



**POWERSCORE®**  
TEST PREPARATION

**POWERSCORE GRE VOCABULARY:  
REPEAT OFFENDERS**

FROM THE POWERSCORE GRE VERBAL REASONING BIBLE

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# Top 700 Repeat Offenders

The following vocabulary list contains 700 of the most commonly-occurring GRE vocabulary words. Only study the words that are unfamiliar to you. Once you know a word, place a check mark next to it to avoid redundant studying.

- abdicate:** (*vb*) to give up, often in a formal manner  
*King Edward VIII abdicated the throne in order to marry Mrs. Wallis Simpson, a divorced American.*  
Word Forms: abdicable, abdicative, abdicator, abdication      Antonym Form: unabdicative
- aberrant:** (*adj*) unusual  
*My dog displayed aberrant behavior when he refused to greet me at the door or eat any of the treats I offered.*  
Word Forms: aberrance, aberrancy, aberrantly, aberrate, aberrational
- abeyance:** (*n*) temporary suspension  
*The council voted to place the decision in abeyance for a month while more research was conducted.*  
Word Forms: abeyant, abeyancy
- abjure:** (*vb*) to give up, often in a formal manner  
*King Edward VIII abjured the throne in order to marry Mrs. Wallis Simpson, a divorced American.*  
Word Forms: abjuratory, abjurer, abjuration      Antonym Forms: unabjuratory, unabjured, nonabjuratory
- abstemious:** (*adj*) sparing in consumption, especially of food and drink  
*Abby's emaciated figure was the result of her abstemious lifestyle; she never ate breakfast or lunch, and rarely ate dinner.*  
Word Forms: abstemiously, abstemiousness
- abstruse:** (*adj*) hard to understand  
*Mr. Abbot tried to teach us how to solve an abstruse math problem, but it was too complicated for us to understand.*  
Word Forms: abstrusely, abstruseness, abstrusity
- accretion:** (*n*) an increase  
*Akeem's gradual accretion of duties at work did not go unnoticed; he was given a raise for taking on the extra work.*  
Word Forms: accrete, accretive, accretionary      Antonym Forms: nonaccretion, nonaccretive
- acerbic:** (*adj*) sour; harsh  
*Sour Patch Kids candy tastes like acerbic gummy bears.*  
Word Forms: acerbically, acerbate, acerbity      Antonym Forms: unacerbic, unacerbically
- acidulous:** (*adj*) sour; sharp  
*Her acidulous criticism of my paper on Shakespeare was disappointing since I had invested many hours in research.*  
Word Forms: acidulent, acidulation      Related Words: subacidulous, acid
- acme:** (*n*) the highest point  
*The Roman Empire reached its acme of power around 11 AD, but a slow decline occurred over the next four centuries.*  
Word Forms: acmic, acmatic,
- acumen:** (*n*) good judgment  
*The judge was respected for his acumen when sentencing convicted defendants.*  
Word Forms: acuminous, acuminate, acumination      Antonym Form: unacuminous
- adroit:** (*adj*) highly skilled, especially with one's hands  
*The adroit mechanic was able to fix Addy's old car, even though six other mechanics said it couldn't be repaired.*  
Word Forms: adroitly, adroitness
- aerie:** (*n*) a nest; a home high on a mountain  
*Our aerie atop Roan Mountain was a cozy escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.*  
Related Word: aerial
- aesthetic:** (*adj*) relating to beauty  
*Alaina chose this church because of its aesthetic qualities; it was the most beautiful wedding chapel she had ever seen.*  
Word Forms: aesthetically, aesthetics (*n.*), aestheticize, aesthete, aesthetician      Antonym Form: unaesthetic

- affable:** (*adj*) friendly  
*In the fable, the affable princess was adored by all except for her three stepsisters who were angered by her friendliness.*  
Word Forms: affably, affability, affableness      Antonym Forms: inaffable, inaffability
- affected:** (*adj*) fake; phony  
*Afton had never traveled outside of the United States, but he used an affected French accent to attract attention.*  
Word Forms: affectedly, affectedness
- aggrandize:** (*vb*) increase in size  
*Agatha, an avid baseball enthusiast, used her inheritance to aggrandize her collection of baseball cards.*  
Word Forms: aggrandizement, aggrandizer, aggrandizable      Related Words: aggrade, grand
- alacrity:** (*n*) liveliness and eagerness  
*Alaina impressed her new boss by accepting the task with alacrity; she was both eager and excited to get started.*  
Word Form: alacritous
- alchemy:** (*n*) magical power; process of turning base metals into gold  
*Al uses alchemy in the kitchen, turning simple ingredients into delicious culinary works of art.*  
Word Forms: alchemic, alchemical, alchemistic, alchemical, alchemically, alchemist, alchemy      Related: chemistry
- amalgamation:** (*n*) a combination  
*Amy's new dance routine is an amalgamation of styles, including ballet and jazz.*  
Word Forms: amalgam, amalgamate, amalgamable, amalgamative, amalgamator
- ameliorate:** (*vb*) to make better  
*Amelia was an outstanding caregiver; she could ameliorate a patient's discomfort just by smiling kindly.*  
Word Forms: ameliorable, ameliorableness, ameliorant, ameliorative, amelioratory, ameliorator
- amenable:** (*adj*) agreeable  
*Amy was amenable to changing my schedule at work so that I could attend my son's baseball games.*  
Word Forms: amenability, amenableness, amenably      Antonym Forms: nonamenable, nonamenability, nonamenableness
- amiable:** (*adj*) friendly  
*The amiable celebrity was known for his willingness to sign autographs and visit with his fans.*  
Word Forms: amiably, amiability, amiableness      Antonym Form: unamiable      Related Word: amicable
- amortize:** (*vb*) to eliminate debt by making payments  
*For most borrowers, it takes thirty years to amortize their mortgage.*  
Word Forms: amortized, amortizable, amortizement, amortization      Antonym Forms: unamortized
- amulet:** (*n*) magical charm to ward off evil  
*Amos placed a small amulet in his pocket, a charm that he believed helped him advance to the state tennis finals.*  
Word Form: amuletic
- anachronistic:** (*adj*) out of chronological order  
*Today's announcement about the impending demolition of the baseball stadium is anachronistic; the stadium was razed early last week.*  
Word Forms: anachronistically, anachrony, anachronic, anachronism, anachronous, anachronously  
Related Word: chronological, chronology
- analgesic:** (*adj*) capable of relieving pain  
*Although Andy was in the most painful stages of the disease, his daughter's visit was analgesic; he was so happy to see her that his pain was significantly reduced.*  
Word Forms: analgesic (n.), analgetic      Related Word: analgesia
- anodyne:** (*n*) something that relieves pain  
*The comedy club was an anodyne to Annika's grief; while she was there, she could forget her pain and sadness.*  
Word Form: anodynic
- anthropocentrism:** (*n*) theory that regards humans as the central element of the universe  
*People who support the theory of anthropocentrism have a difficult time believing in intelligent life on other planets.*  
Word Forms: anthropocentric, anthropocentrically, anthropocentricity      Related Word: anthropology

- antipathy:** (n) strong dislike  
*Antonio's antipathy for reporters stemmed from his childhood, when journalists hassled him about his father's trial.*  
 Word Forms: antipathist, antipathize, antipathic      Related Words: sympathy, empathy, apathy
- apathy:** (n) an absence of emotion or enthusiasm  
*The teacher was disappointed in the students' apathy toward the field trip; she had mistakenly believed that this trip would finally excite them about learning.*  
 Word Forms: apathetic, apathetical, apathetically, apathist      Related Words: sympathy, empathy, antipathy
- apocryphal:** (adj) fake; untrue  
*April told an apocryphal tale about my mother; I wanted so much to believe it even though I knew it wasn't true.*  
 Word Forms: apocryphally, apocryphalness, apocryphalist
- apostate:** (n) person who abandons their religion or cause  
*I had been an apostate from my religion for years, but recently had started thinking about rejoining the church.*  
 Word Forms: apostatic, apostatical, apostatically, apostasy, apostatize
- approbation:** (n) approval  
*Apollo's proposal for new lighting on campus was met with approbation, as the board agreed there was a safety issue.*  
 Word Forms: approbate, approbative, approbator, approbatory      Related Word: preapprobation, subapprobation
- archaic:** (adj) so extremely old as seeming to belong to an earlier period  
*The college cannot have sorority or fraternity houses because of an archaic town law that does not allow unmarried people to live together.*  
 Word Forms: archaically, archaism, archaistic, archaist      Related Word: archaeology
- ardor:** (n) intense passion  
*Mrs. Armstrong, my English teacher, is known for her ardor for the literature of William Faulkner; last summer she even visited his hometown in Mississippi in order to better visualize the settings of his books.*
- arrogate:** (vb) to claim without rights  
*The government arrogated Arianna's land, so she hired a lawyer to prove it did not have any rights to her property.*  
 Word Forms: arrogatingly, arrogation, arrogator, arrogative      Antonym Forms: unarrogated, unarrogating
- ascertain:** (vb) to make certain  
*The detective was able to ascertain the suspect's whereabouts on the night of the burglary through surveillance video.*  
 Word Forms: ascertainable, ascertainableness, ascertainably, ascertainment, ascertainer
- ascetic:** (n) a person who practices self-denial as a spiritual discipline  
*To prove his devotion to the religion, the ascetic did not own anything that might provide comfort or pleasure, such as a mattress or television set.*  
 Word Forms: ascetic (adj.), ascetical, ascetically, asceticism
- assail:** (vb) to attack  
*Asa was determined to master the GRE Verbal Reasoning section, so she assailed vocabulary words with determination.*  
 Word Forms: assailable, assailableness, assailer, assailment, assailant      Antonym Form: unassailed
- assiduous:** (adj) constant and attentive  
*Ashley is an assiduous researcher; she was able to find articles on the poet that even the librarian could not locate.*  
 Word Forms: assiduously, assiduousness, assiduity
- assuage:** (vb) to relieve or ease  
*The shoplifter assuaged his guilt by confessing to the crime.*  
 Word Forms: assuagement, assuager      Antonym Forms: unassuaged, unassuaging
- attenuate:** (vb) to weaken  
*Atticus' muscles slowly attenuated when he quit working out at the gym.*  
 Word Forms: attenuation, attenuator, attenuatedly      Antonym Forms: unattenuated, unattenuatedly  
 Related Words: overattenuate, subattenuate, tenuous

- audacious:** (*adj*) bold and fearless  
*Audrey asked audacious questions that most people would be scared to ask.*  
Word Forms: audaciously, audaciousness, audacity      Antonym Forms: unaudacious, unaudaciously, unaudaciousness
- augment:** (*vb*) to enlarge or increase  
*In an effort to augment her paper on William Faulkner, Aubrey added three pages about the author's childhood.*  
Word Forms: augmentation, augmentable, augmentative, augmentatively, augments
- augury:** (*n*) divine prediction  
*Augustus believed the groundhog's shadow was an augury of a delayed springtime.*  
Word Forms: augural, augurate, auguration, augur
- august:** (*adj*) noble and dignified  
*The august king was admired for his good work.*  
Word Forms: augustly, augustness
- auspicious:** (*adj*) favorable; fortunate  
*Austin waited for an auspicious time to ask his father to borrow the car; he finally had his chance on the day that his dad received a sizable raise at work.*  
Word Forms: auspiciously, auspiciousness
- austere:** (*adj*) 1. strict; disciplined; serious 2. simple; undecorated  
*Mr. Aston is the most austere teacher at school; he does not tolerate any talking nor does he accept late assignments.*  
Word Forms: austerely, austereness, austerity
- autonomy:** (*n*) independence  
*The Confederate states fought to gain autonomy from the Union during the Civil War.*  
Word Forms: autonomous, autonomously, autonomist
- avarice:** (*n*) extreme greed for material wealth  
*Avery amassed million-dollar homes, luxury cars, and exquisite jewelry to satisfy her avarice, but still wanted more.*  
Word Forms: avaricious, avariciously, avariciousness
- avuncular:** (*adj*) resembling an uncle in kindness or indulgence  
*Mr. Avery developed an avuncular affection for his neighbor's children after having spent so many years next door.*  
Word Forms: avuncularly, avuncularity      Related Word: uncle
- axiom:** (*n*) principle or rule  
*The golden rule is a good axiom to live by.*  
Word Forms: axiomatic, axiomatical, axiomatization      Antonym Forms: nonaxiomatic, nonaxiomatical, unaxiomatic
- banal:** (*adj*) repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse  
*The plot of the movie is banal; everything that takes place in this film has happened in a dozen other movies.*  
Word Forms: banally, banalize, banality
- belfry:** (*n*) a bell tower  
*No one volunteered to clean out the belfry because of all the bats that live in it.*
- benevolent:** (*adj*) charitable; kind  
*The benevolent nun spent her entire life working with the poor.*  
Word Forms: benevolently, benevolentness, benevolence      Related Words: benefactor, benefit
- bevy:** (*n*) a large group  
*The picnic lunch on the beach attracted a bevy of birds.*
- bifurcate:** (*vb*) to divide into two branches  
*Biff's family tree bifurcated in 1946 when his grandmother remarried, thus creating a second branch of relatives.*  
Word Forms: bifurcately, bifurcation, bifurcous      Related Word: fork
- bilk:** (*vb*) to cheat or swindle  
*Bill was bilked out of \$10,000 when he invested in the phony scheme.*  
Word Form: bilker

- blight:** (n) any factor that causes decay or deterioration  
*The blight that killed Blake's corn was responsible for the destruction of crops throughout the county.*  
 Word Form: blightinglly      Antonym Forms: unblighted, unblightedly, unblightedness
- blithe:** (adj) cheerful  
*Blythe was know for her blithe spirit; she was always happy and cheerful.*  
 Word Forms: blitheful, blithefully, blithely, blitheness, blithesome      Related Word: overblithe
- bombast:** (n) pompous or pretentious talk or writing  
*Be sure that your speech isn't pretentious or inflated, as the audience has no time to listen to bombast.*  
 Word Forms: bombastic, bombastically, bombaster
- bonhomie:** (n) friendliness  
*Bonnie had many friends who admired her kind nature and bonhomie.*  
 Word Form: bonhomous
- boor:** (n) a person who is rude, clumsy, and lacking social manners  
*Boris was a boor at the dinner party; after telling the host that her house was cheaply decorated, he ate his steak with his fingers and burped during the meal.*  
 Word Forms: boorish, boorishly, boorishness  
 Note: Be careful not to confuse a boor (a rude person) with a bore (a boring person).
- bromide:** (n) a common saying  
*As true as the old bromides are, such as "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all," none of them are much comfort to a newly-broken heart.*  
 Word Forms: bromidic, bromidically
- bucolic:** (adj) relating to country life; rural  
*The farmer lived a bucolic lifestyle, rising with the sun to tend the farm and retiring at sundown.*  
 Word Forms: bucolical, bucolically
- burgeon:** (vb) to flourish  
*Under the mayor's direction, the quiet town burgeoned into an active city.*
- burnish:** (vb) to polish  
*In preparation for his dinner party, Bernie burnished the silverware and serving platters.*  
 Word Forms: burnishable, burnishment, burnisher      Antonym Form: unburnished
- byzantine:** (adj) highly complex or intricate  
*In a home loan, the byzantine language and unfamiliar terminology can be intimidating to a first-time home buyer.*
- cabal:** (n) a secret group of plotters or schemers  
*The cabal met in a church basement to plan the overthrow of the government.*  
 Word Form: caballer      Related Word: cabala
- cacophony:** (n) harsh, jarring sound  
*On the first day of school, the band's output was a cacophony of trumpets and horns; however, by the end of the year, the horn section blended well with the rest of the ensemble.*  
 Word Forms: cacophonic, cacophonous, cacophonously
- cajole:** (vb) to influence by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering  
*Caleb cajoled his mother into letting him borrow the car by telling her how young and pretty she looked today.*  
 Word Forms: cajolement, cajolinglly, cajolery, cajoler
- callous:** (adj) insensitive; emotionally hardened  
*The senator's callous indifference to the suffering of the people in the war-torn country cost him reelection.*  
 Word Forms: callously, callousness      Related Word: callus
- calumny:** (n) a false statement intended to harm someone's reputation  
*Callie delivered the calumny about Brittany to an audience in the cafeteria; she hoped the lie would keep the other girl from becoming Prom queen.*  
 Word Forms: calumniate, calumniation, calumnious, calumniously, calumniatory, calumniator
- canard:** (n) false story or rumor  
*The belief that Napoleon was short is a canard; he was actually 5'7", an above average height for a Frenchman in 1800.*

