

MARIN COUNTY
2015-2016
SPELLING BEE PROGRAM

Junior High
Spelling Word List

(Including Level I, Level II and Level III Words)



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MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Building the Future... One Student at a Time

LEVEL I

aba	course fabric of wool or hair fiber with felted finish; loose, sleeveless robe worn by Arabs <i>"The rider's aba protected him from the sun."</i>
abaft	at or toward the stern or rear of a ship; behind; back of <i>"The garbage was thrown overboard abaft the ship."</i>
abase	to humble or humiliate <i>"He will abase himself."</i>
abate	to make less in amount, degree, force <i>"The weatherman said that the storm would abate."</i>
abhor	to shrink from in fear; disgust or hatred; detest <i>"I abhor baiting my fishhook with worms."</i>
ably	skillfully <i>"His picture was ably drawn."</i>
abode	a place where one lives or stays; home; residence <i>"He remained in his abode."</i>
absorb	to suck up or drink in; assimilate; to take in and not reflect <i>"The paper towel will absorb the spilled milk."</i>
absurd	so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous <i>"It was absurd to say the baby could reach the counter."</i>
acme	highest point; peak; summit <i>"The acme of his desire was to become a man of medicine."</i>
active	characterized by much action or motion; lively, busy, agile, quick <i>"Her active schedule was hectic."</i>
advise	to give advice or an opinion to; counsel <i>"The lawyer will advise her client."</i>
against	in opposition to; contrary to; adjoining or next to <i>"He voted against the motion."</i>
almond	the edible, nutlike kernel of the small, dry peachlike fruit of a tree <i>"Modesto is known as an almond growing region."</i>

amaze	to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder; astonish <i>"The musician's talent will amaze the audience."</i>
ambush	an arrangement of persons in hiding to make a surprise attack <i>"The sheriff did not suspect an ambush."</i>
amend	to make better; improve <i>"The government tries to amend the laws."</i>
antics	odd and funny; ludicrous; pranks, capers <i>"The antics of the little monkey made him seem almost human."</i>
appeal	to make a request to a higher court for the rehearing or review of (a case) <i>"Since the verdict was guilty, the defendant decided to appeal his case."</i>
appoint	to name or select officially for an office, position <i>"We will appoint a chairman."</i>
approve	to give one's consent to; sanction; confirm <i>"She will approve the appeal."</i>
arbor	a place shaded by trees or shrubs <i>"The children played in the cool arbor."</i>
arid	lacking enough water for things to grow; dry and barren <i>"The arid soil did not produce."</i>
arrange	to put in the correct, proper, or suitable order <i>"The librarian will arrange the books."</i>
arrest	to seize or take into custody by authority of the law <i>"The officer plans to arrest the suspect."</i>
assure	to give confidence to <i>"As I mounted the unbroken horse, my friends tried to assure me that I could stay on it."</i>
babble	to talk foolishly or too much; blab <i>"The child would babble often."</i>
balance	equality in amount, weight, value or importance; the amount still owing after a partial payment <i>"They paid the balance in full."</i>
ballad	a romantic or sentimental song with the same melody for each stanza <i>"The singer sang a beautiful ballad."</i>

ballot	a ticket or paper by which a vote is registered; act or method of voting <i>"The class president was elected by a written ballot."</i>
balsa	a tropical American tree that yields an extremely light and buoyant wood used for airplane models, rafts <i>"The balsa provides wood for models."</i>
bandit	anyone who steals, cheats, exploits <i>"The bandit was arrested."</i>
bankrupt	a person legally declared unable to pay his debts <i>"The store's owner was bankrupt and had to go out of business."</i>
banter	to tease or make fun of in a playful, good-natured way <i>"The children banter with each other."</i>
barge	a large boat, usually flat-bottomed, for carrying heavy freight on rivers, canals <i>"The barge was loaded with timber."</i>
barley	a cereal grass; grain used in making soups, malts and as feed for animals <i>"My mother added barley to the soup to thicken it."</i>
barren	not bringing useful results, unproductive; unprofitable <i>"The barren field was eroding."</i>
barter	to trade for goods or services without using money <i>"The market offered to barter groceries for custodial work."</i>
basalt	a dark, tough, fine to dense-grained, extrusive volcanic rock commonly occurring in sheetlike lava flows <i>"The basalt was discovered in the mountain."</i>
basin	a washbowl or sink <i>"The dishes were set in the basin."</i>
believe	to take as true; to have confidence in the promise of another <i>"I believe in my religion."</i>
bellow	roar with powerful sound, like a bull; cry out loudly in pain or anger <i>"The bellow of the angry bull reverberated through the pasture."</i>
biceps	muscles having two heads, especially the large muscles in front of the upper arm or the corresponding muscles in the back of the thigh <i>"He photographed the body builder flexing the biceps of his arms."</i>

boggle	to confuse or overwhelm “ <i>Her idea would boggle your mind.</i> ”
bolster	to prop up as with a bolster, support, strengthen, or reinforce “ <i>The coach tried to bolster the team’s spirit.</i> ”
break	to split into pieces; come apart; burst “ <i>As the crystal fell to the floor, I saw it break into pieces.</i> ”
brief	condensed; short; outline of an argument “ <i>Her synopsis of the story was very brief.</i> ”
burglar	a person who commits burglary “ <i>The burglar was brought to trial.</i> ”
buyer	one who buys; consumes “ <i>The buyer noticed an increase in prices.</i> ”
caboose	the trainmen’s car on a freight train, usually at the rear “ <i>The caboose was the last car.</i> ”
caldron	a large kettle or boiler “ <i>The stew simmered in the caldron.</i> ”
candid	very honest or frank in what one says or writes “ <i>The doctor was very candid with her patient.</i> ”
canny	careful and shrewd in one’s actions and dealings; clever and cautious “ <i>The canny engineer designed the road.</i> ”
canter	a smooth, easy pace like a moderate gallop; to ride or move at a canter “ <i>The horse began to canter.</i> ”
capstone	the uppermost stone of a structure “ <i>The capstone was granite.</i> ”
caption	a heading or title, as of a newspaper article “ <i>He read the caption carefully.</i> ”
carafe	a bottle of glass or metal for water, coffee “ <i>He filled the carafe with water.</i> ”
career	one’s progress through life or in a particular vocation “ <i>She chose her career carefully.</i> ”
carp	To complain or find fault in a petty or nagging way “ <i>It is easy to carp about another’s decisions.</i> ”

cashier	an officer in a bank or company responsible for receipts and disbursements <i>"The cashier collected the receipts and recorded them for the bank."</i>
central	in, at, or near the center <i>"The central position was desired."</i>
channel	a course through which something moves or is transmitted, conveyed, expressed <i>"The channel for the boat was narrow."</i>
charmer	a delightful, fascinating, or attractive person <i>"The baby was a charmer."</i>
charter	the hire or lease of a ship, bus, airplane <i>"We plan to charter a bus."</i>
chorus	music written for group singing <i>"The group joined together for the chorus."</i>
cluster	a number of persons, animals, or things grouped together <i>"There was a cluster of flowers in the yard."</i>
coffers	chests or strongboxes in which money or valuables are kept <i>"After a successful fund raiser the coffers were full."</i>
collar	the part of a garment that encircles the neck; band or chain or leather for the neck of a dog, cat or other pet <i>"Laddie wore a jeweled collar."</i>
college	a school offering specialized instruction in some profession or occupation <i>"After attending a secretarial college, she found a position very quickly."</i>
coming	drawing near; approaching <i>"The dog is coming toward us."</i>
commit	to give in charge of trust; to deliver for safekeeping; entrust; to do or perpetrate an offense or crime <i>"The politician will usually commit himself on an issue."</i>
compel	to enforce or constrain; as to do something; to get by force <i>"Hunger will compel animals to follow a scent."</i>
compress	to squeeze together <i>"The machine will compress the cotton bales."</i>

copy	to make a thing like something else; to imitate “We can make a copy of the letter on the machine.”
concern	to draw in; to engage or involve; cause to feel uneasy or anxious “ <i>His lateness in coming home caused his parents concern.</i> ”
control	to govern; to direct; restraint; regulate “ <i>The Board of Directors will control communication.</i> ”
convert	to change from one form to another “ <i>We learned how to convert fractions from our teacher.</i> ”
convoy	a protecting escort, as for ships or troops; a group traveling together “ <i>Destroyers will convoy the troopships.</i> ”
copra	the source of coconut meat or coconut oil “ <i>Hawaii produces a great amount of copra.</i> ”
corral	an enclosure for holding or capturing horses or other livestock; pen; to confine; roundup “ <i>The wild horses were penned in the corral on the ranch.</i> ”
correct	to change from wrong to right; to point out or mark the errors of “ <i>Schoolteachers often take papers home to correct.</i> ”
corrupt	spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound “ <i>The corrupt official accepted a bribe.</i> ”
costly	expensive; at the cost of great effort “ <i>The diamond ring was a costly piece of jewelry.</i> ”
crabby	cross; ill-tempered; complaining “ <i>He was crabby because he did not feel well.</i> ”
craft	special skill, art or dexterity; occupation requiring special skill “ <i>They worked hard learning the skills of their craft.</i> ”
crash	to fall or break with a loud noise; to fall out of control so as to land damaged “ <i>The vase fell with a crash and broke into a hundred pieces.</i> ”
credit	belief; trust; confidence; faith; person or things bringing approval or honor “ <i>His son is a real credit to his upbringing.</i> ”
creek	a small stream of water; a narrow or winding passage “ <i>The water in the creek ran merrily along between high banks.</i> ”

creeper	a person or animal that moves along close to the ground; lowest gear in a truck; one-piece garment for a baby; vine with tendrils <i>"The small bird was a creeper searching for insects."</i>
creepy	moving slowly; having or causing a feeling of fear <i>"The spider webs give me a creepy feeling."</i>
crew	people working together; a group associating or classed together <i>"Some of the ship's crew were given shore leave."</i>
crick	a painful muscle spasm or cramp in the neck or back, etc. <i>"Watching the tennis match gave her a crick in the neck."</i>
crimson	deep red color <i>"The sky, at sunset, became beautifully crimson."</i>
crisis	a turning point in the course of anything; decisive or crucial time, stage of event <i>"His fever reached its crisis at three in the morning."</i>
crisp	stiff and brittle; easily broken; fresh and firm; easily crumbled <i>"Bacon, cooked in our microwave oven, is very crisp and delicious."</i>
current	of the present day; passing or flowing of water <i>"Reading of current events is part of our homework."</i>
cursive	flowing; not disconnected; writing, in which the strokes of each letter are joined in each word <i>"They did not learn cursive writing until the third grade."</i>
curtain	pieces of cloth or lace covering or decorating a window; large drape or hanging screen at the front of a stage <i>"As night came on, the curtain was drawn across the window."</i>
cushy	easy; comfortable, soft <i>"We sat on the floor on cushy pillows."</i>
custom	usual practice of behaving; habit; duties or taxes imposed by a government on imported or exported goods <i>"Having parties at Halloween was the custom of the neighborhood."</i>
dabble	to do something superficially, not seriously <i>"My aunt likes to dabble in art."</i>
dampen	to make moist; to deaden, depress or lessen <i>"She was asked to dampen the clothes so they could be ironed later."</i>

danger	liability to injury, damage, loss or pain; peril <i>“Walking so close to the edge of the cliff, he was in danger of falling.”</i>
dapper	small and neat; trim; active and smart <i>“He looked dapper in the new suit from his tailor.”</i>
data	things known or assumed; facts or figures for information <i>“The computer analyst fed the data into the machine.”</i>
dazzle	to confuse, surprise, or overpower with brilliant qualities, display <i>“His ability to debate will dazzle his opponent.”</i>
deafen	overwhelm with noise <i>“The volume of the loudspeaker will deafen the audience.”</i>
debark	to unload from or leave a ship or aircraft <i>“We will proceed to debark the material as soon as the plane stops.”</i>
decent	proper and fitting; not immodest; conforming to approved social standards <i>“Father provided for a decent, comfortable standard of living.”</i>
defect	lack of something for completeness; deficiency; forsake one’s cause and join the opposition <i>“It was on sale because of a defect in the pattern.”</i>
defend	to guard from attack; repel; support, protect, maintain or justify <i>“The soldiers will defend the fortress to the last man.”</i>
deflect	to turn or make bend to one side; swerve <i>“They used their shields to deflect the arrows.”</i>
defrost	to remove ice by thawing <i>“It was time to defrost the freezer.”</i>
deft	skillful in a quick, sure and easy way; dexterous <i>“With deft fingers, she continued knitting the sweater.”</i>
delay	to put off to a future time; postpone; to make late; slow up <i>“The delay in getting started caused them to be late.”</i>
delta	fourth letter of the Greek alphabet; deposit of sand and soil, usually triangular in shape, at the mouth of a river <i>“The Nile River has a delta which is quite large.”</i>
demand	to ask for boldly or urgently; order to appear or summon <i>“The subpoena is a demand by the court.”</i>

demon	devil, evil spirit; a person or thing regarded as evil or cruel <i>“He was a demon at golf.”</i>
dental	of or for the teeth or dentistry <i>“Using dental floss is a help in avoiding tooth problems.”</i>
depress	to press down; push or pull down; lower <i>“If you depress this button, water comes out.”</i>
depth	distance from the top downward; deepness; intensity, as of colors <i>“They dropped a stone in the well to try to determine its depth.”</i>
desist	to cease; stop; abstain from action <i>“The librarian urged them to desist their discussion so others could study and concentrate.”</i>
dessert	usually the sweet course of a dinner; pie; cake, puddings, etc. <i>“Lemon pie is my favorite dessert.”</i>
destroy	to tear down; demolish; to break up; ruin; crush <i>“The demolition crew will destroy the whole building.”</i>
detect	to discover or discern the existence, or fact of; find out the true nature of <i>“It was almost impossible to detect anything wrong with the cup.”</i>
detest	to dislike intensely; hate; abhor <i>“They detest listening to some of the same old lectures.”</i>
detract	to take something desirable away from <i>“Frowning will detract from the beauty of her face.”</i>
devoid	completely without; empty or destitute <i>“Crippled badly from the accident, he was devoid of any way to resume his former occupation.”</i>
differ	to be unlike, not same; disagree <i>“We often differ in our opinions and agree to disagree.”</i>
different	not alike; dissimilar; distinct; separate; other <i>“We went to the city by different routes.”</i>
digest	a book or periodical; condensed information; absorb; tolerate <i>“The book was a digest on astronomical data.”</i>
digit	a finger or toe; any numeral from 0 to 9 <i>“It had to be correct to the last digit.”</i>

direct	consisting of the exact words of the writer or speaker; to show the way to <i>"It was a direct quotation by the speaker."</i>
disarm	to deprive of the ability to hurt; to take away weapons, make friendly <i>"The police asked the robbers to disarm, promising no one would be hurt."</i>
discard	to throw away, abandon; get rid of as having no value <i>"They planned to discard the unwanted clothing."</i>
discord	lack of agreement; conflict; inharmonious combination of tones <i>"The sense of discord in the committee made us nervous."</i>
dismal	causing gloom; depressing; bleak; dreary <i>"It was a dark and dismal day."</i>
dismiss	send away; cause to leave; put out of one's mind; discontinue or reject a claim <i>"Because of lack of evidence, the judge will probably dismiss the case."</i>
display	to spread out to be seen; exhibit; disclose; reveal <i>"They set up tables and booths to display the goods to be sold."</i>
disrupt	to break up; rend asunder; to disturb or interrupt <i>"Bringing up the subject will disrupt the orderliness of this meeting."</i>
distant	having a gap of space between; separated; far away, remote; cool in manner; faraway or dreamy look <i>"London, England is many miles distant from California."</i>
distinct	clearly perceived or marked off; plain, well-defined; individual <i>"The medal he received showed a distinct and special honor."</i>
distract	to draw the mind away in another direction; divert <i>"In order to take it from the child, we had to distract his attention by allowing him to pet the cat."</i>
distress	to cause sorrow or misery; pain; suffering <i>"Arthritic pain causes distress in her stiff knee when she walks."</i>
dither	to be nervously excited or confused <i>"Before the curtain rose, she was all in a dither."</i>
dizzy	feeling giddy or unsteady; confused, bewildered <i>"The motion of the ferris wheel made them dizzy."</i>

doctor	a person licensed to practice any of the healing arts, as an osteopath, dentist, veterinarian <i>"The doctor examined the patient."</i>
dogged	not giving in readily; persistent; stubborn <i>"He showed a dogged resistance to all arguments."</i>
dollar	a coin or piece of paper money of the value of a dollar <i>"The dollar was found on the sidewalk."</i>
donor	a person who donates or gives <i>"She volunteered to be a donor of blood for the transfusion."</i>
dormant	sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive <i>"Some plants and animals are dormant during the cold weather."</i>
dosage	the system to be followed in taking doses, as of medicine <i>"He forgot to take his dosage of cough medicine."</i>
doting	foolishly fond; excessively <i>"Sometimes a doting parent can cause problems for the child."</i>
dowdy	not neat or stylish in dress or appearance; shabby <i>"Many of the candidates appeared dowdy."</i>
downy	soft and fluffy, like down <i>"The child petted the downy chick."</i>
draggy	slow moving; lethargic; dull; boring <i>"Some of us are draggy, especially in the early morning."</i>
drama	the quality of being dramatic <i>"The plays will bring drama to the audience."</i>
drastic	acting with force; having a violent effect; harsh; extreme <i>"We sometimes have to take drastic steps to get someone to listen."</i>
drawer	a sliding box in a table, bureau, chest that can be drawn out and then pushed back into place. <i>"The wooden drawer slid smoothly into place."</i>
dreadful	inspiring dread; terrible or awesome <i>"The volcano's eruption was dreadful."</i>
drizzle	a fine, mistlike rain <i>"The drizzle dampened the pavement."</i>

druggist	person authorized to fill prescriptions; pharmacist <i>"We always take our prescriptions to the same druggist at the drugstore."</i>
dual	of two; having or composed of two parts or kinds; double <i>"He had a dual personality, sometimes very kind, sometimes very aloof and severe."</i>
duplex	double or twofold; two units operating in the same way <i>"They lived in one half of a duplex."</i>
during	throughout the whole time of; all through <i>"The doctor had a call and had to leave during the speech."</i>
dusky	lacking light; dim; shadowy <i>"In the dusky room, he could only identify outlines."</i>
eclipse	the partial or total obscuring of the sun when the moon comes between it and the earth; or of the moon when the earth's shadow is cast upon it. <i>"We studied the lunar eclipse in class."</i>
edict	an official proclamation or public order made by authority or decree <i>"The edict issued by the King had to be obeyed by all."</i>
efface	to rub out, as from a surface; erase; wipe out; obliterate <i>"They tried to efface the memory."</i>
effect	anything brought about by agent; result; influence or action on something by something else <i>"The ocean tides have an effect on the sailing of ships into the harbor."</i>
effort	the using of energy to get something done; attempt; endeavor <i>"Though he did not want to, he made an effort to be friendly."</i>
eject	to throw out; cast out; expel; emit <i>"The safety net will catch the stuntman when he pushes the lever to eject himself from the plane."</i>
elate	to raise the spirits of; make very proud, happy, or joyful <i>"The surprise party should elate our friend."</i>
elect	to pick or choose; select <i>"We will elect one of our members to the Student Body."</i>
elude	to avoid or escape from by quickness, cunning, evade <i>"We will try to elude the traffic congestion."</i>

embark	to board a ship, airplane; to begin a journey, an enterprise “We embark on our journey to Europe at 7:00 p.m.”
emblem	a visible symbol of a thing, class of people; a sign “The cross is an emblem of Christianity.”
emboss	to cover or decorate with designs; to carve, raise or print a design so it is above the surface; embellish; ornament “She asked her sister to emboss the new chair.”
emerge	to develop or evolve as something new, improved “A new town will emerge after construction.”
employ	to make use of; to keep busy or occupied; to engage services or labor for pay “Since the mine is not running full time, the owners will employ fewer men.”
empty	not full; containing nothing; unoccupied; vacant “The windows are boarded up in the empty building.”
enact	to make a bill into law; pass a decree; ordain “The President would like Congress to enact the new tax law.”
encamp	to set up a campsite; to put in a camp “The meadow along the river looked like a good site to encamp .”
enchant	to charm; bewitch; set a spell on as by magic; delight “Her acting will enchant all who see the play.”
enclose	to shut in all around; hem in; fence in; surround “We plan to enclose the play area.”
endless	having no finish; going on forever; infinite “An endless chain was formed by joining the ends that can move continuously over the wheels.”
endorse	to give approval to; support; sanction “The community will endorse the candidate.”
endow	provide with money, talent, quality or property, etc. “In her will, she will endow the hospital with a permanent income.”
enfold	to wrap up; embrace “The mother’s loving arms will enfold her child.”

engage	to employ or keep busy; occupy <i>"The assignment will engage his extra time."</i>
English	the language of the people of England, the official language of the British Commonwealth, the U.S., Liberia, etc. <i>"We study English in school."</i>
engorge	to devour greedily <i>"The hungry man seemed to engorge his meal."</i>
engrave	to cut or etch into a metal plate, wooden block, etc. <i>"We will watch her engrave the initials."</i>
engross	to occupy one's whole attention <i>"This book will thoroughly engross him."</i>
engulf	to swallow up; overwhelm <i>"The raging river will engulf the house."</i>
enjoin	to urge or impose with authority; order, enforce <i>"The police will enjoin the crowd to disperse."</i>
enlist	to enroll for service, as in the armed forces; to get help, support, aid, etc. <i>"She went to the recruitment office to enlist in the Air Force."</i>
enrich	to give greater value, importance, effectiveness, etc., to <i>"The new class will enrich the curriculum."</i>
enroll	enlist; to record in a list; register; become a member <i>"We are both going to enroll in the choir."</i>
enter	to come or go in or into; pierce; to make an entry of <i>"I hope he will enter the race because I'm sure he can win."</i>
epic	long narrative poem about the traditional and heroic deeds of a hero; poem having style, dignity and importance in relating a story <i>"The Iliad is a familiar epic poem."</i>
equal	of the same quantity, size, number, degree, intensity, quality, etc. <i>"He has courage and ability equal to the challenge."</i>
error	state of believing what is incorrect or wrong; mistake <i>"She has an error on her math paper."</i>
erupt	burst forth or out; to break out in a rash <i>"Lava will erupt from the volcano."</i>

escort	one or more persons or cars, ships, etc., accompanying another for protection or to show honor or courtesy <i>"The class treasurer will be her escort to the prom."</i>
ethnic	designating any, or of any, of the basic groups or divisions of mankind, having the same customs, characteristics, history or language <i>"His ethnic background was Italian."</i>
excel	to be better or greater than; superior to <i>"Tests showed he would excel in Social Studies."</i>
facet	any of a number of sides or aspects, as of a personality <i>"They had never seen the generous facet of his personality."</i>
facile	not hard to do or achieve <i>"After years of practice, her violin playing appeared facile."</i>
factor	any of two or more quantities which form a product when multiplied together <i>"The second factor in the problem was copied wrong."</i>
faddish	having the nature of a fad <i>"The couple's clothing was very faddish."</i>
faithful	having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility; conscientious <i>"She was very faithful to her club."</i>
famine	any acute shortage <i>"The people were suffering from the famine."</i>
fancy	decorative, light, whimsical; imaginative; liking or fondness <i>"The window curtains were made of a fancy material."</i>
fashion	to make in a certain way; give a certain form to; shape; mold <i>"The potter will fashion the clay to resemble a lion."</i>
feeble	without force or effectiveness <i>"His feeble attempt was not successful."</i>
femur	thighbone <i>"Her X-ray showed no break in the femur."</i>
ferry	to take across a river or body of water in a boat or ship; to deliver by flying to the destination; a boat or plane used for this purpose <i>"The boat was used to ferry the people to the island."</i>

fervent	having or showing great warmth of feeling; intensely devoted or earnest; ardent <i>"The children showed a fervent devotion to their pet."</i>
fiction	anything made up or imagined, as a statement, story, etc. <i>"She was a great author of fiction."</i>
fifteen	the cardinal number between 14 and 16 <i>"Fifteen boys belong to the scout troop."</i>
final	last, or coming at the end; concluding; finish <i>"This is my final word on the subject."</i>
finite	having measurable or definable limits; not infinite <i>"There was a finite number of beads in the bowl."</i>
first	preceding all other; earliest; foremost in rank, quality, importance <i>"She was the first one in line at the door."</i>
fitful	spasmodic; restless <i>"In the morning he was still tired, having spent the night in fitful sleep."</i>
flagrant	glaringly bad; notorious; outrageous <i>"The performance was flagrant, and the audience left."</i>
fluid	that can flow; not solid; able to move and change shape without separating when under pressure <i>"Water is an important fluid for survival."</i>
flaming	burning with fire; blazing; intensely emotional <i>"We watched the fire flaming and casting sparks high in the air."</i>
flimsy	thin and easily broken or damaged; poorly made and fragile <i>"The door was flimsy and could not be locked."</i>
fluent	moving or flowing smoothly; able to write or speak easily, expressively <i>"The teacher was fluent in three languages."</i>
flunk	to fail in school work; to give a mark of failure; unsatisfactory work <i>"If she does not study, she will flunk the examination."</i>
forbid	to rule against; not permit; prohibit <i>"Father may forbid me to go."</i>
format	a plan for the organization and arrangement of a specified production <i>"He gave us a copy of the format for the TV show."</i>

forty	cardinal number between 39 and 41; four times ten <i>"The shoes will cost more than forty dollars."</i>
fracas	noisy fight or loud quarrel; brawl <i>"They were having a fracas in the hall."</i>
fresh	recently obtained or grown; newly made; not salted, preserved, pickled <i>"The fruit was fresh and firm."</i>
frolic	playful trick or game; merriment, gaiety, fun; lively party <i>"The small children frolic about in a happy, carefree way."</i>
froth	to cause to foam; whitish mass of bubbles <i>"Shaking the drink will make froth in it."</i>
fuel	any material such as wood, gas or coal, burned to supply heat or power <i>"We bought a cord of logs for fuel for the fireplace."</i>
furnish	supply, provide or equip; to put furniture into a room <i>"They decided to furnish the den with modern pieces."</i>
gallant	stately; imposing <i>"The gallant ship cruised into the harbor."</i>
gamut	the entire range or extent, as of emotions <i>"The actress demonstrated the gamut of emotions."</i>
garb	clothing; manner or style of dress; to clothe, dress, attire <i>"The garb he wore was characteristic of his occupation."</i>
garble	to confuse or mix up unintentionally <i>"Although she had studied the poem, she started to garble it when it was her turn to recite."</i>
garlic	bulbous plant of the lily family <i>"Some people do not appreciate the flavor of garlic."</i>
garnish	to trim, adorn, decorate; embellish <i>We often see parsley used as a garnish."</i>
gather	to cause to come together in one place; to pick, pluck or collect <i>"We hired extra labor to gather the fruit."</i>
gently	courteously, kindly; mild or pleasantly <i>"The soft breezes moved gently through her hair."</i>

geode	a globular stone having a cavity lined with inward growing crystals or layers of silica <i>"The miner discovered the geode."</i>
gifted	having a natural ability or aptitude; notably superior in intelligence <i>"The gifted child excelled in music."</i>
giggle	to laugh with a series of uncontrollable, rapid, high-pitched sounds, suggestive of foolishness, nervousness, etc. <i>"She started to giggle after hearing the joke."</i>
global	round like a ball; globe-shaped <i>"The weatherman reported the forecast on a global map."</i>
glisten	to shine or sparkle with reflected light, as a wet or polished surface <i>"The new car did glisten in the sunlight."</i>
glory	great honor attained by doing something important or valuable, worshipful adoration; heaven or the bliss of heaven <i>"The glory of the sunset drew all eyes."</i>
glossy	having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish <i>"The glossy cat was sleeping in the window."</i>
glower	a sullen, angry stare; scowl <i>"A glower covered his face when he discovered that he was late."</i>
gobble	to eat quickly and greedily <i>"The chickens gobble the grain."</i>
gossip	a person who chatters or repeats idle talk and rumors, esp. about the private affairs of others <i>"The gossip strained to overhear the conversation."</i>
govern	to exercise authority over; rule, administer; direct or control <i>"The officials will govern in an orderly manner."</i>
grammar	the system of word structures and word arrangements of a given language at a given time <i>"In order to speak the language, an understanding of grammar is helpful."</i>
granite	a very hard, crystalline, plutonic rock, gray to pink in color, consisting of feldspar, quartz, and smaller amounts of other minerals <i>"The polished granite shone in the sunlight."</i>

