3 to continue doing something that is very difficult to do: *San Francisco held on to win 4–2.*

hold on to sb/sth *phr v*
to keep something rather than losing it, selling it, or giving it to someone else: *The soldiers held on to the bridge for three more days.* | *I think I'll hold on to these old records for now.*

hold out *phr v*
1 **hold out sth** to think or say that something is possible or likely to happen, especially something good: **not hold out much hope/hold out little hope** *Negotiators aren't holding out much hope of a peaceful settlement.* | **hold out the prospect/promise of sth** *alternative methods which hold out the promise of improved health*
2 if a supply of something holds out, there is still some left: *Water supplies won't hold out much longer.*
3 to continue to successfully defend a place that is being attacked: *The rebels held out for another night but then fresh forces arrived.*
4 to try to prevent yourself from doing something that someone is trying to force you to do: [+**against**] *I didn't know how much longer I could hold out against their relentless questioning.*

hold out for sth *phr v*
to not accept anything less than you have asked for: *Transport workers are holding out for a 20% pay rise.*

hold out on sb *phr v informal*
to not tell someone about something important: *She must have been holding out on him all these years.*

hold sth over *phr v*
1 [usually passive] *formal* to do or deal with something at a later time: *The matter was held over for further review.* ➔ HOLDOVER
2 **hold sth over sb** to use something bad that you know about someone to make them do what you want: *He knows I've been in prison and is holding it over me.*
3 **be held over** especially *AmE* if a play, film, concert etc is held over, it is shown for longer than planned because it is very popular

hold to sth *phr v*
1 if you hold to a belief, principle, promise etc, you believe it or behave according to it: *He admitted he did not hold to the traditional view of God.*
2 **hold sb to sth** to make someone do what they have promised: *'I'll ask him tomorrow.' 'OK, but I'm going to hold you to that.'*
3 **hold sb to sth** *BrE* to prevent your opponent in a sports game from getting more than a particular number of points: *Norway held Holland to a 2–2 draw.*

hold together *phr v*
1 if a group or organization holds together, or if something holds it together, it stays strong and does not separate into different parts or groups: *Against all expectations, the coalition held together well.* | **hold sth ⇔ together** *In those days the Church held the community together.*
2 to remain whole and good enough to use, or to make something do this: *Incredibly, the raft held together till we reached the opposite shore.* | **hold sth ⇔ together** *I wondered how the structure was held together.*

hold up *phr v*
1 **hold sth ⇔ up** to support something and prevent it from falling down: *The roof is held up by massive stone pillars.*
2 **hold sb/sth ⇔ up** [usually passive] to delay someone or something: *Sorry I'm late – I was held up at work.*
3 **hold up sth** to rob or try to rob a place or person by using violence: *Two armed men held up a downtown liquor store last night.* ➔ HOLD-UP
4 to not become weaker: *His physical condition has held up well.*

hold sb/sth **up as** sth *phr v*
to use someone or something as a good example or as proof of something: *The school is* ***held up as a model*** *for others.* *This incident will be held up as proof that tougher controls are needed.*

hold with sth *phr v*
not hold with sth *BrE* used to say that someone does not approve of something: *He says he doesn't hold with all this politically correct stuff.* | **not hold with doing sth** *I don't hold with hitting children in any circumstances.*

WORD CHOICE: hold, take/get hold of, pick up
Hold means to have something in your hand, hands, or arms: *He was holding a piece of paper.*
If you want to talk about someone putting their hands or fingers around something and starting to hold it, use **take/get hold of**: *She got hold of the knife and stabbed him.*
If you want to talk about someone putting their fingers around something and taking it, especially from the floor, use **pick up**: *I picked up all the toys from the floor.*
⚠ Use **pick** not **pick up** when you are talking about pulling flowers off a plant: *She was in the garden picking flowers (NOT She was in the garden picking up flowers).*

hold[2] S2 W3 *n*
1 **HOLDING STH** [singular] the action of holding something with your hands; ☐ **grip**

tight/firm hold (on sth)
tighten your hold (on sth)
loosen/release your hold (on sth)
have/keep hold of sth (=be holding something)
get/take hold of sth (=start holding something)
catch/grab/seize hold of sth (=take hold of something quickly and firmly)
lose your hold (on sth) (=accidentally let go of something)