- canonical:** (*adj*) authorized or accepted  
*Pluto is no longer a canonical planet; due to its small mass, it was reclassified as a “dwarf planet” in 2006.*  
Word Forms: canonically, canon, canonic      Antonym Forms: uncanonical, uncanonically
- cantankerous:** (*adj*) ill-tempered and unwilling to cooperate  
*The cantankerous old man took the little boy’s sucker and refused to give it back.*  
Word Forms: cantankerously, cantankerousness
- capricious:** (*adj*) apt to change suddenly  
*Cane’s capricious personality made him a fun friend but a terrible boss; social spontaneity was exciting but workplace unpredictability was frustrating.*  
Word Forms: capriciously, capriciousness, caprice
- cartographer:** (*n*) a person who makes maps  
*Amerigo Vespucci was one of the first cartographers to create a map of North America.*  
Word Forms: cartography, cartograph, cartographic, cartographical, cartographically
- castigate:** (*vb*) to criticize or punish severely  
*Cassie was castigated by her parents and the school principal for her role in the cheating scam.*  
Word Forms: castigation, castigative, castigatory, castigator
- cataclysm:** (*n*) a violent upheaval  
*The political uprising against the dictator is a cataclysm that will hopefully result in a more democratic regime.*  
Word Forms: cataclysmic, cataclysmically, cataclysmal      Related Word: catastrophe
- cathartic:** (*adj*) inducing a release of tense emotions  
*Painting was a cathartic exercise for Cathy; through her paintings she was able to release anger and fear.*  
Word Forms: cathartically, catharticalness
- catholic:** (*adj*) universal; liberal  
*Cathy had very catholic tastes, enjoying a wide array of food and drink.*  
Word Forms: catholically, catholicly, catholicalness, catholicness
- caustic:** (*adj*) burning or stinging  
*Cosette’s caustic remark stung Kent; he could handle criticism about his job, but her bitter words were personal.*  
Word Forms: caustically, causticly, causticness, causticity
- cavalier:** (*n*) a man who is chivalrous and gallant  
*The young cavalier was rewarded for his gallant behavior when he was chosen to escort the princess to the ball.*  
Word Forms: cavalier (*adj.*), cavalierly, cavalierness, cavalierism
- censure:** (*n*) strong disapproval  
*High school teachers voiced their censure of the new novel due to mature themes and profanity.*  
Word Forms: censurer, censureless      Related Words: miscensure, precensure, procensure
- charlatan:** (*n*) a person who falsely claims to possess skills or knowledge; an imposter  
*The charlatan tricked the unsuspecting customers out of money by pretending to be able to predict the future.*  
Word Forms: charlatanic, charlatanish, charlatanical, charlatanically, charlatanistic, charlatanry, charlatanism
- chary:** (*adj*) cautious; timid; choosy  
*Charlie was chary of sitting on the wobbly chair; he was afraid it would break under his weight.*  
Word Form: charily      Antonym Form: unchary
- chicanery:** (*n*) the use of tricks to deceive someone  
*The con artist relied on chicanery to get his victims to reveal their Social Security numbers; he promised them a tropical vacation for simply listing their personal information.*  
Word Forms: chicane, chicaner
- churlish:** (*adj*) rude and vulgar  
*Cheryl did not think the man’s churlish jokes were appropriate, and asked that he apologize for his vulgarity.*  
Word Forms: churlishly, churlishness, churl
- circumlocution:** (*n*) an indirect way of expressing something  
*Sergio hoped that his circumlocution would stall the reporters long enough to think of a better answer to their question.*  
Word Forms: circumlocutory, circumlocutorily, circumlocutional, circumlocutionary



- circumscribed:** (*adj*) restricted  
*Her driving privileges are circumscribed by the state; she is only allowed to drive at night if she is returning from work.*  
 Word Forms: circumscribable, circumscriber      Related Word: circle
- circumspect:** (*adj*) cautious; discreet  
*Given the recent theft of passwords, you need to be circumspect when sharing personal information on the internet.*  
 Word Forms: circumspectly, circumspectness      Antonym Forms: noncircumspect, noncircumspectly, noncircumspectness
- clandestine:** (*adj*) secret  
*The school administrators held clandestine meetings about the school uniform policy; they were afraid that if the public knew they were contemplating a new policy, the outcry would squash the issue.*  
 Word Forms: clandestinely, clandestineness, clandestinity
- cloying:** (*adj*) wearying through excess  
*Her perfume smelled sweet at first but became cloying after sitting in the car with her for an hour.*  
 Word Forms: cloy, cloyingly      Antonym Form: uncloying
- coalesce:** (*vb*) to blend into one  
*The two streams coalesced into a river.*  
 Word Forms: coalescence, coalescent      Antonym Forms: noncoalescence, noncoalescent
- coffer:** (*n*) a box for storing valuables; funds  
*Keifer depleted the organizations coffers, but his plan was to replenish the funds.*  
 Word Form: cofferlike
- cogent:** (*adj*) convincing; telling  
*Craig presents a cogent argument through sound evidence and logical conclusions.*  
 Word Forms: cogency, cogently      Antonym Form: noncogent, noncogently, uncogent, uncogently
- collusion:** (*n*) a secret agreement; conspiracy  
*The founding fathers worked in collusion to revolt against the British government.*  
 Word Forms: collusive, collusively, collusory      Antonym Forms: noncollusion, noncollusive      Related Word: collude
- conciliate:** (*vb*) to win over; to make peace  
*The manager was able to conciliate the angry customer by offering her a fifty dollar gift certificate.*  
 Word Forms: conciliable, conciliation, conciliatory, conciliatorily, conciliatoriness      Related Word: reconcile
- concomitant:** (*adj*) existing or occurring at the same time  
*Building a home can be an exciting process, but it also has concomitant stress associated with difficult decisions.*  
 Word Forms: concomitant (*n.*), concomitantly, concomitance
- conflagration:** (*n*) a destructive fire  
*The fire department determined that the conflagration in the old warehouse was a result of faulty wiring.*  
 Word Forms: conflagrative, conflagrate, conflagrant
- conspicuous:** (*adj*) obvious  
*The realtor put the "For Sale" sign in a conspicuous spot in the front yard so that people in traffic could easily see it.*  
 Word Forms: conspicuously, conspicuousness, conspicuity  
 Antonym Forms: inconspicuous, inconspicuously, inconspicuousness
- consummate:** (*adj*) perfect and complete  
*Constantine is the consummate host; he greets his guests, makes sure they are comfortable and enjoying themselves, and introduces new friends to everyone.*  
 Word Forms: consummate (*vb.*), consummately, consummatory, consummation, consummator
- contrite:** (*adj*) feeling guilty and remorseful  
*The contrite criminal broke into sobs as he apologized to the victim's family for the suffering he had caused.*  
 Word Forms: contritely, contriteness, contrition
- contumacious:** (*adj*) willfully disobedient  
*The contumacious convict spat at the judge and refused to acknowledge his sentence.*  
 Word Forms: contumaciously, contumaciousness, contumacity      Antonym Form: noncontumacious, noncontumaciously, noncontumaciousness      Related Words: contumely, contumelious, contumeliously, contumliousness

- convoluted:** (*adj*) complicated  
*Connor was unable to finish the seventeenth-century novel due to the convoluted language of the period.*  
Word Forms: convolutedly, convolutedness      Related Word: involuted
- corpulent:** (*adj*) excessively fat  
*The corpulent man purchased two adjacent airline seats in order to have a more comfortable flight.*  
Word Forms: corpulently, corpulence, corpulency
- corroborate:** (*vb*) to confirm or support with evidence  
*Coral's thesis was corroborated by three supporting paragraphs, each presenting an example that proved her main idea.*  
Word Forms: corroborated, corroboration, corroborative, corroboratively, corroboratory, corroborant, corroborator  
Antonym Form: uncorroborated
- cosset:** (*vb*) to pamper  
*Cossette cosseted the puppy, providing him with diamond collars, caviar dinners, and doggy massages.*  
Word Form: cosseted      Antonym Form: uncosseted
- coterie:** (*n*) an exclusive group of people; a clique  
*The town's wealthiest socialites formed a coterie and few people were able to gain entrance to the circle.*
- craven:** (*adj*) cowardly  
*Rather than face her landlord and explain the damage to the house, the craven tenant packed up and moved in the night.*  
Word Forms: craven (*n*), cravenly, cravenness      Antonym Form: uncraven
- crescendo:** (*n*) peak of growth  
*The cheers in the audience reached a crescendo when the concert headliner was introduced.*  
Antonym Form: decrescendo      Related Word: crescent
- culpable:** (*adj*) worthy of blame  
*The jury found the suspect culpable for the break-ins.*  
Word Forms: culpability, culpableness, culpably      Antonym Form: nonculpable, nonculpableness, nonculpably  
Related Word: exculpate, culprit
- cumbersome:** (*adj*) clumsy, awkward, and heavy  
*The old television set was cumbersome, making it difficult to move into the other room.*  
Word Forms: clumsily, clumsiness      Related Words: cumber, encumber
- cupidity:** (*n*) excessive greed  
*Cullen's downfall was his cupidity; he couldn't walk away with the money he had already embezzled and was caught when he went back for more.*  
Word Form: cupidinous
- curmudgeon:** (*n*) cranky, difficult person  
*The old curmudgeon complained about every part of his meal.*  
Word Form: curmudgeonly      Related Word: cur
- cynical:** (*adj*) distrusting and pessimistic  
*Cyndi's cynical attitude made it hard for her to believe in anyone's good intentions.*  
Word Forms: cynically, cynicism, cynic
- dalliance:** (*n*) the deliberate act of delaying and playing instead of working  
*Dalton's dalliance at the basketball court kept him from working on the term paper that was due tomorrow.*  
Word Forms: dally, dallyingly, dallier      Related Word: dilly-dally
- daunt:** (*vb*) to cause to lose courage  
*Don had finally worked up the courage to ride the roller coaster when he was daunted by the pale faces of the riders who had just completed the ride.*  
Word Forms: dauntingly, dauntingness      Antonym Forms: dauntless, dauntlessly, dauntlessness, undaunted, undauntedly
- dearth:** (*n*) a lack in supply  
*During the Second World War, the dearth of male baseball players led to the creation of a women's baseball league.*

- debunk:** (*vb*) to prove untrue  
*The reporter debunked the urban legend about the witch in the woods by revealing wild goats as the sources of the noises.*  
 Word Form: debunker
- debutante:** (*n*) a young woman making her debut into society  
*The debutantes were introduced at a formal ball, after which they were considered members of the aristocratic society.*
- declivity:** (*n*) a downward slope  
*The backyard's declivity caused rainwater to wash down it, creating a pool of standing water at the bottom of the slope.*  
 Word Forms: declivitous, declivous, declivent      Antonym Form: acclivity
- decorous:** (*adj*) proper and dignified  
*The decorous host made sure that she had proper table settings; each was arranged correctly for the five-course meal.*  
 Word Forms: decorously, decorousness      Antonym Forms: indecorous, indecorously, indecorousness  
 Related Word: decorum
- deject:** (*vb*) to lower someone's spirits; make downhearted  
*The news of her father's declining condition dejected Denise, as she had been sure his health was starting to improve.*  
 Word Forms: dejected (*adj.*), dejectedly, dejectedness, dejectory, dejection      Related Words: reject, eject
- deleterious:** (*adj*) harmful  
*The deleterious effects of cigarette smoking, such as lung cancer, are highlighted in the public service campaign.*  
 Word Forms: deleteriously, deleteriousness      Related Word: delete
- delineate:** (*vb*) to outline  
*In her speech, Delilah clearly delineated her plans for changing several policies should she be elected class president.*  
 Word Forms: delineable, delineative, delineation, delineament, delineatory, delineator      Antonym Form: undelineated
- demagogue:** (*n*) a political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular passions and prejudices  
*Hitler was a demagogue who gained power by exploiting religious prejudices in Germany.*  
 Word Forms: demagoguery, demagogism, demagogic, demagogical, demagogically
- demarcate:** (*vb*) to set, mark, or draw the boundaries of something  
*The twins demarcated the room after their fight; Demarcus was only allowed access to the right side of their room, while Demonte had to stay on the left side.*  
 Word Forms: demarcation, demarcator
- demur:** (*vb*) to object  
*I was surprised when my father did not demur to me attending the rival college of his alma mater.*  
 Word Forms: demurrable, demurral, demurrer      Antonym Form: undemurring
- denigrate:** (*vb*) to damage the reputation of  
*The candidate hoped to denigrate his opponent's character by exposing the embezzlement scandal.*  
 Word Forms: denigration, denigrative, denigratory, denigrator
- derelict:** (*n*) a person without a home, job, or property  
*The derelict spent his days begging on the street corner and his nights sleeping in the alley.*  
 Word Forms: derelict (*adj.*), derelictly, derelictness, dereliction      Related Word: relinquish
- deride:** (*vb*) to ridicule  
*The unsupportive team captain derided Desiree's attempts to make the volleyball squad.*  
 Word Forms: deridingly, derision, derisive, derisible, derider
- derivative:** (*n*) something that came from an original  
*The Pilates exercise system is a derivative of the ancient Indian practice of yoga.*  
 Word Forms: derivative (*adj.*), derivatively, derivativeness, derive, derivation

- desiccate:** (vb) to dry up  
*When the flowers in my bouquet desiccate, I can preserve them as dried flowers.*  
 Word Forms: desiccation, desiccative, desiccated, desiccator
- despoiler:** (n) a person who steals goods  
*The despoilers from the pirate ship stripped the village members of all their possessions.*  
 Word Forms: despoil, despoilment      Related Word: spoils (n.)
- despot:** (n) a ruler with complete power  
*The despot was a harsh ruler who imposed outrageous taxes and unreasonable upon against his subjects.*  
 Word Forms: despotic, despotical, despotically, despotism
- destitute:** (adj) completely wanting or lacking (usually money, food, and shelter)  
*The homeless man wasn't always destitute; he once had a job, but poor money management led to bankruptcy.*  
 Word Forms: destitutely, destituteness, destitution
- desultory:** (adj) disconnected and random  
*People wondered about Desiree's mental state when her conversation turned desultory; she jumped from topic to topic with seemingly no connection.*  
 Word Forms: desultorily, desultoriness, desultorious
- diaphanous:** (adj) sheer; nearly translucent  
*Daphne would be wise to wear a slip under that diaphanous skirt.*  
 Word Forms: diaphanously, diaphanousness, diaphaneity      Antonym Forms: nondiaphanous, nondiaphanously
- diatribe:** (n) bitter criticism; verbal attack  
*It was clear from Diana's diatribes against her mother that their relationship was beyond repair.*  
 Word Form: diatribist
- dictum:** (n) a formal statement  
*The president released a dictum forbidding texting while at work.*
- didactic:** (adj) educational  
*The children's book is not only entertaining, but also didactic; the story teaches the dietary habits of marine animals.*  
 Word Forms: didactical, didactically, didacticism, didact      Related Words: autodidactic, autodidact
- diffident:** (adj) shy; reserved  
*Daphne was diffident when she first made the team, but by the end of the season, she was clearly a leader on the court.*  
 Word Forms: diffidently, diffiderness, diffidence      Antonym Forms: nondiffident, nondiffidently, undiffident
- dilatory:** (adj) intending to delay  
*Dillon asked nearly twenty dilatory questions at the start of class in an attempt to postpone the scheduled math test.*  
 Word Forms: dilatorily, dilatoriness      Related Word: delay
- dilettante:** (n) a person who engages in an activity (such as art) without serious intentions or inquiry  
*Although Dylan started painting, he was merely a dilettante; his paintings were amateur attempts at a part-time hobby.*  
 Word Forms: dilettantish, dilettanteism
- dirge:** (n) a funeral song  
*As the dirge played, mournful cries could be heard throughout the funeral.*  
 Word Forms: dirgeful
- disabuse:** (vb) to free someone from false ideas  
*Dixon believed tomatoes were vegetables but I disabused him of that idea when I revealed they are actually fruits.*  
 Word Form: disabusal
- discern:** (vb) to perceive or understand with sight or other senses  
*The captain discerned another ship in the fog.*  
 Word Forms: discernible, discernibly, discernment, discernibility, discernableness, discerner  
 Antonym Forms: indiscernible, indiscernibly, indiscernibility, indiscernibleness
- disdain:** (n) a lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike  
*The suspect was looked upon with disdain by the detectives who investigated the terrible crime.*  
 Word Forms: disdain (vb.), disdainful, disdainfully, disdainfulness      Related Word: deign

- disenfranchise:** (vb) to deprive of voting rights  
*American citizens who are convicted of a felony are disenfranchised, losing their right to vote in any election.*  
 Word Forms: disenfranchisement, disfranchise      Antonym Forms: enfranchise, franchise
- disillusion:** (vb) to free from false beliefs  
*As a young politician, Dane believed he could stop the corruption that ran through the county government, but he was quickly disillusioned by the extent of the illegal activity.*  
 Word Forms: disillusionment, disillusionive, disillusionize, disillusionist
- disingenuous:** (adj) insincere  
*Denise's disingenuous apology was just an attempt to get out of her punishment; she was not truly sorry for going to the concert without permission.*  
 Word Forms: disingenuously, disingenuousness, disingenuity      Antonym Forms: ingenuous, ingenuously, ingenuousness  
 Related Word: genuine
- disparage:** (vb) to belittle or criticize  
*My mom's feelings were hurt when I disparaged her cooking skills.*  
 Word Forms: disparagement, disparaging (adj.), disparagingly, disparager
- disparate:** (adj) different and distinct  
*The mixture of three disparate styles—jazz, rock, and country—created a unique sound and a diverse audience.*  
 Word Forms: disparately, disparateness      Related Word: disparity
- dissembler:** (n) a person who conceals his real feelings by professing false beliefs  
*The dissembler pledged allegiance to the rebel group, but he was really working undercover for the opposing army.*  
 Word Forms: dissemble, dissemblingly, dissemblance      Related Words: resemble, semblance
- disseminate:** (vb) to spread widely  
*The police hoped the information about the suspect would disseminate quickly; the more people who knew, the better chances of apprehending the wanted man.*  
 Word Forms: dissemination, disseminative, disseminator
- dissonance:** (n) harsh, jarring sound  
*On the first day of school, the band's output was a dissonance of trumpets and horns; however, by the end of the year, the horn section blended well with the rest of the ensemble.*  
 Word Form: dissonancy      Antonym Form: consonance      Related Words: assonance, resonance
- distaff:** (n) the female part of a family  
*Driving skills clearly fell on the distaff side of the family; the ladies had clean driving records but the men had sixteen traffic tickets among them.*
- dither:** (vb) to be indecisive  
*Dillon dithered on whether to go to business school or law school.*  
 Word Forms: ditherer, dithery
- diurnal:** (adj) daily; daytime  
*Humans are diurnal creatures, so working the night shift can disrupt our natural sleep rhythms.*  
 Word Forms: diurnally, diurnality      Antonym Forms: undiurnal, undiurnally      Related Word: nocturnal
- divert:** (vb) to turn away from a course  
*Traffic was diverted through side streets in order to avoid an accident on the main road.*  
 Word Forms: divertedly, diversion, divertible      Related Words: invert, convert, revert
- divine:** (vb) to predict using supernatural means  
*Devina asked the psychic to divine her future using the crystal ball.*  
 Word Forms: divivable, divinely, divineness, divination, divinator      Related Word: divine (adj)
- doctrinaire:** (adj) impractical; insistent about one's own theory  
*The doctor believed that the lack of exercise was the single cause of high blood pressure and was doctrinaire in his inability to accept genetic factors.*  
 Word Forms: doctrinaire (n), doctrinairism      Antonym Forms: nondoctrinaire, undoctinaire
- dogmatic:** (adj) characterized by assertion of unproved or unprovable principles  
*The dogmatic scientist continued to publish his theory, despite the fact that it was unproven.*  
 Word Forms: dogmatically, dogmaticalness, dogmatize, dogmatism, dogmatist      Related Words: dogma