grasp	to take hold of; grip; seize; to understand mentally <i>“His firm grasp on the rope kept him from falling.”</i>
grateful	feeling or expressing gratitude <i>“He was very grateful for being remembered on his birthday.”</i>
grater	scraper; to use to rub skin from vegetables, etc. <i>“She used the grater on the lemon peel for the pie.”</i>
gratis	a favor without a charge or fee <i>“The printing of the tickets for the fund raiser were given gratis.”</i>
graze	to feed on (growing grass, herbage, a pasture, etc.) <i>“The cattle will graze on the slopes all winter.”</i>
gritty	of, like, or containing sand; brave; plucky <i>“Water from the creek left a gritty substance in the bottom of the cup.”</i>
gruel	thin, easily digested broth made of meal with water or milk <i>“The hot, tasty gruel did not hurt her sore throat as she swallowed.”</i>
habit	habitual or characteristic condition of mind or body; disposition <i>“It was his habit to have cereal every morning for breakfast.”</i>
hammer	to strike repeatedly with or as with a hammer <i>“He tried to hammer the message through to his audience by talking loudly.”</i>
happen	to take place; occur; befall <i>“They could not predict what would happen.”</i>
harbor	a place of refuge, safety, retreat; a protected inlet, branch of the sea, etc., used as shelter and anchorage for ships <i>“Ships lay at anchor in the broad sunny harbor.”</i>
harmful	able to cause hurt or damage <i>“We found the cold weather harmful to our houseplants.”</i>
harvest	time of year when matured fruit, grain, vegetables, etc. are reaped; season’s yield; gathering of a crop <i>“We usually harvest our pumpkins and squash for Halloween.”</i>
having	possessing; owning; bearing <i>“Everyone seemed to be having fun at the fair.”</i>
heckle	to annoy or harass by interrupting with questions or taunts <i>“The audience began to heckle the speaker.”</i>

hermit	a person who lives by himself in a lonely or secluded spot, often from religious motives; recluse <i>"No one had seen the hermit for twenty years."</i>
hidden	concealed; secret <i>"The detective was looking for the hidden trunk."</i>
hinge	a joint or device on which a door, gate, lid, etc., swings <i>"The hinge needed oiling."</i>
hobble	to walk lamely or awkwardly; limp <i>"The horse tried to hobble to the corral."</i>
hollow	empty or worthless; not real or meaningful <i>"They knew that the praise was hollow."</i>
honest	frank and open <i>"The store owner had an honest face."</i>
honor	to respect greatly; regard highly; esteem <i>"The family met to honor the visiting grandparents."</i>
hopeless	impossible to solve, deal with, teach, etc. <i>"After working on the problem for ten hours, it appeared hopeless."</i>
hoping	expecting; desiring <i>"We are hoping everyone will be on time."</i>
hostile	having or showing ill will; unfriendly; antagonistic <i>"The lion appeared hostile as the hunter approached."</i>
huckster	an aggressive or haggling merchant, esp. one who uses questionable methods <i>"The huckster at the fair was making a fortune."</i>
human	of or belonging to the human race; mankind; person <i>"He is a student of human nature and human affairs."</i>
humble	low in condition, rank, or position; lowly; unpretentious <i>"The humble home was neat and tidy."</i>
hunger	discomfort, pain or weakness caused by lack of food; starvation; craving <i>"Looking at the food display made his stomach ache with hunger."</i>
idler	person who does no work; wastes time; lazy person <i>"No one ever saw him doing things, so they thought him an idler."</i>

ignite	to set fire to; cause to burn <i>"They will ignite the trees with a torch."</i>
ignore	to disregard deliberately; pay no attention to; refuse to consider <i>"The driver appeared to ignore the road signs."</i>
impact	to force tightly together; pack; wedge; hit with force; violent contact <i>"The two cars collided with violent impact."</i>
impede	to bar or hinder the progress of; obstruct or delay <i>"Some members tried to impede the program."</i>
impish	mischievous <i>"The child gave him an impish grin and then ran down the street."</i>
impose	to force on another or others without right or invitation; obtrude <i>"Although she did not receive an invitation, she tried to impose on the family."</i>
impress	to leave pressure on so as to leave a mark <i>"We will impress the leaf on the paper to make a design."</i>
impulse	a sudden inclination to act, without conscious thought <i>"They could not resist the impulse to walk in the rain."</i>
incite	to set in motion, to urge to action; stir up, rouse <i>"The news of the riot may incite others to act."</i>
indent	to cut toothlike points into; in from the regular margin; edge cut <i>"We were taught to indent five spaces for each paragraph."</i>
index	pointer; indicator; such as needle on a dial; alphabetized list <i>"At the library, we refer to an index to locate a book."</i>
induct	to lead in; install, as in office; initiate; enroll in the services <i>"The chairman used a candlelight ceremony to induct new members."</i>
inert	having few or no active properties <i>"The inert gas is not considered to be a danger."</i>
infant	a very young child; baby <i>"The mother carried her three-month-old infant in a backpack."</i>
infect	to contaminate with a disease-producing organism or matter <i>"Germs infect the air we breathe."</i>

infirm	weak; feeble, as from old age; frail; shaky <i>"Some senior citizens are infirm; others seem hale and hearty."</i>
inflect	to vary or change the tone or pitch of (the voice); modulate <i>"When giving a speech, the leader will inflect her voice."</i>
influx	the point where a river joins another body of water <i>"They found good fishing at the influx of the rivers."</i>
ingrate	an ungrateful person <i>"The ingrate refuses to thank anyone for help."</i>
inkling	a vague idea or notion; suspicion <i>"She had an inkling that the biggest present was for her."</i>
inmost	located farthest within; most secretive or intimate thoughts <i>"He talked of his inmost thoughts with his best friend."</i>
innate	existing naturally rather than acquired; possessed at birth, inherent <i>"He has an innate talent for math."</i>
inset	to insert into something else; a map set inside the border of a larger one; a piece of material sewed into a garment <i>"The inset shows the downtown section of the city."</i>
inspire	to fill with high or reverent emotion; stimulate to creativity or action <i>"The concert did inspire him to be a musician."</i>
instant	urgent; pressing; soon to happen; without delay; immediate <i>"We can buy so many instant foods; some ready to eat or drink as soon as hot water is added."</i>
intact	with nothing missing; kept or left whole; sound; entire <i>"He found his missing wallet intact - even the money was still in it."</i>
item	separate things; one piece of news or information <i>"Bread was an item on their grocery list."</i>
jabber	fast, incoherent, nonsensical talk; gibberish <i>"No one could understand the jabber of the twins."</i>
jacket	a short coat, usually with sleeves; outer coating; cover envelope <i>"He wore a blue jacket with his gray trousers."</i>
jagged	having sharp projecting points; notched or ragged <i>"The jagged edge scratched the smooth surface of the table."</i>

jargon	incoherent speech; gibberish; specialized vocabulary and idioms of those in their own line of work <i>"She recognized the jargon of classmates taking computer classes."</i>
jetsam	that part of the cargo thrown overboard to lighten the ship in danger; discardings <i>"Some of the jetsam they threw overboard might be sorely missed later."</i>
jitney	formerly old slang for five cents, a nickel; small car or bus which travels a regular route and charges a low fare for passengers to ride <i>"The driver of the jitney now charges passengers a dollar."</i>
joker	a person who excites laughter; any hidden unsuspected difficulty <i>"The joker in the document was very cunningly worded."</i>
jostle	to bump or push, as in a crowd; elbow or shove roughly <i>"As the number increased, the crowd began to jostle the players."</i>
juror	a person who is a member of a jury or a jury panel; taker of an oath <i>"He was sworn in as a juror in case one of the panel became ill."</i>
justice	reward or penalty as deserved <i>"The defendant protested the justice he was receiving in the court."</i>
kapok	fiber used for stuffing mattresses, sleeping bags, pillows, etc. <i>"After such a long time of use, the kapok had to be replaced."</i>
kelp	large, coarse brown seaweed; ashes of seaweed from which iodine is obtained <i>"The water was so clear we could see long beds of kelp floating."</i>
kettle	a metal container for boiling or cooking things; pot <i>"The stew was boiling in the kettle."</i>
kindling	bits of dry wood or other easily-lighted material for starting a fire <i>"The campers gathered kindling for the fire."</i>
kindly	gracious; agreeable; pleasant <i>"He was such a kindly person, everyone liked him."</i>
kinship	close relation, family; close connection <i>"The two cousins kept up a warm kinship all their lives."</i>
kosher	loosely, prepared according to traditional Jewish recipes <i>"The kosher pickles were very tasty."</i>

label	identifying card or paper; to classify; descriptive word or phrase <i>“The label on the bottle was too old to be deciphered.”</i>
ladle	to dip out and pour as with a ladle <i>“The cook will ladle the soup for each customer.”</i>
lament	an outward expression of sorrow; lamentation; wail <i>“A long lament was heard in the garden.”</i>
lance	any sharp instrument resembling a lance, as a fish spear <i>“Using a lance, the Indian speared the fish.”</i>
landfill	the disposal of garbage or rubbish by burying it under a shallow layer of ground <i>“The landfill is being debated by the city government.”</i>
lanky	awkwardly tall and lean or long and slender <i>“The lanky cowboy ducked as he entered the house.”</i>
lantern	transparent case for holding a light and protecting it from wind and weather; room containing the lamp at the top of a lighthouse <i>“The light from the lantern helped us to find our way along the rocky path.”</i>
lather	the foam or froth formed by soap or detergent in water; excited state <i>“I liked to watch my father lather his face and shave his whiskers.”</i>
lawful	legal; permitted by law; just or valid <i>“He always conformed in a lawful manner.”</i>
lecture	an informative talk given before an audience, class, etc., and usually prepared beforehand <i>“The history lecture was very interesting.”</i>
legend	story handed down for generations, popularly believed historical and true <i>“She wanted to remember the legend told by Grandmother so she could tell it to her grandchildren.”</i>
legume	any of a large family of herbs, shrubs, and trees, including the peas, beans, vetches, clovers, etc., with usually compound leaves, flowers having a single carpel, and fruit that is a dry pod splitting along two sutures <i>“Lima beans are a member of the legume family.”</i>

lettuce	any of a genus of hardy, annual composite plants; specif., a plant grown for its crisp, succulent, green leaves <i>"A succulent lettuce salad was served first."</i>
license	a document, printed tag, permit, etc., indicating that such permission had been granted <i>"The officer asked to see the man's license."</i>
lightning	a flash of light in the sky caused by the discharge of atmospheric electricity from one cloud to another or between a cloud and the earth <i>"The lightning flashed in the sky."</i>
liking	fondness; affection; preference; taste; pleasure <i>"He had a liking for all games and sports."</i>
limb	an arm, leg, or wing <i>"He was very lucky; only one limb was broken in the accident."</i>
limber	easily bent; pliant; flexible; supple <i>"We used slow exercises to limber up before the race began."</i>
limit	border, beyond which something ceases to be, or to be possible <i>"The map defined the limit of the property."</i>
lining	to cause to or to bring to a straight row or conformity; in alignment <i>"The astronomer was lining up his telescope to look at the stars."</i>
linkage	a linking or being linked <i>"The investigator studied the linkage between the clues."</i>
listless	having no interest in what is going on about one, as a result of illness, weariness, dejection, etc., spiritless; languid <i>"The listless dog lay on the floor by the fire."</i>
litter	the young borne at one time by a dog, cat, or other animal which normally bears several young at a delivery <i>"The litter of kittens was guarded by the mother."</i>
lively	full of life; active; vigorous <i>"No one wanted to leave the lively party."</i>
livid	grayish-blue; lead-colored <i>"The slanderous article made him livid with rage."</i>
living	to have life; alive, not dead; true to reality <i>"He is my only living relative."</i>

lizard	loosely, any of various similar reptiles or other animals, as alligators or salamanders <i>"The green lizard was basking in the sun."</i>
lobster	any of a group of large edible sea crustaceans having five pairs of legs <i>"Lobster is thought to be very delicious eating by many people."</i>
local	relating to place; restricted; particular part or specific area <i>"The newspaper printed mostly local news items."</i>
lonely	alone; solitary <i>"The lonely dog missed his master by the end of the day."</i>
loose	not confined or restrained; free; unbound <i>"The sails were loose in the breeze."</i>
lucid	clearheaded; rational <i>"The lucid thinker explained the axiom."</i>
luster	brightness; radiance; brilliance <i>"The luster of the silver dazzled the crows."</i>
magnet	a person or thing that attracts; piece of iron or steel that attracts metal <i>"A magnet is often fastened to a potholder to be attached to the stove."</i>
major	greater in size, importance, number or rank; designating a specific field of study in which a student specializes and receives his degree <i>"She had to choose between math and English as her major course of study."</i>
making	formation; construction; creation; production; manufacturing, etc. <i>"Making her own patterns and sewing her own clothes was her hobby."</i>
malice	active ill will; desire to harm another or to do mischief; spite <i>"The book had been torn with malice."</i>
mangle	to spoil; botch; mar; garble <i>"The writer began to mangle the translation."</i>
manner	a way or method in which something is done or happens, mode or fashion of procedure <i>"His easy manner made everyone feel comfortable."</i>
march	to walk with regular, steady steps of equal length; steady advance <i>"The members of the band learned to march carrying their instruments."</i>

margin	the blank space around the printed or written area on a page or sheet “ <i>Many notes were written in the margin.</i> ”
market	to deal in a market; buy or sell “ <i>He plans to market his new design in the spring.</i> ”
marvel	a wonderful or astonishing thing; prodigy or miracle “ <i>We all admired the marvel of travel in space.</i> ”
massive	large or imposing or impressive; of considerable magnitude “ <i>The new bank was massive.</i> ”
mature	fully or highly developed, perfected, worked out, considered, etc. “ <i>As the plans mature, we will better know the instructions.</i> ”
matzo	the unleavened bread eaten by Jews during the Passover “ <i>The matzo was prepared very carefully.</i> ”
medic	a physician or surgeon “ <i>The medic quickly provided assistance to the sick child.</i> ”
medley	a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works “ <i>The chorus performed the medley very well.</i> ”
melon	any of several large, juicy, thick-skinned, many-seeded fruits of certain trailing plants of the gourd family, as the watermelon, muskmelon, cantaloupe, etc. “ <i>We all enjoyed eating the melon.</i> ”
mental	of or for the mind or intellect; without using written symbols “ <i>He had a mental image of how she would worry if he were so late.</i> ”
merely	no more than; and nothing else; only “ <i>We merely know the address.</i> ”
message	a communication passed or sent between persons by speech, in writing, by signals, etc. “ <i>Everyone listened to the President’s message on radio.</i> ”
method	a way of doing anything; process; definite procedure “ <i>He learned the method of vulcanizing rubber.</i> ”
metric	a theory or a system of measurement “ <i>The United States may adopt the metric system.</i> ”
middle	in between; intermediate; intervening “ <i>I sit in the middle of my best friends.</i> ”

mileage	aggregate distance in miles or total number of miles traveled; recorded, etc. <i>"The salesman bought a new car each year because he had such high mileage on his current one."</i>
milling	circular or random motion of or as a herd or crowd <i>"The ducks were milling around the bread crumbs."</i>
mimic	imitative; inclined to copy; to ape; make believe; mock <i>"The actor could mimic many of his fellow artists."</i>
mindful	having in mind; aware; heedful, or careful <i>"The children were mindful of the danger of playing in the street."</i>
minute	the sixtieth part of any of certain units <i>"As we watched the clock, the minute went very slowly."</i>
mishap	an unlucky or unfortunate accident <i>"The doctor wanted to avoid the mishap."</i>
misspell	to spell incorrectly <i>The class did not misspell a single word."</i>
modern	up-to-date; of recent times; period of history after the middle ages <i>"They disagreed in preference of modern or period furnishings."</i>
musty	having a stale, moldy taste or smell; worn out; antiquated <i>"The dampness seemed to linger in the basement, giving it a musty smell"</i>
napkin	small piece of cloth or paper used at table to wipe the fingers or lips <i>"A napkin was at the left of each plate."</i>
narrate	to tell in writing or speech <i>"The teacher began to narrate the story."</i>
narrow	close; careful; not liberal; prejudiced <i>"We all try to avoid having a narrow mind."</i>
nasty	very unpleasant; objectionable <i>"The townspeople were tired of the nasty weather."</i>
native	belonging to a locality or country by birth, production, or growth; indigenous <i>"The native did not want to leave his home country."</i>

nectar	any very delicious drink; sweetish liquid in flowers gathered by bees to make honey <i>“The icy cold lemonade was like nectar.”</i>
neglect	not to heed; leave undone; lack of sufficient or proper care <i>“If you neglect to water the plants, they will die.”</i>
nerve	strength; energy; vigor <i>“The football player’s nerve was impressive.”</i>
nestle	to settle or house as in a nest; shelter <i>“The birds would nestle in the tree house.”</i>
nibble	to eat with quick bites, taking only a small amount at a time <i>“The kittens began to nibble on the food.”</i>
nickel	a U.S. or Canadian coin made of an alloy of nickel and copper and equal to five cents <i>“The jogger spotted a shiny nickel on the pavement.”</i>
noble	having or showing high moral qualities or ideals, or greatness of character; lofty <i>“The noble leader made a hard decision for his country.”</i>
nomad	member of a tribe of people having no permanent home; wanderer <i>“Like a nomad, he roamed all over the world.”</i>
normal	the usual state, amount, degree, etc.; especially the median or average <i>“The normal weather pattern is changing.”</i>
notice	a written or printed sign giving some public information, warning or rule <i>“The public meeting notice was posted all over town.”</i>
novel	new and unusual; relatively long narrative of fictional events <i>“Learning to ride the motorcycle was a novel experience for her.”</i>
nubby	covered with small nubs, or lumps; having a rough, knotted surface <i>“The nubby fabric was rough to touch.”</i>
object	n. a thing that can be seen or touched; v. to oppose; protect <i>“The chair was the only object in the room.”</i> <i>“The committee’s resolution states that they object to having the dance.”</i>

oblong	longer than broad; elongated, specif., (a) rectangular and longer in one direction than in the other, esp. longer horizontally, (b) elliptical <i>"They wondered what was in the oblong box."</i>
observe	to celebrate or keep (a holiday, etc.) according to custom <i>"They observe the holiday in July."</i>
occur	to take place; happen <i>"The celebration will occur next week."</i>
odor	a smell, whether pleasant or unpleasant; fragrance, stench, etc. <i>"The odor of baking bread filled the home."</i>
offend	break a law; commit a crime or sin; to create anger or displeasure <i>"He spoke rudely unintentionally and did not mean to offend her."</i>
offense	the condition of being offended, esp. of feeling hurt, resentful, or angry; umbrage <i>"His friend took offense from the joke."</i>
office	a position of authority or trust, esp. in a government, business, institution, etc. <i>"Our neighbor was running for the office of mayor."</i>
oleo	combining form meaning oleomargarine <i>"I prefer oleo to butter on my bread."</i>
omit	to fail to include; leave out <i>"He reminded the campers to not omit their tent."</i>
optic	of the eyes; sense of sight <i>"The optic nerve was not damaged."</i>
orbit	the path taken by a heavenly body during its periodic revolution around another body <i>"The orbit of the earth is being measured."</i>
ornate	heavily ornamented or adorned, often to excess <i>"The ornate window was filled with jewels."</i>
ostrich	a large, swift-running bird of Africa and the Near East, the largest and most powerful of living birds: it has a long neck, very long legs with two toes on each foot, and small, useless wings; the white tail and wing feathers of the male are used in millinery and as trimming <i>"The white ostrich feather adorned her new hat."</i>

owing	due; unpaid; because of <i>"The balance owing was ten dollars."</i>
ozone	an unstable, pale-blue gas, with a penetrating odor; it is an allotropic form of oxygen <i>"The ozone layer is very important for man's survival."</i>
package	a wrapped or boxed thing or group of things; parcel <i>"The postman delivered the package."</i>
padlock	a removable lock with a hinged or pivoted link to be passed through a staple, chain, or eye <i>"He had forgotten the combination number for the padlock."</i>
palace	any large, magnificent house or building <i>"Her dream is to live in a palace."</i>
pampas	the extensive treeless plains of Argentina and some other parts of South America <i>"Cattle raising is an important industry on the pampas."</i>
panel	a section or division of a wall, ceiling, or other surface <i>"The carpenter replaced the panel on the wall."</i>
panic	sudden, unreasonable fear; to give way to or show fear; hysteria <i>"The did not panic when the fire broke out."</i>
parcel	a small, wrapped bundle; package <i>"The parcel was lost in the mail."</i>
pardon	release from further punishment; cancel; forgive; excuse; overlook <i>"He asked pardon for his clumsiness."</i>
parlor	a small, semiprivate sitting room apart from the main lounges in a hotel, inn, etc. <i>"We plan to meet our friends in the parlor."</i>
parrot	to repeat or imitate, esp. without understanding <i>"The child learned to parrot the words very early."</i>
parting	dividing; separating; leavetaking or departure <i>"They were parting for the summer months."</i>
partner	a person who takes part in some activity in common with another or others <i>"His partner kept the books, and he did the purchasing."</i>

passage	permission, right, or a chance to pass <i>"The hunters received passage through the field."</i>
passive	offering no opposition or resistance; submissive; yielding; patient <i>"The passive cat was carried to the store."</i>
pastry	dough made of flour and shortening, used for the crust of pies, tarts; all fancy baked goods, including cakes, sweet rolls, etc. <i>"I like cooking and making pastry."</i>
pasture	to graze or feed on (grass, etc.) <i>"The cattle will pasture in the meadow."</i>
pattern	a regular, mainly unvarying way of acting or doing <i>"The psychologist will study the animal's behavior pattern."</i>
payee	the person to whom a check, note, money, etc. is payable <i>"The payee on the check was John Brown."</i>
peddler	person going from place to place selling small articles <i>"The peddler always had fresh vegetables to sell."</i>
pennant	long, narrow flag; banner, usually triangular in shape <i>"The sailboat flew a pennant under the national flag."</i>
pensive	thinking deeply or seriously, often of sad or melancholy things <i>"The pensive woman forgot her appointment."</i>
perfect	complete in all respects; without defect; flawless; correct; exact <i>"The blazing sunset made a perfect ending to the day."</i>
perfume	a pleasing smell or odor; sweet scent, as of flowers; fragrance <i>"The gardener enjoyed the perfume of the flowers."</i>
persist	refuse to give up; continue; remain; prevail; endure <i>"In the face of opposition, we must persist on this measure."</i>
perturb	to cause to be alarmed, agitated, or upset; disturb or trouble greatly <i>"The loudspeaker may perturb the musician in the adjoining room."</i>
pesky	annoying; disagreeable; troublesome <i>"We all swatted at the pesky mosquitoes."</i>
picnic	pleasure outing at which a meal is eaten outdoors <i>"We looked forward to a picnic at the beach."</i>

picture	to form a mental picture or impression of; imagine <i>“The football player tried to picture the coming game.”</i>
pigment	coloring matter, usually insoluble powder, mixed with oil or water, etc., to make paints; coloring matter in the cells, tissues of plants, animals <i>“Pigment in some plants is increased when they grow in full sun.”</i>
pilgrim	person who wanders; traveler to shrine or holy place; any member of the English Puritans who founded Plymouth colony in 1620 <i>“Priscilla was the bride of a pilgrim.”</i>
pilot	steersman; licensed person qualified to operate a ship or aircraft <i>“The pilot landed the plane safely.”</i>
pity	sorrow felt for another’s suffering; compassion; sympathy <i>“Our pity for her moved us to offer our sincere help.”</i>
placid	undisturbed; tranquil; calm; quiet <i>“There was no wind to disturb the placid waters.”</i>
plastic	molding or shaping matter; capable of being molded; flexible; impressionable <i>“The forks were throwaways made of plastic.”</i>
plenty	prosperity; opulence; large number; many <i>“The picnic tables were heaped with plenty of food.”</i>
plunder	to rob or despoil by force, esp. in warfare <i>“The military will plunder the village after the battle.”</i>
plural	of or including more than one; involving or being one of <i>“The plural of this noun is formed according to the principle listed.”</i>
polar	opposite in character, nature, direction, etc. <i>“The twins were polar in their taste in music.”</i>
police	the governmental department organized for keeping order, enforcing the law, and preventing, detecting, and prosecuting crimes <i>“The community is dependent upon the police for its safety.”</i>
poncho	a cloak like a blanket with a hole in the middle for the head <i>“The warm poncho is valuable in winter weather.”</i>
portion	share; part of <i>“They were willing to give up a portion of their food.”</i>

portly	large and heavy in a dignified, stately way; stout; corpulent <i>“He bought his clothing in the section for portly men.”</i>
possess	to have as an attribute, quality, faculty, etc. <i>“The man is known to possess wisdom.”</i>
poster	large printed card or paper for advertisement <i>“We will choose an art student to illustrate the poster.”</i>
posture	the position or carriage of the body in standing or sitting; bearing <i>“Good posture is important for good health.”</i>
powder	any dry substance in the form of very fine, dustlike particles, produced by crushing, grinding, etc. <i>“Without rain, the soil became a powder.”</i>
prank	mischievous trick or practical joke <i>“They planned many a prank for April Fool’s Day.”</i>
predict	foretell a future event or happening; tell what one believes may happen <i>“Sometimes it is possible to predict when there will be an earthquake.”</i>
prepare	to make ready, usually for a specific purpose; make suitable; fit; adapt; train <i>“The maid will prepare the room.”</i>
pretend	to claim or profess falsely; to make believe in play <i>“They could pretend to be astronauts.”</i>
preview	a restricted showing, as of a movie, before exhibition to the public generally <i>“We were delighted to see the preview of the film.”</i>
primp	to groom; to dress up in a fussy way <i>“We noticed her primp in all the mirrors in the hallway.”</i>
prior	preceding in time; earlier; previous <i>“References from a prior employer were needed.”</i>
proceed	to advance or go on; to move along or to be carried on; come forth <i>“After answering this question, please proceed to the next.”</i>
product	made by nature or by human industry; result <i>“The product is obtained by multiplying two or more numbers together.”</i>

profess	make an open declaration of; affirm; claim to have an interest, etc. <i>"They profess to know the road; so we will follow them."</i>
program	acts, speeches, etc. that entertain; a list of these; scheduled ceremony <i>"The last program was the most entertaining of the year."</i>
progress	moving forward or onward; development; advance; goal <i>"Their progress shows when they devote enough time to study."</i>
prompt	quick to act or do; ready; punctual; done, spoken, without delay <i>"A good example will help to prompt him to turn in his homework."</i>
proof	testing or trying of something; anything establishing the truth <i>"The proof of the pudding is in the eating."</i>
prosper	succeed; thrive; grow vigorously; wealth; good fortune <i>"Having found the right soil conditions, his crop began to prosper."</i>
protect	shield from injury; guard; defend <i>"His bulletproof vest will protect him."</i>
prying	improperly curious or inquisitive <i>"Someone was prying into her personal affairs."</i>
public	belonging to or concerning the people; community, rather than private <i>"Most city parks are for the use of the public."</i>
pulpit	raised platform or lectern from which the clergy preaches in a church <i>"From the pulpit, the speaker spoke into a microphone."</i>
pump	to force in or out or through; to question closely; move up or down <i>"We moved the handle up and down to pump the water from the well."</i>
punish	to cause to undergo pain or loss; to penalize; to treat harshly <i>"They will punish him to make him pay for his crime."</i>
puppet	doll; small, usually jointed figure, humanlike, moved on a show stage <i>"The children will put on a puppet show."</i>
purr	low vibratory sound made by cat or kitten, usually when pleased <i>"The kitten jumped up on her lap, settled down and began to purr."</i>
raft	flat structure of logs, boards fastened together, floated on water <i>"They pulled the raft behind their speed boat."</i>
ragged	shabby or torn from wear; tattered; uneven; rough; not finished <i>"Their clothing was ragged and dirty."</i>

rally	to summon or bring together for a common purpose; assist; support a cause <i>“He was sent to rally the retreating troops.”</i>
ramp	sloping, sometimes curved surface, joining different levels <i>“A ramp for the wheelchair was built at all entrances to the house.”</i>
rampant	growing luxuriantly; flourishing <i>“The roses were rampant in the garden.”</i>
random	lacking aim or purpose; without careful choice; haphazard <i>“The afghan was knit in a random pattern.”</i>
rapt	carried away with joy; enraptured; engrossed with love <i>“The artist’s painting showed the rapt expression of her eyes.”</i>
rather	preferably; more willingly; with more justice, logic, reason <i>“Would you like to go out to dinner, or would you rather eat at home?”</i>
rating	a placement in a certain rank or class <i>“The program received the top rating.”</i>
razor	sharp-edged cutting instrument for shaving or cutting off hair <i>“No one was allowed to use his razor.”</i>
react	to act in return or reciprocally <i>“The director did not expect the actress to react that way.”</i>
recess	to halt temporarily <i>“The court will recess until afternoon.”</i>
reckless	careless; heedless <i>“The reckless driver was arrested.”</i>
record	to print for future use; make a permanent or office note of; to register in some permanent form <i>“The minutes taken by the secretary will always be a permanent record.”</i>
recur	to return, as in thought or memory; happen or occur again <i>“The eclipse of the sun will recur shortly.”</i>
redeem	to get back; recover, as by paying a fee <i>“The renter wants to redeem his deposit.”</i>

