

EARTH - LAND - SOIL - GROUND

WORD DISTINCTION

The surface of the world, when compared with the sea, is called the **land**, but when compared with the sky or space it is called **earth** or the **Earth**:

After a week at sea, the sailors saw land.

After a week in space, the spacecraft returned to earth.

An area considered as property is a piece of **land**:

the high price of land in London

The substance in which plants grow is the **soil** or **earth**:

a tub filled with soil/earth, or (when we think of it as having an area) ground

a small piece of ground where I could plant a few potatoes

But when we are talking about large areas used for farming, we say **land**:

There is good land here for growing corn.

The surface we walk on is called the **ground**, but when this is inside a building, it is the floor:

The horse fell to the ground.

The plate fell to the floor.

SELECTED COLLOCATIONS

earth:

- a) the land surface of the world
- b) the softer, friable part of land
- c) (sometimes capital) the third planet from the sun
- d) the hole in which some species of burrowing animals, especially foxes, live

The **earth** shook and the walls of neighboring houses fell around them

As a general rule, trees should be transplanted with a ball of **earth**

Shifting plates of the **Earth**'s crust push against each other

The vixen looks for a suitable den or '**earth**' she may dig under tree roots

land:

- a) the solid part of the surface of the earth as distinct from seas, lakes,
- b) ground, especially with reference to its use, quality
- c) the land on which real estate is located
- d) the territory occupied by a nation
- e) farming considered as a way of life

It is not clear whether the plane went down over **land** or sea

Good agricultural land is in short supply; a small piece of grazing **land**

He built the house on **land** leased from the city

America, **land** of opportunity; blessed lands of sun and sea and olive trees

Living off the **land** was hard enough at the best of times

EARTH - LAND - SOIL - GROUND

ground:

- a) soil; earth
- b) an area of land designated for a particular purpose
- c) (*plural*) the land around a dwelling house or other building

Coordinating airline traffic on the **ground** is as complicated as managing the traffic in the air; All **ground** forces had not arrived yet in the Persian Gulf

He dug into the **ground** outside his house

These are Indian hunting **grounds**; the city's football **ground**; this memorial stands on sacred **ground**

The palace **grounds**; the **grounds** of the University

soil:

- a) The top layer of the earth's surface, consisting of rock and mineral particles mixed with organic matter
- b) A particular kind of earth or ground
- c) Country; land
- d) The agricultural life

We have the most fertile **soil** in Europe

Sandy **soil**; clayey soil, loamy soil, etc.

The issue of foreign troops on Turkish **soil** is a sensitive one

He belonged to the **soil**, as his forefathers had

CORE VOCABULARY

ball of earth (to) earth up earthworm	topsoil crashed soil compact soil loam soil medium-textured soil silty soil soil texture soil moisture soil framework soil conditioner/soil improver soil positioning soil preparation / site preparation soil-borne soil workability soil depletion soil erosion soil composition	grassland woodland rangelands farmland/arable land cropland fallow land headland / boundary strip land management land use land registry land reform land degradation landfill	ground level groundwater above ground
---	--	---	---