- draconian:** (*adj*) harsh and severe  
*In the novel, the king used draconian forms of punishment—such as torture or starvation—on any one caught plotting against the monarchy.*  
 Word Forms: draconic, draconically
- droll:** (*adj*) amusing; comical  
*The droll little man amused the children with his odd gait and his quaint way of speaking.*  
 Word Forms: drollness, drolly, drollery
- dubious:** (*adj*) doubtful; questionable  
*The candidate's dubious past came back to haunt her in the election.*  
 Word Forms: dubiously, dubiousness, dubitable      Antonym Forms: indubious, indubiously      Related Word: doubt
- dupe:** (*vb*) to deceive  
*Dupree was duped into investing in the scam.*  
 Word Forms: dupe (n), dupable, dupability, duper, dupery      Antonym Form: undupable
- dyspeptic:** (*adj*) irritable and gloomy  
*Dyson was dyspeptic about his acceptance into business school; everyone tried to cheer him up, but he was convinced he would be rejected.*  
 Word Forms: dyspeptically      Antonym Forms: nondyspeptic, nondyspeptical, nondyspeptically
- earnest:** (*adj*) serious; sincere  
*The earnest student took the SAT seriously; he bought several study guides, and dedicated two hours a day to practice.*  
 Word Forms: earnestly, earnestness
- ebullient:** (*adj*) extremely excited or enthusiastic  
*The ebullient child clapped her hands and jumped up and down as she waited to ride the pony at the party.*  
 Word Forms: ebulliently, ebullience
- eclectic:** (*adj*) made up of choices from diverse sources  
*Mrs. Eckert has an eclectic music collection; her albums span from classic jazz to hip hop to disco.*  
 Word Forms: eclectically, eclecticist      Related Word: select
- edify:** (*vb*) to benefit by instruction  
*The art teacher edified his students by taking them to a premier art gallery to teach about painting techniques.*  
 Word Forms: edifier, edifyingly, edifying, reedify      Antonym Forms: nonedified, unedified
- efficacious:** (*adj*) effective  
*The pest repellent was efficacious in keeping the mosquitoes away; none of the guests were bothered by the bugs.*  
 Word Forms: efficaciously, efficaciousness, efficacy, efficacy  
 Antonym Forms: inefficacious, inefficaciously, inefficaciousness, inefficacy, inefficacy  
 Related Words: effect, effective
- effigy:** (*n*) a representation of someone  
*The mayor's effigy was unveiled as a sculpture in the park, erected to honor his lifelong service.*  
 Word Form: effigial
- effrontery:** (*n*) shameless boldness  
*She had the effrontery to imply that I was pregnant when in fact I had just gained some weight.*
- effusive:** (*adj*) excessive enthusiasm or emotion  
*Effie's effusive praise was so excessive and over-the-top that it almost seemed insincere.*  
 Word Forms: effusively, effusiveness      Related Words: effuse, infuse
- egalitarian:** (*adj*) characterized by the belief in equal rights for all people  
*Edgar's egalitarian beliefs made him an excellent husband; he divided the housework equally, helping his wife with cooking, cleaning, and childcare.*  
 Word Forms: egalitarian (n.), egalitarianism, equality      Related Word: equality
- egregious:** (*adj*) outrageously bad or offensive  
*Edie made the egregious mistake of asking the slightly overweight woman if she were expecting a baby.*  
 Word Forms: egregiously, egregiousness

- elegy:** (*n*) a sad poem or song  
*"To An Athlete Dying Young" is a heartbreaking elegy written by A. E. Housman.*  
Word Forms: elegize, elegist
- elicit:** (*vb*) to call or bring out  
*The woman elicits sympathy from her audience by telling the story of her difficult childhood.*  
Word Forms: elicitation, elicitor      Related Word: solicit  
Note: *elicit* is often confused with *illicit*, which means illegal
- eloquent:** (*adj*) expressing oneself powerfully and effectively  
*The minister's eloquent sermon stirred the members of the church.*  
Word Forms: eloquently, eloquence      Antonym Forms: ineloquent, ineloquently, ineloquence
- elucidate:** (*vb*) to make clear by explanation  
*The story in the newspaper elucidated some of the details of the mystery that had previously raised questions.*  
Word Forms: elucidation, elucidative, elucidatory, elucidator      Related Word: lucid
- embroil:** (*vb*) to bring into an argument or negative situation  
*Emory is embroiled in a lawsuit with his former landlord over the condition of the apartment when he moved out.*  
Word Forms: embroilment, embroiler
- eminent:** (*adj*) distinguished and prominent  
*The eminent professor has taught at distinguished colleges, which is why he is such a remarkable addition to the faculty.*  
Word Forms: eminently, eminence      Note: *eminent* is often confused with *imminent*, which means about to occur
- emissary:** (*n*) a person sent on a mission to represent the interests of someone else  
*The general sent an emissary to the enemy's camp to inquire about the terms of surrender.*  
Related Words: emission, emissive, emit
- emollient:** (*n*) that which has a softening or soothing effect, especially to the skin  
*Emmaline applied an emollient lotion to the rough calluses on her hands.*  
Word Form: emollient (*adj.*), emollient
- empirical:** (*adj*) resulting from an experiment  
*As a scientist, Emmie relied on empirical data every day, which is why it was hard for her to trust her intuition.*  
Word Forms: empirically, empiricalness
- emulate:** (*vb*) to imitate in order to match or excel  
*Emily hoped to emulate her older sister's success on the tennis court.*  
Word Forms: emulative, emulatively, emulation, emulator
- encomium:** (*n*) high praise  
*The chairwoman delivered an encomium about Enzo before introducing him as the employee of the month.*  
Word Form: encomia
- endemic:** (*adj*) natural to a local area  
*Fire ants are endemic to the southeastern coastal plains, but they have started to migrate to the interior.*  
Word Forms: endemically, endemism      Antonym Forms: nonendemic, unendemic      Related Words: epidemic, pandemic
- enervated:** (*adj*) lacking strength or vigor  
*After an entire weekend of moving furniture, Enrico was enervated; he would need to rest to get his strength back.*  
Word Forms: enervate (*vb.*), enervation, enervative, enervator
- engender:** (*vb*) to produce  
*Divorce can engender feelings of anger, loss, and powerlessness.*  
Word Forms: engenderer, engenderment      Antonym Form: unengendered      Related Word: generate
- enigma:** (*n*) a puzzle  
*The dog's escape from the pen is an enigma; no one can figure out how she broke out of the locked enclosure.*  
Word Forms: enigmata (*plural*), enigmatic, enigmatical, enigmatically
- ennui:** (*n*) boredom  
*The monotony of my job produces utter ennui.*

- enumerate:** (*vb*) to count; to name one by one  
*The blog enumerated the top five study tips for the GRE.*  
 Word Forms: enumerative, enumerator, enumerable      Antonym Forms: nonenumerated, nonenumerative  
 Related Words: numeral, number
- ephemeral:** (*adj*) lasting a very short time  
*Effie's sadness over her breakup is ephemeral; she will quickly find a new boyfriend to help her forget the last.*  
 Word Forms: ephemeral (n.), ephemerally, ephemeralness, ephemerality, ephemorous, ephemeron
- epicure:** (*n*) a person with refined tastes, particularly of food and wine  
*The reality show features several epicures judging the cooking skills of America's best chefs.*  
 Word Forms: epicurean, epicureous, epicurism
- epistolary:** (*adj*) relating to letters  
*The couple has an epistolary relationship; although they have never met, they communicate regularly through letters.*  
 Word Forms: epistle, epistolatory, epistolic, epistolical, epistolize, epistoler, epistolist
- equanimity:** (*n*) steadiness of mind under stress  
*Eva made an excellent emergency room doctor because she handled trauma with equanimity; she was clear-headed during the most stressful situations.*  
 Word Forms: equanimous, equanimously, equanimousness      Related Word: longanimity
- equivocal:** (*adj*) uncertain; open to multiple interpretations  
*The politician's equivocal statement about the environment could support either side of the issue.*  
 Word Forms: equivocality, equivocacy, equivocally, equivocalness  
 Antonym Forms: unequivocal, unequivocally, unequivocalness
- ersatz:** (*adj*) artificial; serving to substitute  
*Aspartame is an ersatz sugar that has caused a lot of controversy in recent years.*
- erudition:** (*n*) knowledge gained from study  
*Erik's erudition is sure to help him win a lot of money on the trivia-based quiz show.*  
 Word Forms: eruditional, erudite, eruditely, eruditeness
- eschew:** (*vb*) to avoid; to shun  
*Attempting to follow a low carb diet, Essie eschewed all foods containing sugar.*  
 Word Forms: eschewal, eschewer      Antonym Form: uneschewed
- esoteric:** (*adj*) intended for a select group of people; secret or confidential  
*Esteban was a member of an esoteric club, whose membership consisted strictly of men over fifty who lived in the city.*  
 Word Forms: esoterically, esotericism, esotericist      Antonym Forms: exoteric, exoterically, exotericism
- espouse:** (*vb*) to adopt or marry (such as an idea or cause)  
*Although Esmerelda had never practiced a formal religion, she espoused her fiancé's faith in order to join his church.*  
 Word Forms: espousal, espouser      Related Word: spouse
- ethos:** (*n*) the spirit or attitude of a group  
*The ethos of 4-H is education resulting in positive change for the community.*
- eulogy:** (*n*) a formal expression of praise (often delivered at funerals)  
*The director delivered a eulogy about the center's most helpful volunteer, praising her for helping the needy.*  
 Word Forms: eulogize, eulogist
- euphemism:** (*n*) an inoffensive word or phrase used in place of one that is hurtful or harsh  
*In the hospital's yearly report, the euphemism "negative patient outcome" is used instead of "death."*  
 Word Forms: euphemistic, euphemistically, euphemist, euphemistical, euphemious, euphemously, euphemize  
 Antonym Forms: uneuphemistic, uneuphemistical
- euphony:** (*n*) pleasant sound  
*When the orchestra started to play, a euphony ensued that made audience members smile.*  
 Word Forms: euphonize, euphonious, euphoniously, euphoniousness  
 Antonym Forms: noneuphonious, noneuphoniously, noneuphoniousness



- evanescent:** (*adj*) vanishing  
*Many people believe that youth is evanescent, quickly vanishing before it can be truly appreciated.*  
Word Forms: evanescently, evanesce, evanescence      Related Word: vanish
- exacerbate:** (*vb*) to increase the harshness or bitterness of  
*My headache was exacerbated by the child playing drums on the pots and pans.*  
Word Forms: exacerbatingly, exacerbation      Related Word: acerbate  
Note: *exacerbate* is often confused with *exasperate* (meaning to irritate).
- exasperate:** (*vb*) to intensely irritate  
*The airline passenger was exasperated by the last minute cancellation of his flight.*  
Word Forms: exasperatedly, exasperatingly, exasperation, exasperator  
Related Word: asperate  
Note: *exasperate* is often confused with *exacerbate* (meaning to increase).
- exculpate:** (*vb*) to clear from blame  
*The arson suspect was exculpated when forensics revealed that the fire had been the result of faulty wiring.*  
Word Forms: exculpable, exculpation, exculpatory      Related Words: culpable, culprit  
Antonym Forms: inculpate, inculpable, inculpation, inculpably, inculpatory, inculpability, inculpableness
- exegesis:** (*n*) an explanation or critical interpretation (especially of the Bible)  
*The minister is delivering an exegesis on the first two books of the Bible, where he will interpret the lessons from Genesis and Exodus and apply them to modern times.*  
Word Forms: exegetic, exegetical, exegetically, exegete, exegetist
- exigent:** (*adj*) urgent; demanding  
*This is an exigent matter: if you don't reach the client in time, we stand to lose millions of dollars.*  
Word Forms: exigently, exigence      Antonym Forms: nonexigent, nonexigently, unexigent, unexigently
- exonerate:** (*vb*) to clear from blame  
*The use of DNA helped exonerate the innocent man; twenty years after he was sent to prison, he was released.*  
Word Forms: exoneration, exonerative, exonerator
- exorbitant:** (*adj*) greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation  
*I am forced to stop shopping at that grocery store until the owners lower the exorbitant prices on meats and produce.*  
Word Forms: exorbitantly, exorbitance
- expatriate:** (*n*) a person who lives outside his own country, often to renounce allegiance  
*The little village in Costa Rica is filled with American expatriates who moved there for a more relaxed lifestyle.*  
Word Forms: expatriate (*vb.*), expatriation      Related Word: patriot
- explicator:** (*n*) a person who explains or interprets  
*My attorney was an excellent explicator; he clearly interpreted each clause of the legal contract.*  
Word Forms: explicate, explication, explicative, explicatively, explicatory      Related Word: explicit
- explicit:** (*adj*) clearly expressed or demonstrated  
*Mr. Jones left explicit directions for the substitute so he was surprised when they were not followed.*  
Word Forms: explicitly, explicitness      Antonym Forms: inexplicit, inexplicitly, implicit, implicitly, implicitness
- exponent:** (*n*) one who explains or interprets  
*The teacher was an exponent of turn of the century literature, explaining the themes that populated novels at that time.*  
Word Forms: exponent (*adj*), exponential, exponentially      Antonym Forms: nonexponential, nonexponentially
- expurgate:** (*vb*) to revise by removing offensive text; to purify by cleansing  
*Recent versions of Huckleberry Finn have been expurgated to remove racial slurs and references.*  
Word Forms: expurgated, expurgation, expurgator      Antonym Form: unexpurgated
- extemporaneous:** (*adj*) done without advance preparation  
*I was not expecting to be called to the stage, so I gave an extemporaneous speech.*  
Word Forms: extemporary, extemporaneity, extemporaneously, extemporarily, extemporaneousness, extemporariness
- extol:** (*vb*) to praise highly  
*The critic extolled the works of Shakespeare, citing them as the most important contribution to the English language.*  
Word Forms: extolling, extolment, extoller

- extraneous:** (*adj*) not relevant or essential  
*When studying for the SAT, be sure to ignore the extraneous information in the book, such as the history of the test.*  
 Word Forms: extraneously, extraneousness      Related Word: extra
- exuberant:** (*adj*) overflowing, especially with joy  
*The young wife was exuberant when her husband returned safely from the military after a year-long tour of duty.*  
 Word Forms: exuberantly, exuberance, exuberate
- facetious:** (*adj*) not intended to be taken seriously  
*Fatima, who hated getting her teeth cleaned, was being facetious when she said, "I love going to the dentist!"*  
 Word Forms: facetiously, facetiousness
- fallacy:** (*n*) a false idea  
*Many textbooks teach the fallacy that George Washington cut down a cherry tree; it is widely believed that an author made up that story to increase the sales of his book.*  
 Word Forms: fallacious, fallaciously, fallaciousness
- fallible:** (*adj*) capable of making a mistake  
*Fallon knew that her boyfriend was fallible, but she was still disappointed to learn that he had lied to her.*  
 Word Forms: fallibly, fallibility, fallibleness      Antonym Forms: infallible, infallibly, infallibility, infallibleness  
 Related Word: fall
- fallow:** (*adj*) not in use  
*The fallow field had not been used for crops in over a decade so the farmer had to till and aerate the soil.*  
 Word Forms: fallowness      Antonym Form: unfallowed
- fastidious:** (*adj*) giving careful attention to detail; hard to please  
*Mrs. Foster, my teacher, is a fastidious grader; she deducts points for any error in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.*  
 Word Forms: fastidiously, fastidiousness      Antonym Form: unfastidious
- fatuous:** (*adj*) foolish and silly  
*The professor made a fatuous argument that everyone dismissed due to its extreme foolishness.*  
 Word Forms: fatuously, fatuousness
- fawn:** (*vb*) to seek attention through flattery  
*The associate fawned over his supervisor in an attempt to receive a raise.*  
 Word Forms: fawner, fawningly, fawningness
- fecund:** (*adj*) productive; fruitful  
*The fecund field has been producing record-setting crops for many years.*  
 Word Forms: fecundity, fecundate, fecundator, fecundatory
- felicity:** (*n*) pleasing and appropriate style; happiness  
*The book review highlighted both the felicities and the imperfections of the novel.*  
 Word Forms: felicitous, felicitously, felicitousness      Antonym Forms: infelicity, infelicitous, infelicitously
- fervid:** (*adj*) hot or passionate  
*The fervid senator fought passionately for victim's rights.*  
 Word Forms: fervidity, fervidly, fervidness      Antonym Form: nonfervid, nonfervidly, nonfervidness      Related Word: fervent
- fetid:** (*adj*) stinky; smelling of decay  
*I hated turning the compost pile because of its fetid smell.*  
 Word Forms: fetidly, fetidness, fetidity
- flippant:** (*adj*) disrespectful; lacking seriousness  
*Floyd was grounded for making flippant remarks about the new rules his father set for him.*  
 Word Forms: flippantly, flippantness, flippancy
- flotsam:** (*n*) floating wreckage or useless, discarded items  
*In the filthy city, the gullies are filled with flotsam that finds its way into the sewer after a heavy rain.*  
 Related Word: jetsam      Note: Flotsam originally referred to the floating wreckage of a boat, while jetsam referred to the items discarded by a ship in distress. Both are loosely used today to refer to useless, discarded items.
- foible:** (*n*) a minor flaw or weakness of character  
*Foster's only foible is his inability to make a decision.*  
 Related Word: feeble