reduce	to lessen in any way, as in size, weight, amount, value, price, etc., diminish <i>"During the winter, the family will reduce its food supply."</i>
reflect	to bend or throw back light, heat or sound; mirror; reproduce an image <i>"His skills reflect years of training."</i>
refresh	to make feel cooler, stronger, more energetic, etc., than before, as by food, drink, or sleep <i>"The players needed to refresh themselves after the long game."</i>
refuge	a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat <i>"The deer sought a refuge from the hunters."</i>
regret	to feel sorry or mourn for; troubled or remorseful <i>"We regret to announce the death of a favorite professor."</i>
reject	refuse to accept; throw away, discard; rebuff <i>"We felt we had to reject his very low offer to buy our house."</i>
rejoin	to come into the company of again; reunite <i>"We were happy to have him rejoin and become a member again."</i>
relent	to soften in temper; become less severe, stern, stubborn <i>"Perhaps he will relent and allow you to go if you promise to return early."</i>
remark	notice; observe; perceive; say or write in comment; say briefly <i>"He made a remark about her beautiful clothes."</i>
remind	to cause a person to remember <i>"A string tied on my finger will remind me to return my library books."</i>
remnant	what is left over; remainder; residue <i>"The small piece of cloth left from the bolt will sell as a remnant."</i>
remote	distant in connection, relation, bearing, or the like <i>"On Saturdays, the thought of school is very remote."</i>
render	to give, hand over, submit, as for approval; to give in return <i>"When you finish shopping, the clerk will render a bill for payment."</i>
renew	to make fresh, strong again; bring back into good condition <i>"An efficient cleaning will renew the look of the fabric."</i>
repress	to keep down or hold back <i>"He modestly tried to repress his delight in winning."</i>

rescue	to free or save from danger, imprisonment, evil, etc. <i>“He was a hero because the rescue had been a success.”</i>
reserve	to hold over to a later time <i>“We will reserve the dessert.”</i>
respect	to show honor or esteem for; show consideration for; deference, dutiful regard; reference; show politeness by visiting or presenting oneself <i>“Though we may not always agree, we respect his opinions.”</i>
restful	having a soothing effect; quiet; peaceful <i>“The sound of lapping waves against the ship’s hull was restful, and I grew sleepy.”</i>
retain	to keep in mind <i>“After studying the words for six weeks, we should retain most of them.”</i>
retard	hinder; delay progress; slow the advance of <i>“Dentists recommend regular brushing of the teeth to retard plaque.”</i>
revenge	to inflict damage, injury, or punishment in return for an injury, insult, etc. <i>“The leaders plotted revenge for the bombing.”</i>
riddle	any puzzling, perplexing, or apparently inexplicable person or thing, as a difficult problem or enigmatic saying: enigma <i>“Rita recited the riddle, and Roger responded.”</i>
riding	the act or a person or thing that rides <i>“The boys were riding their bikes.”</i>
risky	hazardous; dangerous <i>“Shopping during that sale was risky because it drew such immense crowds.”</i>
rival	person who tries to compete with another; try to equal or surpass <i>“One’s sibling is a natural rival.”</i>
roost	perch for birds to rest or sleep; stay or settle down for the night <i>“Our parrot will almost always roost on the highest perch in his cage.”</i>
ruin	the remains of a fallen building, city, etc., or something destroyed, devastated, decayed, etc. <i>“The explorer discovered the ruin deep within the jungle.”</i>

rumor	definite talk not based on knowledge; hearsay; gossip <i>"We have heard a rumor that there will be no test tomorrow."</i>
running	the act of a person or thing that runs; racing; managing; proceeding, etc. <i>"The students were running the business and making lots of money."</i>
rush	to move or go swiftly; dash recklessly or rashly; haste; hurry <i>"When the bell rings, the students rush for the door."</i>
rustle	to make or cause to make an irregular succession of soft sounds <i>"The leaves rustle in the wind."</i>
safety	the quality or condition of being safe; freedom from danger; injury, or damage; security <i>"The spy's safety depended upon his quick wit."</i>
saga	any long story of adventure or heroic deeds <i>"The full saga of the State Spelling Bee will be known this spring."</i>
salad	a dish, usually cold, of raw or cooked vegetables or fruit, served with a dressing or in gelatin <i>"We prefer our salad with our entrée, rather than at the beginning of dinner."</i>
scaffold	temporary wood or metal framework to support workmen and/or material <i>"They worked from the scaffold easily."</i>
scald	to burn or injure with hot liquid or steam; heat almost to the boiling point <i>"He was careful not to scald his hand with the boiling water."</i>
scan	to look at closely; analyze verse; score of vision <i>"The air controller must alertly scan each blip appearing on the screen."</i>
scant	inadequate in size or amount; not enough; meager; short ration <i>"The recipe called for a scant cup of sugar."</i>
scarlet	very bright red with a slightly orange tone <i>"The scarlet car captured everyone's attention."</i>
scary	causing alarm; frightening <i>"Being alone in the dark is sometimes scary."</i>

scorch	to damage, char or discolor the surface by burning; parch; wither by heat <i>"The hot sun will scorch the plants if they're not covered."</i>
scorn	extreme, often indignant contempt for someone or something; utter disdain <i>"The scorn she felt was clearly shown in both manner and voice."</i>
screen	anything that shields or protects or conceals like a curtain; coarse mesh of wire used to sift out finer from coarser parts <i>"The screen on this set concealed the unmade bed from the last act."</i>
scribble	illegible or careless handwriting; scrawl <i>"The doctor's scribble was hard to read."</i>
script	the manuscript, or a copy of the text, of a stage, film, radio, or television show <i>"She memorized the script to prepare for the television audition."</i>
scurry	to run hastily; scamper <i>"The rabbits will scurry through the woods."</i>
secret	kept from public knowledge or from the knowledge of a certain person or persons <i>"No political secret may be kept in Washington, D.C."</i>
secure	free from fear, care, doubt, or anxiety; not worried, troubled, or apprehensive <i>"Within the fort, the cavalry felt secure."</i>
selfish	too much concern with oneself; having little or no concern for others <i>"He was too selfish to share his candy with his playmates."</i>
sentence	a decision or judgment, as of a court; esp. the determination by a court of the punishment <i>"The sentence was in the defendant's favor."</i>
sentry	sentinel, esp. any of the military guard posted to warn of danger <i>"The sentry would not open the gate to anyone without identification."</i>
session	a school term or period of study, classes, etc. <i>"The fall session of school was about to end."</i>
shadow	a definite area of shade cast upon a surface by a body intercepting the light rays <i>"The dragon's shadow darkened their path."</i>

shady	shaded, as from the sun; full of shade <i>"The bench under the trees was cool and shady."</i>
shaky	not firm; weak, unsteady; trembling, not dependable; questionable <i>"After the earthquake, the walls were shaky."</i>
shampoo	the act of washing hair, a rug, etc. <i>"The beautician will shampoo your hair next."</i>
shepherd	a person who herds and takes care of sheep <i>"The shepherd guarded the flock during the night."</i>
shiny	full of, or reflecting, light; bright; shining <i>"The shiny car caught our attention."</i>
signal	a sign or event fixed or understood as the occasion for prearranged combined action <i>"The bugle will signal the attack."</i>
skeptic	person who habitually doubts, questions or suspends judgment on generally accepted matters <i>"He was such a skeptic that he was known as 'Doubting Thomas'".</i>
skillful	having or showing skill; accomplished; expert <i>"The skillful musician performed flawlessly."</i>
skirmish	a brief encounter between small groups, usually an incident of a battle <i>"The skirmish was quickly forgotten after the peace treaty was signed."</i>
slacken	to become less active, intense, brisk <i>"The runners began to slacken their pace."</i>
slimy	of or like slime <i>"The slimy trunk was retrieved from the bottom of the lake."</i>
sluggish	slow or slow-moving; not active; dull <i>"The engine was sluggish and difficult to start."</i>
snorkel	to move or swim under water using a snorkel <i>"We plan to snorkel when we are in Hawaii."</i>
spectrum	a continuous range or entire extent <i>"The newspaper reported a wide spectrum of opinion."</i>
spirit	vivacity, courage, vigor, enthusiasm <i>"The fans' spirit cheered the team to victory."</i>

splendid	worthy of high praise; grand; glorious; illustrious <i>"The teacher praised her splendid accomplishment."</i>
stubborn	person who refuses to comply; resisting unreasonably; obstinate <i>"Donkeys are said to be stubborn like some people I know."</i>
submit	to refer to others for decisions; to yield to the control of another <i>"We will submit our plan to the committee."</i>
tactics	any method used to gain an end; esp., skillful methods or procedure <i>"Although successful, his tactics were questioned."</i>
tarnish	to dull or discolor the surface of a metal object; to spoil, mar or debase a memory; lose luster from oxidation <i>"Silver needs to be polished often or it will tarnish."</i>
tariff	duty or tax placed by a government on imports and some exports; any list or scale of prices, charges etc. <i>"We felt the tariff was too high."</i>
temper	reduce in intensity; frame of mind; disposition; mood <i>"We temper clay by moistening and kneading it."</i>
terrace	a small, usually roofed balcony, as outside an apartment <i>"Flowerpots lined the terrace outside the apartment."</i>
theft	the act or an instance of stealing; larceny <i>"The theft was reported to the police quickly."</i>
thicket	a thick growth of shrubs, underbrush, or small trees <i>"Several deer were spotted in the thicket."</i>
thirsty	feeling thirst; wanting to drink <i>"The thirsty runners lined up at the fountain."</i>
thrifty	practicing or showing thrift; economical; provident <i>"The thrifty couple had saved their money for a trip around the world."</i>
throng	a great number of people gathered together; crowd <i>"The throng pressed in line for the concert."</i>
traffic	the movement or number of automobiles along a street, pedestrians along a sidewalk, ships using a port, etc. <i>"The traffic at the intersection was very busy."</i>
transform	to change the form or outward appearance of <i>"The potter will transform the clay into a beautiful bowl."</i>

translate	to put in different words; rephrase or paraphrase in explanation <i>"The tutor tried to translate the assignment."</i>
tremor	a trembling, shaking, or shivering <i>"Everyone in town felt the tremor of the earthquake."</i>
tribute	something given, done, or said, as a gift, testimonial, etc., to show gratitude, respect, honor, or praise <i>"Their success was a tribute to his leadership."</i>
truly	in a true manner; accurately, genuinely, faithfully, factually, etc. <i>"They discovered that he had reported the facts truly."</i>
tunnel	an animal's burrow <i>"The rabbits live in the tunnel behind the barn."</i>
twang	a quick, sharp, vibrating sound, as of a taut string <i>"The guitar twang signaled the beginning of the concert."</i>
uproar	loud, confused noise; din <i>"The uproar was very difficult to quiet."</i>
useful	that can be used to advantage; serviceable; helpful <i>"The fork is a useful utensil."</i>
vacant	having no occupant <i>"The apartment next to us is vacant."</i>
vaccine	any preparation of killed microorganisms, living weakened organisms, etc., introduced into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease by causing the formation of antibodies <i>"The polio vaccine was a tremendous advance in medicine."</i>
vanish	go or pass suddenly from sight; cease to exist; come to an end <i>"The stain will vanish overnight."</i>
vigil	watchful staying awake; a watch kept for a period of time <i>"While others slept, he kept his lonely vigil."</i>
volume	the quantity, strength, or loudness of sound <i>"The volume of the music was deafening."</i>
vowel	a letter, as a, e, i, o, u and sometimes y, representing such a sound <i>"A vowel is found usually in every word."</i>

wallet	a pocketbook, as of leather, with compartments for paper money, cards, etc., billfold <i>"He lost his wallet in the city."</i>
warbler	a bird which sings in trills, runs or quavers; songster <i>"Though we could not see him, we heard the melodious song of the warbler."</i>
warmth	state of giving off moderate degree of heat; moderate, mild heat <i>"We could feel the warmth of the sun on our faces."</i>
welcome	freely and willingly permitted or invited <i>"You are welcome to use the library."</i>
welfare	the state of being or doing well; condition of health, happiness, and comfort; well-being, prosperity <i>"We are interested in her welfare."</i>
western	toward or facing the west; story, motion picture of cowboys, frontiersmen <i>"California is a western state bordering the Pacific Ocean."</i>
whisper	to say very softly, esp. by whispering <i>"The adult bent toward the child to whisper in her ear."</i>
whistle	to make a clear, shrill cry; said of some birds and animals <i>"We heard the birds whistle in the trees."</i>
whittle	to reduce, destroy, or get rid of gradually, as if by whittling away with a knife <i>"We hope to whittle down the cost of the project."</i>
whoosh	to make a quick, hissing or rushing sound of something moving swiftly through the air <i>"At takeoff, the rocket will whoosh by the airport."</i>
width	distance from side to side; breadth <i>"We have to measure the width of the shelf to make sure it will fit the space."</i>
wiggle	to move or cause to move with short, jerky or twisting motions from side to side; wriggle shakily or sinuously <i>"After two hours in the same seats, the children began to wiggle."</i>

wild	living or growing in its original or natural state; not civilized or domesticated; not controlled; unruly; rough; violently disturbed <i>“Abandoned in the forest, the kitten soon learned to survive and became as wild as the animals it lived with.”</i>
windy	characterized or accompanied by wind <i>“On the windy day, the tree was blown over the street.”</i>
wiring	the action of a person or thing that wires <i>“The electrician did the wiring very quickly.”</i>
wisdom	learning knowledge; good judgment; wise discourse or teaching <i>“We cut our wisdom teeth at about age 25.”</i>
withdraw	to retract or recall <i>“The automobile distributor will withdraw that model.”</i>
witness	a person who saw, or can give a firsthand account of, something <i>“The next witness was called to testify.”</i>
wobble	move unsteadily from side to side, as in walking <i>“The baby took one step and then began to wobble.”</i>
woman	a female human being; adult female; femininity <i>“The term ‘lady’ was once restricted to a woman of the higher social class.”</i>
wonder	the feeling of surprise, admiration, and awe aroused by something strange, unexpected, incredible, etc. <i>“As the first snowflakes fell, the child was filled with wonder.”</i>
worth	wealth; possessions; riches <i>“No one could estimate the owner’s worth.”</i>
wrapper	that in which something is wrapped; covering; cover <i>“The gum wrapper was a shiny silver.”</i>
yawn	an act of yawning or opening wide <i>“The movie was boring, and the audience began to yawn.”</i>
yearling	an animal one year old or in its second year <i>“The rancher brought the yearling into the barn.”</i>
yellow	changed to a yellowish color as by age <i>“The newspaper began to yellow.”</i>

LEVEL II

abacus	frame with beads or balls sliding back and forth on wires or in slots for doing or teaching arithmetic <i>“The Chinese use an abacus like we use a calculator.”</i>
abandoned	give up something forever; wild or uncontrolled <i>“The child in the orphanage was abandoned by its parents.”</i>
abdicate	to give up formally (a high office, authority, throne, etc.) <i>“The king plans to abdicate his throne.”</i>
abdominal	lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, on or for the abdomen <i>“The abdominal bandage seemed too tight.”</i>
abduction	carrying off a person by force or fraud; kidnapping <i>“He was shocked to find that his uncle aided in the abduction.”</i>
aberration	a departure from what is right, true, correct <i>“Her rude behavior was an aberration from her friendly nature.”</i>
aborning	while being born or created <i>“The idea died aborning.”</i>
abrading	scraping; wearing off by rubbing against <i>“Gripping the handle was abrading the shine of the leather.”</i>
abrogate	to cancel or repeal by authority <i>“Congress must abrogate the new tax law.”</i>
abscess	swollen and inflamed area of the body tissues <i>“The sting of the bee on her hand caused an abscess.”</i>
absconded	went hastily and secretly away; left and hid to escape the law <i>“They absconded with the stolen money.”</i>
accentuate	to emphasize; heighten the effect of <i>“The purple pillow should accentuate the room.”</i>
acclamation	loud applause, approval, or welcome <i>“The Presidential candidate was nominated by acclamation.”</i>
acetylene	a colorless, poisonous, highly flammable gaseous hydrocarbon <i>“This most brilliant of the illuminating gases is acetylene.”</i>

achromatic	refracting light without spectra color separation <i>"The camera lens was achromatic."</i>
acknowledge	admit to be true or as stated; recognize or accept <i>"I acknowledge that the signature is mine."</i>
acquittal	discharge of duty; being set free by the court <i>"From lack of evidence submitted, the judge decreed an acquittal."</i>
acrid	sharp, bitter, or stinging, or irritating to the taste or smell <i>"She scowled at the acrid taste."</i>
across	from one side to the other; over; through <i>"the hotel was across the highway."</i>
addendum	thing added or to be added; an appendix or supplement <i>"The name of the second speaker is an addendum to the program."</i>
addressee	person to whom mail, etc. is addressed <i>"His name is that of the addressee on the envelope."</i>
admonition	a mild rebuke; reprimand <i>"The children remembered their mother's admonition and returned home on time."</i>
adolescence	the time of life between puberty and maturity; youth <i>"During adolescence, one is often uncertain."</i>
aesthetic	sensitive to art and beauty <i>"In order to help develop their children's aesthetic tastes, many family trips to art galleries were planned."</i>
affinity	close relationship <i>"Fish have an affinity with water."</i>
afflatus	artist's or poet's inspiration or powerful impulse <i>"What was the afflatus behind the artist's new painting?"</i>
agglomeration	a jumbled heap, mass, etc. <i>"The agglomeration of articles for the rummage sale was staggering."</i>
aghast	feeling great horror or dismay <i>"Upon seeing a ghost, he was aghast."</i>
agriculture	work of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock <i>"California is a leader in agriculture."</i>

alabaster	a translucent, whitish, fine-grained variety of gypsum, used for statues, vases, etc. “ <i>She had a fine collection of alabaster ornaments and decorations.</i> ”
allotment	portion “ <i>The meeting continued beyond the time allotment.</i> ”
ambiguous	not clear “ <i>The treaty is very ambiguous.</i> ”
anachronism	anything that is or seems to be out of its proper time in history “ <i>A black and white television is an anachronism today.</i> ”
anathema	a thing or person greatly detested “ <i>Censorship is anathema to Americans.</i> ”
annulment	to do away with; invalidate; put an end to “ <i>Ann was given an annulment of her marriage when Jim disappeared.</i> ”
anonymous	no name known or acknowledged; name withheld “ <i>The poem read was written by an anonymous poet.</i> ”
antidote	a remedy to counteract a poison “ <i>She went to the doctor for an antidote to the snake bite.</i> ”
antiquated	no longer used or useful; obsolete “ <i>The old cabin contained some antiquated relics of the olden days.</i> ”
antithesis	a contrast or opposition of thoughts “ <i>Love is the antithesis of hate.</i> ”
apocryphal	spurious; counterfeit “ <i>The apocryphal memories of the countess cannot be admitted as evidence.</i> ”
apothecary	a pharmacist or druggist “ <i>Run down to the apothecary to get a refill on that prescription.</i> ”
apparition	a strange figure appearing suddenly and thought to be a ghost “ <i>After hearing the spooky story, the children thought they saw an apparition.</i> ”
appendix	additional or supplementary material at the end of a book “ <i>The appendix contained an alphabetized list of terms used.</i> ”
appetizing	stimulating; savory; delicious “ <i>The appetizing smells in the kitchen made us long for dinnertime.</i> ”

application	the act of putting on something; anything applied; a remedy <i>"The application of heat to his sore muscles gave him relief from pain."</i>
appraisal	evaluation of price by an expert for sale, taxes, duty, etc. <i>"The customs officer quickly made an appraisal of the jewelry."</i>
appreciate	to think well of; understand and enjoy; recognize and be grateful for <i>"We sincerely appreciate the help given us."</i>
appropriation	money set aside for a specific use <i>"Since the appropriation was cut by Congress, our radar defense is reduced."</i>
aqueduct	large pipe made for bringing water from a distant source <i>"The aqueduct provided the farmers with the much needed water for crops."</i>
archetype	the perfect example of a type or group <i>"Mickey Mouse is the archetype for cartoon characters."</i>
arrival	to come to a place; reached destination <i>"We looked forward to Thanksgiving and the arrival of all the cousins."</i>
arrogance	self-importance; overbearing pride; haughty <i>"His arrogance was difficult to put up with."</i>
artifact	any object made by human work <i>"The African mask is a prized artifact."</i>
artillery	guns of large caliber, too heavy to carry; cannon or missile launchers <i>"The artillery was slower in reaching the top of the hill."</i>
ascension	the act of ascending <i>"We watched the balloon's ascension into the clouds."</i>
asceticism	religious doctrine where self-denial is practiced to reach a higher spiritual state <i>"Trappist monks practice asceticism."</i>
asinine	stupid, silly, obstinate, etc. <i>"It's asinine to build a house on such a poor foundation."</i>
aspire	to be ambitious <i>"Each contestant will aspire to win."</i>
assign	to set apart or mark for specific purpose; place or set a task or duty <i>"The teacher will assign the lesson for the next class."</i>

athlete	person trained to contest for prizes in exercises, games, sports <i>“The athlete is used to heavy physical exertion.”</i>
atrophy	a wasting away of body tissue, organ, or the failure of an organ or part to grow or develop, as because of insufficient nutrition <i>“Without proper nutrition, the muscles will atrophy.”</i>
avuncular	of, like, or in the relationship of, an uncle <i>“Avuncular advice is apt to be kindly and indulgent.”</i>
axiom	statement accepted as true; maxim; self-evident <i>“Euclid’s axiom that things equal to the same thing are equal to each other is universally known.”</i>
baccalaureate	an address or sermon delivered to a graduating class at commencement <i>“The graduating seniors and their families will attend the baccalaureate.”</i>
bailiwick	one’s particular area of authority, activity, interest <i>“The coach’s bailiwick is tennis.”</i>
balloon	large airtight bag that when filled with air, floats above the earth; small inflatable rubber bag used as a toy <i>“The balloon was filled with helium gas.”</i>
balustrade	a railing <i>“The balustrade was made of cedar.”</i>
barrage	a heavy, prolonged attack of words, blows <i>“Suddenly the speaker was under a barrage of questions.”</i>
barrel	large round container; any hollow or solid cylinder <i>“The barrel was made of wooden staves bound together with hoops.”</i>
bassoon	double-reed bass woodwind instrument having a long mouthpiece attached <i>“In the school band, he played a bassoon.”</i>
battalion	a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle; any large group joined in some activity <i>“He had command of a battalion during World War II.”</i>
belligerent	of war; fighting; seeking war or a fight; readiness to quarrel <i>“Germany was a belligerent nation.”</i>
benevolent	doing or inclined to do good; kindly; charitable <i>“He was known as a benevolent despot.”</i>

biennial	happening every two years “ <i>The reunion is held on a biennial basis.</i> ”
bilingual	of or in two languages; capable of using two languages with equal skill “ <i>He was offered the position because he was bilingual in English and Spanish.</i> ”
bizarre	marked by extreme contrasts and incongruities of color, design, or style “ <i>Her purple and orange hair was bizarre.</i> ”
blossom	flower or bloom, esp. of a fruit-bearing plant; begin to develop “ <i>We went to Washington, D.C. to see the cherry trees in blossom.</i> ”
blurred	smearred or stained; hazy or indistinct “ <i>The writing was blurred and difficult to decipher.</i> ”
bracelet	ornamental band or chain worn on the wrist, arm, or ankle “ <i>She wore a gold bracelet on her wrist and a chain on her ankle.</i> ”
braggadocio	a braggart “ <i>You are handsome, but you don’t have to be such a braggadocio.</i> ”
brimming	to be full to the top “ <i>He carried the brimming pail full of water without spilling a drop.</i> ”
broody	to dwell moodily on one’s thoughts; a fowl, ready to hatch eggs “ <i>He was melancholy and broody.</i> ”
buffoon	person who is funny and always clowning around “ <i>He is a buffoon at every party.</i> ”
building	any structure that is built with walls and roof; the act of constructing “ <i>They worked in one building and lived in another.</i> ”
bumptious	disagreeably conceited, arrogant, or forward “ <i>The bumptious tax assessor listened to no one.</i> ”
burglary	the act of unlawfully entering with intent to commit a theft or felony “ <i>The police put out descriptions of the thief who committed the burglary.</i> ”
cacophony	jarring sound “ <i>The cacophony in the freshman dining room was horrendous to the ears.</i> ”
cadence	any rhythmic flow of sound “ <i>The radio announcer had a hypnotic cadence.</i> ”

calligraphy	beautiful handwriting; penmanship <i>"Calligraphy is an art – a talent to be thankful for."</i>
camaraderie	loyalty and warm, friendly feeling among comrades <i>"Within the Girl Scout troop, there was great camaraderie."</i>
camouflage	disguise or concealment of this kind <i>"The tanks' camouflage prevented enemy planes from seeing them."</i>
cannibal	person who eats human flesh; animal which eats its own kind <i>"The missionary taught the cannibal how to stop the practice."</i>
canonical	according to or ordered by church law <i>"These regulations are canonical."</i>
capacious	roomy, spacious <i>"The woman's new handbag was capacious."</i>
capitulation	statement of the main parts of a subject; conditional surrender <i>"Their leader decided that capitulation was best."</i>
carbonaceous	of, consisting of, or containing carbon <i>"Coat tar is carbonaceous."</i>
carburetor	a device in which air is mixed with gasoline spray to make an explosive mixture in an internal combustion engine <i>"The carburetor in the truck had to be replaced."</i>
cardinal	of main importance; principal; chief <i>"In case of emergency, the cardinal thing to do is to call the police."</i>
caricature	picture of imitation of person in which certain mannerisms or features are exaggerated for effect <i>"He drew an easily recognizable caricature of the teacher."</i>
carrier	transporter, such as paper boy, mailman; train, airplane; ship <i>"In electronics, a carrier is the steady transmitted wave modulated by the signal."</i>
carousel	a merry-go-round <i>"The children were riding on the carousel."</i>
casserole	earthenware or glass baking dish; the food baked and served in this dish <i>"We decided to make a casserole of lasagna."</i>
cataclysm	any great upheaval that causes sudden and violent changes <i>"The weakened government could not withstand another cataclysm."</i>

catalepsy	a condition in which consciousness and feeling are suddenly and temporarily lost, and the muscles become rigid <i>"The man on the flying trapeze could not be subject to catalepsy."</i>
catastrophe	the culminating event of a drama, tragedy; disastrous end; any great and sudden calamity or failure <i>"The sudden earthquake in Mexico City was a tragic catastrophe."</i>
caveat	a warning <i>"The caveat on the pack of cigarettes says that smoking can be harmful to your health."</i>
centennial	100 years; happening once in 100 years; celebration of 100 th anniversary <i>"This year will be their city's centennial."</i>
cerebellum	the section of the brain behind and below the cerebrum; functions as the coordinating center for muscular movement <i>"In the accident, the cerebellum was injured."</i>
cessation	ceasing or stopping, either forever or for a period of time <i>"Shutting the heavy door caused a cessation of all the noise."</i>
chagrin	mortification <i>"There was chagrin by Mary's parents over her behavior at the concert."</i>
chamois	a soft leather made from the hide of a chamois, deer or sheep <i>"The gloves were made of chamois leather."</i>
chandelier	lighting fixture hanging from a ceiling, with branches for candles or bulbs <i>"The chandelier swayed, and we hurried out from under it."</i>
chaotic	completely confused or disordered condition <i>"The era of the Hundred Years' War was very chaotic."</i>
charlatan	fake <i>"The phony scientist was a charlatan."</i>
chiffon	sheer, lightweight fabric of silk, nylon, etc.; cooking made light and porous, by the addition of stiffly beaten egg whites <i>"The bridesmaids' dresses were made of chiffon."</i>
chimerical	imaginary <i>"Her fears are as chimerical as the hallucinations of insanity."</i>

chivalry	the noble qualities a medieval knight was supposed to have; courage, honor and readiness to help the weak, and to protect women <i>"We loved his chivalry, seemingly borrowed from the knights of old."</i>
choppy	shifting constantly, as the wind or the sea; rough with short, broken waves <i>"The lake became choppy in the storm."</i>
choreography	the art of devising dances, especially ballets <i>"The choreography for the dance scenes in 'The Turning Point' was quite good."</i>
chronic	continuing indefinitely; perpetual; constant <i>"A chronic problem is difficult to face."</i>
cinematographer	a motion-picture cameraman <i>"Cecil B. DeMille was a great cinematographer."</i>
cinnamon	yellowish-brown spice, popular in fruit pies or quick breads <i>"Cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger were all measured carefully for the pie filling."</i>
circuitous	roundabout; indirect; devious <i>"We took a circuitous path up the mountain."</i>
clairvoyance	keen perception or insight <i>"His clairvoyance with a crystal ball was amazing."</i>
clique	a small, exclusive group of people <i>"She refused to join the clique of students."</i>
coercive	of coercion or tending to coerce <i>"During the American Revolution, the colonists fought against the coercive government of Great Britain."</i>
collate	to compare in order to consolidate; to gather together in proper order, such as pages of a book, for printing or for a binder <i>"We spent a few hours in the library to collate the roster pages."</i>
colleague	associate in office <i>"His colleague is going to attend the same workshop."</i>
collide	to come into violent contact; strike violently against each other <i>"If the two cars continued on the same path, they would eventually collide."</i>

