.* ◦ Compare **LIE** <POSITION>

USAGE

lay or lie?

Be careful not to confuse these verbs.

Lay means “put down carefully” or “put down flat.” This verb always has an object after it. **Laying** is the present participle. **Laid** is the simple past and the past participle.

She laid the papers on the desk. ➔