- fomentation:** (*n*) a push for trouble or rebellion  
*The juniors would not have participated in skip day if it weren't for the fomentation of their senior friends.*  
Word Forms: foment, fomenter
- foppish:** (*adj*) affecting extreme elegance in dress and manner  
*The foppish fellow wore a three piece suit and a top hat to the wedding.*  
Word Forms: foppishly, foppishness, foppery, fop
- ford:** (*n*) a shallow portion of a river used for crossing  
*Pioneers often would travel miles out of their way in order to find a ford that would allow them to safely cross a river.*  
Word Forms: ford (*vb*), fordable
- formidable:** (*adj*) causing fear due to powerful strength  
*Forrest is a formidable opponent on the tennis court; he has not lost a set in his last twenty games.*  
Word Forms: formidably, formidableness, formidability
- fortuitous:** (*adj*) fortunate; by chance  
*Getting stuck in an elevator with a head hunter on my way to a job interview turned out to be a fortuitous event.*  
Word Forms: fortuitously, fortuitousness, fortuity      Antonym Form: nonfortuitous, nonfortuitously, nonfortuitousness      Related Word: fortunate
- foster:** (*vb*) to encourage or care for  
*The arts foundation hopes to foster art education in the schools by donating supplies and materials.*  
Word Forms: fostered (*adj.*), fosteringly, fosterer
- fractious:** (*adj*) unruly; irritable  
*Fido was a fractious dog who refused to cooperate even after months of obedience classes.*  
Word Forms: fractiously, fractiousness      Antonym Form: unfractious, unfractiously, unfractiousness
- frenetic:** (*adj*) frantic  
*The castaways were frenetic in waving down the rescue plane.*  
Word Forms: frenetically, frenetical      Antonym Form: nonfrenetic, nonfrenetically
- frivolous:** (*adj*) not serious; silly  
*The author's new novel is a frivolous look at life in the city; although it lacks the serious tones of his previous novels, it's a fun and enjoyable story.*  
Word Forms: frivolously, frivolousness, frivolity, frivol, frivoler
- frugal:** (*adj*) characterized by the avoidance of excessive spending  
*A frugal shopper will always wait for items to go on sale or clearance before purchasing them.*  
Word Forms: frugally, frugalness, frugality
- fulminate:** (*vb*) to explode loudly or to loudly pronounce  
*Phil was angry at his boss and fulminated his frustrations to his coworkers at lunch.*  
Word Forms: fulminator, fulminatory, fulmination      Antonym Form: nonfulminating, unfulminated, unfulminating
- furtive:** (*adj*) sneaky  
*Frank devised a furtive plan in which he would sneak onto the rival's campus and steal their school flag.*  
Word Forms: furtively, furtiveness
- gambol:** (*n*) to skip and frolic  
*Grandma was a fun friend; she gamboled through the field with me, collecting flowers and chasing butterflies.*
- garner:** (*vb*) to earn or to collect  
*Garrett garnered a reputation as a fierce lawyer after winning the trial amid national scrutiny.*  
Antonym Form: ungarnered
- garrulous:** (*adj*) excessively talkative or wordy  
*The garrulous hairdresser talked the entire time he cut my hair.*  
Word Forms: garrulously, garrulousness, garrulity
- genial:** (*adj*) polite and friendly  
*It's important for a kindergarten teacher to be genial; young children respond positively to a friendly adult.*  
Word Forms: genially, genialness, geniality      Related Word: congenial

- germane:** (*adj*) related to; relevant  
*I have some ideas germane to the discussion that might resolve some of the issues we are having.*  
 Word Forms: germanely, germaneness      Antonym Forms: nongermane, ungermane
- glib:** (*adj*) fluent and talkative, often insincerely so  
*The glib salesman promised me that the car had been inspected, but the transmission blew two days after I bought it.*  
 Word Forms: glibly, glibness      Antonym Forms: unglib, unglibly
- glower:** (*vb*) to stare with dislike or anger  
*Mr. Glover glowered at me after I walked on his flowers.*  
 Word Form: gloweringly      Antonym Forms: unglowering, ungloweringly
- gradation:** (*n*) gradual or successive changes  
*The bumble bee can see subtle gradations in color that humans are unable to notice.*  
 Word Forms: gradational, gradationally      Related Word: regradation
- gratuitous:** (*adj*) free; given without reason  
*On Monday, our supervisor announced that all employees were receiving two gratuitous tickets to this weekend's concert.*  
 Word Forms: gratuitously, gratuitousness, gratuity
- gregarious:** (*adj*) sociable  
*Greg is a gregarious student who finds it difficult to avoid socializing during class.*  
 Word Forms: gregariously, gregariousness      Antonym Form: ungregarious
- grievous:** (*adj*) causing grief or very serious  
*During the war, families feared news from a grievous telegram indicating that their loved one had been injured or killed.*  
 Word Forms: grievously, grievousness      Antonym Forms: nongrievous, nongrievously, nongrievousness
- grovel:** (*vb*) lowering oneself as in asking forgiveness or showing respect  
*Grover groveled for forgiveness from his mother after he broke her favorite vase.*  
 Word Forms: groveler, grovelingly      Antonym Form: ungroveling
- guile:** (*n*) a skillful deception  
*The sneaky woman used guile to get close to the withdrawn millionaire; she pretended to have known his brother who died in the war.*  
 Word Forms: guileful, guilefully, guilefulness      Antonym Forms: guileless, guilelessly, guilelessness  
 Related Words: guise, disguise
- gustatory:** (*adj*) relating to the sense of taste  
*The restaurant provides a gustatory experience by offering skewers of beef, pork, and poultry marinated in exotic oils.*  
 Word Forms: gustatorily, gustation, gustative, gustativeness
- hackneyed:** (*adj*) repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse  
*Instead of relying on hackneyed clichés in your essay, try to create original metaphors and similes.*  
 Word Form: hackney (*vb*)
- halcyon:** (*adj*) joyful, peaceful, or prosperous  
*During the company's halcyon days, the employees were making higher than average wages and enjoying benefits unmatched by other corporations.*  
 Word Forms: halcyonian, halcyonic
- hapless:** (*adj*) unlucky  
*The hapless fellow was in a car accident on the same day he lost the winning lottery ticket.*  
 Word Forms: haplessly, haplessness
- harangue:** (*n*) a long, pompous speech  
*At the assembly, the principal delivered a harangue on the merits of perfect attendance and good behavior.*  
 Word Forms: harangue (*vb*.), harangueful, haranguer
- hedonist:** (*n*) a person dedicated to the pursuit of pleasure  
*After working for years as a hospice nurse, Heidi had no respect for the hedonist who lived next door; by only seeking pleasure, he left the more unpleasant activities to caretakers like Heidi.*  
 Word Forms: hedonist (*adj*.), hedonistic, hedonistically, hedonism, hedonic, hedonically

- hegemony:** (*n*) leadership  
*The country exerted its hegemony over the smaller territories.*  
Word Forms: hegemonic, hegemonical      Antonym Form: antihegemony
- heretical:** (*adj*) characteristic of an opinion at odds with accepted beliefs  
*Many people in the church believe the heretical teaching of evolution should be banned.*  
Word Forms: heresy, heretic, heretically, hereticalness      Antonym Forms: nonheretical, nonheretically
- hermetic:** (*adj*) isolated and protected  
*Many of the sea islands were hermetic during the Civil War, making them a safe place for runaway slaves to hide.*  
Word Forms: hermetical, hermetically      Antonym Form: unhermetic      Related Word: hermit
- histrionic:** (*adj*) overly dramatic  
*The histrionic patient pretended to faint when he saw the needle used for the vaccination.*  
Word Forms: histrionic (*n.*), histrionics, histrionical, histrionically
- hoary:** (*adj*) old or stale  
*Harry tells the same hoary stories at every dinner party.*  
Word Forms: hoarily, hoariness      Antonym Form: unhoary
- hubris:** (*n*) pride; arrogance  
*If pride goes before a fall, hubris goes before a downfall.*  
Word Form: hubristic      Antonym Forms: nonhubristic, unhubristic
- husband:** (*vb*) to manage wisely or thriftily  
*Henry husbanded his finances so that he would have plenty to live on in retirement.*  
Word Form: husbander      Antonym Form: unhusbanded      Related Word: husband (*n*)
- iconoclast:** (*n*) a person who attacks cherished ideas or traditional institutions  
*Many religious leaders accused the author of being an iconoclast for presenting evidence that contrasted with the religion's long-standing beliefs.*  
Word Forms: iconoclastic, iconoclastically, iconoclasm
- idiosyncrasy:** (*n*) a characteristic that is peculiar to a specific person  
*Some people found Ida's idiosyncrasy a source of humor, but I never made fun of her for wearing her shirt backwards.*  
Word Forms: idiosyncratic, idiosyncratically
- idolatrous:** (*adj*) great adoration  
*The young girl's idolatrous worship of the teen heartthrob began to worry her mother.*  
Word Forms: idolatry, idolatrously, idolatrousness  
Antonym Forms: nonidolatrous, nonidolatrously, nonidolatrousness      Related Words: idol, idolize
- ignoble:** (*adj*) dishonorable; common  
*Your ignoble behavior at the dinner party will keep you off of invitation lists in the future.*  
Word Forms: ignobility, ignobleness, ignobly      Antonym Forms: noble, nobility, nobly
- ignominious:** (*adj*) disgraceful and shameful  
*Izzy's ignominious crime brought shame and embarrassment to her entire family.*  
Word Forms: ignominiously, ignominiousness, ignominy
- illusory:** (*adj*) creating illusions; deceiving  
*The illusory sweepstakes isn't really a contest at all; "winners" think they have won a free cruise, but the trip actually costs several hundred dollars and requires attendance at marketing seminars.*  
Word Forms: illusorily, illusoriness, illusive      Related Word: illusion
- imbue:** (*vb*) to inspire  
*After the seminar, our supervisor was imbued with the teachings of the keynote speaker, a management expert.*  
Word Form: imbue      Antonym Form: unimbue
- immutable:** (*adj*) unchangeable  
*We are born with some immutable characteristics, such as race, gender, height, and eye color.*  
Word Forms: immutability, immutableness, immutably      Antonym Form: mutable      Related Word: mutation
- impasse:** (*n*) blocked progress; deadlock  
*We came to an impasse in our discussion about our wedding colors; we both refused to compromise.*

- impecunious:** (*adj*) poor  
*In less than a year, Imogen had lost all of her money, going from a wealthy businesswoman to a impecunious beggar.*  
 Word Forms: impecuniously, impecuniousness, impecuniosity
- imperturbable:** (*adj*) calm; incapable of agitation  
*Imelda had imperturbable composure, which is why she was selected to tackle the nerve-wracking feat.*  
 Word Forms: imperturbability, imperturbableness, imperturbably      Antonym Forms: perturb, perturbable
- impervious:** (*adj*) not capable of being affected  
*Ima was impervious to Jack's insults; nothing he said seemed to affect her.*  
 Word Forms: imperviously, imperviousness, imperviable      Antonym Forms: pervious, perviously, perviousness
- impetuous:** (*adj*) impulsive  
*While at the airshow to see old war planes, Ivan made an impetuous decision to go skydiving.*  
 Word Forms: impetuously, impetuousness, impetuosity      Related Word: impetus
- impious:** (*adj*) lacking respect or devotion, usually for a god or religion  
*Imogene had a difficult time convincing her impious husband to attend church with the family.*  
 Word Forms: impiously, impiousness      Antonym Forms: pious, piously, piousness
- implacable:** (*adj*) incapable of being pacified or appeased  
*Inez was so upset at the waiter that she became implacable; nothing the manager offered was going to make her happy.*  
 Word Forms: implacability, implacableness, implacably      Antonym Forms: placable, placably, placability  
 Related Word: placid
- implicit:** (*adj*) implied though not directly expressed  
*Although we never mentioned the fight, there seemed to be an implicit agreement not to talk about it.*  
 Word Forms: implicitly, implicitness, implicitity      Antonym Forms: explicit, explicitly, explicitness
- imprecation:** (*n*) a curse  
*The old woman dabbled in voodoo, and was known for casting imprecations on her enemies.*  
 Word Forms: imprecate, imprecator, imprecatory      Antonym Form: unimprecated
- impugn:** (*vb*) to attack as false or wrong  
*The candidate impugned his opponent's voting record, proving that she had voted against reform she now supports.*  
 Word Forms: impugnable, impugnability, impugnement, impugner      Related Word: oppugn
- impute:** (*vb*) to attribute or credit to  
*The doctors imputed her sudden weight loss to a problem with her thyroid gland.*  
 Word Forms: imputable, imputably, imputative, imputatively, imputativeness, imputedly, imputer      Related Word: putative
- incarnadine:** (*adj*) red or pink; flesh-colored  
*For Valentine's Day, I gave my girlfriend incarnadine carnations since red is the color of love and passion.*  
 Word Form: incarnadine (*vb*)      Related Word: carnation
- inchoate:** (*adj*) in the early stages of development  
*Your inchoate plan for the fund-raiser has a lot of potential, but we need to discuss some details before moving forward.*  
 Word Forms: inchoately, inchoateness, inchoation, inchoative, inchoatively
- incipient:** (*adj*) beginning; just starting  
*The zinc lozenges will help an incipient cold, but do nothing for a well-established virus.*  
 Word Forms: incipiently, incipience, incipency
- incontrovertible:** (*adj*) unquestionable; impossible to deny  
*Protesters demanded the release of the imprisoned woman, saying there was incontrovertible proof of her innocence.*  
 Word Forms: incontrovertibly, incontrovertibility, incontrovertibleness  
 Antonym Forms: controvertible, controvertibly, controvertibility, controvertibleness, controvert
- incurable:** (*adj*) incapable of being corrected or punished  
*The incurable child continued to throw his vegetables even after the mother threatened to send him to his room.*  
 Word Forms: incurably, incurableness, incurability  
 Antonym Forms: corrigible, corrigibly, corrigibleness, corrigibility

- incredulous:** (*adj*) skeptical; not willing to believe  
*The incredulous car buyer did not believe the dealer's claim that the car was accident-free; he insisted on seeing a report on the car's history.*  
 Word Forms: incredulously, incredulousness, incredulity      Related Word: incredible  
 Antonym Forms: credulous, credulously, credulousness, credulity
- inculcate:** (*vb*) to teach through persistent repetition  
*Ms. Ingles inculcated her students with a love of reading; many years later, an overwhelming majority reported that they were still voracious readers.*  
 Word Forms: inculcation, inculcative, inculcator
- indigenous:** (*adj*) native to  
*Although the flower can now be found all over the eastern United States, it is indigenous to Florida.*  
 Word Forms: indigenously, indigenousness, indigeneity, indigen, indigene
- indignant:** (*adj*) displaying anger due to unfairness  
*The seniors were indignant over their disqualification in the homecoming contest, claiming that the decision was unfair.*  
 Word Forms: indignantly, indignation
- indolent:** (*adj*) lazy  
*India was an indolent worker, and was thus fired when it was discovered that she was lazy.*  
 Word Forms: indolently, indolence
- ineffable:** (*adj*) incapable of being put into words  
*Effie's joy at being reunited with her long-lost brother was ineffable; words could not explain her happiness.*  
 Word Forms: ineffably, ineffableness, ineffability      Antonym Form: effable
- inexorable:** (*adj*) unyielding  
*Mary Ingalls was aware that she would lose her sight before she began her inexorable decline into blindness.*  
 Word Forms: inexorability, inexorably, inexorableness      Antonym Form: exorable
- ingenious:** (*adj*) clever and inventive  
*Jeannie invented an ingenious device for the beach that combined a cooler, radio, and portable fan.*  
 Word Forms: ingeniously, ingeniousness, ingenuity      Related Word: genius
- ingenue:** (*n*) an artless, innocent young girl (especially as portrayed on the stage)  
*The young actress will play the part of the ingenue, an innocent girl who becomes caught up in the plot in Act II.*  
 Related Word: ingenuous
- ingrate:** (*n*) an ungrateful person  
*Inga came off as an ingrate when she failed to thank her hosts for dinner.*  
 Word Form: ingrately      Related Word: grateful
- ingratiate:** (*vb*) to put oneself in another's good graces  
*Ingrid's boyfriend ingratiated himself with her father by sharing a love of classic movies and old cars.*  
 Word Forms: ingratiating, ingratiatory, ingratiating
- inherent:** (*adj*) existing as a natural and essential characteristic  
*The abused dog had an inherent distrust of men, so only female volunteers at the shelter could get close to him.*  
 Word Forms: inherently, inhere, inherence      Related Word: inherit
- inimical:** (*adj*) harmful or hostile  
*Oscar cast an inimical sneer at Melissa when she took credit for his idea.*  
 Word Forms: inimically, inimicalness, inimicality, inimicable      Related Word: enemy
- iniquity:** (*n*) wickedness  
*The wicked witch's iniquity kept Dorothy from returning to Kansas.*  
 Word Forms: iniquitous, iniquitously, iniquitousness
- innocuous:** (*adj*) harmless  
*No one had to be evacuated after the tanker spill, as the gas released was innocuous.*  
 Word Forms: innocuously, innocuousness, innocuity      Antonym Forms: noxious, noxiously, noxiousness  
 Related Word: inoculate