colloquial	conversational <i>"The politician's colloquial language endeared him to small town voters."</i>
comatose	as if in a coma; lethargic; torpid <i>"The patient remained in a comatose condition."</i>
command	to give orders to; direct with authority; control; to have jurisdiction over <i>"It was evident the young soldier would command obedience."</i>
commercial	connected with trade; stores, office buildings; made or operating primarily for profit <i>"The commercial course offered training in business methods, marketing, sales."</i>
commingle	to mingle together; intermix, blend <i>"The separate tribes began to commingle through marriage."</i>
commission	authorization to perform duties or tasks; percentage of money taken in on sales given as pay; group with authority to act <i>"They were a commission authorized to work for the people."</i>
commit	deliver for safekeeping; give in charge; to put in custody <i>"To dispose of the contents, we will commit them to the trash barrel."</i>
community	all the people living in the district, city, etc.; similarity, likeness of taste; the condition of living with others <i>"The Christmas Parade was a community affair."</i>
compassionate	feeling or showing compassion <i>"The compassionate nurse listened to the patient's tale."</i>
competition	rivalry; contest; official participation in organized sport <i>"They met in order to consider the kind of fixed rules needed for the competition."</i>
concurrent	happening at the same time; existing together; converging <i>"The judge gave the defendant concurrent sentences."</i>
condescend	to make concessions; agree; assent <i>"She would not condescend to take his advice."</i>
condign	deserved; suitable <i>"The punishment was condign."</i>

conditional	containing, implying, or dependent on a condition or conditions; qualified; not absolute <i>"The team received a conditional award pending the completion of the float."</i>
condolence	expression of sympathy with another in grief <i>"A note of condolence is appropriate at time of death."</i>
confabulation	to talk together in an informal way; chat <i>"The students met for a confabulation before going to class."</i>
conjecture	an inference, theory, or prediction based on guesswork; guess <i>"After hearing the facts, she knew that her conjecture was wrong."</i>
connecting	fastening two things together; related or associated <i>"Wires were strung, connecting one pole to the next."</i>
connoisseur	a person who has expert knowledge and keen discrimination in some field, especially in the fine arts or in matters of taste <i>"His discerning taste buds made him a connoisseur of good wine."</i>
consensus	an opinion held by all or most <i>"The consensus of party professionals was sought."</i>
constitutional	of or in the constitution of a person or thing; basic; essential <i>"Everyone in the United States has constitutional rights."</i>
contemplate	to think about intently <i>"The scientists will contemplate the new theory."</i>
contemptuous	full of contempt; scornful; disdainful <i>"The speaker was very contemptuous of the hecklers."</i>
contumacy	insubordinate resistance to authority; stubbornness <i>"The smokers displayed great contumacy by ignoring requests not to smoke."</i>
convey	to make known; communicate in words, actions, appearance <i>"These flowers convey my appreciation."</i>
convoluted	extremely involved; intricate <i>"The convoluted plot was difficult to understand."</i>
cooperate	to act or work together; to combine to produce an effect <i>"The children were asked to cooperate by remaining in their seats."</i>

corridor	long passageway or hall <i>"The corridor was lengthy with several rooms opening from it."</i>
corsair	a pirate ship <i>"He commanded a corsair along the Barbary Coast."</i>
coruscate	to give off flashes of light; glitter; sparkle <i>"The gemstones did coruscate in the sunlight."</i>
countervail	to make up for; compensate <i>"Long hours of practice in tennis may countervail natural talent."</i>
critique	the act or art of criticizing; criticism <i>"The director did not like the critique of his movie."</i>
croissant	a crescent roll <i>"A hot, buttery croissant was enjoyed by each one attending the festive brunch."</i>
crucifixion	a crucifying or being crucified <i>"The punishment of crucifixion was practiced in ancient times."</i>
currency	medium of exchange; circulation; common acceptance; general use; paper money in circulation in any country <i>"The currency of other countries is sometimes larger in size than ours."</i>
debacle	an overwhelming defeat or rout <i>"His resignation from power caused the greatest debacle in the history of his country."</i>
decelerate	to reduce speed; slow down <i>"The driver began to decelerate as he rounded the bend."</i>
deciduous	shedding leaves annually <i>"The fall colors on the deciduous trees are beautiful."</i>
deductible	that can be deducted <i>"The expenses involved with the party were not a deductible business expense."</i>
dehydrate	to lose water; become dry <i>"Long distance running can dehydrate a runner."</i>
deign	to condescend to give <i>"I would not deign to comment on such disgusting behavior."</i>

delicacy	pleasing in taste, odor, texture; fragile beauty or graceful slightness “ <i>Caviar is considered a delicacy by many.</i> ”
demagogue	a person who obtains power by appealing to the emotions and prejudice of the populace “ <i>The demagogue gained power very quickly and ruthlessly.</i> ”
depressant	lowering the rate of muscular or nervous activity; to sadden or lower “ <i>The medicine was given as a depressant.</i> ”
derrick	large apparatus for lifting and moving heavy objects; tall tapering framework over an oil well “ <i>The workmen used a derrick to take the piano up to the 7th floor.</i> ”
description	the art, process or technique of picturing in words; sort or variety “ <i>Her description of the cathedral made us feel as if we’d been there.</i> ”
designate	to point or mark out; specify; appoint “ <i>I will designate one of my friends to chair this committee.</i> ”
develop	to cause to grow; to build up or expand; to expose to various chemicals to cause a picture to become visible “ <i>He had his own darkroom and could develop his own pictures.</i> ”
dexterity	skill in using one’s mind; cleverness “ <i>Her mental dexterity was amazing.</i> ”
diagnostic	of or constituting a diagnosis “ <i>Diagnostic procedures, such as X-rays, may save someone’s life.</i> ”
dialysis	the separation of crystalloids from colloids as the elimination of impurities from the blood during kidney failure “ <i>One of our child movie stars has to be hospitalized for dialysis.</i> ”
diaphanous	so fine or gauzy in texture as to be transparent or translucent “ <i>The diaphanous curtains made the room light.</i> ”
differentiate	distinguish between “ <i>The shopper tried to differentiate between the two sweaters.</i> ”
dilapidated	broken down; shabby and neglected “ <i>We bought a dilapidated house and tried to repair it.</i> ”
dilemma	predicament; a situation in which one must choose between alternatives “ <i>His dilemma was in having to decide on which color paint to use.</i> ”

dirge	a funeral hymn <i>“The natives chanted a weird dirge when their chief died.”</i>
discern	to perceive or recognize <i>“In the fog, she tried to discern the outline.”</i>
discipline	training that develops self-control, character or orderliness and efficiency; acceptance of or submission to authority <i>“Sometimes the act of discipline is harder for the trainer than the trainee.”</i>
discombobulate	to upset the composure of; disconcert <i>“Having Steve Martin for a brother would discombobulate anyone.”</i>
disproportionate	not in proportion <i>“The harsh punishment was disproportionate to the infraction.”</i>
dissatisfied	not pleased <i>“They were angry and dissatisfied with the given explanation.”</i>
disseminate	to scatter seed; to sow widely; spread abroad <i>“When the dandelion becomes that feathery little puffball, the breezes cause it to disseminate.”</i>
dissent	differ in belief or opinion; the act of disagreeing; nonconformity <i>“He made known his very definite dissent concerning the decision.”</i>
dissertation	a formal and lengthy discourse or treatise on some subject <i>“The student completed her dissertation for the degree of doctor.”</i>
distressful	painful; grievous; feeling or causing misery, worry or trouble <i>“Seeing reports and pictures of starvation in other countries is very distressful.”</i>
divination	a successful guess; clever conjecture <i>“Her divination of the winner was accurate.”</i>
doddering	shaky, tottering or senile <i>“We had the tree topped and pruned; but in its doddering state, it was still a hazard.”</i>
doggerel	trivial, poorly constructed verse; jingle <i>“The doggerel he composed is strikingly funny.”</i>
duplicator	machine for making exact copies of letters, photograph, map drawing, etc. <i>“Copies of the proposed budget were made on the duplicator.”</i>

ebullient	overflowing with enthusiasm, high spirits <i>"After winning the game, the fans were ebullient."</i>
eccentric	not having the same center; deviating from the norm, as in conduct; unconventional <i>"I didn't think she was too eccentric."</i>
ecclesiastical	of the church <i>"His writings were based on ecclesiastical discipline."</i>
echelon	any of the levels of responsibility or importance in an organization <i>"She worked in the echelon where major decisions were made."</i>
ecstasy	feeling overpowering joy; great delight; rapture <i>"He was in ecstasy when he learned that he had won the trip to Europe."</i>
ecstatic	subject to ecstasy <i>"The student was ecstatic at being accepted at the university."</i>
eczema	an inflammatory, itching disease of the skin <i>"A victim of eczema, she could not wear makeup on her face."</i>
effectuate	to bring about; cause to happen; effect <i>"The team members are trying to effectuate change in spring training rules."</i>
effrontery	unashamed boldness; impudence; audacity; presumption <i>"The actress was insulted by the critic's effrontery."</i>
egalitarian	advocating, or characterized by the belief that all men should have equal political, social and economic rights <i>"The country's government was egalitarian."</i>
ellipsis	the omission of a word or words necessary for complete grammatical construction but understood in the context <i>"Add ellipsis where I have indicated on the rough draft of the legal pleading."</i>
emanate	to emit; come forth; issue, as from a source <i>"The only light seemed to emanate from the far end of the tunnel."</i>
embarrass	to cause to feel self-conscious, confused, and ill at ease <i>"The child's behavior will embarrass his brother."</i>

embassy	the position or functions or business of an ambassador; official residence of an ambassador <i>"We had to choose an ambassador to represent our country at their embassy."</i>
embellish	to decorate or improve by adding detail <i>"The artist will embellish the vase."</i>
eminence	a high or lofty place, thing, etc., as a hill <i>"The spectators watched the battle from an eminence."</i>
emulate	to try to equal or surpass; to rival successfully <i>"The baby birds strutted back and forth trying to emulate the actions of their parents."</i>
encapsulate	to put in concise form; condense <i>"We tried to encapsulate the week's news in five minutes."</i>
encyclopedic	comprehensive in scope; giving information about many things <i>"The people appearing on the TV show need to have an encyclopedic memory."</i>
endeavor	try to achieve; an earnest attempt; effort <i>"We will endeavor to find our way out of the maze without help."</i>
engrossing	taking the entire attention; very interesting; absorbing <i>"The play was a good one engrossing us during the several acts."</i>
ensemble	all the parts considered as a whole <i>"She planned to purchase a summer ensemble to wear."</i>
epitaph	an inscription on a tomb or gravestone in memory of the person buried there <i>"His epitaph was a fitting memorial to his work."</i>
epithet	an adjective, noun, or phrase used to characterize some person or thing, often specifically a disparaging one <i>"He screamed an epithet into the phone and slammed down the receiver."</i>
epitome	a short statement of the main points of a book, report, incident; abstract; summary; representative or typical of a class <i>"He was the epitome of jockeys everywhere – slim, wiry and brisk."</i>
equable	not varying or fluctuating much <i>"The equable climate was boring."</i>

equivocal	two or more meanings; purposely vague; misleading; ambiguous <i>“Her answer was equivocal, but we couldn’t get a definite opinion.”</i>
errand	a trip to carry a message or do a definite thing; purpose or object for which one goes or is sent <i>“His mother sent him on an important errand.”</i>
esoteric	beyond the understanding or knowledge of most people <i>“Few people attended the esoteric lecture on holography.”</i>
establishment	holding the chief power or influence; a government; officially recognized institution or business <i>“In England, the establishment is the complex consisting of the church, the royal family and the plutocracy.”</i>
etymology	The origin and development of a word, affix, phrase, etc. <i>“The origin and development of words is a branch of linguistics called etymology.”</i>
eulogy	speech or writing in praise of a person, event or thing; commendation <i>“We listened with full hearts to the eulogy on President Kennedy.”</i>
euphoria	a feeling of vigor, well-being, or high spirits <i>“The team had the euphoria that comes from winning.”</i>
evanescent	tending to fade from sight; vanishing; ephemeral <i>“We momentarily saw the evanescent rainbow.”</i>
eventual	happening at the end of, or as a result of; ultimate; final <i>“Much practice would lead to eventual success.”</i>
exacerbate	to exasperate; annoy; irritate; embitter <i>“He intended to exacerbate the already tense situation by making an exorbitant demand.”</i>
excellence	the fact or condition of being better or greater; superiority <i>“Winning the game, he showed his excellence at chess.”</i>
excusable	free from blame; justifiable; pardonable <i>“His illness was an excusable reason for not attending class.”</i>
exercise	active use or operation; activity for the purpose of training or developing the body or mind; set program of formal speeches, ceremonies <i>“Before piano practice, it is good to exercise the fingers.”</i>

exiguous	scanty; meager <i>"She was disappointed by the exiguous amount of rations handed out."</i>
existence	state or fact of being; continuance of life, living; manner of living <i>"The scientist found evidence of the existence of a rare species of plant."</i>
exonerate	to relieve of a burden; unload; free from guilt; absolve <i>"This alibi would prove his innocence and exonerate him of the crime."</i>
exotic	foreign, not native; strange in a different way; fascinating <i>"We grow exotic orchids in our greenhouse."</i>
expedient	useful for effecting a desired result <i>"It was expedient for him to alter the facts."</i>
expertise	the skill, knowledge, judgment of an expert <i>"She was known for her expertise in music."</i>
expletive	an oath or exclamation <i>"She shouted an expletive when the car would not start."</i>
expression	squeezing out, as of juice; putting into words; eloquent manner of speaking; a look, intonation or sign <i>"An idiomatic phrase 'catch cold' is an expression."</i>
expropriate	to deprive of ownership; dispossess <i>"The state will expropriate acreage for the new airport."</i>
extensive	wide scope; covering a large area; great extent <i>"The areas of cultivation were extensive."</i>
fabricate	to make, build, construct; manufacture; invent a story <i>"They will fabricate an exact model so we can imagine the finished work."</i>
facetious	joking, or trying to be jocular, esp. at an inappropriate time <i>"His mother could not tolerate his facetious remarks."</i>
facsimile	an exact reproduction or copy <i>"The painting was a facsimile of the original."</i>
factitious	forced or artificial <i>"Speculators were responsible for the factitious value of some stocks."</i>
fallacy	aptness to mislead; false or mistaken; deceptive; incorrect <i>"The fallacy of his argument was very plain to be seen."</i>

familiar	friendly, informal or intimate; too friendly, presumptuous <i>"It was great to return home to familiar surroundings."</i>
fantasize	to create or imagine or have daydreams about <i>"It is easy to fantasize a dream world of only the good things."</i>
farthermost	most distant; most remote <i>"At this point, the farthermost thing on the horizon was the top of the mountain."</i>
fascination	strong attraction; charm; allure <i>"The kitten's fascination with the ball of yarn was a delight to watch."</i>
fastidious	not easy to please; very critical or discriminating <i>"With fastidious attention to detail, the musician practiced the piece again."</i>
feasible	capable of being done or carried out; possible; practicable <i>"Chartering a bus seems the most feasible method of transportation."</i>
febrifuge	any substance for reducing fever <i>"Aspirin is a popular febrifuge."</i>
felicitous	well-chosen; appropriate; apt; yielding great pleasure <i>"He was a felicitous choice for the new position."</i>
ferocious	fierce; savage; violently cruel <i>"The lion has a ferocious growl."</i>
fickle	changeable or unstable in affection, interest, loyalty <i>"The fickle girl forgot her old friends."</i>
fictitious	imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended; assumed for disguise <i>"Some novelists use a fictitious name under which they write."</i>
filibuster	legislative body member who obstructs the passage of a bill by making long speeches, introducing irrelevant issues, etc. <i>"The senator carried out his filibuster, ignoring remarks from the floor."</i>
finally	the end; in conclusion; irrevocably <i>"We finally made it to the end of the long road."</i>
finesse	adroitness and delicacy of performance <i>"The hockey player's finesse won the game."</i>

firmament	the sky, viewed poetically as a solid arch or vault <i>"The sun and the moon are both seen in the firmament at that time."</i>
fissure	long, narrow, deep cleft or crack; dividing or breaking into parts <i>"The ice, breaking up, opened a wide fissure between the floes."</i>
fixative	that is able or can make permanent; a substance to prevent fading <i>"We no longer use a fixative on our Polaroid pictures when we snap them."</i>
flabbergast	to make speechless with amazement; astonish <i>"Seeing a dog climb a tree may flabbergast you."</i>
flagging	weakening or drooping; tired <i>"His enthusiasm flagging, he dropped behind the marchers."</i>
flannelette	soft, cotton cloth, light in weight <i>"She used yards of flannelette to make nightgowns for the children."</i>
fleecy	soft and light <i>"In Hawaii, we saw fleecy clouds drifting in a deep azure sky."</i>
flippant	glib; talkative; frivolous and disrespectful; saucy <i>"Her flippant manner was a disguise for how she really felt."</i>
flourish	blossom; grow vigorously; succeed, thrive; prosper <i>"The seeds will soon flourish and provide our eyes with beauty."</i>
fluctuate	to move back and forth, up and down; to be continually changing <i>"Bank interest rates fluctuate from time to time."</i>
follower	disciple; servant or attendant <i>"He was a known follower, not a leader."</i>
footloose	free to do as one likes, or to go where one likes; no responsibilities <i>"He wandered all over the world, footloose and carefree."</i>
foppery	actions or dress of a vain person <i>"His foppery of dress called attention wherever he walked."</i>
forehead	part of the face between the eyebrows and the hairline; the front part of anything <i>"She was elderly, but her forehead was clear of wrinkles."</i>
foreword	an introductory remark; introduction; preface <i>"Prefacing his speech, he read a short foreword concerning the author of the book he was reviewing."</i>

forfeit	to lose, give up, or be deprived of <i>"You forfeit privileges by not registering."</i>
forgetting	fail to recall in the mind; overlooking; omitting <i>"She did not want to hurt anyone by forgetting to mention their names."</i>
fractious	peevish; irritable <i>"The fractious attitude of some of the participants clouded the otherwise enjoyable event."</i>
fraudulent	deceitful; based on trickery; intentional deception <i>"The investigation proved the papers to be fraudulent."</i>
frequency	the fact of occurring often or repeatedly <i>"The credit check took note of the frequency the MasterCard was used."</i>
fuchsia	shrubby plants of the evening primrose family; purplish red color <i>"The fuchsia were in bloom—a riot of pink, white and red color!"</i>
fuliginous	full of smoke or soot <i>"The chimney sweepers' coats had a fuliginous color."</i>
furrier	a dealer in the pelts of animals; person who makes or repairs fur garments <i>"The furrier promised to have my coat ready for me in a week."</i>
galleon	large Spanish ship of the 15 th /16 th century <i>"The galleon had four decks at the stern."</i>
gambol	to jump and skip about in play; frolic <i>"To gambol about the dance floor is to have a good time."</i>
garnishee	to attach a debtor's property, wages, etc. by the authority of a court, so it can be used to pay a debt <i>"The employer had to honor the garnishee on his worker's paycheck."</i>
garrison	troops stationed in a fort; to place troops on duty <i>"The garrison was not commanded by anyone he knew."</i>
garrulous	talking too much; loquacious <i>"The elderly prospector was an interesting though garrulous person."</i>
gazettes	newspaper, various official publications <i>"In England, publications containing announcements or bulletins are called 'gazettes'."</i>

generally	to or by most people; popularly; extensively; usually <i>"It is generally thought that the changing to daylight savings time is a good thing."</i>
generic	that is not a trademark <i>"The generic product was cheaper than the brand name product."</i>
genuine	purebred; not counterfeit or artificial; real; true <i>"The jeweler confirmed that the stone was a genuine emerald."</i>
ghastly	horrible; frightful; ghostlike; very bad or unpleasant <i>"There was a ghastly smile on the dead man's face."</i>
gimlet	a small boring tool with a handle at right angles to a shaft having at the other end a spiral, pointed cutting edge <i>"The district attorney's gimlet eyes bored through witnesses like a power drill."</i>
giraffe	large cud-chewing animals of Africa with very long necks and legs <i>"The giraffe often reaches a height of 18 feet."</i>
gladiolus	any of the genus of plants of the iris family; a flower <i>"The garden was filled with gladiolus of many colors."</i>
glossary	foreign terms, definitions, translations, included in alphabetical listings at the end of a textbook <i>"We really appreciated the glossary because some of the words were difficult and unknown to us."</i>
gnash	to grind or strike together, as in anger or pain <i>"He began to gnash his teeth as the dentist drilled."</i>
gorgeous	brilliantly colored; magnificent; beautiful; wonderful <i>"She wore a gorgeous necklace of matched pearls."</i>
government	exercise of authority over a state, district, country, etc.; the executive or administrative branch <i>"Our government is constituted by the political coalition in power."</i>
grammatical	conforming to the prescribed rules of grammar <i>"His essay was concise and grammatical."</i>
grandiloquent	using high-flown, pompous, bombastic words and expressions <i>"His grandiloquent speech caused many individuals to have second thoughts about his sincerity."</i>

gratify	give pleasure or satisfaction to; indulge <i>"I had to gratify my longing for a sweet with one piece of cake."</i>
grievance	circumstance thought to be unjust; resentment or complaint <i>"Many thought she had reason for her grievance."</i>
grizzled	gray, or streaked with gray; having gray hair or whiskers <i>"The only signs of age seemed to be his grizzled hair."</i>
grueling	extremely trying; exhausting; harsh treatment <i>"To some, working in the mine seemed a grueling punishment."</i>
guileless	candid, frank; open <i>"His guileless smile made instant friendships."</i>
gymnasium	room equipped for physical training and games of sport <i>"In the gymnasium, the stands were filled with cheering fans."</i>
habilitate	clothe, equip, outfit; education or train mentally or physically handicapped <i>"Teachers were needed to habilitate the mentally ill patients."</i>
handkerchief	small piece of cloth, usually rectangular, for wiping the nose, eyes or face; cloth carried or worn for ornament <i>"Her handkerchief was edged with fine lace."</i>
handwriting	writing done by hand with pen, pencil, chalk, etc., a style of forming letters <i>"The handwriting on the old letter was faded and hard to read."</i>
happening	occurrence; incident; event <i>"That happening on stage brought a spontaneous burst of applause."</i>
harmonize	to be in accord; agree; pleasing arrangement of singing <i>"She brought golden chrysanthemums to harmonize with the brown, orange and white decorations."</i>
hazardous	involving chance; risky; dangerous <i>"They loved mountain climbing even though they knew it to be hazardous."</i>
heartily	friendly, sincere, cordial way; with zest, enthusiasm <i>"He laughed heartily, thoroughly enjoying the play."</i>

hegemony	leadership or dominance, especially that of one state or nation over others <i>"The Chinese say the Soviets are establishing military hegemony over the free world."</i>
helicopter	kind of aircraft lifted vertically and moved horizontally in any direction, or kept hovering by large motor driven rotary blades <i>"The police helicopter is a crime deterrent."</i>
hemorrhage	heavy bleeding <i>"Jim had a bad hemorrhage in his arm after the auto accident."</i>
heroism	quality of brave action; nobility; valor <i>"His heroism in rescuing the child from the water was recognized."</i>
hexagon	six cornered; plane figure with six sides and six angles <i>"The playground was laid out as a hexagon, using all available space."</i>
hibernate	to spend the winter in a dormant state <i>"Bears hibernate in dens and caves or hollow trees for the winter."</i>
hilarity	noisy merriment; boisterous gaiety <i>"Smiling ourselves, we listened to the hilarity from the party next door."</i>
historical	concerned with history as a science; based on people or events of the past <i>"At the library, he almost always chose historical literature."</i>
honesty	refraining from lying, cheating or stealing; being truthful <i>"Her glowing references from former employers proved her honesty."</i>
horrible	terrible, dreadful; frightful; very bad; ugly <i>"I had a horrible feeling I would be late and miss my train."</i>
hospitable	friendly, kind and solicitous toward guests; favoring comfort of new arrivals; receptive or open to new ideas <i>"Southern people are said to be most hospitable even to strangers."</i>
hubbub	confused sound of many voices; uproar; tumult <i>"The hubbub ceased as the chairman's gavel was heard."</i>
humanity	human; human characteristics or nature; mankind; people <i>"Humanity everywhere does not always have the same kindness or sympathy."</i>

humorous	funny; amusing; comical <i>"His speech was humorous as well as interesting."</i>
hurricane	violent tropical cyclone with winds moving at 73 or more miles per hour <i>"A hurricane is often accompanied by torrential rains."</i>
hurried	to act more rapidly; rushed or rushing; hasty <i>"They hurried away from the scene of the accident."</i>
hybrid	anything of mixed origin, unlike parts <i>"Rock and roll is a hybrid of blues and jazz."</i>
hydrophyte	a plant growing only in water or very wet earth <i>"Each hydrophyte was a different color."</i>
hygiene	science of health and its maintenance; sanitary practices; cleanness <i>"We are taught hygiene for the preservation of health and prevention of disease."</i>
hymeneal	a wedding song <i>"The song, 'ALWAYS' has become a hymeneal solo for people who sing at weddings."</i>
hypochondriac	a person who has hypochondria <i>"The hypochondriac made his tenth visit to the hospital in ten days."</i>
hypocrisy	a pretending to be what one is not, or to feel what one does not feel <i>"The senator showed his hypocrisy by saying he was for the bill and then voting against it."</i>
identify	show to being the thing or person known or thought to be claimed <i>"To cash a check, one must be able to identify oneself."</i>
ideology	the doctrines, opinions, or way of thinking of an individual class, etc. <i>"Democracy is the American ideology."</i>
idiosyncrasy	personal peculiarity or mannerism <i>"It was her idiosyncrasy to wear earmuffs in warm weather."</i>
idolize	to love or adore exceedingly; to worship <i>"He appeared to idolize his only child."</i>
ignominy	shame and dishonor <i>"What he did brought ignominy to his friends and family."</i>
ignorant	having little knowledge; inexperienced; uneducated <i>"They were ignorant of the facts of the case and could not judge."</i>

illicit	not allowed by law; prohibited; unauthorized <i>"They plotted together at an illicit meeting."</i>
illuminate	light up; make clear; to brighten; elucidate <i>"They strung more lights to illuminate the pool area."</i>
illustrate	make clear by examples; to furnish with explanatory drawings, pictures <i>"The architect made a drawing to illustrate his concept."</i>
imaginary	fanciful; unreal; visionary <i>"Being an only child, he created an imaginary playmate."</i>
immature	not ripe; not completely grown or developed incomplete <i>"The oranges are immature and will not be fully ripe until January."</i>
immediate	having nothing coming between; in direct contact; not separated <i>"All of her immediate family were present at her graduation."</i>
immigrant	person coming into a new country, region or environment to settle there <i>"Because of his immigrant status, he could not vote."</i>
immunity	resistance to disease; protection against disease <i>"Having a childhood disease does not always develop an immunity to it."</i>
impasse	deadlock <i>"Russia and the United States reached an impasse in their negotiations."</i>
impatience	annoyance because of delay; restless eagerness to go or do <i>"She sat tapping her foot with impatience for the delay."</i>
impecunious	having no money <i>"I am sorry to announce that the school board is in an impecunious situation as a result of Proposition 13."</i>
imperialism	the policy and practice of seeking to dominate the economic or political affairs of underdeveloped areas or weaker countries <i>"A policy of imperialism hinders the growth of underdeveloped countries."</i>
impertinent	not showing proper respect or manners <i>"The impertinent child must be taught some manners."</i>
imperturbable	that cannot be disconcerted, disturbed, or excited; impassive <i>"The imperturbable cat sat in the midst of the moving."</i>

implement	any article or device used or needed for a given activity; fulfill <i>“The hammer and the saw are needed by the carpenter to implement his job.”</i>
importance	significance; a matter of consequence <i>“Protocol is largely a matter of importance.”</i>
impression	mark or imprint made by physical pressure; a vague notion <i>“Our footprints made an impression in the sand.”</i>
impulsive	sudden inclination to act; acting spontaneously <i>“She greeted them with an impulsive friendliness.”</i>
inaccurate	not correct; not exact; in error <i>“The statement in the paper was an inaccurate quote.”</i>
incandescence	white hot <i>“The metal was heated to a state of incandescence.”</i>
incident	likely to happen as a result; happening; occurrence <i>“This incident may bring serious results.”</i>
included	enclosed; contained; involved <i>“The use of the pool was included with the rental of the apartment.”</i>
incongruous	lacking harmony or agreement <i>“Hiking boots were incongruous to the wet suit outfit.”</i>
incorrigible	that cannot be corrected, improved, or reformed <i>“They held out little hope for the prisoner because he was incorrigible.”</i>
incredible	unbelievable; seemingly impossible <i>“His recovery was so swift it seemed incredible.”</i>
incredulous	showing doubt or disbelief <i>“Their eyes were large with incredulous joy.”</i>
incubator	artificially heated container for hatching eggs <i>“The chicks hatched in the incubator were downy and soft to touch.”</i>
incumbent	currently in office <i>“The incumbent president has an advantage in the next election.”</i>
indefinite	not precise or clear in meaning; vague; blurred; uncertain <i>“An indefinite amount of money was to be spent.”</i>

independent	free from control; self-governing; self-reliant “She was independent in her thinking.”
indicate	direct attention; to point out; declare “The compass will always indicate which way is north.”
indirect	not straight; deviating; not fair and open; secondary “The path was easily followed but seemed long and indirect .”
indiscreet	lacking prudence; unwise; careless “She was indiscreet in going shopping during school hours.”
individual	existing as a single separate thing or being; particular; unique “The individual was distinguished from others by special characteristics.”
indomitable	not easily discouraged “Even after three attempts, the new skier was indomitable .”
inducement	motive; incentive; persuasion “As an inducement for entering into the contract, she would receive a percentage of sales.”
indurate	to make callous, unfeeling, or stubborn “The country’s leaders developed an indurate attitude toward the citizens.”
industrial	productive manufacturing; connected with habitual employment “Small factories, shops, business offices, etc. were all in this industrial area of the city.”
inertia	a tendency to remain in a fixed condition without change “The nation was declining due to inertia .”
infatuated	lacking sound judgment; foolish “He was infatuated by the John Wayne movie and decided to become a cowboy.”
inferior	lower in space, in order, status, quality, etc. “The new apartment was inferior to our last one.”
infirmity	feebleness; weakness; frailty or ailment; defect We realized his infirmity kept him a captive of a wheelchair.”
infraction	a breaking of a law, pact; violation; infringement “He was guilty of the infraction , because he did not wear a seat belt.”