[+**on**] *She released her tight hold on the dog.* | *He tightened his hold, refusing to let her go.* | *Make sure you keep hold of my hand when we cross the road.* | *I took hold of her hand and gently led her away.* | *Grab hold of the rope and pull yourself up.*

2 **get hold of sth** also **get a hold of sth** *AmE* to find or borrow something so that you can use it: *I need to get hold of a car.* | *She managed to get a hold of a copy.*
3 **get hold of sb** also **get a hold of sb** *AmE* to find and speak to someone about something: *I must get hold of Vanessa to see if she can babysit.*
4 **CONTROL/POWER** [singular] control, power, or influence over something or someone: **get/keep a hold on/of sth** *He struggled to get a hold of his emotions.* | *I've always kept a tight hold on our finances.* | *I realized that the woman had a hold over my father.*
5 **on hold** **a)** if something is on hold, it is going to be done or dealt with at a later date rather than now: *The plans are on hold until after the election.* | *Since having the kids, my career has been put on hold.* **b)** if you are on hold, you are waiting to talk to someone on the telephone: *We try not to keep people on hold for more than a couple of minutes.* | *The agent put me on hold while she consulted a colleague.*
6 **take (a) hold** to start to have a definite effect: *The fever was beginning to take hold.*
7 **get hold of an idea/an impression/a story etc** to learn or begin to believe something: *Where on earth did you get hold of that idea?*
8 **FIGHT** [C] a particular position that you hold an opponent in, in a fight or a sport such as WRESTLING
9 **CLIMBING** [C] somewhere you can put your hands or feet to help you climb something: *The cliff was steep and it was difficult to find a hold.*
10 **SHIP** [C] the part of a ship below the DECK[3] (1) where goods are stored
11 **no holds barred** when there are no rules or limits on what you are allowed to do: *It seems there are no holds barred when it comes to making a profit.*

hold-all /ˈhəʊld-ɔːl $ ˈhould-ɑl/ *n* [C] *BrE* a large bag used for carrying clothes and other things when you are travelling ➔ see picture at BAG

hold-er S3 W2 /ˈhəʊldə $ ˈhouldər/ *n* [C]
1 someone who owns or controls something: *the 800m world record holder* | *Season-ticket holders are furious at the rise in rail fares.* | *British passport holders* | [+**of**] *holders of ordinary shares*
2 something that is used to hold an object: **candle/cigarette/test-tube etc holder**

hold-ing W3 /ˈhəʊldɪŋ $ ˈhoul-/ *n* [C] something which a person owns, especially land or SHARES in a company: [+**in**] *The government has decided to sell its 21% holding in the firm.* | **land/property/currency etc holding** *companies with large property holdings*

holding company *n* [C] a company that completely or partly owns other companies, as well as doing business itself

holding pattern *n* [C usually singular] **1** the path that an aircraft flies along while it is waiting for permission to land **2** a situation in which you cannot act because you are waiting for the result of something: **in a holding pattern** | *My career is in a holding pattern right now.*

hold-o-ver /ˈhəʊld,əʊvə $ ˈhould,oʊvər/ *n* [C] *AmE* an action, feeling, or idea that has continued from the past into the present: ☐ **hangover**: [+**from**] *Her fear of dogs is a holdover from her childhood.* ➔ **hold over** at HOLD[1]

hold-up *n* [C] **1** a situation that stops something from happening or making progress; ☐ **delay**: *traffic hold-ups on the highway* | *Despite the odd hold-up, we finished on time.* **2** *informal* an attempt to rob a place or person by threatening them with a weapon: *a bank hold-up* ➔ **hold up** at HOLD[1]