- insidious:** (*adj*) intended to entrap, deceive, or harm  
*Sid devised an insidious plan to get the witness to admit he hadn't really witnessed the crime.*  
Word Forms: insidiously, insidiousness
- insipid:** (*adj*) bland, dull, or uninteresting  
*When I left for college, the insipid cafeteria food made me miss my father's home-cooked meals.*  
Word Forms: insipidly, insipidness, insipidity      Antonym Forms: sipid, sipidity
- insolence:** (*n*) rudeness  
*The headmaster said that insolence would not be tolerated; rude behavior towards a teacher would result in suspension.*  
Word Forms: insolent (n.), insolently, insolence
- insular:** (*adj*) narrow-minded; isolated  
*The culture is criticized for its insular ideas, such as the belief that women should not be allowed to attend school.*  
Word Forms: insularly, insularism, insularity
- insurrection:** (*n*) a rebellion or uprising  
*King George ordered British troops to quash the colonist's insurrection, but the uprising led to the Revolutionary War.*  
Word Forms: insurrectional, insurrectionally, insurrectionism, insurrectionist
- inter:** (*vb*) to bury  
*James Garfield, the 20th President of the United States who was assassinated in 1881, was interred in Cleveland, Ohio.*  
Word Form: reinter      Antonym Form: uninterred
- interlocutor:** (*n*) a person who takes part in a conversation  
*At the apartment complex, the two interlocutors continued to debate the merits of television outside my bedroom window until well after midnight.*  
Word Forms: interlocution, interlocutory, interlocutorily      Related Words: locution, eloquent
- interregnum:** (*n*) a period of time free from authority  
*When the king died, there was a two week interregnum as the prince returned from abroad for his coronation.*  
Word Form: interregnal
- intractable:** (*adj*) stubborn; difficult to manage  
*The intractable child refused to let the babysitter into the room.*  
Word Forms: intractability, intractableness, intractably
- intransigent:** (*adj*) refusing to yield or compromise  
*When it came to Edgar's hunting trophies, Enid was intransigent; she refused to hang the deer heads on the wall.*  
Word Forms: intransigent (n.), intransigently, intransigence, intransigency
- inundate:** (*vb*) to flood  
*After the newspaper ran the controversial story, the editor was inundated with calls from hundreds of angry subscribers.*  
Word Forms: inundation, inundatory, inundator
- inure:** (*vb*) to become used to  
*People in Alaska were inured to cold weather.*  
Word Forms: inuredness, inurement      Antonym Form: uninured
- invective:** (*n*) violent criticism  
*The governor was quick to issue an invective denouncing the show that portrayed her state's residents as vulgar and obscene.*  
Word Forms: invective (adj), invectively, invectiveness      Antonym Form: uninvective
- inveigle:** (*vb*) to persuade with smooth talk  
*Vicki inveigled Vivianne into playing checkers, even though Vivianne would have rather played chess.*  
Word Forms: inveiglement, inveigler      Antonym Form: uninveigled
- investiture:** (*n*) ceremony for bestowing an official title  
*At the investiture, the detective was promoted to sergeant.*  
Word Form: investitive



- invidious:** (*adj*) intended to hurt, offend, or discriminate  
*Ivan's invidious remarks to his wife shocked their guests; they had no idea that he could be so cruel.*  
Word Forms: invidiously, invidiousness
- invoke:** (*vb*) to summon into action or bring into existence  
*The psychic claimed that he could invoke the spirits in the house through an old-fashioned séance.*  
Word Forms: invocable, invocation, invocational, invoker      Related Words: evoke, provoke, revoke
- irascible:** (*adj*) quickly aroused to anger  
*The irascible old lady caused a scene at the restaurant by yelling at the manager when her hamburger was overcooked.*  
Word Forms: irascibly, irascibleness, irascibility      Related Word: ire
- itinerant:** (*adj*) traveling from place to place to work  
*The itinerant pastor was transferred to our church from a ministry in Ohio; he will stay with us for six months before going to New Hampshire.*  
Word Forms: itinerant (n.), itinerantly, itinerate, itineration      Related Word: itinerary
- jettison:** (*vb*) to throw away  
*Jett was arrested when he jettisoned old boat fuel into the harbor.*  
Word Form: jettisonable
- jingoism:** (*n*) noisy and excessive patriotism for one's country  
*The candidate's jingoism cost him the election, as constituents did not believe he could tactfully handle foreign policy.*  
Word Forms: jingo, jingoish, jingoist, jingoistic, jingoistically
- jocular:** (*adj*) characterized by joking  
*Jack's speeches were always entertaining because they were peppered with jocular anecdotes.*  
Word Forms: jocularly, overjocular, jocularly      Related Word: joke
- juncture:** (*n*) a critical point in time  
*At this juncture, I think it's important to merge the Human Resources and Marketing departments.*
- juxtapose:** (*vb*) to place side by side  
*When Justin's picture was juxtaposed with his father's picture, the resemblance between the two was remarkable.*  
Word Form: juxtaposition      Related Word: pose
- keen:** (*adj*) sharp as in a point, or sharp as in intelligence  
*It will take a keen mind to solve this difficult puzzle.*  
Word Forms: keenly, keenness
- kindle:** (*vb*) to light up or to excite  
*The novel "Jurassic Park" kindled his interest in dinosaurs.*  
Word Form: kindler      Related Word: kindling
- kinetic:** (*adj*) characterized by motion  
*Some students are kinetic learners who learn best when they are moving around.*  
Word Form: kinetically      Antonym Form: nonkinetic      Related Words: telekinesis, kinetics
- knell:** (*n*) sound of a bell at a funeral or a sign of looming death or destruction  
*The town was quiet, with boarded up buildings and no sign of life, a knell of the impending war.*  
Word Form: knell (*vb*)
- lachrymose:** (*adj*) tearful; sad  
*Lakeisa tends to get lachrymose over animal rescue commercials depicting cats and dogs in abusive situations.*  
Word Forms: lachrymosely, lachrymosity
- laconic:** (*adj*) expressing much in few words  
*A laconic essay will be scored higher than an essay with unnecessary words or sentences.*  
Word Forms: laconically, laconism      Antonym Form: unlaconic
- lament:** (*vb*) to express grief; to mourn  
*When Lamont left for college, his little sister lamented his absence for weeks.*  
Word Forms: lament (n.), lamentingly, lamentable, lamentably, lamenter      Antonym Form: unlamented

- lampoon:** (vb) to mock in a satire  
*The actors of "Saturday Night Live" make a living by lampooning current events.*  
 Word Forms: lampoon (n), lampooner, lampoonist, lampoonery      Antonym Form: unlampooned
- languid:** (adj) lacking in energy or spirit  
*My boss's languid response to my proposal wasn't expected; I thought he'd be excited about my initiative and creativity.*  
 Word Forms: languidly, languidness      Antonym Forms: unlanguid, unlanguidly, unlanguidness  
 Related Word: languish
- lapidary:** (adj) relating to polished stones; characterized by exactness and extreme polishing  
*The author's lapidary manuscript was so carefully crafted that editors could find no mistakes.*  
 Word Forms: lapidarian, lapidarist
- largess:** (n) generous gift-giving  
*Larissa's largess at the twins' birthday party would not soon be forgotten; she gave them enough toys to keep them busy for a year.*  
 Related Word: large
- lassitude:** (n) lack of energy; weariness  
*One symptom of the illness was lassitude; Leslie learned early on that she had no energy during an attack.*
- latent:** (adj) existing but not visible or obvious  
*Latika clearly had latent ability in math, but she failed to put forward any effort in the subject so no one knew how bright she really was.*  
 Word Forms: latently, latency
- laud:** (vb) to praise, glorify, or honor  
*Landon was lauded for his achievements at the laboratory; he had made more progress in a year than most scientists had made in a decade.*  
 Word Forms: laudable, laudably, laudation, laudative, laudatory, laudator
- lavish:** (adj) very generous or extravagant  
*The lavish wedding reception had a steak and lobster dinner, several intricate ice sculptures, and a famous jazz band.*  
 Word Forms: lavishly, lavishness, lavishment, lavisher
- legerdemain:** (n) trickery; sleight of hand  
*The magician employed legerdemain to fool the audience into believing he pulled a rabbit from his hat.*  
 Word Form: legerdemainist
- levity:** (n) inappropriate lack of seriousness  
*The teenagers' levity during the assembly on drinking and driving cost them six Saturdays in detention.*
- lexicography:** (n) the act of writing dictionaries  
*Noah Webster's career in lexicography developed from his dissatisfaction with British school books; he wrote his first dictionary to help his elementary students learn to spell.*  
 Word Forms: lexicographic, lexicographical, lexicographically, lexicographer      Related Words: lexicon, dyslexic
- liberate:** (vb) free; unrestrained  
*When the farmer accidentally left the stall door open, the liberated horse sprinted for the woods.*  
 Word Forms: liberated, liberative, liberatory, liberation, liberator      Antonym Form: unliberated
- libertine:** (adj) unrestrained by morals  
*Libby had no scruples and thus made libertine choices, never worrying about those affected or what others would think.*  
 Word Forms: libertine (n), libertinage, libertinism
- licentious:** (adj) unrestrained by morals  
*Libby had no scruples and thus made licentious choices, never worrying about those affected or what others would think.*  
 Word Forms: licentiously, licentiousness      Antonym Form: nonlicentious, nonlicentiously, nonlicentiousness  
 Related Word: license

- limpid:** (*adj*) clear; calm  
*The limpid waters provided opportunity for the anglers to sight cast directly to the fish they could see in the clear water.*  
 Word Forms: limpidity, limpidness, limpidly
- lissome:** (*adj*) flexible  
*The lissome gymnast dazzled the audience with her tumbling routine.*  
 Word Forms: lissomely, lissomeness
- listless:** (*adj*) lacking energy or spirit  
*My boss's listless response to my proposal wasn't expected; I thought he'd be excited about my initiative and creativity.*  
 Word Forms: listlessly, listlessness
- loquacious:** (*adj*) extremely talkative  
*Lance was disappointed in his loquacious date; she talked so much that she never had time to listen to any of his stories.*  
 Word Forms: loquaciously, loquaciousness, loquacity      Related Words: eloquent, ventriloquist, soliloquy
- lucid:** (*adj*) clear; easy to understand  
*If your directions had been more lucid, I might have made it to the party on time.*  
 Word Forms: lucidly, lucidness, lucidity      Related Word: elucidate
- lugubrious:** (*adj*) excessively mournful; sad and gloomy  
*Lucy's lugubrious behavior has started to annoy her friends; it has been two months since her breakup with Josh, but she is still as gloomy as if it had happened yesterday.*  
 Word Forms: lugubriously, lugubriousness, lugubriosity
- luminous:** (*adj*) radiating light; enlightening; easily understood  
*The meeting was luminous because we finally figured out the reason that the mayor was backing the construction project.*  
 Word Forms: luminously, luminousness      Antonym Forms: nonluminous, nonluminously, nonluminousness  
 Related Words: luminary, illuminate, luminescent
- machination:** (*n*) a crafty plot  
*The fairy tale follows the machinations of an evil stepsister who is out to steal the prince from the heroine.*  
 Word Forms: machinate, machinator
- maelstrom:** (*n*) a powerful whirlpool or turbulent chaos  
*When the manager was fired, he left the office in a maelstrom; there was frequent infighting and little leadership.*
- magnanimous:** (*adj*) noble and generous in spirit  
*The magnanimous donor has given over ten million dollars to children's charities in the city.*  
 Word Forms: magnanimously, magnanimousness, magnanimity
- magnate:** (*n*) an important person in a field of business  
*Henry Ford was an automotive magnate, manufacturing the first automobile that was affordable to the middle class.*  
 Word Form: magnateship
- malediction:** (*n*) a curse  
*The members of the team feared that the old woman had placed a malediction upon their season because they hadn't won a game since accidentally shattering her windshield with a foul ball.*  
 Word Forms: maledictive, maledictory, maledict      Antonym Forms: benediction, benedictive, benedictory  
 Related Words: diction, dictate, dictionary
- malevolent:** (*adj*) evil  
*The malevolent old man plotted the demise of his neighbor's barking dog.*  
 Word Forms: malevolently, malevolence, malevolency
- malice:** (*n*) a desire to make others suffer  
*Malika's sharp comment was delivered with malice; she knew that her words would hurt her mother's feelings.*  
 Word Forms: malicious, maliciously, maliciousness      Antonym Form: unmalicious

- malingering:** (*vb*) to fake an illness to avoid responsibility  
*Malinda claims to have strep throat, but since she has been known to malingering in the past make sure she brings a doctor's note when she returns to work.*  
 Word Form: malingerer
- malleable:** (*adj*) capable of being shaped or influenced  
*Mallory worried that her malleable son would learn inappropriate behavior from the older boys he played with at school.*  
 Word Forms: malleably, malleableness, malleability      Antonym Forms: unmalleable, unmalleability
- malodorous:** (*adj*) having an unpleasant smell  
*My malodorous shoe smelled so terrible that my mom threw it away.*  
 Word Forms: malodorously, malodorousness      Related Words: odor, odorously
- mar:** (*vb*) to make imperfect; to disfigure  
*My nearly-perfect report card was marred by a low grade in speech class.*  
 Word Forms: mar (n.), marred (adj.)      Antonym Form: unmarred
- martial:** (*adj*) relating to war  
*The mayor was in favor of taking a martial approach to the problem, preferring to send soldiers into the abandoned houses to remove the squatters and drug dealers.*  
 Word Forms: martialism, martialist, martially, martialness      Antonym Form: nonmartial
- martinet:** (*n*) a person who rigidly demands that rules are followed; a strict disciplinarian  
*Marty realized that the drill sergeant was a martinet, so his best course of action was to closely follow all the rules.*  
 Word Forms: martinetish, martinetism
- matriarch:** (*n*) the female head of a family  
*As the matriarch of the family, Grandma sat at the head of the Thanksgiving dinner table.*  
 Word Forms: matriarchal, matriarchic, matriarchalism, matriarchy  
 Antonym Forms: patriarch, patriarchal, patriarchic, patriarchalism, patriarchy      Related Words: ma, maternal
- maudlin:** (*adj*) foolishly emotional  
*When Maude drinks too much, she becomes maudlin, crying over silly things like her shoelaces coming untied.*  
 Word Forms: maudlinism, maudlinly, maudlinness      Antonym Forms: unmaudlin, unmaudlinly
- maverick:** (*n*) a person who chooses to be independent in behavior or thought  
*Even though the other ranchers were branding their cattle, Sam was a maverick who believed he did not need to follow the rules set by his associates.*
- melange:** (*n*) a mixture  
*Melanie's walls are decorated with a mélange of surfing posters and beach photographs.*
- mendacious:** (*adj*) lying, false, or untrue  
*The mendacious girl said that she didn't take her mother's lipstick, but the bright red evidence was all over her face.*  
 Word Forms: mendaciously, mendaciousness, mendacity
- mendicant:** (*adj*) begging  
*In the poverty-stricken country, mendicant children approach tourists to ask for food and money.*  
 Word Forms: mendicancy, mendicity
- mercurial:** (*adj*) apt to change; volatile; lively  
*Meryl was known for her mercurial moods; she could be charming and kind one minute and caustic and hateful the next.*  
 Word Forms: mercurially, mercurialness      Antonym Forms: unmercurial, unmercurially, unmercurialness  
 Related Word: mercury
- meretricious:** (*adj*) insincere; flashily attractive  
*Meredith bestowed meretricious praise upon Mark on-camera, but she had nothing nice to say about him off-camera.*  
 Word Forms: meretriciously, meretriciousness      Antonym Form: unmeretricious, unmeretriciously, unmeretriciousness
- meritocracy:** (*n*) a form of social system in which power goes to those with superior abilities  
*Critics argue that a meritocracy cannot be fairly created, as intelligence and ability are difficult to measure accurately.*  
 Word Form: meritocratic      Related Word: merit

- meticulous:** (*adj*) extremely careful and precise with details  
*Miss Walter demanded meticulous essays; perfect spelling and punctuation were essential for a high grade.*  
Word Forms: meticulously, meticulousness, meticulousity
- militate:** (*vb*) to have substantial influence  
*Millie's grandfather's significant donations to the university militated for her acceptance in the admissions process.*  
Word Form: militation      Related Words: military, militia
- mirth:** (*n*) laughter or merriment  
*Even the old scrooge could not resist the mirth of the holiday season, as he eventually joined in the celebration.*  
Word Forms: mirthful, mirthfully, mirthfulness,      Antonym Forms: mirthless, mirthlessly, mirthlessness
- misanthrope:** (*n*) a person who hates and distrusts mankind  
*The main character is a bitter misanthrope who learns to trust again through her friendship with the children next door.*  
Word Forms: misanthropist, misanthropic, misanthropical, misanthropically, misanthropy
- miscreant:** (*n*) a person who is evil or villainous  
*The miscreant came to town with the intention of creating strife and commotion, as he enjoyed watching others argue.*  
Word Forms: miscreant (*adj.*), miscreance, miscreancy
- miser:** (*n*) a stingy person who lives in miserable conditions in order to save money  
*The old miser lives in a rat-infested apartment even though he has more than enough money to live in a nice home.*  
Word Forms: miserly, miserliness      Related Words: misery, miserable
- missive:** (*n*) a letter  
*The governor sent out missives to her supportive constituents, thanking them for their contributions to her campaign.*
- mitigate:** (*vb*) to make less intense or severe  
*Mitch was grounded for a week when he broke curfew, but his mom mitigated his punishment by several days when she learned that he had been late because he was taking a sick friend to the hospital.*  
Word Forms: mitigable, mitigatedly, mitigation, mitigative, mitigatory, mitigator  
Antonym Forms: immitigable, immitigably, immitigability, unmitigable, unmitigated, unmitigatedly
- mollify:** (*vb*) to soften or soothe  
*Molly was able to mollify the crying child by offering him an ice cream cone.*  
Word Forms: mollification, mollifier, mollifyingly, mollifiable
- molt:** (*vb*) to shed feathers  
*The cockatoo molted every spring in preparation for new feathers.*  
Word Form: molter
- monastic:** (*adj*) relating to monasteries or relating to a dedicated way of life  
*Mona lived a monastic life, refraining from sensual pleasures and the accumulation of material possessions.*  
Word Form: monastically      Antonym Forms: nonmonastic, nonmonastically  
Related Words: pseudomonastic, monastery
- morass:** (*n*) 1. a swamp 2. a difficult situation  
*After Morgan accepted Jill's invitation to the dance, he found himself in a morass; his friend offered him a ticket to a concert that he really wanted to see, but it happened to be on the same night as the dance.*
- moratorium:** (*n*) suspension of an ongoing activity  
*When many students were late returning from lunch, the principal placed a moratorium on off-campus lunch privileges.*  
Word Form: moratory
- mores:** (*n*) important customs or beliefs of a group  
*The advertisements in the housekeeping magazine from 1950 reflect the social mores of the time.*
- morose:** (*adj*) gloomy  
*After his girlfriend moved away, Morris became morose and depressed.*  
Word Forms: morosely, moroseness, morosity