inimical	unfriendly; hostile <i>“The inimical participants at the rally prevented the audience from having fun.”</i>
initiate	introduce; start; to admit a new member <i>“The teacher will initiate the students by teaching them the fundamentals.”</i>
innovation	something newly introduced <i>“Americans are always interested in innovation.”</i>
inordinate	lacking restraint or moderation <i>“The press and public took an inordinate interest in everything he did.”</i>
inquiry	question; query; an investigation or examination <i>“The new neighbor made inquiry of several householders concerning the customs of the neighborhood.”</i>
insatiable	constantly wanting more; that cannot be satisfied or appeased <i>“After two banana splits, we knew he had an insatiable appetite.”</i>
inscrutable	that cannot be easily understood <i>“Charley Chan was often inscrutable.”</i>
insinuation	sly hint or suggestion <i>“Your insinuation of unfairness on my part is unjust.”</i>
interior	on the inside; inner; away from the coast; border or frontier <i>“The apple looked ripe, but the interior was green and hard.”</i>
intermittent	stopping and starting again at intervals; periodic <i>“Heavy traffic forced us into intermittent driving.”</i>
intravenous	in, or directly into, a vein or veins <i>“The doctor prescribed intravenous feeding for the patient.”</i>
intrepid	not afraid; bold; fearless <i>“The intrepid pioneers forged across the mountains.”</i>
intrinsic	belonging to the real nature of a thing <i>“Mel Brooks’ intrinsic humor captures our attention.”</i>
inveigle	to lead on with deception <i>“The salesman intended to inveigle me into buying the car.”</i>
invisible	that cannot be seen; out of sight; imperceptible <i>“The mountains were invisible because of the heavy fog.”</i>

irascible	easily angered; quick-tempered <i>“The irascible old man is constantly picking fights.”</i>
iridescent	having or showing shifting changes in color or an interplay of rainbow-like colors, as when seen from different angles <i>“The iridescent gemstone glowed with warm colors in the lamplight.”</i>
irregular	not conforming to established rule, method, standards; not uniform <i>“The sheets were irregular; and, therefore, they were marked down in price.”</i>
irreparable	not reparable; that cannot be repaired, mended, remedied <i>“If the condors disappear, that will be an irreparable loss.”</i>
isthmus	a neck; a narrow passage; narrow strip of land, having water at each side and connecting two larger bodies of land <i>“The Isthmus of Panama connects Central America and South America.”</i>
jettison	throwing overboard goods to lighten a ship or airplane in an emergency <i>“The pilot ordered the crew to jettison some of the cargo because he had to conserve fuel.”</i>
judicious	having, applying, or showing sound judgment; wise and careful <i>“The judicious driver stopped at the crosswalk.”</i>
kohlrabi	a garden vegetable related to the cabbage: the edible part is a bulbous portion of the stem just above the ground <i>“The kohlrabi grew very well in the fertile soil.”</i>
lackadaisical	listless; languid <i>“Tom was lackadaisical in the hot, humid weather.”</i>
lagging	falling behind; not keeping up; loitering; lingering <i>“During the race, he was usually lagging far behind.”</i>
languid	sluggish <i>“She was a languid person, lacking force and quickness.”</i>
languish	to lose vigor or vitality <i>“Without regular exercise, the body will languish.”</i>
larghetto	relatively slow, but faster than largo <i>“The section of the sonata must be played larghetto.”</i>
lassitude	state of being weary; tired and listless <i>“The dry desert heat caused a feeling of lassitude in all of us.”</i>

laureate	worthy of honor; distinguished; pre-eminent, especially among poets <i>"Rudyard Kipling was a poet laureate of England."</i>
lavalier	an ornament hanging from a chain, worn around the neck <i>"She wore the lavalier on a chain around her neck."</i>
legation	a diplomatic minister and his staff collectively, representing his government in a foreign country <i>"The French legation provided travel information."</i>
leisurely	without haste; deliberate; slow; unhurried <i>"He strolled leisurely along the boardwalk."</i>
liaison	a linking up or connecting of the parts of the whole <i>"The negotiator acted as a liaison between players and management."</i>
library	room or building where a book collection is kept for reading or reference; a collection of books, periodicals, musical scores, etc. <i>"The library was extensive, but we could not find some references we needed in this small town."</i>
literally	exactly; not imaginatively; actually in fact <i>"The house literally burned to the ground."</i>
lobbyist	representative of a special interest group trying to influence the introduction of or voting on legislation <i>"He was a lobbyist for the oil companies."</i>
lullaby	song for lulling baby to sleep; cradle song; music for this <i>"The lullaby she sang was soothing and haunting in memory."</i>
luminary	any famous or well-known person <i>"The luminary stopped to sign an autograph."</i>
luminous	giving off light; shining; bright <i>"The moon was luminous in the night."</i>
maleficent	harmful; hurtful; evil <i>"Most people view terrorists as maleficent individuals."</i>
malinger	to pretend to be ill or otherwise incapacitated in order to escape duty or work <i>"My brother will malinger whenever there are dishes to do."</i>
malleable	capable of being changed, molded, trained, etc. <i>"Tin is a very malleable metal."</i>

mallet	hammer with heavy wooden head and short handle; long-handled hammer with cylindrical wooden head used in playing croquet <i>"Using the croquet mallet, he knocked the ball through the hoop."</i>
maneuver	any movement or procedure intended as a skillful or shrewd step toward some objective <i>"The large ship's maneuver brought it closer to port."</i>
mangy	shabby and filthy; sordid; squalid <i>"They drove through a mangy neighborhood of dilapidated row houses."</i>
manifest	make clear or evident; itemized list of cargo or bill of lading <i>"The manifest showed a number of things they had not expected."</i>
mapped	drawing charted or arranged on a flat surface; survey or explore <i>"Their journey was mapped for them on a detailed chart."</i>
marriage	wedlock; matrimony; wedding <i>"All the arrangements at the church for the marriage were complete."</i>
marshmallow	confection or candy made from sugar, starch, corn syrup and gelatin <i>"Marshmallow candy was not my favorite."</i>
matted	closely tangled together in a dense mass <i>"The farmer's blond hair was matted with hayseed."</i>
maudlin	foolishly and tearfully or weakly sentimental <i>"Their maudlin sympathy angered me."</i>
maximize	to increase to the maximum; raise to the highest possible degree; enlarge, intensify <i>"Companies are trying to maximize profits."</i>
meaningful	having significance or purpose <i>"He gave a meaningful nod, letting me know he was ready to leave."</i>
meddlesome	interfering; mixing in affairs without being asked <i>"Her meddlesome ways made no friends for her."</i>
mellifluous	sounding sweet and smooth; honeyed <i>"She was possessed of a mellifluous voice."</i>
merriment	gaiety; fun; mirth; something that amuses or entertains <i>"The clowns brought much merriment to the small children."</i>

messenger	one who carries or delivers; forerunner; harbinger “ <i>John acted the role of the messenger in the play.</i> ”
metallic	having the nature of metal; containing or producing metal “ <i>The new car was a bright, metallic green.</i> ”
metamorphosis	change of form, shape, structure, or substance “ <i>The metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly is one of nature’s miracles.</i> ”
miasma	an unwholesome or befogging atmosphere, influence “ <i>The miasma created by the factories was unhealthy.</i> ”
miscreant	an evil person; criminal; villain “ <i>The miscreant was imprisoned for stealing.</i> ”
middling	medium quality or size; moderately good or well “ <i>The stock was below usual quality, only fair to middling.</i> ”
minimum	smallest possible quantity, number or degree; lowest point “ <i>The minimum number for the committee was five.</i> ”
mnemonic	helping, or meant to help, the memory “ <i>The computer is a great mnemonic development.</i> ”
molasses	thick, dark brown syrup produced during the refining of sugar “ <i>We enjoyed the newly baked bread spread with molasses.</i> ”
monologue	a play, skit, or recitation for one actor only “ <i>The guest artist at the testimonial dinner gave a very humorous monologue.</i> ”
mucilage	gum or glue, etc. used as an adhesive “ <i>Snapshots used to be stuck in our old albums with mucilage.</i> ”
muggy	hot and damp with no stirring of air “ <i>The swamp was muggy, and perspiration dripped from us.</i> ”
mulligatawny	an East Indian soup of meat, etc., flavored with curry “ <i>Mother had a very special recipe for mulligatawny.</i> ”
munificence	very generous in giving; lavish “ <i>The president thanked the donor for her munificence.</i> ”
mutter	low, indistinct tone; to complain or grumble “ <i>He scowled and began to mutter to the person next to him.</i> ”

muumuu	a full, long, loose garment for women, usually worn by Hawaiians <i>“In Hawaii, she bought a beautiful, brightly printed muumuu.”</i>
mystify	to puzzle or perplex <i>“When they don’t see the radio, the sound will mystify them.”</i>
narrative	in story form; a story, account, tale <i>“Between the scenes of the play, one student read narrative passages.”</i>
necessary	essential; indispensable; mandatory <i>“The increase in dues made it necessary for us to amend the bylaws.”</i>
neither	not one or the other; no one <i>“Neither of the two cousins was invited to attend.”</i>
nineteen	nine more than ten <i>“Nineteen guests attended the dinner.”</i>
nominee	candidate for election; one chosen or appointed <i>“There were several candidates on the ballot, but only one nominee for the office treasurer.”</i>
normally	naturally; usually; ordinarily <i>“We could normally expect a full day’s work during the summer.”</i>
novelette	short fictional story <i>“The novelette was made into a movie script.”</i>
numismatist	coin collector <i>“The woman was a well-known numismatist.”</i>
oasis	fertile place in the desert; welcome relief from difficulty <i>“The oasis had a good water well and was fringed with welcome shade.”</i>
obsession	persistent idea, desire, emotion <i>“He had an obsession about spending money.”</i>
occasion	fact or event making something possible; happening; occurrence <i>“A chance meeting was the occasion of the renewal of their friendship.”</i>
occurrence	happening; event; something that takes place <i>“The second occurrence of the conference will not be until next year.”</i>
offering	gift or contribution; theatrical presentation <i>“She was offering to donate a bouquet of flowers for the table.”</i>

official	holding position of authority; authorized <i>"The umpire was the official supervising the athletic contest."</i>
ogle	to stare at boldly in an impertinent, provocative way <i>"The variety of cookies in the bakery window caused the children to ogle them."</i>
oligarchy	a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few persons <i>"Political office was restricted to those who knew a member of the oligarchy."</i>
omission	failure to include; left out; failure to do as one should <i>"The omission of the word changed the context of the sentence."</i>
omniscient	having infinite knowledge <i>"Goethe was omniscient in his era."</i>
onomatopoeia	formation of a word by imitating the natural sound associated with the object or action involved <i>"He used onomatopoeia to create sounds in his poetry."</i>
opaque	not letting light pass through; not transparent or translucent <i>"The window shade was opaque, emitting no light at all."</i>
opponent	person against one; adversary <i>"The candidate's opponent waged a clean campaign."</i>
opulent	very wealthy or rich <i>"The car's interior was opulent."</i>
oread	a mountain nymph <i>"She glided through the misty forest like an oread."</i>
ostracize	to banish, bar, exclude <i>"Cheating caused his friends to ostracize him."</i>
pageantry	gorgeous display <i>"Behind the pageantry and politicking, the negotiators worked hard."</i>
parallel	extending in the same direction, at the same distance, never to meet <i>"Fern Avenue and Cypress Avenue run parallel to each other."</i>
paramount	ranking higher than any other, as in power or importance; chief; supreme <i>"The paramount goal was to save the Union."</i>

paraphernalia	personal belongings; articles used in a particular activity <i>"Bring along your fishing paraphernalia when we go camping next week."</i>
parody	a poor or weak imitation <i>"The play was a parody of the Broadway hit."</i>
parsimonious	miserly <i>"Scrooge was a parsimonious man."</i>
passable	can be circulated as genuine; can be traveled, crossed over; adequate <i>"The mountain road was winding and narrow but looked passable."</i>
pedagogue	a teacher <i>"Only a great pedagogue could have taught that complex course."</i>
peppery	highly seasoned; sharp or fiery in speech; irritable <i>"The dip was peppery but really delicious."</i>
perceptive	able to perceive quickly and easily <i>"The driver was perceptive and avoided the accident."</i>
perennial	lasting or continuing for a long time <i>"Billie Jean King was a perennial champion."</i>
perforate	to make a hole or holes through, as by punching or boring; pierce <i>"You must perforate the ballot to record your selections."</i>
pejorative	disparaging or derogatory <i>"Her pejorative comment discouraged me from trying."</i>
permeable	that which can be permeated <i>"The skin is a semi-permeable membrane."</i>
permission	formal consent; allowing to leave or go <i>"We were required to have parental permission to ride the bus."</i>
pernicious	fatal; deadly <i>"The common cold is usually not a pernicious disease."</i>
perpetuity	the state or quality of being perpetual <i>"Perpetuity is implied in the fundamental law of all national governments."</i>
persiflage	light, frivolous or flippant style of writing or speaking <i>"Comedians commonly use persiflage in their acts."</i>

persuade	urge to do something; to convince <i>"It was not easy to persuade him to go with the crowd."</i>
pertinent	having a connection with; to the point; relevant <i>"We thought the action was pertinent for the results we desired."</i>
phenomenal	highly remarkable <i>"Abraham Lincoln had a phenomenal memory."</i>
phenomenon	any extremely unusual or extraordinary thing or occurrence <i>"Haley's Comet is a phenomenon to remember."</i>
phlegm	thick, stringy mucus discharged from the throat, as during a cold <i>"The mixture of honey and lemon helped to rid his throat of phlegm."</i>
pinion	to confine or shackle <i>"The police threatened to pinion the suspect."</i>
pittance	small amount or share, such as money <i>"The pittance received for his labor was not enough to live on."</i>
pixilated	eccentric, daft, whimsical, puckish <i>"Walt Disney's pixilated characters entertain everyone."</i>
plagiarize	to take (ideas, writings, etc.) from (another) and pass them off as one's own <i>"The teacher told the class not to plagiarize any work."</i>
platitude	a commonplace or trite remark, especially one uttered as if it were fresh or original <i>"An original remark when repeated over and over again may become a platitude."</i>
platter	large, shallow dish for serving food <i>"We needed the largest platter for the turkey."</i>
plausible	seemingly true; seemingly honest, trustworthy, etc. <i>"The story he gave us sounded plausible."</i>
plebeian	vulgar, coarse, or common <i>"She has such a plebeian taste in home decorating."</i>
plebiscite	a direct vote by the entire people to accept or refuse the measure or program <i>"It was decided by plebiscite to continue with the old form of government."</i>

plenary	for attendance by all members <i>“The plenary session of the association was called to order by the president.”</i>
plentiful	sufficient or more than enough; abundant <i>“At the picnic, food was plentiful and delicious.”</i>
plurally	several; more than one <i>“So many songs were played plurally that it was difficult to hear when one ended and the other began.”</i>
poinsettia	Mexican and Central American plant with yellow flowers surrounded by tapering red leaves resembling petals <i>“The name of the poinsettia plant is often mispronounced.”</i>
polarize	to separate into diametrically opposed, often antagonistic, groups, viewpoints <i>“The new housing development will polarize the community.”</i>
possibility	quality or condition of being done, known or acquired <i>“There is a possibility that our next trip will be to Disneyland.”</i>
potpourri	a medley, miscellany, or anthology <i>“A mixture of various meats and vegetables is called a potpourri.”</i>
pottery	place where earthenware is made; ceramics, pots, etc. made of clay <i>“The pottery is not ready for use until hardened by heat.”</i>
practically	in a workable way; almost; nearly <i>“He had practically finished all the tasks he had been given.”</i>
precipitate	to cause to happen before expected <i>“The jolt may precipitate an explosion.”</i>
precursor	a person or thing that goes before <i>“Elvis was the precursor of rock and roll.”</i>
premiere	to exhibit (a play, movie, etc.) for the first time <i>“The audience was filled with anticipation while waiting for the premiere performance to commence.”</i>
premise	to introduce or preface <i>“The lawyer will premise his client’s defense on temporary insanity.”</i>
prestigious	having or imparting prestige or distinction <i>“The prestigious writer had a great following.”</i>

pretense	false claim or profession <i>"His pretense to the inheritance was exposed."</i>
prevision	foresight or foreknowledge <i>"Facing the downpour, she was thankful for her prevision to bring an umbrella."</i>
privilege	a right, advantage, favor or immunity granted to one; option to buy or sell <i>"That privilege is held by only a certain group."</i>
procession	orderly parade moving forward; in an orderly formal way <i>"The elephants moved in procession – trunk to tail."</i>
prodigy	a person, think or act so extraordinary as to inspire wonder <i>"Mozart was a child prodigy."</i>
profession	vocation or occupation requiring advanced education or training <i>"The profession of medicine involves intellectual skills as well as education."</i>
profligate	extremely wasteful; recklessly extravagant <i>"The profligate spender was soon penniless."</i>
progeny	children, descendants, or offspring collectively <i>"The old man's progeny gathered at his home to celebrate."</i>
proliferate	to multiply rapidly <i>"As nuclear weapons proliferate, we are all concerned."</i>
propitiate	appease or conciliate <i>"His action will propitiate the striking union members."</i>
propriety	conformity with what is proper or fitting <i>"An etiquette book gives rules of propriety."</i>
proscenium	the apron of a stage <i>"The curtain closed behind her as she stepped forward to speak to the audience from the proscenium."</i>
pseudo	sham; false; spurious; pretended; counterfeit <i>"He was a pseudo expert in karate."</i>
psychosomatic	designating or of a physical disorder of the body originating in or aggravated by the psychic or emotional processes of the individual <i>"The psychosomatic patient was receiving therapy for his emotional problems."</i>

publicly	open to all; commonly known or observed <i>"It was publicly announced that there would be a merger of the companies."</i>
pursuit	try to overtake or catch; an occupation, career to which one devotes time and energy; striving for <i>"The pursuit of her career left little time for a social life."</i>
qualms	sudden brief feelings of sickness, faintness, nausea; feelings of doubt <i>"He had qualms about having cheated on the test."</i>
quarrel	cause for dispute or disagreement; to find fault; complain heatedly <i>"A quarrel can break up friendly relations."</i>
quasi	having a likeness to something; resembling <i>"The quasi scholar carried many books, but never read them."</i>
questionnaire	form used for gathering information; set of questions <i>"The questionnaire was lengthy but fun to do."</i>
quixotic	extravagantly chivalrous or romantically idealistic <i>"Patrolling the streets with knights in white armor is the quixotic method of solving crime."</i>
raillery	light, good-natured ridicule or satire <i>"Sir Winston Churchill's raillery often provoked laughter."</i>
rapproit	relationship, esp. a close one; agreement; harmony <i>"She and her sister enjoyed a friendly rapproit."</i>
rascalion	a rascal; rogue <i>"The rascalion ran off with the money."</i>
rasher	a thin slice of bacon or, rarely, ham, for frying or broiling <i>"A greasy rasher popped and sizzled in the pan."</i>
ratiocinate	to reason logically and methodically <i>"Fred needed to ratiocinate in order to win the debate."</i>
really	in fact; actually; truly or genuinely <i>"They did not really understand the danger involved."</i>
rebellion	act or state of armed resistance; defiance of authority <i>"The rebellion was well armed and organized."</i>
receipt	written acknowledgement; to mark paid <i>"The receipt showed the invoice had been paid in full."</i>

receptacle	container; vessel to hold something <i>“The antique hall stand had a metal receptacle for wet umbrellas.”</i>
recipe	a list of ingredients and directions for preparing a dish; procedure <i>“The recipe for carrot cake was one of her grandmother’s favorites.”</i>
reclamation	reclaiming or being reclaimed <i>“The reclamation program for the eroded land was successful.”</i>
reconnaissance	an exploratory survey or examination <i>“The corporal led a special squad on a reconnaissance mission.”</i>
recycle	to use and reuse again and again <i>“We save a lot of items to take to the recycle collection stations.”</i>
redolence	the quality or state of being redolent, fragrant, aromatic <i>“I liked the redolence of the pine boughs.”</i>
regenerate	renewed or restored <i>“The award will regenerate her dedication to practice.”</i>
rejuvenate	to make seem fresh or new again <i>“A long vacation will rejuvenate him.”</i>
relegate	to refer, commit, or hand over for decision, action <i>“The director will relegate the problem to the committee.”</i>
relieve	lessen pressure; lighten or reduce pain; free or send help <i>“They played games to relieve the monotony of the trip.”</i>
reminisce	to think, talk or write about remembered events or experiences <i>“We sat at the table to reminisce about our childhood experiences.”</i>
repartee	a quick, witty reply <i>“The first rule of repartee is better never than late.”</i>
repatriate	to send back or return to the country of birth, citizenship, or allegiance <i>“We hope they will repatriate our prisoners of war.”</i>
repellent	pushing away or driving back; able to resist absorption of water <i>“We applied the solution to the garment to make it water repellent.”</i>
repertoire	the stock of special skills, devices, techniques of a particular person or particular field of endeavor <i>“The ball player’s repertoire was amazing.”</i>

replicate	to repeat or duplicate <i>“The scientist will try to replicate the experiment.”</i>
repository	a box, chest, closet, or room in which things may be placed for safe keeping <i>“The jewels were missing from the repository.”</i>
repossess	reclaim; get back <i>“The buyer failed to make payment, so the furniture was available for the seller to repossess.”</i>
reprehensible	deserving to be reprimanded <i>“Assassination is a reprehensible crime.”</i>
rescind	to revoke, repeal, or cancel <i>“The officers of the company will rescind the ruling.”</i>
resilient	recovering strength, spirits, good humor, etc., quickly; buoyant <i>“The American people are very resilient; they bounce back no matter what happens.”</i>
resistance	act of opposing, withstanding; ability to ward off disease <i>“It is hoped that flu shots will increase our resistance to colds.”</i>
resonance	the sound produced in the percussion of some part of the body, especially of the chest. <i>“The deep resonance of his voice was his radio trademark.”</i>
responsibility	obligation; accountability; dependability <i>“Getting her homework in was her responsibility.”</i>
restitution	a making good for loss or damage <i>“The settlement was a fair restitution for the accident.”</i>
retaliate	to return like for like <i>“The government plans to retaliate for the terrorism.”</i>
retroactive	having application to or effect on things prior to its enactment <i>“The retroactive pay increase was appreciated by all of the workers.”</i>
reverie	a dreamy, fanciful, or visionary notion or daydream <i>“Her reverie was broken by his loud arrival.”</i>
revolving	circling around; regularly replenished as a charge account <i>“The revolving door is used to keep out drafts of air.”</i>

rheostat	a device for varying the resistance of an electric circuit without interrupting the circuit <i>"A light dimmer is a rheostat."</i>
rhythm	flow or apparent movement in a work of art, literature, drama, etc., through patterns in the timing, spacing, repetition, accenting, etc., of the elements <i>"The rhythm of the story kept our attention."</i>
righteous	just, upright manner of acting; morally justifiable <i>"The minister stormed in righteous anger from the pulpit."</i>
rigmarole	a foolishly involved, fussy, or time-wasting procedure <i>"Registration for school is full of rigmarole."</i>
rosette	ornament made of ribbons gathered in the shape of a rose <i>"He wore a rosette in the buttonhole of his lapel."</i>
rubbery	elastic; toughness <i>"The weight of the parcel caused the rubbery plastic to break loose."</i>
ruckus	noisy confusion; uproar; row; disturbance <i>"The ruckus on campus quickly ended."</i>
rudiment	a first principle, element, or fundamental, as of a subject to be learned <i>"One rudiment of singing is proper breathing."</i>
sacrosanct	very sacred, holy, or inviolable <i>"The congregation felt the church was sacrosanct."</i>
salient	noticeable; conspicuous <i>"Major Richard outlined briefly the salient feature of the new recruiting plan."</i>
sanguinary	bloodthirsty <i>"Some corsairs were very sanguinary."</i>
sapphire	hard, transparent precious stone of deep blue color <i>"My sapphire had a six-pointed star in it."</i>
scallion	variety of onion; long stem and almost bulbless root <i>"We prefer the scallion rather than the large white or yellow onion."</i>
scarcity	inadequate supply; rarity; uncommonness <i>"During the hot spell of summer, we had a scarcity of water."</i>

scathing	searing; withering; harsh or caustic <i>"The Prince of Wales launched a scathing attack on British industrialists."</i>
schism	a split or division in an organized group or society <i>"The selection of a new minister caused a schism in the church."</i>
schooner	a ship with two or more masts rigged fore and aft <i>"The schooner stood well out in the bay but was easily seen."</i>
scintilla	a particle; the least trace: used only figuratively <i>"Wild charges flourished without a scintilla of evidence."</i>
sciolism	superficial knowledge <i>"His sciolism was in keeping with his character as a charlatan."</i>
scissors	a cutting instrument; having two blades which work against each other <i>"The scissors used by the kindergarteners have blunt ends."</i>
scrimmage	rough and tumble fight; confused struggle; football play <i>"The two teams lined up to take part in the scrimmage."</i>
scrumptious	very pleasing, attractive esp. to the taste; delicious <i>"Not a crumb of the scrumptious cake was left."</i>
secrecy	the condition of being concealed; kept secluded <i>"Everyone involved in the secrecy of the surprise party did his part."</i>
semaphore	an apparatus or system for signaling <i>"The Navy often uses a semaphore system to send messages between ships at sea."</i>
sensible	easily perceived or noticed; intellectually aware; reasonable <i>"They were understanding and sensible parents."</i>
sepulcher	tomb <i>"Many thousands of pilgrims visited the sepulcher of Saint Thomas Becket."</i>
sequel	something that follows <i>"Will there be a sequel to the movie?"</i>
seraglio	the palace of a Turkish sultan <i>"The crown jewels were located in the seraglio."</i>
serene	not disturbed or troubled <i>"The serene lake did not have a ripple on the surface."</i>

serviette	a table napkin <i>"A serviette depicting Christmas scenes was at everyone's place."</i>
shibboleth	any phrase, custom, etc., distinctive of a particular party, class, etc. <i>"The Piedmont accent along the east coast is the shibboleth of the landed gentry."</i>
shimmer	shine with unsteady light; glimmer <i>"The reflection from waves made the dim light shimmer."</i>
shrubbery	place of low-growing, woody plantings <i>"We lost the ball when it went into the shrubbery."</i>
silhouette	an outline of a figure, garment, etc. <i>"Jean's face was a silhouette against the screen."</i>
silverware	tableware made of or coated with silver <i>"The silverware showed clearly the care taken to polish it."</i>
similar	nearly but not exactly the same; resemblance <i>"Our new shoes were similar."</i>
skimmer	that which is used to remove floating matter from a liquid <i>"We had to buy a new net for the pool skimmer."</i>
sleeveless	having no sleeves; nothing over the arms <i>"She wore a sleeveless sweater called a vest."</i>
smidgen	a small amount; a bit <i>"A smidgen of pepper should be added next."</i>
solicitor	one who seeks contributions or trade <i>"He came to the door as a solicitor for the Heart Fund."</i>
solicitous	showing care, attention, or concern <i>"The parents were solicitous about the child's health."</i>
solstice	either of two points on the sun's ecliptic at which it is farthest north or south of the equator <i>"In the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice comes just before Christmas."</i>
somnolent	sleepy; drowsy <i>"The somnolent truck driver stopped for coffee."</i>

sophomoric	of, like, or characteristic of a sophomore or sophomores, often regarded as self-assured, opinionated, though immature <i>“The sophomoric antics of our government were exposed.”</i>
spanning	to extend, reach or cross over, etc. <i>“The bridge spanning the mighty river was teeming with traffic.”</i>
spasmodic	having an involuntary contraction, temporarily or intermittently <i>“She had a spasmodic tic in her right eyelid.”</i>
spectroscopy	the use of the spectroscope to study optics <i>“The study of optics is aided by spectroscopy.”</i>
speechless	unable to talk; silent, as from shock <i>“The sight of the Grand Canyon made him temporarily speechless.”</i>
splutter	making hissing sounds; speak hurriedly; utter sounds of confusion <i>“Being excited or embarrassed caused her to splutter.”</i>
spoonfuls	as much as a spoon will hold <i>“The plates were filled by heaping spoonfuls.”</i>
spotter	person or thing that removes stains; watcher for aircraft <i>“In the dry cleaning shop, he had a position as a spotter.”</i>
spume	foam, froth, or scum <i>“The water will spume out of the pipe indicating a soapy condition.”</i>
statute	established rule; legislation passed <i>“The statute was passed by the state legislative body.”</i>
strategic	favorable planning; maneuvering advantageously <i>“Winning at chess consists of strategic moves.”</i>
strictly	precisely; exactly; closely enforced <i>“The diet must be followed strictly as ordered.”</i>
stymie	to block; impede <i>“Bad weather may stymie our picnic plans.”</i>
subcutaneous	being, used, or introduced beneath the skin <i>“He located the sliver in the subcutaneous part of his finger.”</i>
substantive	of considerable amount or quantity; substantial <i>“His donation of \$5000 was substantive.”</i>

succinct	clearly and briefly stated “ <i>The commander’s orders to his men were succinct.</i> ”
succumb	give away to; yield or submit “ <i>We expected him to succumb to persuasion.</i> ”
superfluous	not needed, unnecessary, irrelevant “ <i>I have cut down every superfluous expense.</i> ”
superintendent	person in charge; supervisor, custodian “ <i>The superintendent was found to be honest and trustworthy.</i> ”
supervisor	manager; director “ <i>The supervisor is in charge of the courses and the teachers.</i> ”
surreptitious	acting in a secret, stealthy way “ <i>The conspirators held a surreptitious meeting.</i> ”
surveillance	supervision or inspection “ <i>The police kept the prisoners under constant surveillance.</i> ”
sycophant	a person who seeks favor by flattering people of wealth or influence “ <i>A sycophant will try to attach himself to a celebrity.</i> ”
syllipsis	a grammatical construction “ <i>A syllipsis is used to modify two or more words in the same sentence.</i> ”
sympathize	to share or understand another’s feelings; express pity “ <i>They could sympathize with their neighbors who had been robbed.</i> ”
synthesis	the putting together of parts or elements so as to form a whole “ <i>A good composition is the synthesis of many skills.</i> ”
syzygy	either of two opposing points in the orbit of a heavenly body at which it is in conjunction to or in opposition to the sun “ <i>We studied the condition of syzygy in astronomy.</i> ”
technical	technical arts or applied sciences; the practical arts “ <i>Only a technical expert would be aware of the meaning of those terms.</i> ”
tenacious	persistent, stubborn “ <i>He had tenacious courage as he faced the endless pile of papers on his desk.</i> ”
tenuous	not substantial, slight, flimsy “ <i>The tenuous bridge was washed away in the storm.</i> ”

therapeutic	serving to cure or heal; curative “ <i>The therapeutic treatment hastened his recovery.</i> ”
tranquilizer	a person or thing that tranquilizes “ <i>The doctor gave his nervous patient a tranquilizer.</i> ”
transition	a passing from one condition, form, stage, activity, place to another “ <i>The transition from fall to winter was marked by a storm.</i> ”
transmission	something transmitted “ <i>The radio transmission was received in Brazil.</i> ”
unctuous	oily or greasy “ <i>His manner was unctuous as he tried to talk her out of the car keys.</i> ”
unprecedented	unheard-of; novel “ <i>The president took unprecedented steps toward peace.</i> ”
unscathed	not hurt, uninjured, unharmed “ <i>She was unscathed by their criticism.</i> ”
utilitarian	of or having to do with utility; usefulness “ <i>A garbage can is a very utilitarian gift.</i> ”
vengeance	revenge “ <i>The family sought vengeance for the loss.</i> ”
verdigris	a green or greenish-blue coating that forms like rust on brass, bronze, or copper “ <i>The verdigris on the city hall dome must be removed.</i> ”
verisimilitude	the appearance of being true or real “ <i>The color treatment of black and white movies has a verisimilitude.</i> ”
vertigo	a subjective sensation of dizziness in which an individual feels that he, or his surrounding, is whirling about sickeningly “ <i>With too much stress, she suffered from vertigo.</i> ”
vicissitude	shifting circumstances “ <i>A vicissitude of public life is the election process.</i> ”
vignette	a short, delicate literary sketch “ <i>The vignette was a great work by the promising author.</i> ”
visionary	a person whose ideas, plans, are impractical, too idealistic, or fantastic; dreamer “ <i>The visionary described a utopia that could never exist.</i> ”

wobbly	shaky; trembly <i>“The legs of the table needed strengthening because they were wobbly.”</i>
xenophobia	fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything foreign or strange <i>“Xenophobia limits people from learning about others.”</i>
xylophone	a musical percussion instrument <i>“The xylophone is an instrument in the percussion family.”</i>
zealot	a person who is zealous to an extreme degree; fanatic <i>“The zealot was dedicated to the cause.”</i>