hole[1] S1 W2 /həʊl $ houl/ *n* [C]
1 **SPACE IN STH SOLID** an empty space in something solid: [+**in**] *There was a huge hole in the road.* | *I began digging a hole for the plant.* ⚠ Do not say there is a hole **on** something. Say there is a hole **in** something.
2 **SPACE STH CAN GO THROUGH** a space in something solid that allows light or things to pass through: [+**in**] *They climbed through a hole in the fence.* | *These socks are full of holes.* | *bullet holes* (=made by bullets)
3 **EMPTY PLACE** a place where someone or something should be, but is missing: [+**in**] *Their departure will leave a gaping hole in Grand Prix racing.*
4 **WEAK PART** a weak part or fault in something such as an idea or plan: *The theory is full of holes.* | [+**in**] *If you have holes in your game, work on them.*
5 **ANIMAL'S HOME** the home of a small animal: *a rabbit hole*
6 **UNPLEASANT PLACE** *informal* an unpleasant place: *I've got to get out of this hole.*
7 **GOLF** **a)** a hole in the ground that you try to get the ball into in the game of golf **b)** one part of a GOLF COURSE with this kind of hole at one end ➔ see picture at GOLF
8 **hole in one** when someone hits the ball in golf from the starting place into the hole with only one hit
9 **make a hole in sth** *informal* to use a large part of an amount of money, food etc: *Holidays can make a big hole in your savings.*
10 **be in a hole** *informal* to be in a difficult situation
11 **be in the hole** *AmE spoken* to owe money: *I was something like $16,000 in the hole already.*
12 **need/want sth like a hole in the head** *spoken* used to say that you definitely do not need or want something: *I need this conversation like a hole in the head.* ➔ **ace in the hole** at ACE[1] (12); ➔ **BLACK HOLE**; ➔ **square peg in a round hole** at SQUARE[1] (12); ➔ **WATERING HOLE**

hole[2] *v* **1** [I,T] to hit the ball into a hole in golf: *He holed the putt with ease.* **2** **be holed** if a ship is holed, something makes a hole in it

hole out *phr v* to hit the ball into a hole in golf

hole up also **be holed up** *phr v informal* to hide somewhere for a period of time: [+**in/with/at**] *The gunmen are still holed up in the town.*

hole-in-the-wall *n* [C] **1** *BrE informal* a machine in or outside a bank from which you can obtain money using a special card; ☐ **ATM, cash machine** **2** *AmE* a small dark shop or restaurant

hol·ey /ˈhəʊli $ ˈhou-/ *adj* full of holes: *holey sweaters*

hol·i·day[1] S2 W2 /ˈhɒlɪdi, -deɪ $ ˈhɑːlɪˌdeɪ/ *n*
1 [C,U] *BrE* also **holidays** a time of rest from work, school etc; ☐ **vacation** *AmE*: *The school holidays start tomorrow.* | **on holiday** *I'm away on holiday until the 1st of June.* | *Won't your business suffer if you* ***take a holiday****?*
2 [C,U] *BrE* also **holidays** a period of time when you travel to another place for pleasure; ☐ **vacation** *AmE*

on holiday
go on holiday also
go on your holidays
have/take a holiday
holiday abroad
summer holiday
family holiday
skiing/camping/walking etc holiday
holiday resort (=a place with many hotels where a lot of people go on their holidays)
holiday brochure (=a magazine that advertises holidays)
holiday snaps *informal* (=photographs taken while on holiday)
holiday romance

We're going to Spain for our holidays. | *He caught malaria while* ***on holiday*** *in Africa.* | *When are you* ***going on holiday****?* | *I didn't* ***have*** *a proper* ***holiday*** *this year.* | *This was his first* ***holiday abroad****.* | *her annual* ***summer holiday*** | *a popular Spanish* ***holiday resort*** | *It was just a harmless* ***holiday romance****.*

3 [C] a day fixed by law on which people do not have to go to work or school: *The 4th of July is a* ***national holiday*** *in the US.*
4 **the holiday season, the holidays a)** *AmE* the period between Thanksgiving and New Year **b)** *BrE* the period in the summer when most people take a holiday ➔ BANK HOLIDAY, PUBLIC HOLIDAY

GRAMMAR
British English speakers say **holiday**, not **holidays** in the structures **be on holiday, go on holiday** and **return/come back from holiday**: *something to read when you are on holiday (NOT when you are on holidays)* | *When you come back from holiday, it's hard to work (NOT When you come back from holidays).*
Holidays is usually used after **the, my, your** etc: *Soon it will be the holidays.* | *Where do you want to go for your holidays?*
⚠ Do not say 'be in (your) holidays' or 'go in (your) holidays'. Say **go on holiday** or **go on your holidays** or **be on holiday** or **be on your holidays**.
⚠ Do not say 'make a holiday'. Say **have a holiday**.