- multifarious:** (*adj*) having many parts and much variety  
*The school offers multifarious activities after school; children should have no problem finding a program that matches their interests.*  
 Word Forms: multifariously, multifariousness
- mundane:** (*adj*) ordinary and somewhat boring  
*While a trip to the beach had once been exciting, we went so often that it had become mundane.*  
 Word Forms: mundanely, mundaneness, mundanity
- munificent:** (*adj*) very generous  
*The munificent donor gave the hospital enough money to build a specialized center for heart patients.*  
 Word Forms: munificently, munificentness, munificence
- myopic:** (*adj*) lacking long-term vision  
*Maya has a myopic outlook when it comes to investment; she complains about the money she is investing now, rather than focusing on the money she will make in the future.*  
 Word Forms: myopically, myopia
- nadir:** (*n*) the lowest point  
*Nadia entered the nadir of despair when she lost her job and her fiance called off the wedding.*  
 Word Form: nadiral
- naïve:** (*adj*) inexperienced and gullible  
*Nan was naïve in thinking that no one looked at her online social page except her friends; her father looked at it daily.*  
 Word Forms: naïvely, naïveness, naïveté
- narcissist:** (*n*) a person who has excessive love or admiration of oneself  
*Nancy is a narcissist who is unable to love her husband or her children as much as she loves herself.*  
 Word Forms: narcissist, narcissism, narcissistic, narcissistic, narcissistically
- nascent:** (*adj*) being born or beginning  
*The nascent hockey team did not have much experience, as this was their first year in the league.*  
 Word Forms: nascence, nascency
- nebulous:** (*adj*) vague or cloudy  
*When I woke up in the hospital, I only had a nebulous memory of the accident.*  
 Word Forms: nebulously, nebulousness      Antonym Forms: nonnebulous, nonnebulously, nonnebulousness
- nefarious:** (*adj*) extremely wicked  
*In the novel, the nefarious character plotted to financially destroy the hero.*  
 Word Forms: nefariously, nefariousness
- neologism:** (*n*) a new word  
*Each year Merriam Webster decides which neologisms will be granted entry into their dictionaries.*  
 Word Forms: neologist, neologistic, neological, neology
- neophyte:** (*n*) a beginner  
*Neil is a neophyte at downhill skiing, so he should stick to the smaller hills today.*  
 Word Forms: neophytic, neophytish, neophytism
- nettle:** (*vb*) to irritate  
*I was nettled by her annoying voice.*  
 Word Forms: nettle (*n*), nettler, nettly      Antonym Form: unnettled
- nihilism:** (*n*) belief in the rejection of rules and the destruction of social and political order  
*During the rebellion, the followers of nihilism were the first to break the laws in the city.*  
 Word Forms: nihilistic, nihilistically, nihility, nihilist
- noisome:** (*adj*) offensive (especially odors)  
*My noisome shoe smelled so terrible that my mom threw it away.*  
 Word Forms: noisomely, noisomeness
- nominal:** (*adj*) in name only; minimal  
*The president was a nominal leader; the real people making the important decisions were his advisors.*  
 Word Form: prenominal      Antonym Forms: unnominal, unnominally

- noxious:** (*adj*) harmful  
*The danger of a carbon dioxide leak is that the noxious fumes are odorless.*  
 Word Forms: noxiously, noxiousness
- nuance:** (*n*) a subtle difference  
*The nuances between the two fonts are often missed by the untrained graphic designer.*  
 Word Form: nuanced
- numismatic:** (*adj*) pertaining to coins or medals  
*The archeologist found numismatic evidence of the ancient civilization, including three coins with depictions of animals.*  
 Word Forms: numismatics, numismatical, numismatically
- obdurate:** (*adj*) stubborn  
*The obdurate child refused to eat his vegetables and sat at the dinner table with the untouched broccoli until bedtime.*  
 Word Forms: obdurately, obdurateness, obduracy      Related Word: indurate
- obfuscate:** (*vb*) to confuse or make unclear  
*If a solution to a math question requires units to be in inches, the test makers may obfuscate the question by using feet.*  
 Word Forms: obfuscation, obfuscatory
- oblique:** (*adj*) slanting; not straight; indirect or evasive  
*The politician made oblique comments about his opponent, hinting at corruption but not actually saying it was an issue.*  
 Word Forms: obliquely, obliqueness
- obstreperous:** (*adj*) noisily defiant or aggressive  
*The obstreperous students crowded the school board meeting to protest the new dress code.*  
 Word Forms: obstreperously, obstreperousness, obstreperosity
- obscure:** (*adj*) not clearly understood or expressed  
*Most of the movie audience did not understand the obscure reference to the other movie.*  
 Word Forms: obscure (*vb.*), obscurely, obscureness, obscuredly, obscurity
- obsequious:** (*adj*) overly flattering or obedient  
*The new employee was distrusted by his co-workers because of his obsequious behavior; he agreed with everything the boss said and laughed at all of her bad jokes.*  
 Word Forms: obsequiously, obsequiousness, obsequence
- obstinate:** (*adj*) extremely stubborn  
*Mr. O'Brien was obstinate about eating at the bistro; he refused to eat anywhere else.*  
 Word Form: obstinately, obstinateness, obstinacy
- obstreperous:** (*adj*) noisily defiant or aggressive  
*The obstreperous students crowded the school board meeting to protest the new dress code.*  
 Word Forms: obstreperously, obstreperousness, obstreperosity
- obstructionist:** (*n*) a person who purposely blocks progress  
*Alberta worried that obstructionists would interfere with her environmental bill, ending her efforts to save the eagles.*  
 Word Forms: obstructionistic, obstructionism      Related Words: obstruct, obstruction, obstructive
- obtuse:** (*adj*) intellectually slow; dull  
*You might have to simplify your explanation of photosynthesis because Obie is a bit obtuse.*  
 Word Forms: obtusely, obtuseness
- obviate:** (*vb*) to prevent any perceived difficulty  
*The car seat manufacturer obviated the risk of injury by removing the cup holder from the most recent model.*  
 Word Forms: obviable, obviation, obviator, preobviate      Antonym Form: unobviable
- occlude:** (*vb*) to shut or block  
*Plaque buildup in the arteries can occlude the flow of blood resulting in heart disease.*  
 Word Forms: occludent, occlusion, occlusal      Antonym Forms: include, nonocclusion

- odious:** (*adj*) offensive; hateful  
*The majority of Americans view dog fighting as an odious crime.*  
Word Forms: odiously, odiousness      Related Word: odium
- officious:** (*adj*) aggressively forward  
*My officious neighbor insisted on helping me after my accident, but I really just wanted to be left alone.*  
Word Forms: officiously, officiousness, overofficious
- ominous:** (*adj*) threatening or foreshadowing evil  
*The dark clouds in the distance were ominous and threatened to ruin the picnic.*  
Word Forms: ominously, ominousness      Related Word: omen
- onerous:** (*adj*) oppressive; burdensome  
*Cinderella was saddled with onerous household duties while she lived with her wicked stepmother.*  
Word Forms: onerously, onerousness, onerosity      Antonym Forms: nononerous, nononerously, nononerousness
- opaque:** (*adj*) not clear; not allowing light to pass through  
*The glass on the bathroom shower has an opaque layer that prevents people from seeing through it.*  
Word Forms: opaquely, opaqueness      Related Word: opacity
- opine:** (*vb*) to express an opinion  
*The editor opined about the evils of genetically modified foods in today's opinion section of the newspaper.*  
Antonym Form: unopined      Related Word: opinion
- opprobrium:** (*n*) disgrace or severe criticism due to shameful behavior  
*The team owner faced public opprobrium when he was caught making racial remarks.*  
Word Forms: opprobrious, opprobriously, opprobriousness      Antonym Form: nonopprobrious
- opulent:** (*adj*) rich and luxurious  
*The opulent kitchen had marble countertops and solid gold fixtures.*  
Word Forms: opulently, opulence, opulency
- oration:** (*n*) a formal speech  
*The political candidate delivered an oration about the benefits of her universal health care plan.*  
Word Forms: orate, oratorical, orator
- ornate:** (*adj*) highly decorated  
*The ornate palace had colorful paintings and intricate wood carvings in every room.*  
Word Forms: ornately, ornateness      Related Word: ornament
- orotund:** (*adj*) a rich voice or pompous speech  
*The millionaire's orotund speech at the graduation ceremony was shocking; he was not normally known for being pompous and pretentious.*  
Word Form: orotundity      Related Word: rotund
- orthodox:** (*adj*) customary; traditional  
*Maria and Bryan chose an orthodox ceremony with the standard wedding vows and the typical progression of events.*  
Word Forms: orthodoxly, orthodoxness, orthodoxal, orthodoxical, orthodoxy  
Antonym Forms: unorthodox, unorthodoxical, heterodox
- ossify:** (*vb*) to harden like bone; to become inflexible in habits or beliefs  
*Oscar was open-minded prior to college, but after graduation he began to ossify concerning politics.*  
Word Form: ossifier      Antonym Form: unossifying
- ostensible:** (*adj*) pretended  
*Austin's ostensible excuse for missing school was that his grandmother was in the hospital; the real reason, however, was that he went to the beach.*  
Word Forms: ostensibly, ostensive      Related Word: ostentatious
- overt:** (*adj*) open and observable; not secret or hidden  
*The candidate's overt support of stem cell research was unusual; he made it clear that if elected, he would work to increase research efforts.*  
Word Forms: overtly, overtness      Antonym Forms: covert, covertly, covertness
- overwrought:** (*adj*) extremely excited or disturbed  
*Eva became overwrought when she lost her cell phone.*  
Related Word: overwork



- pacify:** (vb) to calm; to bring peace  
*The babysitter used a teething ring to pacify the crying baby.*  
Word Forms: pacifiable, pacifyingly, pacific, pacifier, pacifist
- paean:** (n) a song of praise  
*The ancient Greeks sang paeans to Apollo and other gods.*  
Word Form: paeanism
- palatial:** (adj) like a palace; magnificent  
*Polly bought a palatial home that had eight bedrooms, two kitchens, a ballroom, and a six car garage.*  
Word Forms: palatially, palatialness      Antonym Form: unpalatial
- palliate:** (vb) to relieve or lessen  
*Aloe will palliate the pain from a sunburn.*  
Word Forms: palliation, palliator, palliative      Antonym Forms: nonpalliation, unpalliated
- pallid:** (adj) pale; lacking energy  
*Palmer did not look healthy; his pallid skin had lost all trace of color.*  
Word Forms: pallidly, pallidness
- panacea:** (n) a cure for all diseases, or a solution to all problems  
*The manager believed the new software was a panacea for all of the company's computer problems, but Pam was skeptical of its ability to improve the entire system.*  
Word Form: panacean
- panache:** (n) dashing style, flair, or manner  
*Penny only dates men with panache; she prefers to be seen with flamboyant boyfriends.*
- panegyric:** (n) a formal expression of praise  
*The director delivered a panegyric about the center's most helpful volunteer, praising her for helping the needy.*  
Word Forms: panegyrical, panegyrically, panegyrist, panegyryze, self-panegyric
- panoply:** (n) complete or impressive array  
*Penelope has managed to attract a panoply of bird species to her backyard bird feeder.*  
Word Form: panoplied      Antonym Form: unpanoplied
- paradox:** (n) a statement that contradicts itself but nevertheless may still be true  
*Parker said, "I always lie," but this is a paradox; if the statement is true, then he must be lying.*  
Word Forms: paradoxal, paradoxical, paradoxically, paradoxicalness, paradoxicality, paradoxology
- paragon:** (n) a perfect example  
*Parmida is a paragon of professionalism; she arrives on time, treats co-workers with respect, and refrains from gossip.*  
Word Forms: paragon (vb.), paragoned
- parenthetical:** (adj) characterized by the use of parenthesis  
*A remark in parenthesis is called a parenthetical remark, which is usually used to explain the sentence.*  
Word Forms: parenthetic, parenthetically, parentheticalness      Related Word: parentheses
- pariah:** (n) a person who is rejected; an outcast  
*Pamela became the pariah of the company when she was caught stealing money from her co-workers.*  
Word Forms: pariahdom, pariahism
- parley:** (vb) to talk or confer  
*The two generals met to parley their demands for surrender.*  
Word Forms: parley (n), parleyer
- parody:** (n) a humorous imitation  
*The awards show opened with a parody of a movie; all of the characters were played by monkeys dressed like the actors.*  
Word Forms: parody (vb.), parodiable, parodic, parodist
- parry:** (vb) to ward off, avoid, or evade  
*The senator parried any questions about the scandal by focusing on the state of the economy.*  
Word Forms: parriable, parrier      Antonym Forms: unparried, unparrying

- parsimonious:** (*adj*) extremely reluctant to spend money; frugal and stingy  
*The parsimonious woman told her grandchildren that the gumballs in the candy machine were too expensive.*  
 Word Forms: parsimoniously, parsimoniousness, parsimony
- partisan:** (*adj*) tending to favor one group or one way of thinking  
*Gun control is a partisan issue; one party favors government management while the other prefers individual authority.*  
 Word Forms: partisanship, partisanry, partisan (n.)     Antonym Forms: nonpartisan, bipartisan     Related Word: party
- pastiche:** (*n*) a work that is a mixture of styles, materials, or sources  
*Patsy's composition was truly a pastiche, borrowing musical elements from Bach, Beethoven, and Mozart.*  
 Word Forms: pasticcio, pasticheur, pasticheuse
- patriarch:** (*n*) the male head of a family  
*As the oldest of the seven, Uncle Pat was the patriarch of the family and thus gave the toasts at all family gatherings.*  
 Word Forms: patriarchal, patriarchic, patriarchalism, patriarchy  
 Antonym Forms: matriarch, matriarchal, matriarchic, matriarchalism, matriarchy     Related Words: pa, paternal
- paucity:** (*n*) an insufficient quantity or number  
*Pam realized there was a paucity of hamburger buns.*
- peccadillo:** (*n*) a minor fault or sin  
*Mr. Peck brought a bottle of white wine instead of a bottle of red wine to the dinner, but was forgiven for this peccadillo when he also produced a box of luxurious European chocolates.*
- pedagogical:** (*adj*) relating to education or teaching  
*The course for new teachers taught the pedagogical principal that all children could learn.*  
 Word Forms: pedagogy, pedagogic, pedagogically, pedagogism, pedagogery, pedagogish, pedagogue, pedagogue
- pedantic:** (*adj*) overly focused on small details while teaching or learning  
*It was difficult to be Penny's partner because she was pedantic about recording every single step of the scientific method.*  
 Word Forms: pedantical, pedantically, pedanticalness, pedanticism, pedantism, pedantry, pedant, pedantesque
- pejorative:** (*n*) a word that is derogatory or belittling  
*At one time, 'imbecile' meant weak, but it has since become a pejorative to describe a person who is intellectually slow.*  
 Word Forms: pejorative (adj), pejoratively, pejoration  
 Antonym Forms: nonpejorative, nonpejoratively, unpejorative, unpejoratively
- penchant:** (*n*) a strong liking  
*Penny has a penchant for poetry; she has filled two notebooks with poems and poetic lines.*
- penitent:** (*adj*) feeling or expressing remorse for misdeeds  
*The penitent criminal asked for forgiveness from the family he had robbed.*  
 Word Forms: penitently, penitence     Antonym Forms: impenitent, impenitently, impenitence  
 Related Words: repentant, penance, penitentiary
- penurious:** (*adj*) extremely reluctant to spend money; stingy and frugal or extremely poor  
*The penurious old man refused to donate his spare change to the charity.*  
 Word Forms: penuriously, penuriousness, penury
- peregrinate:** (*vb*) to travel  
*After high school, Perry chose to peregrinate through Europe before attending college.*  
 Word Forms: peregrinator, peregrination     Related Words: peregrine, peregrinity
- perfidious:** (*adj*) tending to betray  
*The perfidious soldier was selling classified secrets to the army's enemies.*  
 Word Forms: perfidiously, perfidiousness, perfidy
- perfunctory:** (*adj*) done only as a matter of routine, with indifference and a lack of enthusiasm  
*The principal gave a perfunctory speech about attendance, even though the students had heard the same speech a dozen times before.*  
 Word Forms: perfunctorily, perfunctoriness