LEVEL III

aardvark	burrowing African mammal; earth pig “The aardvark feeds on ants and termites and is active at night.”
abattoir	to beat down; fell; a slaughterhouse “They built a new abattoir on the outskirts of the city.”
abecedarian	beginning student; learning the alphabet “The abecedarian in his class had never attended school until now.”
abeyance	temporary suspension, as of an activity or function “Due to the rain, the rodeo was in abeyance .”
abhorrence	loathing; detestation; something repugnant “She watched with abhorrence as the snakes were fed live mice.”
abnegate	deny or refuse; renounce; to give up all claim to “He said he would abnegate all claims to the property.”
abolitionist	one who favored giving up slavery “He was from the north and a known abolitionist .”
abreact	to relieve emotion by talking about it “She decided to abreact her feelings by talking to her sister.”
abscissa	the coordinate representing the distance of a point from the y-axis measured along a line parallel to the x-axis “The abscissa is the value of all x coordinates.”
acanthoid	spiny or spiny-shaped “The cactus plant is an acanthoid .”
acappella	without instrumental accompaniment “They both sang in the a cappella choir in high school.”
accelerator	a person or thing that increased the speed of something “A chemical was used as an accelerator in the development of the film.”
accessory	extra; additional; helping in a subordinate way “He was accused as an accessory to the crime.”
accumbent	lying down “The gardener planted accumbent ivy that spread over the old brick walk.”
accusatorial	of, or in the manner of, an accuser; blamer “Her friend spoke in an accusatorial tone thinking she was to blame.”

acidulous	somewhat sarcastic <i>"The comedian's stare of acidulous contempt embarrassed the man in the front row."</i>
acme	the highest point <i>"Pitching that no-hitter represented the acme of Lefty's career."</i>
acolyte	one who assists in a religious service; follower <i>In the days of the political machine, the party boss and his acolyte ran the city."</i>
acquiescent	agreeing or consenting without protest, but without enthusiasm <i>"Most of the class was acquiescent."</i>
acuate	having a sharp point <i>"The guard dog bared his murderously acuate teeth."</i>
adamant	unyielding <i>"The author's pleas to extend the deadline met with adamant refusal."</i>
adiabatic	involving expansion or compression without loss or gain of heat <i>"The compression and power strokes of a gasoline engine are adiabatic processes."</i>
aeronautics	the science, art, or work of designing, making, and operating aircraft <i>"He specialized in aeronautics in college, because he was fascinated with flying."</i>
aeroneurosis	nervous disorder of airplane pilots caused by the tension of flying <i>"His abdominal pains were suggestive of aeroneurosis."</i>
affectionately	devotedly; lovingly; warmly <i>"His daughter patted him affectionately as she left the room."</i>
affidavit	written statement made before a notary public <i>"She willingly signed the affidavit the same day."</i>
aficionado	a devoted follower of some sport, art, etc. <i>"He was a football aficionado."</i>
agape	with or as with the mouth wide open, in surprise, wonder, etc. <i>"The news reporters were agape at the President's speech."</i>
agglutinated	stuck together as with glue; joined by adhesion <i>"The blood cells formed an agglutinated mass suspended in the fluid."</i>

aggrieved	offended; wronged; injured in one's legal rights <i>"She felt aggrieved by the treatment she received from her family."</i>
agitated	shaken; perturbed; excited <i>"He was agitated at the extent of the damage the earthquake caused."</i>
agitprop	of or for agitating and propagandizing <i>"David was a foreign-trained agitprop who infiltrated the trade unions."</i>
agonistic	contesting; combative <i>"A horde of agonistic lawyers stormed the bench."</i>
agoraphobia	abnormal fear of crossing, or of being in, open spaces <i>"The psychiatrist sees patients with severe agoraphobia in their homes since they are too fearful to come to her office."</i>
aiguille	peak of rock shaped like a needle <i>"The aiguille was so high in the air it could be seen for miles."</i>
akimbo	with hands on hip and elbows bent outward <i>"Arms akimbo, the teacher stood waiting for an answer."</i>
alacrity	eager willingness or readiness, often manifested by quick, lively action <i>"Tip in hand, the maitre d' seated the couple with alacrity."</i>
alchemy	early form of chemistry; changing something to something better <i>"The chief aim in the study of alchemy in the Middle Ages was to change baser metals into gold and to discover the elixir of perpetual youth."</i>
algae	group of plants having no true root, stem or leaf <i>"Chemicals help to keep algae from growing in the swimming pool."</i>
alignment	arrangement in a straight line <i>"He was engineering a ground plan of alignment."</i>
allegiance	obligation of support and loyalty <i>"A citizen owes allegiance to his government."</i>
allonym	another name, usually historical, adopted by an author <i>"The writer's allonym was Socrates."</i>
alopecia	loss of hair on the head; baldness <i>"Because he suffered from alopecia, he wore a wig."</i>

altruistic	unselfish <i>"Some thought his campaign donations altruistic, others interpreted them as self-serving."</i>
alyssum	plant in the mustard family <i>"We planted sweet alyssum as a border along the walkway."</i>
amateur	nonprofessional; one who does something for pleasure rather than for pay <i>"He was a very skilled amateur athlete."</i>
amaurosis	partial or total blindness <i>"He walked everywhere through the city though he suffered from amaurosis."</i>
ambiance	an environment or its distinct atmosphere <i>"The ambiance of New Orleans is very European."</i>
ambulatory	able to walk and not confined to bed <i>"He was ambulatory six weeks after surgery."</i>
ameliorate	to make or become better; improve <i>"The children at the orphanage thought the new wing would ameliorate the current conditions."</i>
amenity	pleasant quality; attractiveness <i>"Scarlett O'Hara got what she wanted without forsaking a single amenity of plantation life."</i>
amethyst	a purple or violet variety of quartz used for jewelry <i>"The Greeks believed that the amethyst prevented intoxication."</i>
amoeba	microscopic one-celled animal <i>"The amoeba is found in soil and in water."</i>
amphibious	can live both on land and in water; can operate or travel on land or on water <i>"The seaborne transport made an amphibious landing of troops on shore."</i>
anaglyph	ornament carved in low relief, such as a cameo <i>"The anaglyph sometimes seems three dimensional."</i>
anchorage	money charged for the right to tie up in the port; something to rely on <i>"We left the ship in secure anchorage at the port."</i>

aneurysm, aneurism	sac formed by local enlargement of the weakened wall of an artery, caused by disease or injury <i>"The doctors had to locate and remove the aneurysm."</i>
anguished	distressed; in great pain; suffering from worry <i>"She showed an anguished, tear-stained face as she lifted her head."</i>
annihilate	to bring to nothing; destroy completely <i>"Nuclear war would annihilate the earth."</i>
anodyne	relieving or lessening pain; soothing <i>"Though said without feeling, her anodyne words comforted his bruised ego."</i>
antediluvian	of or relating to the time before the biblical flood; made or developed a long time ago <i>"Our prospective home is in good condition except for an antediluvian heating system that needs to be replaced."</i>
anthropomorphic	characterized by the ascribing of human characteristics to inanimate objects or animals <i>"The poet wrote an anthropomorphic description of a tree."</i>
applique	applying decorative material to another by sewing or adhesive <i>"We embroidered flowers from a printed cloth to applique on her sweater."</i>
arabesque	a complex and elaborate design of intertwined flowers, foliage, geometrical patterns, etc., painted or carved in low relief <i>"The famous unicorn tapestry, with its intricate floral pattern, is an arabesque."</i>
arachnoid	resembling a spider's web; covered with or made up of thin, soft, entangled hairs <i>"Resorting to feminine wiles, she chose an arachnoid dressing gown for her date with the foreign diplomat."</i>
arboreal	living in trees or adapted for living in trees <i>"Monkeys are arboreal creatures."</i>
archipelago	a group or chain of many islands <i>"We visited the Philippine archipelago last year."</i>
arenaceous	sandy <i>"The cactus grows well in arenaceous soil."</i>

assentation	immediate and usually flattering or hypocritical assent <i>“The junior executive ingratiated himself with his superiors because of his constant assentation.”</i>
assiduous	diligent; persevering <i>“Jack’s assiduous study habits made up for his notable lack of gray matter.”</i>
asthenic	designating or of a constitutional body type of slender physique <i>“The psychologist, Thompson, theorized that the asthenic body type indicated a weak character.”</i>
autarky	national policy of getting along without imports <i>“In its disastrous attempt to achieve autarky, the Cambodian government abolished foreign trade.”</i>
bacchant	a drunken carouser <i>“The sleeping bacchant lay propped against the column of the hall.”</i>
balalaika	stringed instrument like a guitar but with only three strings <i>“The balalaika is a favorite instrument of the Russian people.”</i>
banquet	elaborate meal; formal dinner for many people <i>“A banquet would follow the reception.”</i>
barouche	four-wheeled carriage with a collapsible hood, two double seats opposite each other and a box seat in front for the driver <i>“We were able to rent a barouche with a driver to take us through the park.”</i>
barrister	counselor-at-law <i>“In England, a barrister is a qualified member of the legal profession.”</i>
bedlam	any place or condition of noise and confusion <i>“The pillow fight turned the nursery into bedlam.”</i>
behoove	to be morally necessary or proper <i>“It would behoove a jury to examine the evidence carefully.”</i>
beneficence	the fact or quality of being kind; doing good; charity <i>“All of the parish knew of his beneficence.”</i>
bequeathed	left to another in a will; handed down or passed on <i>“He bequeathed his money to his son.”</i>

bespeak	to be indicative of <i>"The endless warnings he issues his children bespeak a paternal concern bordering on the compulsive."</i>
bevy	any group or collection <i>"A bevy of beautiful maidens caught Frederick's roving eye."</i>
bezique	a card game resembling pinochle <i>"We enjoyed learning how to play bezique."</i>
bibliophile	person who loves or admires books; collector of books <i>"She is a bibliophile and never wants to part with any of her books."</i>
bivouac	temporary encampment, esp. in the open <i>"We decided this would be a good place to bivouac for one night."</i>
blitzkrieg	sudden overwhelming attack <i>"The blitzkrieg resulted in a quick victory."</i>
bloodletting	bleeding; bloodshed <i>"Doctors used to believe in bloodletting to cure many illnesses."</i>
bludgeon	short club with heavy loaded end; to bully or coerce <i>"The thugs were each armed with a bludgeon."</i>
bolus	a large pill <i>"The vet prepared a bolus of antibiotics for the sick horse."</i>
bourgeois	shopkeeper; member of the middle class; self-employed person <i>"He was happy to be a member of the class known as bourgeois."</i>
boutonniere	flower or flowers worn in a buttonhole <i>"He wore a carnation boutonniere."</i>
bowdlerize	to remove passages considered offensive from (a book, etc.) <i>"The strait-laced teacher tried to bowdlerize Genesis for his Sunday school class."</i>
brachial	of or like an arm; a wing or fin <i>"He swung arm over arm in a brachial movement from one limb to another."</i>
brilliance	brightness; radiance; intensity <i>"The moon shone with almost the brilliance of day."</i>
broccoli	vegetable plant related to the cauliflower <i>"We like broccoli cooked with a cheese sauce."</i>

bromide	a trite saying or statement <i>"He bored everyone with his bromide about pennies saved and foolish pounds."</i>
brumal	of winter; wintry <i>The brumal temperatures produced frost blossoms on the window panes."</i>
buoyancy	ability or tendency to float; cheerfulness <i>"The buoyancy of the life jacket would keep her afloat."</i>
businesslike	efficient; methodical <i>"The businesslike manner of the applicant secured him the job."</i>
cacography	bad handwriting; incorrect spelling <i>"His cacography always brought his grades down."</i>
cairn	a conical heap of stones built as a monument or landmark <i>"The explorers set up a cairn on the beach to mark the spot where they had first landed."</i>
calcify	to change into a hard, stony substance by the deposit of lime or calcium salts <i>"Bureaucracy and old age have caused the Soviet leadership to calcify its conservatism."</i>
caliginous	dark; gloomy; obscure <i>"We lit candles which really didn't help much in the caliginous cellar."</i>
camelopard	early name for the giraffe <i>"The giraffe was called a camelopard because of its long neck like a camel and spots like a leopard."</i>
campanile	a bell tower, esp. one that stands apart from any other building <i>"The bell in the campanile rang loudly."</i>
cancellous	having a porous or spongy structure; close network of veins <i>"Some plants have cancellous leaves."</i>
canescent	become white or grayish <i>"The leaves of some plants become canescent."</i>
capriciousness	a change without apparent reason; erratic behavior <i>"Her capriciousness was evident as soon as she appeared at dinner."</i>
carillon	a set of stationary bells each producing one tone of the chromatic scale <i>"The church carillon peeled out one melody after another."</i>

carrefour	crossroads or intersection; public square or plaza “We planned to meet in the carrefour when we finished our errands.”
cartographer	person who makes maps or charts. “We went to the cartographer to get maps of the islands.”
castellated	built with turrets and battlements “In Scotland, we saw many castellated buildings that were centuries old.”
catachresis	incorrect use of a word or words “The editor checks for catachresis .”
catfalque	temporary wooden framework on which a coffin is placed “Under the coffin, the catfalque was draped in white satin.”
catechism	a formal series of questions “The prospective church member studied his catechism .”
caterwaul	shrill howling sound like a cat; screech “In the quiet of the night, a caterwaul broke the silence.”
catharsis	the purifying of the emotions or relieving of emotional tensions, esp. by art “For Nietzsche, Wagner’s Ring cycle triggered a catharsis that led to tears.”
celerity	swiftness in acting or moving; speed “Sitting on the tack made him jump up with comic celerity .”
cellophane	thin, transparent cellulose material “We used cellophane to keep the wrappers moisture-proof.”
chameleon	lizard with the ability to change skin color; changeable person “The chameleon blended so well with its surroundings that it was hard to find.”
champaign	a broad plain, level and open country “Nebraska is part of that vast Midwestern champaign that invites large-scale farming.”
chancellor	chief secretary of an embassy; university title for executive “The chancellor of the consulate was ordered to return to his country.”
characteristic	distinguishing trait, feature or quality; peculiarity “It was characteristic of the detective that he wasted no time in giving orders to his men.”

charismatic	of, having, or resulting from charisma, the power of winning devotion of large numbers of people <i>“Churchill was a charismatic speaker who captured people’s imagination.”</i>
chauffeur	driver of a private automobile for someone else <i>“The chauffeur drove her to school each day.”</i>
chelicera	the first pair of appendages of spiders <i>“The spider uses its chelicera to grasp and crush with.”</i>
chiaroscuro	the treatment of light and shade in a painting, drawing, etc., to produce the illusion of depth, a dramatic effect <i>“Many painters use chiaroscuro to heighten the drama in their paintings.”</i>
chide	to scold <i>“Sam’s parents chide him regularly for letting his room look like a cave.”</i>
chignon	a knot or coil of hair worn at the back of the neck <i>“She kept her hair from her eyes by knotting it into a chignon.”</i>
chinoiserie	ornate style of decoration for furniture, textiles, ceramics, etc. <i>“In 18th century Europe, chinoiserie was very popular.”</i>
chlorophyll	the green pigment found in plants <i>“The chlorophyll in plants is deeper in those that grow in bright sunlight.”</i>
choleric	having or showing a quick temper or irascible nature <i>“His editor was prone to choleric fits provoked by spelling errors.”</i>
chortle	to make, or utter with, a gleeful clucking or snorting sound <i>“When his horse finished in first place, he began to chortle in delight.”</i>
chronological	in order of occurrence <i>“I’m trying to achieve a chronological album of snapshots.”</i>
chuff	a boor, churl <i>“With his accent and clothes, Will Rogers played the shrewd chuff.”</i>
cicerone	a guide who explains the history and chief features of a place to sightseers <i>“In Rome, they hired a cicerone to show them the Colosseum.”</i>

circumlocution	in a roundabout, indirect, or lengthy way of expressing something <i>“When asked where she had been, their daughter responded with an outrageous circumlocution.”</i>
circumspect	cautious; careful <i>“Eisenhower’s circumspect attitude toward the presidency guaranteed a quiet decade.”</i>
cirriped	subclass saltwater crustaceans such as barnacles <i>“We hauled the cruiser out of the water to scrape the cirriped from the keel.”</i>
civilian	anyone not a member of the armed forces or police powers <i>“He had an excellent job as a civilian employee of the Air Force.”</i>
coalesce	to grow together; to unite or merge into a single body, group, etc. <i>“The splint would help the broken bones to continue to coalesce.”</i>
coetaneous	contemporary <i>“We selected the coetaneous furniture.”</i>
colloquialism	conversational style or usage; informal idiom <i>“Colloquialism is mistakenly thought to be substandard which it is not.”</i>
comestible	edible <i>“Although the soldiers were on the road, they prepared a meal that was very comestible.”</i>
commensurable	two quantities having a common measure; properly proportioned <i>“In the union of the commensurable organisms, one is benefited, and the other neither benefits nor is harmed.”</i>
commodious	offering plenty of room; spacious <i>“The commodious office building housed twelve thousand workers.”</i>
contumelious	insulting and humiliating <i>“Oscar Wilde bore the contumelious remarks of his critics with admirable dignity.”</i>
corroborate	confirm; bolster; support; prove validity <i>“The evidence will corroborate her testimony.”</i>
costermonger	a person who sells fruits or vegetables from a cart or street stand <i>“A costermonger is not renowned for his delicacy.”</i>

crenelated	furnished with crenelations, in the manner of a battlement <i>"The crenelated molding gave the living room ceiling a solid, fortified look."</i>
cromlech	an ancient monument of monoliths, arranged in a circle and surrounding a mound or dolmen <i>"Stonehenge, the most famous cromlech, rises from the Salisbury plain."</i>
cryptic	mysterious; baffling <i>"From his cryptic replies, she could never tell what he did for a living."</i>
crystallize	to give definite form to; to coat with sugar <i>"Some long-used customs crystallize into laws."</i>
cybernetics	a science dealing with the comparative study of the operations of complex electronic computers and the human nervous system <i>"The application of cybernetics to manufacturing has replaced many workers with machines."</i>
cynosure	one that serves to direct or guide; a center of attraction or attention <i>"For centuries, Paris has been the political, cultural, and economic cynosure for all of France."</i>
darkling	dark, dim obscure, etc. <i>"Our hero found himself lost in a darkling wood."</i>
dastardly	mean; cowardly <i>"Letting his brother take the rap was a dastardly thing to do."</i>
decant	to pour from one container into another <i>"He tried to decant the vintage wine as gingerly as if it were nitroglycerine."</i>
deficiency	absence of something essential; incompleteness <i>"There was a deficiency of protein in the diet he followed."</i>
defunct	dead or extinct <i>"Naturalists fear the condor may become defunct."</i>
deglutition	the act or process of swallowing <i>"Painful deglutition is one of the after-effects of a tonsillectomy."</i>
deleterious	harmful to health; injurious <i>"Eating too much of the wrong foods can be deleterious."</i>

denouement	any final revelation or outcome <i>“The hero’s death provided a moving denouement of the novel.”</i>
deprecate	to depreciate; belittle <i>“The tutor tended to deprecate his pupil’s efforts to write fiction.”</i>
desuetude	discontinuance from use or exercise <i>“Some families have allowed the traditions of Passover to fall into desuetude.”</i>
dichotomy	division into two parts, groups, or classes, esp. when these are sharply distinguished or opposed <i>“The universities and the armed forces represented a dichotomy of purpose in pre-1914 German society.”</i>
dilettante	a person who follows an art or science only for amusement and in a superficial way <i>“The needs of the dilettante were satisfied by the Los Angeles artistic community.”</i>
doyen	the senior member, or dean, of a group <i>“For years, Bob Hope has been the doyen of American comedians.”</i>
dudgeon	anger or resentment <i>“Offended by the rebuke, he left the house in high dudgeon.”</i>
dyslexia	impairment of the ability to read <i>“The problem of dyslexia can be overcome.”</i>
eclectic	selecting from various systems, doctrines, or sources <i>“The great movie palaces of the twenties were eclectic extravaganzas of Spanish, Egyptian, and Indian architecture.”</i>
eclecticism	using or upholding a chosen system or method <i>“The professor’s eclecticism of his philosophy was easily understood.”</i>
effervescent	bubbling up; foaming; vivacious <i>“Her happy and effervescent mood made all of us happier, too.”</i>
efficiency	ability to produce with a minimum of effort, expense or waste <i>“His secretary’s efficiency was more than welcome in the latest project.”</i>
eidolon	an image without real existence; apparition <i>“The horse and rider appeared out of the fog like an eidolon.”</i>

embrocate	to moisten and rub with an oil liniment, etc. <i>“The coach used rubbing alcohol to embrocate the runner’s leg.”</i>
emollient	something that has a softening or soothing effect <i>“An aggressive ad campaign touted the cream’s emollient powers.”</i>
empyrean	the highest heaven, the abode of God; the sky <i>“We were flying in the empyrean, yet it seemed endless above us.”</i>
encaustic	painted with wax colors fixed with heat, or with any process in which colors are burned in <i>“The ancient encaustic portraits still looked newly painted.”</i>
enchiridion	handbook, manual <i>“We expected the librarian would be able to help locate an enchiridion for us.”</i>
encomiastic	of, belonging to, or bestowing praise; eulogistic <i>“The dinner in honor of Dr. King featured encomiastic addresses by several local dignitaries.”</i>
enfranchise	to give a franchise to; specif., to admit to citizenship, esp. to the right to vote <i>“The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed to enfranchise all adult women in the United States.”</i>
ennui	weariness and dissatisfaction resulting from inactivity or lack of interest <i>The typists fought ennui by doing whatever they could to alter their daily routine.”</i>
ephemeral	short-lived; transitory <i>“Since current fashion trends are ephemeral, I select more classic styles.”</i>
epistemology	the study or theory of the origin, nature, methods, and limits of knowledge <i>“According to Kant’s epistemology, all knowledge is shaped by pre-existing categories in the human mind.”</i>
eponym	a real or mythical person from whose name the name of a nation, institution, etc., is derived <i>“Romulus is the eponym for the city of Rome.”</i>
equanimity	the quality of remaining calm and undisturbed <i>“During the stock market crash of 1929, few people maintained their equanimity.”</i>

equilibrist	performer who does tricks of balancing <i>“The equilibrist on the tightrope high above us held us enthralled.”</i>
equipoise	state of balance or equilibrium <i>“The nuclear arms race has produced a perilous equipoise in Soviet-American relations.”</i>
equipollent	equal in power, effectiveness or significance <i>“The weights had to be equipollent on the scales.”</i>
escritoire	a writing desk or table <i>“The escritoire in the museum was very old and well preserved.”</i>
espionage	the act of spying <i>“James Bond’s films showed the glamorous side of espionage.”</i>
etiolate	to blanch or bleach by depriving of sunlight <i>“The blockage of light by the newly erected building next door caused Mary’s geraniums to etiolate.”</i>
euphemism	use of a word considered less distasteful even though less direct <i>“Instead of referring to the body as a corpse, they used the euphemism, ‘remains’.”</i>
euphony	the quality of having a pleasant sound <i>“Oscar Hammerstein is noted for his graceful euphony.”</i>
exigency	a situation calling for immediate action or attention <i>“The gasoline shortage was the exigency that drove the Europeans to manufacture small cars.”</i>
expunge	blot out or strike out <i>“The conspirators could expunge the traitor’s name from their membership records as soon as he left the room.”</i>
extrapolate	to arrive at conclusions or results by hypothesizing from known facts or observations <i>“From odd comments in the office, he was able to extrapolate the onset of a major power struggle.”</i>
exuviae	castoff coverings of animals <i>“The students studying the exuviae of the snake found it fragile and almost transparent.”</i>
facetiae	witty sayings <i>“Woody Allen’s facetiae are happy combinations of slapstick comedy and literary satire.”</i>

facultative	left to one's option or choice; optional <i>Royalty regarded most of the laws as facultative.</i>
fanfaronade	empty boasting; bluster <i>"Once the fight began, the heavyweight contender's prediction of a quick victory was exposed as the usual fanfaronade."</i>
farrago	a confused mixture; jumbles; hodgepodge <i>"The new play was an agreeable farrago of ballet, song, and poetry."</i>
fasciate	marked by broad colored bands <i>"The raccoon is easily spotted by its mask-like markings and black fasciate."</i>
firkin	a small wooden tub for butter, lard, etc. <i>"The shopkeeper scraped up the last of the farmer's cheese from the firkin."</i>
flageolet	small fipple flute, similar to a recorder <i>"The musical instrument, the flageolet, is not a popular one today."</i>
flexuous	winding or weaving <i>"A flexuous goat path led down the steep cliff."</i>
footpad	a highway robber or hold-up man who travels on foot <i>"A footpad crept from the bushes to attack the unsuspecting stroller."</i>
fremitus	a vibration esp. one felt in a palpitation of the chest <i>"The bass' low C triggered a fremitus that buckled his ribs."</i>
fribble	to waste time; trifle <i>"He seemed destined to fribble away a fortune on hare-brained schemes."</i>
fructiferous	producing fruit; fruit bearing <i>"We were pleased that the new property we purchased has several fructiferous trees growing on it."</i>
fumarole	a vent in a volcanic area, from which smoke and gases arise <i>"Near the crater's edge, the scientist came upon a small, steaming fumarole."</i>
funambulist	a tightrope walker <i>"The crowd gasped as the funambulist walked a wire stretched between two skyscrapers."</i>

