

D

digital adjective

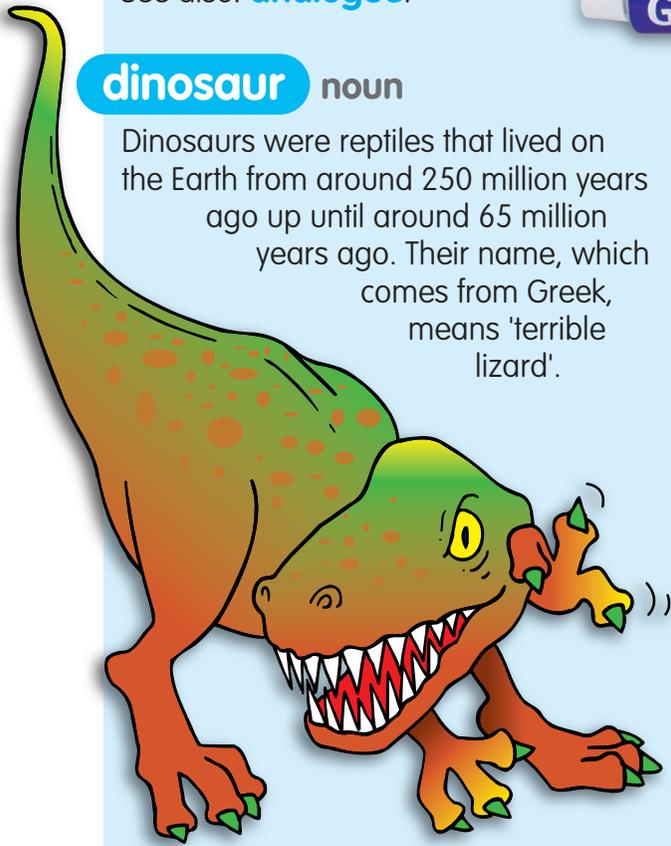
Digital means to do with numbers. For example, on a digital clock the time is shown by numbers that keep changing, rather than by hands that move round on the dial of an analogue clock.

Information or data that is stored in numbers, for example in a computer or on a CD, is called digital.

See also: **analogue**.

dinosaur noun

Dinosaurs were reptiles that lived on the Earth from around 250 million years ago up until around 65 million years ago. Their name, which comes from Greek, means 'terrible lizard'.



This dinosaur is called Tyrannosaurus rex. It grew to 12m in length and 6m in height.

disinfectant noun

A disinfectant is a chemical that kills **germs** (**bacteria** and **viruses**). It is used to clean surfaces to prevent the spread of **infection**.

It is also put on wounds to fight infection.



dispersal noun

Dispersal means scattering. It is used to describe the spreading of seeds by wind and by birds. Some plants have seed pods that explode and scatter the seeds.

dissolve verb

When a substance dissolves in a liquid, it mixes with it and becomes part of the liquid. For example, sugar and salt both dissolve in water.

When a **solid** has been dissolved, it cannot be separated again by **sieving**. However, liquids and dissolved solids can be separated by **boiling** or **evaporating** the liquid away to leave the solid behind.

hydrogen noun

Hydrogen is a **gas**. It has no colour and no smell, and is highly **flammable**. It is the least **dense** of all materials, and therefore much lighter than air. Like **helium** it can be used to fill balloons, but is unsuitable because of the danger of fire.



The Hindenburg was a hydrogen-filled airship, which caught fire and exploded in 1937.

hygrometer noun

A hygrometer is an instrument used to measure **humidity** in the air.

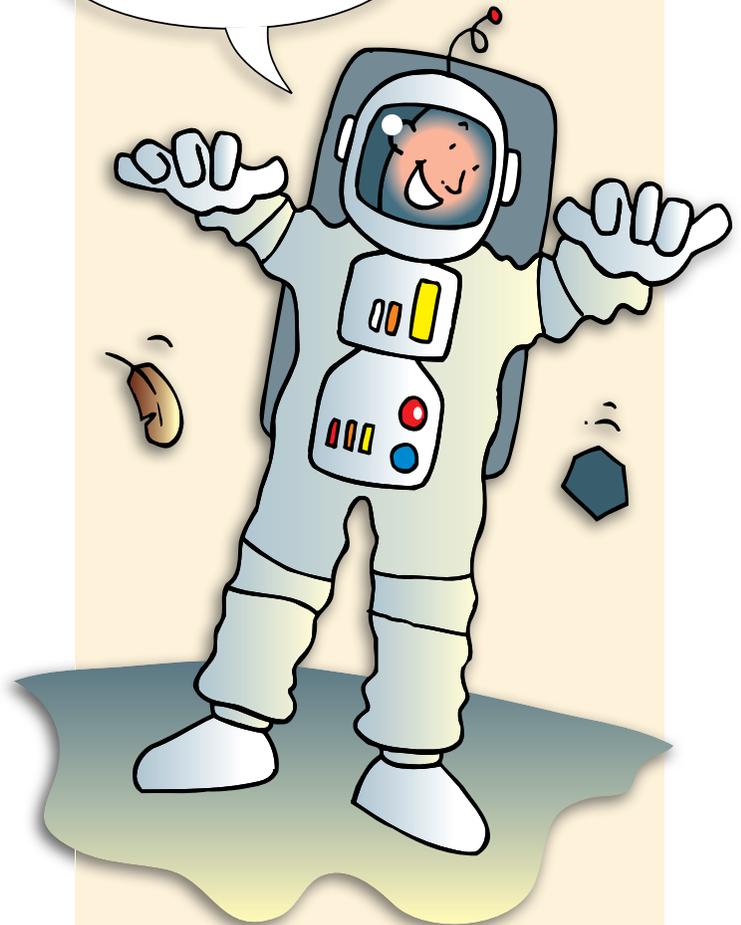
hypothesis noun

(plural: **hypotheses**, pronounced hypotha-seez)

A hypothesis is like a **prediction**. Scientists work by making hypotheses (or statements that they think are true). They then test their statements to see whether they are right or wrong.

400 years ago Galileo made the hypothesis that a stone and a feather would fall at the same speed if there were no **air resistance**, for example, on the Moon. Scientific experiments and observations have since proved his hypothesis correct.

Gee!
Galileo was right!



S

sieve noun and verb

A sieve is a screen or mesh that separates solid particles from a mixture. When we sieve a mixture, only particles smaller than the holes in the mesh pass through.



sink verb

An object sinks when it goes under water or boggy ground. It sinks if it is heavier than water. An object sinks if it weighs more than the same volume of liquid or gas around it.

See also: **buoyant, float.**

skeleton noun

The skeleton is the whole structure of bones that supports the bodies of humans and other animals and protects the vital organs like the heart and brain.