- peripatetic:** (*adj*) traveling about  
*Perry had a peripatetic nature, so after high school, he spent several years traveling Europe before attending college.*  
Word Forms: peripatetic (n), peripatetically, peripateticism
- permeate:** (*vb*) to spread throughout  
*The smell of sweet apples permeated the room when Grandma pulled the apple pie from the oven.*  
Word Forms: permeation, permeative, permeator, interpermeate      Antonym Form: nonpermeation
- pernicious:** (*adj*) exceedingly harmful  
*The pernicious rumor could ruin several lives if permitted to spread.*  
Word Forms: perniciously, perniciousness
- perquisite:** (*n*) a payment or benefit in addition to one's regular pay  
*While working at the marina, my perquisites included free boat storage, a discount at the tackle shop, and daily tips.*
- perspicacity:** (*n*) intelligence manifested by being astute  
*My accountant's perspicacity saved me thousands of dollars on my tax returns because he found hidden rebates.*  
Word Forms: perspicacious, perspicaciously, perspicaciousness      Related Words: perspicuity, perspicuous
- peruse:** (*vb*) to read  
*After the lawyer perused the motion to suppress evidence, she declared it was a flimsy attempt that no judge would grant.*  
Word Forms: perusable, peruser, preperuse, reperuse
- pervasive:** (*adj*) spreading or spread throughout  
*The pervasive odor of garlic quickly spread throughout the entire house.*  
Word Forms: pervasively, pervasiveness, pervade, pervadingly, pervadingness, pervasion, pervader  
Related Words: invade, invasive
- petulant:** (*adj*) easily irritated over small issues  
*The petulant actress stormed off the set when she discovered that her dressing room did not have bottled water.*  
Word Forms: petulantly, petulance, petulancy      Related Word: petty
- phalanx:** (*n*) a closely massed group  
*The soldiers formed a phalanx to protect the building from the protestors.*
- philanthropist:** (*n*) a person who makes charitable donations intended to increase human well-being  
*As a young philanthropist, Phillip used to donate his allowance to the homeless shelter.*  
Word Forms: philanthropy, philanthropic, philanthropical, philanthropically
- philistine:** (*n*) a person who resists culture, the arts, or intellectual pursuits  
*Phil is such a philistine; he'd rather sit at home and watch reality shows than go see a play or visit a museum.*  
Word Forms: philistine (*adj*), philistinism
- phlegmatic:** (*adj*) unemotional; calm  
*I thought the kids would be excited about our trip to the amusement park, but their reaction was much more phlegmatic.*  
Word Forms: phlegmatical, phlegmatically, phlegmaticalness      Antonym Forms: unphlegmatic, unphlegmatical
- picayune:** (*adj*) small and of little importance  
*The man is a fool to let a picayune argument destroy his friendship with his neighbor.*  
Word Forms: picayunish, picayunishly, picayunishness
- pious:** (*adj*) religiously devoted  
*The pious woman attended a church service seven days a week.*  
Word Forms: piously, piousness      Antonym Form: impious
- pith:** (*n*) the essential part  
*The pith of the argument was that Ren wanted Grayden's toy.*  
Related Word: pithy
- pithy:** (*adj*) brief but meaningful  
*The pastor made a pithy remark about integrity that made me reflect on my own habits long after the short sermon.*  
Word Forms: pithily, pithiness      Related Word: pith
- placid:** (*adj*) calm  
*When the wind died down, the lake became placid, with hardly a ripple disturbing the surface.*  
Word Forms: placidly, placidness, placidity

- platitute:** (n) remark repeated too often  
*"The customer is always right" is just a platitude in which very few service-industry workers believe anymore.*  
Word Forms: platitudinous, platitudinarian, platitudinize
- plebeian:** (adj) of the common people; lacking sophistication  
*The queen looked down upon her plebeian subjects who did not know anything about refinement or sophistication.*  
Word Forms: plebeianism, plebeianly, plebeianness      Antonym Form: unplebeian      Related Word: plebe
- plethora:** (n) overabundance  
*At 300 applications, there are a plethora of qualified applicants for the program, but only 100 spots to fill.*  
Word Forms: plethoric, plethorically
- pliant:** (adj) capable of being bent or capable of being influenced  
*The pliant plastic can be easily molded into any shape, size, or design.*  
Word Forms: pliantly, pliantness, pliancy      Related Word: pliable
- plucky:** (adj) brave  
*The plucky little duck jumped right into the water without waiting for its mother to lead the way.*  
Word Forms: pluckily, pluckiness
- polemical:** (adj) controversial; causing opposition  
*Polly published a polemical article about vaccinations that caused much debate among her readers.*  
Word Forms: polemic, polemically, polemicist, polemicize      Antonym Forms: nonpolemic, nonpolemical, nonpolemically
- politic:** (adj) ingenious, wise, or diplomatic  
*Paul made a politic manager; he kept employees happy and productive using tactful approaches and strategies.*  
Word Form: politicly      Related Word: political
- polyglot:** (adj) able to speak, read, or write in many languages  
*The polyglot woman was an asset to the company; she could speak with customers in Japan, Germany, Spain, and Italy.*  
Word Forms: polyglot (n.), polyglotism      Related Word: monoglot
- populist:** (n) a person who supports the rights and powers of the common people  
*The candidate is a populist who believes in promoting the causes of the working classes.*  
Word Forms: populist (adj.), populist, populism
- posit:** (vb) to assume as fact; to put in place  
*The teacher posited that the children had cheated without hearing their side of the story.*  
Word Form: posit (n)      Related Word: deposit
- potentate:** (n) a powerful ruler  
*The potentate was born into the power of the monarchy; his family had ruled the country for over six hundred years.*  
Related Word: potent
- pragmatic:** (adj) practical; guided by practice rather than theory  
*When her bobby pin broke, Penelope found a pragmatic solution; she used a paper clip to hold back her stray hair.*  
Word Forms: pragmatical, pragmatically, pragmaticalness, pragmatism, pragmatistic, pragmatist
- prattle:** (vb) to babble  
*The child prattled on about his love of robots.*  
Word Forms: prattler, prattlingly
- precipitate:** (vb) to bring about abruptly  
*Prescott's sudden decision to move to a smaller apartment was precipitated by the loss of his job.*  
Word Forms: precipitate (adj.), precipitately, precipitateness, precipitative, precipitator      Related Word: precipitous
- precis:** (n) a short summary  
*Rather than submit the entire manuscript, I sent the publishing company a precis of my novel.*  
Word Form: precis (vb)
- precocious:** (adj) advanced in development or maturity (especially in mental aptitude)  
*The precocious little boy was able to solve the algebraic equation without any help from his teacher.*  
Word Forms: precociously, precociousness, precocity

- predilection:** (n) a preference  
*Preston has a predilection for cheddar so be sure not to serve mozzarella when he visits.*
- prescience:** (n) knowledge of events before they happen  
*Grandma had an eerie prescience about my accident before it happened but I was too foolish to listen to her warnings.*  
Word Forms: prescient, presciently
- pretense:** (n) a false act intending to deceive  
*He got an interview with the pretense that he had a doctorate from Yale, but the interviewer quickly discovered the lie.*  
Word Forms: pretenseful, pretension, pretentious, pretentiously      Antonym Forms: pretenseless, unpretentious  
Related Word: pretend
- prevaricate:** (vb) to lie or deceive  
*Presley prevaricated about her grades, claiming to have a 3.5 GPA even though it was below 2.0.*  
Word Forms: prevarication, prevaricative, prevaricatory      Antonym Form: unprevaricating
- pristine:** (adj) pure, clean, or unused  
*The interior of the old car was in pristine condition; the upholstery was spotless and the equipment worked perfectly.*  
Word Form: pristinely
- probity:** (n) honesty and integrity  
*Prudence was often selected as hall monitor because of her probity; the teacher knew he could trust her.*
- proclivity:** (n) a natural tendency  
*Prescott had a proclivity to lie, so few people trusted him.*
- prodigal:** (adj) recklessly wasteful or lavishly abundant  
*The prince was criticized when his prodigal spending was documented by the tabloid.*  
Word Forms: prodigal (n), prodigally
- prodigy:** (n) a person, often a child, who is extraordinarily gifted or talented  
*The musical prodigy could play the most complicated Mozart composition on a piano by the time he was five years old.*  
Related Word: prodigious
- profligate:** (adj) shamelessly immoral or recklessly wasteful  
*The profligate prince was criticized when his wasteful spending was documented by the tabloid.*  
Word Forms: profligate (n), profligately, profligateness
- progenitor:** (n) a direct ancestor or originator  
*Although dogs now come in all shapes, sizes, and temperaments, the progenitor of their species was the wild wolf.*  
Word Forms: progenitorial, progenitorship      Related Word: genitor
- proletarian:** (adj) of the working class  
*Education is an important proletarian value; working class parents believe that a college degree will offer their children many more career choices.*  
Word Forms: proletarian (n.), proletarianly, proletarianness, proletarianism, proletary, proletariat
- proliferate:** (vb) to grow rapidly  
*The franchise has proliferated; there were just two restaurants ten years ago, but now there are more than two hundred.*  
Word Form: proliferative, proliferation
- propensity:** (n) a natural tendency  
*Mrs. Petty loved to talk to friends and neighbors, so it was no surprise that she had a propensity to gossip.*
- propitiate:** (vb) to calm or pacify  
*The king was able to propitiate the mob by agreeing to meet with their leader.*  
Word Forms: propitiable, propitiatingly, propitiative, propitiator      Antonym Form: nonpropitiable
- propriety:** (n) accepted or appropriate standards  
*When traveling abroad, it is important to observe the proprieties of your host country.*  
Antonym Form: nonpropriety

- prosaic:** (*adj*) dull and lacking excitement  
*Pam claimed the movie was predictable and prosaic, causing her to fall asleep halfway through.*  
Word Forms: prosaic, prosaically, prosaicness, prosaicism
- proselytize:** (*vb*) to convert someone to another belief, religion, party, or cause  
*Prewitt spent the summer proselytizing for the governor's re-election campaign.*
- provincial:** (*adj*) unsophisticated and limited; associated with the country  
*The officer judged Prescott by his provincial dress; she assumed he was unsophisticated just because he wore overalls.*  
Word Forms: provincially, provincialism, provincialize, provincialist      Related Word: province
- prudent:** (*adj*) careful and sensible  
*Perry made a prudent decision when he chose not to ride home with his friend who had been drinking.*  
Word Forms: prudently, prudence, prudency, prudential  
Antonym Forms: imprudent, imprudently, imprudence, imprudential      Related Word: prude
- puerile:** (*adj*) childish; immature  
*Your puerile jokes are suitable for the playground, but they won't get many laughs in a comedy club.*  
Word Forms: puerilely, puerilism      Antonym Forms: nonpuerile, nonpuerilely
- pugilist:** (*n*) a person who fights with his fists; a boxer  
*The two pugilists entered the ring for the first round of the boxing match.*  
Word Forms: pugilistic, pugilistically, pugilism
- pugnacious:** (*adj*) tending to quarrel or fight easily  
*Paul cannot walk his pugnacious dog in the park because she always starts fights with the other dogs.*  
Word Forms: pugnaciously, pugnaciousness, pugnacity      Related Word: pugilistic
- pulchritude:** (*n*) beauty  
*The model's pulchritude earned her the coveted spot on the cover of the magazine.*  
Word Form: pulchritudinous
- punctilious:** (*adj*) marked by precise accordance with details  
*Mr. Putnam is punctilious about punctuation; all of his students must correctly use periods, commas, and semicolons.*  
Word Forms: punctiliously, punctiliousness, punctilio      Related Word: punctual
- pundit:** (*n*) a critic or expert  
*The political pundits are employed by newspapers and television networks to evaluate the actions of the President.*  
Word Forms: punditic, punditically, punditry, punditocracy
- pungent:** (*adj*) sharp; biting  
*Cosette's pungent remark stung Kent; he could handle criticism about his job, but her bitter words were personal.*  
Word Forms: pungency, pungently      Antonym Forms: nonpungency, nonpungent, nonpungently
- pusillanimous:** (*adj*) timid; cowardly  
*The pusillanimous lion asked the wizard for courage in the old fairy tale.*  
Word Forms: pusillanimously, pusillanimity
- putrefy:** (*vb*) to decay  
*The forgotten vegetables putrefied in the hot sun.*  
Word Forms: putrefiable, putrefier      Antonym Forms: unputrefiable, unputrefied      Related Word: putrid
- quaff:** (*vb*) to drink a beverage  
*Quinn quaffed three sodas as if she had an unquenchable thirst.*  
Word Forms: quaffer, quaffable      Antonym Form: unquaffed
- quell:** (*vb*) to put an end to  
*The coach quelled the rumor that he was taking another job by signing an extension of his current contract.*  
Word Forms: quellable, queller
- querulous:** (*adj*) complaining  
*Quentin's querulous tone irritated Nina; he always found something about which to complain.*  
Word Forms: querulously, querulousness

- quiescent:** (*adj*) being quiet or still or inactive  
*When the mine closed, the once-bustling town became quiescent and forlorn.*  
Word Forms: quiescently, quiescence, quiescency      Related Word: quiet
- quixotic:** (*adj*) not sensible about practical matters; idealistic and unrealistic  
*I let Quincy make his quixotic plans for our summer vacation; he would soon realize that his itinerary was too expensive and unrealistic.*  
Word Forms: quixotical, quixotically, quixotism, quixote      Related Name: Don Quixote
- quotidian:** (*adj*) daily or commonplace  
*The teacher completed a quotidian report that tracked her student's absences.*  
Word Forms: quotidianly, quotidianness
- raconteur:** (*n*) a skilled storyteller  
*Raquel was a true raconteur; by the time she finished telling the story about her vacation, everyone in the room was intently listening.*  
Word Form: raconteuse      Related Word: recount
- raiment:** (*n*) clothes  
*Raymond brought a change of raiment with him so that he could shower and dress after basketball practice.*  
Related Word: array
- rancorous:** (*adj*) showing deep-seated resentment  
*In the fairy tale, the rancorous stepmother is jealous of the young maiden's beauty, youth, and innocence.*  
Word Forms: rancor, rancorously, rancorousness      Related Word: rancid
- raucous:** (*adj*) unpleasantly loud and harsh  
*Rachel's raucous laughter often drove people away.*  
Word Forms: raucously, raucousness, raucity
- raze:** (*vb*) to tear down  
*The old abandoned buildings were razed in preparation for the construction of the new baseball stadium.*  
Word Form: razer
- rebuke:** (*vb*) to sharply criticize or reprimand  
*The principal rebuked the three students who wandered away from their chaperone on the field trip.*  
Word Forms: rebuke (*n.*), rebukingly, rebukable, rebuker
- rebut:** (*vb*) to prove false using evidence  
*The lawyer rebutted the witness's testimony by providing contrary evidence.*  
Word Forms: rebuttable, rebuttal, rebutter      Related Word: but (*conj.*)
- recalcitrant:** (*adj*) stubbornly resistant to authority or control  
*The recalcitrant protesters were not fazed by the presence of the campus security officer, and only a handful of them disbanded when the police arrived.*  
Word Forms: recalcitrant (*n.*), recalcitrance, recalcitrancy, recalcitrate, recalcitration
- recondite:** (*adj*) difficult to understand without special knowledge  
*The recondite blueprints were meant to be understood by architects, not by the layperson.*  
Word Forms: reconditely, reconditeness
- redoubtable:** (*adj*) worthy of fear and respect  
*Forrest is a redoubtable opponent on the tennis court; he has not lost a set in his last twenty games.*  
Word Forms: redoubtability, redoubtable, redoubted
- redress:** (*vb*) to correct or to relieve  
*The newspaper redressed the issue by offering an apology and printing the correct name of the suspect.*  
Word Forms: redress (*n.*), redressable, redresser      Antonym Form: unredressable
- refulgent:** (*adj*) radiant; shining  
*The movie star's refulgent dress sparkled in the lights on the red carpet.*  
Word Forms: refulgence, refulgency, refulgentness, refulgently      Antonym Forms: unrefulgent, unrefulgently

- refute:** (*vb*) to prove to be false; to deny as true  
*The senator refuted claims he was arrested for careless driving by publishing his flawless driving record in the paper.*  
 Word Forms: refutable, refutably, refutability, refutation, refutal, refuter  
 Antonym Forms: irrefutable, irrefutably, irrefutability
- rejoinder:** (*n*) a response  
*Reggie's rejoinder did not sufficiently answer the question.*  
 Antonym Form: nonrejoinder
- relegate:** (*vb*) to assign to a less important position; to demote  
*Rae Ann was relegated to dishwashing when she was caught being rude to the restaurant customers she was serving.*  
 Word Forms: relegable, relegation      Antonym Forms: unrelagable, unrelegated
- remiss:** (*adj*) careless and neglectful  
*Rebekkah was criticized for being remiss in her work; she had made many careless mistakes this week.*  
 Word Forms: remissly, remissness
- remuneration:** (*n*) payment  
*Each of the workers received remuneration for helping Remy paint his house.*  
 Word Forms: remunerate, remunerable, remunerability, remunerably, remunerative, remuneratively, remunerativeness, remuneratory, remunerator
- renounce:** (*vb*) to give up; to turn away from  
*The king renounced the throne when he married a woman who was not accepted by the royal family.*  
 Word Forms: renounceable, renouncement, renouncer      Related Words: announce, denounce
- repast:** (*n*) a meal  
*We sat down to a repast of fried chicken, corn on the cob, and coleslaw.*  
 Word Form: repast (*vb*)
- replete:** (*adj*) filled; complete  
*My professor returned my essay replete with comments, suggestions, and criticisms.*  
 Word Forms: repletely, repleteness, repletive, repletively      Antonym Form: unreplete
- repose:** (*n*) state of calmness; peace  
*The artist likes to paint his subjects in repose as they lounge on the couch.*  
 Word Forms: repose (*vb*), reposedly, reposedness, reposer
- reprehensible:** (*adj*) deserving of punishment  
*It's a harsh punishment, but I do not feel sorry for you; stealing from a charity is a reprehensible crime.*  
 Word Forms: reprehensibly, reprehensibility, reprehensibleness, reprehension      Related Word: reprehend
- reproach:** (*vb*) to blame; to express criticism towards  
*The board of directors reproached the company president for falling profits and decreased revenue.*  
 Word Forms: reproach (*n.*), reproachingly, reproachable, reproachableness, reproachably  
 Antonym Forms: irreproachable, unreproachable, reproachless      Related Word: reproachful
- repudiate:** (*vb*) to reject  
*The celebrity repudiated claims that she had undergone plastic surgery.*  
 Word Forms: repudiable, repudiative, repudiation, repudiatory, repudiator
- repugnant:** (*adj*) offensive  
*The spoiled eggs that had sat in the hot car for several weeks offered the most repugnant smell I had ever experienced.*  
 Word Forms: repugnantly, repugnance, repugnancy
- requite:** (*vb*) to repay or retaliate  
*I made a casserole for Rebecca last week and she requited the favor by returning my casserole dish filled with cookies.*  
 Word Forms: requitable, requitement, requiter      Antonym Forms: unrequitable, unrequited, unrequiting
- rescind:** (*vb*) to revoke or repeal  
*The prospective buyers rescinded their offer on the house when they learned it had a termite infestation.*  
 Word Forms: rescindable, rescinder, rescindment      Antonym Form: unrescinded