fusillade	an outburst of gunfire; a vigorous outburst especially of criticism <i>"The administration was unprepared for the fusillade that greeted the announcement of its latest tax hike."</i>
fustigate	to beat with a stick; cudgel <i>"Each spring, it was her practice to fustigate her carpets."</i>
gadfly	a person who annoys others or rouses them from complacency <i>"The gadfly pestered Hollywood producers to buy his documentary."</i>
galimatias	meaningless talk; gibberish <i>"A baby's galimatias is understood only by the mother."</i>
gasconade	boastful or blustering talk <i>"The gasconade of the athlete stopped with his defeat."</i>
gerrymander	to divide so as to give one political party a majority in as many districts as possible <i>"The city boss engineered a gerrymander that caught the conservative suburban vote."</i>
gibbous	designating the moon or a planet in that phase in which more than half, but not all, of the disk is illuminated <i>"The moon turned gibbous and lost the brilliance of its full phase."</i>
gimcrack	showy, but cheap and useless <i>"a gimcrack was substituted for the Tricia diamond."</i>
girandole	revolving cluster of fireworks, water jet; branched candleholder <i>"The Fourth of July girandole lasted about ten minutes."</i>
gratuitous	given or received without charge or payment; free <i>"I reject offers of so-called gratuitous merchandise, as some kind of later payment is often expected."</i>
gregarious	living in herds or flocks <i>"Baboons are gregarious animals, seldom found in isolation."</i>
grisette	a French working girl <i>"An American tourist tried to address the shy grisette in French."</i>
grosgrain	closely woven silk or rayon fabric used for ribbons, trimming <i>"The blue of the grosgrain ribbons on her bonnet matched her eyes in color."</i>

groundling	a person lacking critical ability and taste <i>“The groundling crowded into the Globe Theatre to guffaw at the slapstick in Shakespear’s plays.”</i>
guerrilla	member of small defensive force of irregular soldiers <i>“He volunteered to be a guerrilla and take part in the surprise raids behind enemy lines.”</i>
gustation	the act of tasting; the sense of taste <i>“The gustation of thirty cakes was an alarming prospect to the judges of the cooking contest.”</i>
habiliments	trappings, gear; the dress characteristic of an occupation or occasion <i>“To this day, the Swiss Guards of the Vatican are attired in the colorful Renaissance habiliments fashioned by Michelangelo.”</i>
habitually	frequently; often used; customarily; continually <i>“The president habitually worked until a very late hour.”</i>
hagiology	literature dealing with venerated persons; a list of venerated figures <i>“The librarian directed me to a hagiology as a reference for my paper on the lives of saints.”</i>
harangue	long, blustery, noisy, scolding; tirade <i>The bosun began to harangue the slow-moving stevedores.”</i>
heft	to try to determine the weight of by lifting <i>“The porter began to heft each of the bags looking for the lightest.”</i>
heinous	outrageously wicked or evil; abominable <i>“Everyone was appalled at the heinous crime.”</i>
heteronym	word with same spelling but different in meaning and pronunciation <i>“Some English words are especially hard to learn, because a heteronym will not always have the same meaning.”</i>
hibernaculum	a structure in which a dormant animal passes the winter <i>“The bear retreated to his hibernaculum in a North Woods cave.”</i>
hierarchy	a group of persons or things arranged in order of rank, grade, class, etc. <i>“The corporation has a top-heavy hierarchy, with more vice-presidents than line workers.”</i>
hieroglyphical	picture or symbol representing word, syllable or sound used by ancient people instead of an alphabet of letters; picture writing <i>“The ancient Egyptians’ hieroglyphical pictures are continuing to be found and translated.”</i>

hoary	white, gray, or grayish white <i>"In his final years, Robert Frost was the perfect image of a hoary old poet."</i>
homiletics	the branch of theology dealing with the writing and preaching of sermons <i>"His inspired and instructive manner of communicating helped him excel at homiletics."</i>
homogenize	make more uniform by breaking down and blending; to process milk so that fat particles are finely blended and the cream does not separate <i>"Before they began to homogenize milk, our quarts of it, left by the milkman, used to freeze, and the cream would be pushed up out of the bottle."</i>
homunculus	a little man; a dwarf; manikin <i>"We talked with the homunculus in the supermarket."</i>
hors d'oeuvre	an appetizer, served usually at the beginning of a meal <i>"Our favorite hors d'oeuvre was the cheese."</i>
hummock	a low, rounded hill <i>"The manor on the hummock commanded a fine view."</i>
hypaethral	open to the sky; roofless <i>"The new stadium was still hypaethral, but a roof was planned for later."</i>
hypnagogic	of, relating to, or associated with the drowsiness preceding sleep <i>"The professor's rambling lecture had the whole class nodding and yawning in a hypnagogic lull."</i>
hypotenuse	the side of a right angled triangle opposite the right angle <i>"Our property line extended along the hypotenuse of the triangle."</i>
iconoclast	a person who attacks or ridicules traditional or venerated institutions or ideas regarded by him as erroneous or based on superstition <i>"She was an iconoclast for her rebellious ideas."</i>
idyllic	pleasing and simple; pastoral or picturesque <i>"We spent an idyllic vacation in the country."</i>
illation	inference; the conclusion drawn <i>"Inexperienced writers sometimes use 'therefore' to point out an obvious illation."</i>

imbricate	overlapping evenly, as tiles or fish scales <i>"The imbricate pattern of the large woman's dress made her look like a house."</i>
imbroglio	involved and confusing situation; confused misunderstanding <i>"Things were so totally mixed up it became an imbroglio."</i>
imbrute	to make or become brutal <i>"Years of unaccustomed drudgery can imbrute a once fine mind."</i>
immutable	never changing or varying; unchangeable <i>"We could set our clocks by his immutable daily walking schedule."</i>
impecunious	having no money; penniless; poor <i>"In this impecunious state, he was forced to seek help from his family."</i>
imperceptible	not plain or distinct to the eye or mind; not easily seen <i>"The scar on her face had healed so well it was almost imperceptible."</i>
impressionable	capable of being influenced intellectually, emotionally; sensitive <i>"His strong influence would affect her impressionable mind."</i>
inappropriate	not suitable; not proper or fitting <i>"The dinner was not formal so the ball gown was inappropriate for the occasion."</i>
inchoate	just begun; in the early stages; not completely formed <i>"The proposed city ordinance was inchoate, therefore not in effect."</i>
incoherent	lacking cohesion; disjointed; rambling <i>"During her attack of fever, she became incoherent and rambling in her speech."</i>
incommensurate	without a common standard of comparison <i>"A college education may cost a great deal, but it is incommensurate in personal value."</i>
inconspicuous	attracting little attention <i>"The spy attempted to enter the room in an inconspicuous manner."</i>
incorruptible	morally sound; upright; honest <i>"The priest was very well liked and certainly incorruptible."</i>
indigenous	existing, growing or produced naturally in a region or country; inborn <i>"The cactus plant is indigenous to the desert areas of California."</i>

indispensable	absolutely necessary; required <i>“For his studies, the dictionary became almost indispensable.”</i>
individually	one at a time; separately; singly; distinctively <i>“They worked well in groups, but were individually characteristic.”</i>
inexplicable	cannot be explained, understood or accounted for <i>“We tried to discover the reason for his inexplicable terror of the dark.”</i>
infrastructure	a substructure of underlying foundation <i>“The system of economic production is the infrastructure on which a society is built.”</i>
ingratiate	to make acceptable, esp. to seek favor or good graces <i>“Bringing apples to the teacher may not ingratiate you with her.”</i>
innuendo	an indirect remark, gesture, or reference, usually implying something derogatory <i>“He has been criticizing me through innuendo, which I didn’t realize until later.”</i>
insectivore	generally small mammals, mainly active at night, that feed on insects <i>“Moles, shrews, hedgehogs are some of the insectivore order.”</i>
inspissate	to thicken, as by evaporation <i>“Kathy’s chili began to inspissate after several hours of simmering.”</i>
intaglio	a design or figure carved, incised, or engraved into a hard material so that it is below the surface <i>“The ring, set with an ornate intaglio, doubles as a seal.”</i>
intelligence	ability to acquire and retain knowledge; reasoning ability <i>“The intelligence quotient is the mental age (as shown by intelligence tests) multiplied by 100 and divided by the chronological age.”</i>
interlard	to intersperse <i>“The President will interlard his address to the nation with quips and smiles.”</i>
interregnum	interval between two successive reigns; period without the usual ruler <i>“Queen Anne of England had no heirs and died without naming her successor, so there was a short interregnum before King James was crowned.”</i>
interrogatory	expressing or implying a question; set of questions <i>“The interview included a long interrogatory section.”</i>

intumesce	to swell, bubble up, as with heat <i>“The tar used along the pavements for repair will intumesce with the heat of the sun.”</i>
inveigh	to make a violent verbal attack; talk or write bitterly against <i>“At the City Council meeting, one man began to inveigh all his thoughts against the planning that changed the zoning of his property.”</i>
irenic	promoting peace; peaceful <i>“Despite the king’s irenic efforts, the treaty went unsigned.”</i>
iridescence	a play of lustrous, changing colors <i>“Sunlight turned the oil-slick road into a streak of iridescence.”</i>
irreconcilable	that cannot be brought into agreement; incompatible; conflicting <i>“Both persons refused to compromise their irreconcilable differences.”</i>
irremissible	cannot be excused or pardoned; cannot be shirked <i>“His was an irremissible crime, and we expected him to receive a very long sentence of punishment.”</i>
isoseismal	of equal intensity of earthquake shock; connecting or showing points of such intensity <i>“He had a map of the Earth’s surface showing the isoseismal lines where an earthquake might be expected.”</i>
jai alai	a game like handball, popular in Latin America <i>“Jai alai is played with a curved basket fastened to the arm for catching the ball and hurling it against the wall.”</i>
jambalaya	a Creole stew made of rice and shrimp, oysters, crabs, ham, chicken, etc., with spices and, often, vegetables <i>“The Creole chef served the jambalaya every Friday.”</i>
jaundice	a bitter or prejudiced state of mind caused by jealousy, envy, etc. <i>“After years as a cook, he felt jaundice toward restaurant chefs.”</i>
jeopardy	great danger; peril; exposure to conviction <i>“A person on trial is in jeopardy of conviction and punishment.”</i>
jetsam	that part of cargo thrown overboard to lighten a ship in danger <i>“The thick jetsam of cargo was powerful proof of the frantic crew’s efforts to lighten the sinking ship.”</i>
jodhpurs	riding breeches; boots high enough to cover the ankle <i>“His jodhpurs were made loose and full above the knees.”</i>

juxtaposition	side by side; close together <i>“The diamond and the sapphire lay in juxtaposition on the velvet covered tray.”</i>
kaleidoscope	anything that constantly changes, as in color and pattern <i>“The scenery, through the rain-streaked train window, becomes a kaleidoscope of color.”</i>
kedge	to move “a ship” along by hauling on a rope fastened to an anchor dropped at some distance <i>“The longboat rowed out with the cable to kedge the yacht out of the calm.”</i>
keen	to lament or wail for the dead <i>“The widow felt it was her duty to keen over the corpse all night.”</i>
kerf	the cut or channel made by a saw <i>“The final kerf caused the plank to snap in the middle.”</i>
kinesiology	study of the principles of mechanics and anatomy in relation to human movement <i>“Her talk on the kinesiology of African dance was highlighted by films of tribal ceremonies.”</i>
knout	leather whip used for flogging, esp. in Russia <i>“Criminals in Russia were flogged with a knout.”</i>
labile	liable to change; unstable <i>“Oxygen is a highly labile gas that readily forms compounds with other elements.”</i>
labyrinth	hard to follow passages; maze; complicated arrangement <i>“A labyrinth of mirrors was fun but scary.”</i>
lachrymator	a substance that irritates the eyes and produces tears <i>“The SWAT team used tear gas as a lachrymator to force the men out.”</i>
lamentation	the act of lamenting; outward expression of grief <i>“The Indian made a lamentation as he was forced to leave his land.”</i>
lanate	having a woolly or hairy covering or appearance <i>“He wore a tightly curled, lanate beard.”</i>
laryngitis	inflammation of the larynx <i>“His temporary loss of voice was caused by laryngitis.”</i>

latifundium	large landed estate <i>“He owned a latifundium somewhere in Latin America which was worked by the natives under an overseer.”</i>
legalese	conventional language of legal forms, documents, etc. <i>“The special vocabulary or legalese is often thought of as incomprehensible to the layman.”</i>
leguminous	of the family of plants bearing legumes or pods <i>“Peas and beans belong to the leguminous family.”</i>
lenity	the quality or condition of being lenient; mildness <i>“The lenity of his boss’s reprimand surprised him.”</i>
leprechaun	Irish folklore fairy in the form of a little old man <i>“The story went that if you could catch a leprechaun, he could show you a buried crock of gold.”</i>
lethargic	dull or sleepy; sluggish, or lacking energy <i>“His lethargic feeling was caused by fatigue and overeating.”</i>
linguistics	science of language; study of the structure, etc. of languages <i>“Linguistics are usually divided into descriptive, historical, comparative and geographical.”</i>
litigious	quarrelsome <i>“His litigious nature involved him in five lawsuits at the same time.”</i>
looby	a big, clumsy fellow, lout <i>“He acted like a regular looby, spilling his coffee and breaking the cup.”</i>
loquacious	very talkative; fond of talking <i>“The two students were both loquacious, so we had to assign one of them to a different seat.”</i>
lotic	designating, of, or living in flowing water <i>“The slick hair of an otter is typical of lotic creatures.”</i>
lovelock	a lock of hair lying apart from the rest of the hair <i>“The role called for the actress to wear a lovelock at her temple.”</i>
lucubration	laborious work, study or writing; learned and elaborated work <i>“His literary composition was a lucubration chiefly written late at night.”</i>

macabre	grim and horrible <i>"During the famine, the people faced a macabre death."</i>
magnanimity	quality of being high of mind, rising above pettiness <i>"The Sister was continuously striving for magnanimity."</i>
magniloquent	boastful or bombastic <i>"Joe McCarthy's magniloquent delivery could not hide the absurdity of his accusations."</i>
mahlstick	long light stick used by painters <i>"Using the mahlstick to rest and steady his hand, the artist was able to work longer."</i>
maladroitly	awkwardly; clumsily; badly handled <i>"She came to the rescue with a remedy for the situation which she could see was being maladroitly handled."</i>
malapropos	at an awkward or improper time or place; inopportune <i>"His malapropos manner in school caused many problems."</i>
maneuverable	controlled or planned strategy; can be moved by skilled or shrewd plan <i>"The specific aircraft strategy was maneuverable with prearranged signals."</i>
mannequin	woman or man used for modeling clothing; model of a human <i>"The window dresser was busy dressing the mannequin in the store window."</i>
mansuetude	gentleness, tameness <i>"Ghandhi's unflagging mansuetude turned nonviolence into an effective political tool."</i>
manumission	liberation; emancipation <i>"After Harriet Tubman's manumission, she helped runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad."</i>
marinara	tomato sauce, seasoned with garlic and spices <i>"The waitress served us some marinara to eat with our pasta."</i>
marionette	puppet; little jointed doll moved by strings or wires <i>"On a miniature stage the puppeteer manipulated the marionette through a short ballet scene."</i>
marquee	roof-like structure or awning over an entrance <i>"The marquee over the entrance to the theater helped protect us from the rain as we waited for our car to be brought to us."</i>

marsupial	mammal having a pouch in which newborn young are carried and nourished <i>“The kangaroo, opossum, wombat and bandicoot are of the marsupial family.”</i>
masquerade	ball or party where one wears fancy costumes and masks; disguise <i>“The masquerade was a popular form of party during the 16th and 17th centuries among the aristocracy in England.”</i>
matronymic	derived from the name of the mother or a female ancestor <i>“From way back there had always been a ‘Rebecca’ in the family, so the newborn child was christened ‘Rebecca’, a matronymic name.”</i>
matutinal	of or in the morning; early <i>“Watching the sun come up was part of the reason for his preference of a matutinal walk.”</i>
maw	anything thought of as consuming, devouring, etc., without end <i>“Stuffing money into the military maw does not guarantee an effective army.”</i>
maximalist	one who prefers direct or revolutionary action to achieve a goal <i>“A maximalist does not always consider the consequences of revolution.”</i>
mayonnaise	creamy salad dressing made of egg yolks, oil, lemon juice, and seasonings <i>“Mayonnaise is sometimes made with vinegar instead of lemon juice.”</i>
meander	an aimless wandering <i>“Their conversation tended to meander through a variety of topics.”</i>
medallion	large medal; a relief carving resembling a medal; architectural decoration <i>“She wore the medallion on a gold chain around her neck.”</i>
medieval	characteristic of the Middle Ages; suggestive of <i>“He was a devoted student of medieval customs, beliefs and history.”</i>
meerschaum	soft, white, heat-resisting clay-like mineral <i>“His favorite pipe was of meerschaum.”</i>
megalopolis	extensive, heavily populated area, including any number of cities <i>“Los Angeles, with a population of about three million, is the largest city in the megalopolis.”</i>

megillah	long or involved explanation or story <i>“The megillah, he began to tell us, was a ‘shaggy-dog’ story which we became bored with before he was half finished.”</i>
meliorate	to make or become better <i>“Their efforts to meliorate the conditions of the homeless were successful.”</i>
memento mori	any reminder of death <i>“Advertising from funeral homes is memento mori and is not welcome in some homes.”</i>
mendacious	not truthful; lying or false <i>“We were suspicious of some of the information he gave us because we knew he could be mendacious.”</i>
mensuration	the act, process, or art of measuring <i>“Mensuration is the branch of mathematics dealing with the determination of length, area or volume.”</i>
Mercurochrome	mild antiseptic and germicide <i>“We always used Mercurochrome for small cuts and scratches.”</i>
meretricious	vulgar; enticing <i>“San Francisco’s Broadway section of entertainment is often considered a meretricious place.”</i>
messuage	a dwelling/house with its outbuildings and adjacent land <i>“In Law, a messuage is a dwelling/house with its outbuildings and adjacent land.”</i>
metalliferous	containing, yielding or producing metal or ore <i>“He studies metallography since his was the metalliferous business.”</i>
methodical	orderly; systematic <i>“She kept very methodical filing records.”</i>
methoxychlor	insecticide used against flies and mosquitoes <i>“The mosquitoes were especially bad at night, and we were glad to find we had methoxychlor in spray bottles in our supplies.”</i>
mettlesome	spirited; ardent; brave, etc. <i>“Teddy Roosevelt had the mettlesome character needed in a reform movement.”</i>

microfiche	small sheet of microfilm on which a number of pages of microcopy can be recorded <i>“Lloyds of London kept records of casualties on a microfiche.”</i>
mignonette	annual plant bearing spikes of small greenish white or reddish flowers <i>“We always had borders of mignonette in our flower garden.”</i>
milch	kept for milking <i>“The milch cow was very productive.”</i>
millennium	any period of 1000 years; of great happiness, peace or prosperity <i>“The looked-for millennium is the so-called Golden Age.”</i>
mimetic	of or characterized by imitation <i>“The child’s mimetic action of the care of her doll is that of a mother with her child.”</i>
miscellaneous	various; mixed; many sided <i>“The drawer contained a miscellaneous collection of odds and ends.”</i>
mischievous	prankish; teasing; full of tricks <i>“The mischievous child was hiding in the closet.”</i>
misogamy	hatred of marriage <i>“The strong feeling of misogamy kept him a happy bachelor for thirty years.”</i>
moil	confusion; turmoil <i>“Immigrants once endured the moil of sweatshops for a few dollars a month.”</i>
moiré	a fabric, esp. silk, rayon, or acetate, having a watered or wavy pattern effect (of silks and other fabrics; presenting a watery effect) <i>“Her white moiré cape cascaded about her like a waterfall.”</i>
mollify	pacify; appease <i>“Would a billion dollar contract finally mollify their star quarterback?”</i>
monosyllabic	having only one syllable; to seem terse; uncommunicative <i>“He seemed dazed, and his answers to questions were monosyllabic.”</i>
moquette	carpet or upholstery fabric with a thick, soft, napped surface <i>“The carpet moquette was warm in color and comfortable to walk on.”</i>

morphology	form and structure of animals and plants; of physical geography “ <i>Linguistic morphology deals with the internal structure and forms of words.</i> ”
mozzarella	soft, white Italian cheese “ <i>Mozzarella cheese is incorporated in many recipes and has a mild flavor.</i> ”
muliebrity	womanliness; womanhood; femininity “ <i>The small girl was already exhibiting the qualities characteristic of muliebrity.</i> ”
multifarious	numerous and varied; manifold “ <i>The conglomerate’s multifarious divisions employ thousands.</i> ”
multitudinous	very numerous; many; manifold; crowded “ <i>The multitudinous group filled the small auditorium to capacity.</i> ”
munificent	very generous in giving; lavish “ <i>The company was commended for its munificent attitude toward employees.</i> ”
myriad	a great number of persons or things “ <i>The defense raised a myriad of objections during the prosecutor’s examination.</i> ”
mythopoeia	the making of myths “ <i>The events of Washington’s lifetime give us a rich base for mythopoeia.</i> ”
nacreous	iridescent; lustrous “ <i>The Rolls-Royce was painted a rich nacreous gray.</i> ”
nankeen	buff-colored, durable cotton cloth “ <i>The farmwomen looked like sunflowers in their nankeen bonnets.</i> ”
natatorial	of, characterized by, or adapted for swimming “ <i>The Australian crawl was her only natatorial skill.</i> ”
natatorium	an indoor swimming pool “ <i>More like a country club than a home, the Vandenburg mansion features a glassed-in putting green, a natatorium, and two indoor tennis courts.</i> ”
nebulous	unclear; vague; indefinite “ <i>Only nebulous differences separated the two parties.</i> ”

necessarily	unavoidably; inevitably; mandatory <i>“The judging of the parade entries was necessarily eminent within a few minutes.”</i>
necropolis	a cemetery, esp. a large one; a historic or prehistoric burial ground <i>“Somewhere, in an automotive necropolis, lies the crumpled body of my beloved VW.”</i>
negus	a beverage of hot water, wine, and juice, sweetened and spiced <i>“On cold nights, they nursed steaming cups of negus by the fire.”</i>
neologism	a new word or a new meaning for an established word <i>“Each neologism expands our vocabulary.”</i>
nepotism	favoritism shown relatives <i>“The practice of nepotism flourished in Boss Tweed’s New York where jobs went from father to son.”</i>
nescient	lacking knowledge; ignorant <i>“In religious matters, Voltaire cheerfully proclaimed to be nescient.”</i>
neurasthenia	a type of neurosis, usually the result of emotional conflicts, characterized by irritability, fatigue, weakness, anxiety, and often localized pains or distress without apparent physical causes <i>“The nagging pains of neurasthenia kept him out of the office for weeks.”</i>
nexus	a connection, tie or link between individuals of a group; members of a series, etc. <i>“Show people build their lives around the L.A.-New York nexus.”</i>
nickeliferous	containing nickel <i>“The ore brought up from the mine was nickeliferous.”</i>
nickelodeon	player piano or early-type jukebox, operated by a nickel in a slot <i>“We were really interested in the nickelodeon displayed in the museum.”</i>
nihilism	the general rejection of customary beliefs in morality, religion, etc. <i>“Many see in nuclear weapons a terrifying nihilism.”</i>
niveous	snowy; snowlike <i>“We like the cold, brisk, niveous weather.”</i>
noctambulism	walking in one’s sleep <i>“He was a victim of noctambulism but so far had not come to any harm from walking in his sleep.”</i>

nonchalant	showing cool lack of concern <i>“In spite of the fire drill, the class was very nonchalant.”</i>
nonplus	a condition of perplexity in which one is unable to go, speak, or act further <i>“The union’s refusal to negotiate could nonplus the opposition.”</i>
noncooperationist	person failing cooperation with government or groups, organizations <i>“Mohandas Gandhi was a noncooperationist who, as a form of protest against the British rule in India, refused to pay taxes.”</i>
nostrum	a pet scheme for solving some social or political problem; panacea <i>“Liberals condemned the President’s proposed tax cut as an irresponsible nostrum.”</i>
nubbin	anything small or undeveloped <i>“A nubbin of coal was found in his stocking.”</i>
obcordate	heart-shaped, with the attachment at the pointed end, as a leaf <i>“It is said that the first valentines were messages penned on obcordate leaves by the imprisoned St. Valentine.”</i>
obeisance	homage; deference <i>“The famous paid obeisance to Somerset Maugham by flocking to Villa Mauresque.”</i>
obfuscate	cloud over; obscure; unclear <i>“When the darkness began, it was only a small area that began to obfuscate on the near horizon.”</i>
objurgate	to chide; to rebuke; to upbraid sharply <i>“The judge’s tirade to objurgate the attorney was suffered in silence.”</i>
obsequious	meanly or servilely attentive; overly compliant <i>“General Smith’s obsequious staff is good for nothing but fawning and groveling on command.”</i>
occasionally	now and then; sometimes <i>“Occasionally the wind would come up, fill the sail, and we would skip merrily along at a fast speed.”</i>
ochlocracy	government by the mob; mob rule <i>“An ochlocracy is only popular with the mob.”</i>
offal	waste parts; esp. the entrails, etc., of a butchered animal <i>“The offal is used by meat processors for dog food.”</i>

olfactory	of the sense of smell <i>“Civilized life has blunted the keen olfactory facilities man once needed to stalk his prey.”</i>
oligochaete	class of segmented worms lacking a definite head and few body bristles <i>“The earthworm, an oligochaete, is found chiefly in moist soil and fresh water.”</i>
oligopsony	control of the purchase of a commodity or service in a given market by a small number of buyers <i>“The disastrous coffee crop produced a high-priced oligopsony.”</i>
olivaceous	of, or like the olive; olive green <i>“The olivaceous color of the carpet did not really appeal to me.”</i>
ombudsman	a public official appointed to investigate citizens’ complaints against local or national governmental agencies that may be infringing on the rights of individuals <i>“The ombudsman uncovered evidence of widespread bribery at City Hall.”</i>
omnivorous	eating any sort of food; indiscriminate, as with the intellect <i>“She was an omnivorous reader.”</i>
oneiric	of or having to do with dreams <i>“Dali’s surrealist canvases are known for their evocative oneiric quality.”</i>
oneiromancy	practice of claiming to tell the future by interpreting dreams <i>“He was fascinated by the study of oneiromancy.”</i>
ophiology	branch of zoology dealing with snakes <i>“I had never liked snakes, so my class in ophiology was almost hated.”</i>
opprobrious	abusive; disrespectful; disgraceful <i>“His opprobrious conduct at the picnic led to another row with his guardian.”</i>
oppugn	to call in question <i>“The strategy was to oppugn all arguments for a new school system.”</i>
opuscule	a small or petty work <i>“An obscure opuscule came to light as I did my research.”</i>
oriflamme	any symbol of courage or devotion <i>“The demonstrators followed a banner bearing a peace symbol, the oriflamme of the sixties.”</i>

origami	the art of folding paper to form flowers, animal figures, etc. <i>“Origami is a traditional art of the Japanese.”</i>
orogeny	the formation of mountains through structural disturbance of the earth’s crust <i>“The Mesozoic era, called the age of orogeny, spawned the Rockies.”</i>
oscitancy	drowsiness, dullness, apathy, etc. <i>“The lecturer stared out at row upon row of students with oscitancy.”</i>
osmosis	an apparently effortless absorption of ideas, feelings, attitudes, etc., as if by biological osmosis <i>“The lazy student hoped to learn by osmosis.”</i>
ostentation	showy display, as of wealth, knowledge, etc.; pretentiousness <i>“The evident ostentation in some of the rooms was not in good taste.”</i>
paduasoy	rich, corded silk cloth <i>“The garments were beautifully tailored of the paduasoy material.”</i>
paginate	to number the pages of <i>“It was the clerk’s task to paginate the manuscript.”</i>
palatable	pleasant or acceptable to taste; acceptable to the mind <i>“The food served, though strange to us, was palatable to both taste and mind.”</i>
Paleolithic	early stone-age period during which man developed flint, stone and bone tools and lived on the land <i>“Paleolithic man included Heidelberg, Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon man.”</i>
palpate	to examine by touching, as for medical diagnosis <i>“Suspecting tuberculosis, the doctor began to palpate her patient’s back and chest.”</i>
paludal	of a marsh or marshes <i>“Mosquitoes breed most rapidly in paludal areas.”</i>
pamphlet	small, thin book of stapled or stitched paper, on topic of current interest <i>“The children distributed a pamphlet at each of the houses on the block.”</i>
panacea	supposed cure or remedy for all ills; cure-all <i>“The new drug was a panacea for many people.”</i>

panegyric	formal speech of praise; laudation; tribute <i>“The speaker made a panegyric presentation to the workers who had all helped in this year’s United Fund campaign.”</i>
panjandrum	a self-important, pompous official <i>“We can’t help but laugh when he marches through the office with his thumbs in his lapels, the proud panjandrum of all he surveys.”</i>
panoptic	including in one view everything within sight <i>“The mountaintop afforded a panoptic perch for the whole region.”</i>
paradigm	pattern; example; model <i>“The teacher wrote several examples on the board so we would have a paradigm to follow.”</i>
parallelogram	a plane figure with four sides, having the opposite sides parallel and equal <i>“A square is a parallelogram.”</i>
paralysis	any condition of helpless inactivity or of inability to act <i>“The winter storm closed the roads and left the townspeople in a state of paralysis.”</i>
parfleche	rawhide with hair removed by soaking in water and lye <i>“His warm, heavy robe was made by the Indians of parfleche.”</i>
parochial	restricted to a small area of scope; narrow; limited <i>“Frequently, the views of big-city dwellers can be just as parochial as those of people who live in small, rural towns.”</i>
parquetry	inlaid woodwork in geometric forms, usually of contrasting wood <i>“The parquetry floor was beautifully polished.”</i>
parturient	giving birth or about to give birth to young <i>“As the cat looked for a safe place, we sensed she was soon to be parturient.”</i>
patina	any thin coating or color change resulting from age <i>“Two hundred years have left a handsome patina on the Liberty Bell.”</i>
patriarchate	position, rank, jurisdiction, territory, etc. of the ruling patriarch <i>“The Bishop’s immediate patriarchate was the city of Rome.”</i>
pavonine	of or resembling a peacock; rainbow-like in color like a peacock’s tail <i>“The peahen does not have the iridescent pavonine beauty of the peacock.”</i>

peccadillo	minor or petty sin; fault <i>“The peccadillo she committed by forgetting to back out of the royal presence was forgiven.”</i>
peculate	to steal or misuse money or property entrusted to one’s care, esp. public funds; embezzle <i>“The committee existed only to peculate tax revenue.”</i>
peignoir	a woman’s loose, full dressing gown, like a negligee but shorter <i>“The peignoir was trimmed with lace and ribbons.”</i>
pendulous	hanging or bending downward <i>“The bulldog’s pendulous jowls flapped softly as he ran.”</i>
penetralia	the innermost parts, as of a temple <i>“The penetralia of corporate decision-making remained closed to him.”</i>
penury	extreme poverty, destitution <i>“The Depression reduced many families to penury.”</i>
peradventure	by chance <i>“They were sure of the outcome beyond peradventure.”</i>
percipient	capable of or characterized by perceptions; discerning <i>“As a keen observer, Mother is a percipient judge of other people’s character.”</i>
perfuse	to sprinkle, cover over, or permeate with, or as with a liquid <i>“Please perfuse the cloth with the red dye.”</i>
peripeteia	a sudden change of fortune or reversal of circumstances, as in a drama <i>“In ‘The Great Gatsby’, Myrtle’s accidental death is the peripeteia that signals the protagonist’s change of fortune.”</i>
periphrasis	use of many words where one or a few would do; circumlocution <i>“His flowery speech actually didn’t cover much ground but was a periphrasis and a waste of my time.”</i>
permutation	any radical alteration; total transformation <i>“Drinking produced an unwelcome permutation in Mike’s personality.”</i>
peroration	the concluding part of a speech, in which there is a summing up and emphatic recapitulation <i>“In his peroration, the defense attorney highlighted the evidence that supported acquittal.”</i>

perspicacious	having keen judgment or understanding <i>“The perspicacious child understood almost everything the adults said.”</i>
perspicuity	the quality or state of being clear to the understanding <i>“Most of the essays are vague and confused, but his is a little gem of perspicuity.”</i>
pertinacious	hold firmly to some purpose, belief, or action, often stubbornly or obstinately <i>“He remained a pertinacious socialist despite all their attempts to dissuade him.”</i>
petroglyph	a rock carving, esp. a prehistoric one <i>“A petroglyph showed how the cavemen hunted bison and deer.”</i>
pharmaceutical	of or by drugs or medicine <i>“Aspirin is probably one of the best-known pharmaceutical medicines.”</i>
phlegmatic	hard to rouse to action; sluggish; dull; apathetic <i>“He was phlegmatic and seemed to have no enthusiasm for the game.”</i>
phyletic	of or pertaining to a phylum or to an evolutionary line of descent <i>“Shockley’s theories about a phyletic basis to intelligence have yet to be proven.”</i>
phyllophagous	feeding on leaves <i>“Deer, caribou, reindeer and other ruminant animals can be called phyllophagous animals since leaves and greenery are their food source.”</i>
pianissimo	music very soft; a passage of music to be played softly <i>“The pianist played a pianissimo passage from his score.”</i>
piassava	stiff, elastic palm fiber used in making brooms, brushes <i>“Leopoldinia piassava is a palm from Brazil from which fiber to make brushes and brooms is obtained.”</i>
picaresque	designating or of sharp-witted vagabonds and their roguish adventures <i>“He viewed the narrative more as a picaresque romp than a serious treatment.”</i>
picayunish	smallness; trivial; petty <i>“Of little value now, the centavo, once like our American penny, worth 1/100 of the peso, is so picayunish as to be almost worthless.”</i>

piceous	of or like pitch <i>“The boat had been caulked with a black, piceous substance.”</i>
piebald	covered with patches or spots of two colors, esp. with white and black <i>“The piebald racehorse stood out from the rest of the field.”</i>
pinniped	having finlike feet or flippers; aquatic animal <i>“Seals, walruses, etc. are pinniped animals.”</i>
pizzicato	to pluck the strings of musical instruments instead of using the bow <i>“The direction to the musician to play a note or a passage of the score in a pizzicato manner means to pluck the strings.”</i>
plaintive	expressing sorrow or melancholy <i>“The plaintive melody of Kurt Weill’s ‘September Song’ was sung beautifully by John Houston.”</i>
plausibility	seemingly true; seemingly honest, trustworthy, often implying distrust <i>“We were suspicious of the plausibility of his story.”</i>
plenipotentiary	a person, esp. a diplomatic agent, given full authority to act as representative of a government <i>“The union has named me its plenipotentiary for the purpose of this bargaining session.”</i>
plenitudinous	abundant; full; stout; obese <i>“The warehouse was stocked with a plenitudinous supply of everything.”</i>
pleuston	small organisms floating on or near the surface of a body of water <i>“There was pleuston in the form of algae floating on the pond.”</i>
plexus	a complexly interconnected arrangement of parts; network <i>“The plexus of Mideast politics has baffled America since World War II.”</i>
pneumonectomy	the surgical removal of an entire lung <i>“His recovery from pneumonectomy was faster than expected.”</i>
poignant	sharp smell; sharply painful to the feelings; piercing; biting <i>“Her poignant wit was always sure to hurt the feelings of someone.”</i>
pontificate	to speak or act in a pompous or dogmatic way <i>“The professor could pontificate for hours on art.”</i>
postiche	a substitute; counterfeit <i>“The jeans were a cheap postiche of designer originals.”</i>

precatory	of, having the nature of, or expressing entreaty “ <i>Beggars raised precatory hands to the rich tourists.</i> ”
predation	the act of plundering or praying “ <i>Man survives by predation over the expanse of the entire planet.</i> ”
preemptive	action taken to stop other action beforehand; seized ahead of others “ <i>A settler on public land has the right to make a preemptive bid to buy the property ahead of anyone else.</i> ”
prehensile	adapted for seizing or grasping “ <i>The monkey’s long, prehensile tail wraps easily around branches.</i> ”
prerogative	a prior or exclusive right or privilege, esp. one peculiar to a rank, class, etc. “ <i>Seeing the chairman without an appointment was his prerogative.</i> ”
proboscis	elephant’s trunk or a long, tapering snout; person’s nose, esp. if large “ <i>The elephant’s proboscis is used to pick up its food and for sensing.</i> ”
prodigious	wonderful; amazing “ <i>The flight of the Voyager is a prodigious accomplishment.</i> ”
progressive	moving onward or forward; educational system stressing individualism “ <i>She was entered in a progressive school whose classes allowed students to move at their own pace.</i> ”
prolegomenon	speak beforehand; preliminary remark or essay “ <i>The prolegomenon by the chairman gave the audience some idea of what to expect of the lecture.</i> ”
proliferation	growing by multiplying new parts “ <i>The proliferation of the buds on the rosebush was truly amazing.</i> ”
propaedeutic	an elementary or introductory subject or study “ <i>In some areas a propaedeutic class in Beginning Algebra is offered.</i> ”
propinquity	nearness in time or place “ <i>Among their objections to the proposed site for a chemical plant is its propinquity to a housing development.</i> ”
propylaeum	an entrance; vestibule or portico “ <i>The propylaeum to the Acropolis is well known to architects.</i> ”
prosody	the science or art of versification “ <i>Her understanding of prosody was limited to the ode.</i> ”

protean	very changeable <i>“Lon Chaney’s protean face enabled him to assume almost any guise he chose.”</i>
psalmist	composer of sacred songs or poems <i>“King David is the psalmist to whom all or certain of the Psalms are variously attributed.”</i>
ptarmigan	northern or alpine grouse which undergo seasonal color changes <i>“The ptarmigan changes its color to blend in with the landscape.”</i>
pudency	modesty or prudishness <i>“New England pudency prevented her from milking the family cow.”</i>
pulchritude	physical beauty <i>“Many a starlet would prefer to succeed on the basis of talent rather than pulchritude.”</i>
pullulate	to sprout out <i>“After the rain, purple and white crocuses began to pullulate in the wild garden.”</i>
punchy	forceful; vigorous <i>“The punchy article demanded reform.”</i>
purulent	of, like, containing or discharging pus <i>“The nurse cleaned the purulent wound with great care.”</i>
pythonic	of or like an oracle; prophetic <i>“For fashion trends, Calvin Klein has seeming pythonic powers.”</i>
pyxis	a vase with a cover; small box or case; dry fruit whose top splits off like a lid <i>“The ancient Greeks and Romans used a pyxis to hold coins.”</i>
quaestor	an official in ancient Rome responsible for administration and finance <i>“The quaestor was the state treasurer in ancient Rome.”</i>
quandary	a state of uncertainty <i>“Choosing between two suitors left her in a delightful quandary.”</i>
quebracho	tropical tree of the cashew family in America <i>“The hard wood of the quebracho yields an extract used in tanning.”</i>
querulous	full of complaints; peevish <i>“The diners’ querulous comments ceased when their food arrived.”</i>

queue	a plait of hair worn hanging from the back of the head <i>"She wore her hair in a queue that reached to her waist."</i>
quiescent	quiet; still; inactive <i>"We languished in the quiescent summer air waiting for a breeze."</i>
quintessence	the pure concentrated essence of anything; the most perfect <i>"He thought she was the quintessence of loveliness in her wedding gown."</i>
quotidian	daily, recurring every day <i>"Occasionally she took a different route to work to vary her quotidian routine."</i>
raconteur	a person who is skilled at telling stories or anecdotes <i>"Bob's talent as a raconteur was helped by his knack for lying."</i>
rambunctious	wild, disorderly, boisterous, unruly, etc. <i>"With a substitute teacher, first-graders are even more rambunctious than usual."</i>
rapparee	plunderer or robber <i>"The rapparee gained entry into the house by an open window."</i>
rarefy	to make or become more refined, subtle, or lofty <i>"We tried to rarefy the conversation by discussing the Picasso exhibit."</i>
rebarbative	repellent, unattractive, forbidding, grim, etc. <i>"His rebarbative remarks finally provoked her."</i>
recalcitrant	hard to handle or deal with <i>"Even the most recalcitrant students came to respect the teacher's authority."</i>
recidivism	repeated relapse into crime <i>"Criminal recidivism rates are very high."</i>
reciprocity	mutual action or exchange; interchange of equal value <i>"In the two countries, a reciprocity of the reduction of tariffs would be of mutual advantage."</i>
recline	bending or curved downward <i>"The spider plant's long, slender recline leaves and shoots make it suitable for hanging containers."</i>
recrudescence	to break out again after lying latent or relatively inactive <i>"Political violence in Ireland began to recrudescence in 1971."</i>

regrettable	unfortunate; to be remorseful for <i>"It was a regrettable accident, but could not be undone."</i>
rejuvenescence	renewal of youthfulness <i>"Her happiness in her marriage was apparent to all who could see the rejuvenescence in her face."</i>
relevant	bearing upon the matter at hand; pertinent; to the point <i>"The term relevant implies a close relationship and importance to the matter under consideration."</i>
renaissance	a new birth; revival; great revival of art, literature and learning <i>"The renaissance in Europe in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries began in Italy spreading to other countries and marked the transition from medieval to modern."</i>
repetitious	something done or said over and over again; tiring; boring repeatedness <i>"The repetitious admonitions to 'be careful', 'come right home', and 'don't be late', seemed so unnecessary."</i>
repossession	taken back; retrieved; owned again <i>"He was glad to be in repossession of the small car which had been loaned to his friend for several months."</i>
requisition	a formal written order, request, or application, as for equipment, tools, etc. <i>"The teacher made a requisition for school supplies."</i>
resuscitate	to revive, esp. to come back to life or consciousness again <i>"The doctor tried to resuscitate the patient."</i>
reticule	a woman's small handbag, originally made of network and usually having a drawstring <i>"A Raymond Chandler heroine keeps lipstick, a pillbox, and a handgun in her reticule."</i>
rhapsody	a great delight; ecstasy <i>"She was in a rhapsody over her new dress."</i>
rhetor	a master or teacher of rhetoric; an orator <i>"The tongue-tied politician hired a rhetor to teach him to speak."</i>
rheumatism	painful condition of the joints and muscles <i>"Rheumatism is characterized by inflammation, pain, and swelling of the joints and muscles."</i>

riparian	of, adjacent to, or living on the bank of a river or other body of water <i>“The riparian land of the Nile delta is prized for farming because irrigation is no problem.”</i>
riposte	a sharp, swift response or retort <i>“Told of Coolidge’s death, Dorothy Parker’s reputed riposte was ‘How can you tell?’”</i>
risible	causing laughter <i>“After losing thirty pounds, he took on a risible appearance in his roomy suits.”</i>
roentgenize	to subject to the action of X-rays <i>“She had to be taken to the emergency room of the hospital so the injury to her ankle could be checked with a possibility of the necessity for them to roentgenize it.”</i>
roil	to stir up; agitate <i>“It was his habit to roil his subordinates.”</i>
roorback	a false or slanderous story devised for political effect <i>“The opposition launched an election eve roorback on the candidate’s personal finances.”</i>
roustabout	an unskilled or transient laborer, as on a ranch or in an oil field <i>“The burly roustabout ran to the gushing well.”</i>
rubefaction	redness of the skin <i>“A biting mustard plaster produced rubefaction on the patient’s chest.”</i>
rutilant	to have a reddish glow <i>“An autumn sunset transformed the skyscrapers into rutilant towers.”</i>
saccharin	sugar substitute; noncaloric sweetener <i>“Saccharin is a coal tar compound about 500 times sweeter than cane sugar.”</i>
sackcloth	coarse, rough cloth, originally made of goats’ hair, worn as in Biblical times and with ashes sprinkled on the head as a symbol of mourning or penitence <i>“After telling the lie, he felt like donning sackcloth.”</i>
sacrilegious	violation of something sacred; disrespectfulness of something religious <i>“To some, the opening of the tombs of Egyptian mummies seems sacrilegious.”</i>

sapid	having a taste, esp. a pleasing taste <i>“The disgruntled dieter was allowed to eat nothing more sapid than jello.”</i>
saponaceous	soapy or soaplike <i>“Glucosides found in soapwort, soapbark, etc., become saponaceous when dissolved in water or used as detergents.”</i>
sarcophagus	any stone coffin, esp. one on display, as in a monumental tomb <i>“We visited the famous sarcophagus.”</i>
sarsaparilla	dried roots of the Smilax lily family; extract used as flavor for a carbonated drink <i>“Sarsaparilla seemed to be the favorite soft drink in stories of the Old West.”</i>
satiety	the state of being satiated; surfeit <i>“They ate until their stomachs stretched with a pleasant satiety.”</i>
saturnine	having a melancholy or surly disposition, sarcastic <i>“After sleeping twenty years, Rip Van Winkle was saturnine.”</i>
scalawag	a scamp; rascal <i>Errol Flynn often played the role of an engaging scalawag whose heart beat true.”</i>
scaphoid	navicular (any of various boat-shaped bones) <i>“The outer bone of the first row of carpals in the wrist is a scaphoid one.”</i>
scarify	to criticize sharply <i>“After seeing the play, the critic plans to scarify the actors for their sloppy performances.”</i>
schismatic	tending to or guilty of causing a split in an organized society or church <i>“Martin Luther was the schismatic force who founded the Lutheran Church.”</i>
sconce	a bracket attached to a wall for holding a candle; candles, or the like <i>“There was a huge, wax-encrusted sconce on the wall of the castle’s great hall.”</i>
scrim	a light, sheer, loosely woven cotton or linen cloth, used for curtains, upholstery, linings, etc. <i>“Bold lighting silhouetted the actors against the scrim.”</i>

scullion	a servant doing the rough, dirty work in a kitchen <i>“The sweaty scullion basted the huge turkey.”</i>
seignior	a feudal lord’s estate. The power and authority of a feudal lord. <i>“His seignior extended beyond his castle walls.</i>
seismograph	instrument that records intensity and duration of earthquakes and tremors <i>“The seismograph is a great invention, but we are hoping for the invention that will give enough advance notice for evacuation before the quake.”</i>
semidiurnal	coming twice a day, as the tides <i>“The tide’s semidiurnal shifting constantly exposed the old shipwreck.”</i>
seminal	being an early and influential example <i>“Beethoven’s ‘Eroica’ proved to be a seminal work.”</i>
semiotics	a general theory of signs and symbols <i>“The candidates for governor were caught up in the semiotics of popularity polls.”</i>
sentient	of, having, or capable of feeling or perception <i>“Mammals are advanced sentient beings with complex nervous systems.”</i>
serried	crowded <i>“Like frightened birds, the student protestors were serried into close ranks.”</i>
sgraffito	incising the outer coating of slip or glaze to reveal different ground color on ceramics, murals, etc. to produce a design <i>“The effect of sgraffito on the ceramics we bought is really striking.”</i>
shenanigans	trickery; mischief <i>“Just before his birthday, Tom stops his shenanigans and becomes very good.”</i>
sidle	to move sideways <i>“The informer tried to sidle behind the conspirators to eavesdrop on their whispered conversation.”</i>
sinistrous	ill-omened; unlucky; disastrous; sinistral <i>“She avoided black cats and ladders for fear of sinistrous influences.”</i>
skirl	a shrill sound, as of a bagpipe <i>“The ghostly skirl of the pipes drifted over the moors.”</i>

slough	moral degradation <i>"Dismissal plunged him into a slough of depression."</i>
slumgullion	any inexpensive stew or hash <i>"He used last night's pot roast to make a slumgullion."</i>
snaffle	a bit, usually light and jointed, attached to a bridle and having no curb <i>"The obedient mare replied to the slightest pull on the snaffle."</i>
sociopath	a psychopathic personality whose behavior is aggressively antisocial <i>"A sociopath is rarely noticed until he or she explodes."</i>
solecism	a violation of the conventional usage, grammar, etc. <i>"'Between he and I' is an annoying solecism."</i>
somnambulism	sleepwalking <i>"The bungling bureaucrats operated as though in a state of somnambulism."</i>
sovereign	above all others; chief; greatest; ruler; royal; outstanding <i>"A sovereign state is independent of all others."</i>
specious	plausible, but not genuine <i>"Critics found his dazzling arguments specious."</i>
spelunker	a person who explores caves as a hobby <i>"The Mammoth Caves in Kentucky can offer a spelunker 144 miles of passageway to examine."</i>
spontaneous	acting with natural feeling, impulse; without remediation <i>"At the close of the program, the audience erupted in a spontaneous burst of applause."</i>
spoor	the track or trail of an animal, esp. of a wild animal hunted as game <i>"The hunter followed the bloody spoor to the wounded lion's lair."</i>
squamous	like, formed of, or covered with scales <i>"The squamous flesh of fish protects their inner parts."</i>
stertorous	characterized by a harsh snoring or grasping sound <i>"The next time my husband's stertorous breathing wakes me, I'll push him right out of the bed!"</i>
stickle	to have objections <i>"He is always ready to stickle over the fine points of etiquette."</i>

stipple	to paint, draw, engrave, or apply in small points or dots rather than in lines or solid areas <i>"Mary liked to stipple her canvases."</i>
stoat	a large European weasel, esp. in its brown summer coat <i>"The dense fur of the stoat has lost its popularity in the fashion world."</i>
stripling	passing into manhood <i>"A mere stripling, he was awkward but strong."</i>
suborn	to induce or instigate (another) to do something illegal <i>"The foreign spy tried to suborn the diplomat into betrayal."</i>
subterfuge	stragem; artifice <i>"Using a false name is a common subterfuge to dodge taxes."</i>
subterranean	beneath the earth's surface; underground <i>"It is necessary to see that there is no wood to earth contact in order to prevent subterranean termite damage to houses."</i>
superannuated	obsolete; old fashioned; outdated; old or worn out <i>"The headquarters would have to be moved soon from this large, superannuated building."</i>
supercilious	disdainful or contemptuous <i>"I could see by his supercilious manner that he considered us unworthy of his company."</i>
superfluity	a quantity or number beyond what is needed <i>"I considered her closetful of furs the worst kind of superfluity."</i>
surrogate	a deputy or substitute <i>"The captain played surrogate for the absent fathers of the men in his command."</i>
susceptibility	capacity for receiving impressions <i>"We carefully selected stories with the child's susceptibility in mind."</i>
susurrant	whispering, murmuring <i>"We sat on the beach and listened to the susurrant lapping of the waves."</i>
surveillance	supervision or inspection; watch kept over a person <i>"The detective arranged for a surveillance to be kept on the suspect."</i>

svelte	slender and graceful <i>"The beach was a composite of svelte bodies, languidly posed on chairs and towels."</i>
synchronous	happening at the same time <i>"Since both concerts were synchronous, it was hard to drive in the traffic around the auditoriums."</i>
syncopation	syncopated music, a syncopated rhythm, etc. <i>"Syncopation is very typical of New Orleans jazz."</i>
tactile	that can be perceived by the touch <i>"At age 40, he still got a tactile thrill from making mudpies."</i>
tangential	diverging or digressing <i>"The issue of cleaning subway cars is tangential to that of making them run."</i>
tantivy	a full gallop <i>"The horsemen rode tantivy through the English countryside."</i>
tarn	a small mountain lake <i>"Mountain goats lapped up the ice-cold waters of the tarn."</i>
tautology	needless repetition of an idea in a different word, phrase, or sentence <i>"The call for a 'renaissance of renewal' was the professor's favorite tautology."</i>
tawny	brownish-yellow; tan <i>"The Bermuda sun turned her skin tawny and freckled."</i>
tenebrous	shut off from light; dark; hard to understand; causing or marked by gloom <i>"His warning was delivered in a tenebrous tone that filled us with dread."</i>
tergiversate	to desert a cause, party, etc.; become a renegade; equivocate <i>"We were dismayed when our publicity chairman decided to tergiversate in the middle of the campaign."</i>
terpsichorean	having to do with dancing <i>"It was terpsichorean music, not just music to listen to."</i>
terraqueous	consisting of land and water <i>"From our plane we looked down on a beautiful terraqueous area."</i>

terrene	worldly; mundane <i>“Absorbed by his reflections on capital, Marx left the terrene frustrations of household finance to his long-suffering wife.”</i>
tessellated	laid in small square blocks; arranged in a mosaic pattern <i>“The entryway was a mosaic of tessellated ceramics in two colors.”</i>
testaceous	of, like or from shells; having a hard shell <i>“The waiter gave us small mallets to crack the testaceous crab.”</i>
thalassic	of the sea or ocean <i>“Earth was once a shallow thalassic mass slowly nurturing life.”</i>
timbre	the characteristic quality of sound that distinguishes one voice or musical instrument from another or one vowel sound from another <i>“Dvorak relied on the cello’s deep timbre for the melancholy in his music.”</i>
tincture	an alcoholic or water-alcoholic solution of a medicinal substance <i>“Laudanum, a tincture of opium, was widely used in nineteenth century homes.”</i>
titular	nominal <i>“Though he was Emperor, Hirohito was only the titular ruler of Japan.”</i>
topiary	designating or of the art of trimming and training shrubs or trees into unnatural, ornamental shapes <i>“The musician had topiary hedges that looked like giant notes.”</i>
tractable	easily managed; taught; or controlled <i>“The tractable child never posed problems for her mother.”</i>
trammel	to confine, restrain or shackle <i>“Fear can trammel mind and body.”</i>
trptych	set of three panels or pictures hinged so two side panels fold over the middle <i>“We walked up the aisle of the church to examine the alter piece which was a trptych.”</i>
trope	the use of a word in a figurative sense <i>“The sentence, ‘She gave him a look you could pour on a waffle’ is the exuberant kind of trope typical of Ring Lardner.”</i>
truckle	to be servile <i>“To get a raise, he had to truckle to his boss despite loss of pride.”</i>

tumid	swollen; bulging <i>"The tumid area around his mouth signaled a dental problem."</i>
ubiquitous	present or seeming to be everywhere at the same time; omnipresent <i>"I knew it was in my mind, but it seemed that everywhere I looked I saw his ubiquitous face."</i>
ululate	to wail or lament loudly <i>"It is natural for coyotes to ululate through the night."</i>
umbrageous	shady; easily offended <i>"The umbrageous pepper tree had a park bench under it."</i>
undulant	moving in or as in waves; undulating <i>"The undulant Blue Hills roll to meet the coast near Boston."</i>
usurious	practicing usury <i>"Usurious loan sharks prey upon people in financial desperation."</i>
vacillating	wavering in motion or opinion <i>"We were inclined to not pay much attention to her vacillating ideas."</i>
valedictory	farewell speech, esp. one delivered at graduation <i>"The president's valedictory speech pointed up the highlights of his term in office."</i>
velleity	a mere wish that does not lead to the slightest action <i>"The valet cheerfully ignored the velleity of his capricious master."</i>
velutinous	soft and velvety <i>"Thick moss turned the tree trunk into a velutinous couch."</i>
venatic	of or engaging in hunting <i>"An antler-lined wall revealed his venatic passion."</i>
verbiage	wordiness <i>"Cutting the verbiage left her with three pages of the original eight."</i>
verdure	green growing plants and trees <i>"After the long winter, the sheep feasted on the pasture's verdure."</i>
vernacular	commonly spoken by the people of a particular country or place <i>"The vernacular of the South is dotted with colorful metaphors."</i>
versatile	competent in many things; many sided; adaptable to many uses <i>"Playing the piano was one of his many versatile accomplishments."</i>

vicarious	shared in or experienced by imagined participation in another's experience <i>"When his son made the majors, the old bush-leaguer felt a vicarious thrill."</i>
viridescent	slightly green; greenish <i>"He's one of those helpless bachelors whose refrigerator holds only a few viridescent lumps of unknown origin."</i>
visualize	form a mental image <i>"I could visualize his astonishment when he opened the gift."</i>
vitreous	of, having the nature of, or like glass <i>"Some new windows are made of unbreakable vitreous plastic."</i>
vociferous	characterized by clamor or vehement outcry <i>"The vociferous protests of Liberals could not stop the passage of Proposition 13."</i>
vulnerary	used for healing wounds, as herbs or other remedies <i>"Bread mold derives its vulnerary properties from the presence of penicillin."</i>
wainscot	a wood lining or paneling on the walls of a room <i>"The wainscot in the den was designed in dark oak."</i>
weir	a fence, as of brushwood or stakes, built in a stream, channel, etc., for catching fish <i>"Caught by the weir, the brook trout wriggled in the sun."</i>
weird	strange; strikingly odd; fantastic; mysterious <i>"The weird cry of the loon can send chills up one's spine."</i>
wheedle	to influence or persuade a person by flattery; soothing words; coaxing, etc. <i>"The struggling secretary tried to wheedle a well-earned raise from her unappreciative boss."</i>
whelp	a young dog <i>"The whelp chewed a hole in my socks before I caught him."</i>
whimsically	oddly out of the ordinary; fanciful; freakish; unpredictable <i>"We were upset to find that although we were expected to stay overnight, he had whimsically decided we should repack the car and drive home."</i>

wormwood	a bitter, unpleasant, or mortifying experience <i>"The family feud left him with a taste of wormwood."</i>
wrought	elaborated; embellished; not rough or crude <i>"DeMille's intricately wrought movie epics were breathtaking but laborious."</i>
xerophilous	capable of thriving in a hot, dry climate <i>"The cactus is a xerophilous plant which grows in the desert."</i>
xyloid	of or like wood; woody <i>"The xyloid section of a plant gives the stem its structure."</i>
yeen	to bring forth (young); said of a sheep or goat <i>"The ewe waited until spring to yeen her last lamb."</i>
yttria	a heavy white powder, insoluble in water, used in electronics <i>"Yttria is used in making color television tubes."</i>
zabaglione	a frothy dessert made of eggs, sugar, and wine, typically Marsala, beaten together over boiled water <i>"The waiter tempted us with a delightful zabaglione."</i>
zucchetto	skull cap worn by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics <i>"The priest's zucchetto is black, the bishop's purple, the cardinal's red, and the pope's zucchetto is white."</i>