- restive:** (*adj*) nervous; restless; impatient with authority  
*The restive suspect was frustrated with the booking process; he was anxious to call his lawyer and post bond.*  
Word Forms: restively, restiveness
- reticent:** (*adj*) inclined to keep quiet and private  
*Ironically, the actor once known for his outspoken behavior became reticent in later years, refusing to grant interviews.*  
Word Forms: reticently, reticence, reticency
- revere:** (*vb*) to regard with respect and awe  
*Paul Revere was one of many colonists who revered freedom and democracy.*  
Word Forms: reverable, reverent, reverently, reverence, reverential, reverer  
Antonym Forms: irreverent, irreverently, irreverence      Related Word: reverend
- reviler:** (*n*) a person who uses abusive language  
*Reva's husband was a reviler who constantly criticized her appearance and behavior.*  
Word Forms: revile, revilement, revilingly      Related Word: vile
- rhapsodize:** (*vb*) to talk with great enthusiasm  
*The saleswoman rhapsodized about the benefits of her company's product.*  
Word Forms: rhapsody, rhapsodic, rhapsodical, rhapsodically, rhapsodist
- rhetoric:** (*n*) skill in using language to persuade; empty talk  
*The real estate agent was well-versed in the rhetoric needed to sell the broken-down house.*  
Word Forms: rhetorical, rhetorically, rhetoricalness      Antonym Forms: nonrhetorical, unrhetorical
- ribald:** (*adj*) vulgar  
*The comedian's ribald humor was offensive to many of the audience members who walked out of the club.*  
Word Form: ribaldly
- rococo:** (*adj*) ornate style in language, music, etc.  
*Her first novel was too rococo for the editor, who recommended that she delete some of the flowery language.*
- sacrosanct:** (*adj*) sacred; not to be criticized or violated  
*Mr. Sackett considered his baseball cards sacrosanct; they were displayed proudly in his office behind thick plexiglass so no one would disturb them.*  
Word Forms: sacrosanctity, sacrosanctness
- sagacious:** (*adj*) acutely insightful and wise  
*The sagacious teacher was quickly able to pinpoint Sarah's learning disability, and thus tailor lessons to better help the child comprehend the material.*  
Word Forms: sagaciously, sagaciousness, sagacity      Related Word: sage
- sage:** (*n*) a person who is very wise  
*Villagers who have seemingly unsolvable problems often seek the advice of the sage.*  
Word Forms: sage (*adj.*), sagely, sageness      Related Word: sagacious
- salient:** (*adj*) easily observable; prominent  
*Sally's most salient trait was her nose; it was large and slender, but somehow fit with her other delicate features.*  
Word Forms: saliently, salience      Antonym Forms: unsalient, unsaliently
- salubrious:** (*adh*) healthy; wholesome  
*This salubrious tea is said to help cure many ailments.*  
Word Forms: salubriously, salubriousness, salubrity      Antonym Forms: nonsalubrious, nonsalubriously, nonsalubriousness
- sanctimonious:** (*adj*) being hypocritically religious or righteous  
*The principal gave me a sanctimonious lecture about my tardiness, even though he was late to our last two meetings.*  
Word Forms: sanctimoniously, sanctimoniousness, sanctimony, sanctimonial      Related Words: sanctity, sanctify
- sanguine:** (*adj*) confidently optimistic and cheerful  
*Dr. Sanchez enjoyed working with Sandy, his most sanguine patient; she was always confident that her test results would be good, and if they weren't, she was optimistic about her treatment.*  
Word Forms: sanguinely, sanguineness, sanguinity

- sardonic:** (*adj*) characterized by bitter mocking  
*Sara's sardonic reply was meant to ridicule the boy.*  
 Word Forms: sardonically, sardonicism      Antonym Forms: unsardonic, unsardonically
- satiating:** (*vb*) to fill to satisfaction  
*After a day without anything to eat, the huge spaghetti dinner satiated my appetite.*  
 Word Forms: satiated, satiation      Antonym Forms: nonsatiation, unsatiated, unsatiating      Related Word: sate
- schism:** (*n*) division of a group into opposing factions  
*The disagreement in the teacher's lounge created two schisms in the school: teachers who approved of the rule change, and those who opposed it.*  
 Word Forms: schismatic, schismatically, schismaticalness, schimatize, schimatist      Antonym Form: schismless
- scintillating:** (*adj*) brilliantly clever or flashy and exciting  
*The animated movie has been praised for its scintillating dialogue, which is intended more for adults than children.*  
 Word Forms: scintillatingly, scintillate, scintillant, scintillantly, scintillation
- scoff:** (*vb*) to laugh at and show open disrespect  
*Scott scoffed at the skate park rules; after the park closed, he hopped the fence and continued to skate until dark.*  
 Word Forms: scoff (*n.*), scoffingly, scoffer
- scrupulous:** (*adj*) abiding by morals or strict rules  
*The scrupulous executive would not let the advertisement run with the misleading information printed in it.*  
 Word Forms: scrupulously, scrupulousness, scrupulosity  
 Antonym Forms: unscrupulous, unscrupulously, unscrupulousness, unscrupulosity      Related Word: scruples
- sedition:** (*n*) instigation of rebellion  
*If the founding fathers had been caught, they would have faced charges of sedition for starting the American Revolution.*  
 Word Forms: seditious, seditiousness, seditiously, seditiousness      Antonym Forms: antiseditious, nonseditious
- sedulous:** (*adj*) marked by care and persistent effort  
*Siera was impressed by Wayne's sedulous pursuit of a date; every day for the last three weeks, he had sent her a flower.*  
 Word Forms: sedulously, sedulousness, sedulity
- sentient:** (*adj*) experiencing sense perception and consciousness  
*In the film, the robot becomes sentient, experiencing human emotions and senses.*  
 Word Forms: sentiently, sentience, sentiency      Antonym Forms: insentient, insentience, insentiency
- seraphic:** (*adj*) of an angel or celestial being  
*The toddler looks so seraphic when he sleeps at night that it's easy to forget what a devil he is by day.*  
 Word Forms: seraph, seraphim, seraphical, seraphically, seraphicalness      Antonym Form: nonseraphic
- sibilant:** (*adj*) having a hissing sound  
*The patient's respiration was weak and sibilant, the result of smoking for so many years.*  
 Word Forms: sibilantly, sibilance, sibilancy
- sinecure:** (*n*) a paid job with little work  
*Cindy was fortunate to find a sinecure; she simply had to show up three days a week to collect a paycheck.*  
 Word Forms: sinecureship, sinecurism, sinecurist
- slake:** (*vb*) to relieve thirst, hunger, desire, etc.; to make less intense  
*The ice cold soda slaked my thirst.*  
 Word Forms: slakable, slakeless      Antonym Forms: unslakable, unslaked
- sobriquet:** (*n*) a nickname  
*The baby's full name was long and burdensome, so his parents used the sobriquet "Peanut."*  
 Word Form: sobriquetical
- solecism:** (*n*) an error, especially in grammar  
*The contraction "ain't" is a solecism that should be removed from your vocabulary.*  
 Word Forms: solecist, solecistic, solecistical, solecistically

- solicitous:** (*adj*) anxious, eager, or worried  
*The solicitous applicant was forced to wait three months before he received a response from the college.*  
Word Forms: solicitously, solicitousness
- solvent:** (*adj*) able to meet financial obligations  
*Sully worked three jobs in order to remain solvent.*  
Word Forms: solventless, solvently
- somnolent:** (*adj*) sleepy or drowsy  
*The somnolent truck driver had been awake all night and was anxious to find a rest area so she could sleep.*  
Word Forms: somnolently, somnolence, somnolency, somnolescent  
Antonym Forms: insomnolent, insomnolently, insomnolence, insomnolency      Related Word: insomnia
- sonorous:** (*adj*) full and loud and deep, as a sound  
*The sound from the sonorous bell echoed throughout the cathedral.*  
Word Forms: sonorously, sonorousness, sonority      Antonym Form: insonorous
- sophistry:** (*n*) a false argument meant to trick someone  
*The mayor used sophistry to trick most of the town residents into believing that the property tax increase was necessary.*  
Word Forms: sophism, sophist, sophister
- soporific:** (*adj*) tending to make sleepy or drowsy  
*Sophie sang the soporific lullaby to help her young daughter fall asleep.*  
Word Forms: soporifically, soporiferous, soporiferously, soporiferousness      Related Words: soporose, soporous
- Spartan:** (*adj*) strict; simple; serious  
*Spencer's Spartan apartment at Michigan State University was clean and neat, free of clutter or any luxuries.*  
Word Forms: Spartanism, Spartanly, Spartanically      Antonym Form: non-Spartan
- specious:** (*adj*) 1. plausible but false    2. deceptively pleasing  
*The merits of the diet are specious; while we want to believe we can eat unlimited protein, there are many health risks associated with the high-cholesterol plan.*  
Word Forms: speciously, speciousness, speciosity
- sportive:** (*adj*) playful  
*The sportive kitten chased the ball of yarn.*  
Word Forms: sportively, sportiveness, sportability      Antonym Forms: unsportive, unsportively, unsportiveness  
Related Word: sport
- spurious:** (*adj*) false; not legitimate  
*The applicant made spurious claims about attending a prestigious private school, but when the college learned the truth, they denied his application.*  
Word Forms: spuriously, spuriousness
- squalid:** (*adj*) filthy and repulsive  
*The abandoned home was squalid; it was infested with rats and filled with trash.*  
Word Forms: squalidly, squalidness, squalidity
- stasis:** (*n*) state of inaction or lack of progress  
*The company fluctuated between periods of growth and periods of stasis.*  
Word Form: stases      Related Word: static
- stentorian:** (*adj*) very loud  
*The best cheerleaders have stentorian voices.*  
Word Form: stentorianly      Antonym Form: unstentorian
- stevedore:** (*n*) a laborer who loads and unloads vessels in a port  
*Before the ship left port, the stevedores loaded it with nearly four tons of food and supplies for the long voyage.*  
Word Form: stevedore (vb.)
- stifle:** (*vb*) to stop or hold back  
*I stifled a yawn so Grandpa wouldn't know that I was bored by his story.*  
Word Forms: stiflingly, stifler
- stigma:** (*n*) a mark of disgrace  
*Steve was able to find a job despite the stigma of having served time in prison.*

- stoic:** (*adj*) free from emotion; unmoved  
*Mr. Stone's face remained stoic despite the pain and anger he was experiencing.*  
Word Forms: stoic (n), stoical, stoically, stoicalness      Antonym Form: unstoic
- stolid:** (*adj*) unemotional; unmoved  
*Mr. Stone's face remained stolid despite the pain and anger he was experiencing.*  
Word Form: stolidity, stolidness, stolidly
- stricture:** (*n*) a criticism  
*The film critic made several strictures about the movie's poor dialogue.*  
Word Form: strictured
- stultify:** (*vb*) to make one appear foolish, stupid, or useless  
*The high school student stultified herself by insisting that Pittsburgh was in Tennessee.*  
Word Forms: stultifyingly, stultification, stultifier
- stymie:** (*vb*) to stump or hinder  
*The warden was stymied by the escape; the prisoners' cell doors were still locked, and there were no holes in the walls.*  
Word Form: stymie (n.)
- sublime:** (*adj*) of high value; supreme  
*The sublime chef was well known for her amazing dishes.*  
Word Forms: sublimely, sublimeness, sublimer, sublimity      Antonym Form: unsublimed
- subterfuge:** (*n*) something intended to deceive  
*Susan used the subterfuge of homework to avoid going to her grandmother's house with the rest of her family.*  
Related Word: fugitive
- subtle:** (*adj*) difficult to detect  
*The subtle irony throughout the novel is missed by most readers.*  
Word Forms: subtly, subtleness, subtlety      Antonym Forms: unsubtle, unsubtly
- subversive:** (*adj*) supporting the overthrowing of a government  
*The subversive group was arrested when one of the members told of the group's plot to overthrow the king.*  
Word Forms: subversive (n.), subversively, subversiveness, subversivism, subvert, subversion
- succinct:** (*adj*) expressed in few words; concise  
*Your summary must be succinct, highlighting the main ideas but omitting the bulk of the text.*  
Word Forms: succinctly, succinctness      Antonym Forms: unsuccinct, unsuccinctly
- sully:** (*vb*) to make dirty or unpure  
*Mrs. Sullivan's reputation was sullied by accusations that she was embezzling money from the PTA.*  
Word Form: sulliable      Antonym Form: unsullied
- supercilious:** (*adj*) arrogantly disdainful  
*Sue, who always wore designer clothes, glanced at my generic shoes with a supercilious sneer.*  
Word Forms: superciliously, superciliousness
- superfluous:** (*adj*) having more than needed or wanted; excessive  
*The lawyer's continuing arguments were superfluous, as the jury had already reached a verdict.*  
Word Forms: superfluously, superfluouslyness, superfluity
- supplant:** (*vb*) to replace or take the place of  
*In the early 1990s, compact discs supplanted long-playing records.*  
Word Forms: supplantation, supplanter
- surfeit:** (*n*) surplus; extra  
*There is a surfeit of gasoline this month so the price will be lowered significantly.*  
Word Form: surfeiter      Antonym Forms: unsurfeited, unsurfeiting
- surly:** (*adj*) bad tempered or rude  
*The surly customer was unhappy with every aspect of his meal.*  
Word Forms: surlily, surliness      Antonym Forms: unsurlily, unsurliness, unsurly

- surreptitious:** (*adj*) stealthy and secret  
*Before the colonists declared independence, they held a series of surreptitious meetings to secretly discuss their plan.*  
Word Forms: surreptitiously, surreptitiousness
- sybarite:** (*n*) a person devoted to luxury  
*Sybil was a difficult dinner guest because she was a sybarite, insisting on the finest china, most luxurious decor, and the most expensive food.*  
Word Forms: sybarite (*adj*), sybaritism
- symbiosis:** (*n*) a mutually beneficial relationship  
*Bees and flowers live in symbiosis; the bees pollinate the flowers while the flowers feed the bees.*  
Word Forms: symbiotic, symbiotal, symbiont
- sycophant:** (*n*) a person who flatters others in order to gain personal favor; a brown-noser  
*Sidney is a sycophant who compliments our English teacher in order to get a better grade on his assignments.*  
Word Forms: sycophantic, sycophantical, sycophantically, sycophantish, sycophantishly, sycophantism
- syncopated:** (*adj*) to cut short; to accent beats that are not usually accented  
*Because the readers longed for fluency and completion, the syncopated poem seemed unfinished.*  
Word Forms: syncopate, syncopation, syncopator      Antonym Form: unsyncopated
- tacit:** (*adj*) unspoken and implied  
*Although she never commented on our performance, the principal gave her tacit approval of our band by asking us to play at the next school function.*  
Word Forms: tacitly, tacitness      Related Word: taciturn
- taciturn:** (*adj*) silent; not willing to talk  
*The detective asked the lost girl her name, but the child remained taciturn, making it impossible to locate her parents.*  
Word Forms: taciturnly, taciturnity      Antonym Forms: untaciturn, untaciturnly
- tawdry:** (*adj*) gaudy and cheap  
*The pretentious members of the club gawked at the guest's tawdry jewelry but she was impervious to their rude stares.*  
Word Forms: tawdrily, tawdriness      Antonym Form: untawdry
- temerity:** (*n*) fearless daring  
*Tim jumped from the plane with temerity; he seemed so fearless and relaxed that it was difficult to tell that this was his first skydiving experience.*  
Word Forms: temerarious, temerariously, temerariousness
- temperate:** (*adj*) moderate; not extreme  
*The plants prefer a temperate climate—not too hot and not too cold.*  
Word Forms: temperately, temperateness, temperance, temper (*vb.*)  
Antonym Forms: intemperate, intemperately, intemperateness
- tenacious:** (*adj*) unyielding; stubborn  
*The tenacious defense refused to let the opponent score.*  
Word Forms: tenaciously, tenaciousness, tenacity
- toady:** (*n*) a person who flatters others in order to gain personal favor; a brown-noser  
*The professional athlete has several toadies who play to his ego in order to enjoy the perks of being in his entourage.*  
Word Forms: toady (*vb.*), toadyish, toadyism
- tome:** (*n*) a long, heavy book  
*The professor wants a short summary of your biography, not a tome he has to lug home with him.*
- torpid:** (*adj*) sluggish; lacking energy  
*After the long weekend, Tony was torpid; even with multiple cups of coffee, he was sluggish all morning.*  
Word Forms: torpidity, torpidness, torpidly
- transient:** (*adj*) passing quickly or staying briefly  
*The most transient years of your life are those spent in high school; someday when you realize how quickly your time there passed, you'll wish you had spent more time enjoying your youth.*  
Word Forms: transient (*n.*), transiently, transientness, transience      Antonym Form: intransient      Related Word: transitory

- treacly:** (*adj*) overly sweet or sentimental  
*The movie is treacly, with several emotional scenes; it should be viewed with a box of tissues instead of a box of popcorn.*  
 Word Form: treacle
- trenchant:** (*adj*) keen, cutting, or energetic  
*Trent's trenchant wit was a bit too caustic for some of the audience, while others found him to be an effective speaker.*  
 Word Forms: trenchancy, trenchantly
- trite:** (*adj*) repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse  
*Be sure to avoid trite expressions in your essay; instead of writing clichés like “I learned my lesson the hard way,” choose original sentences such as “It was a difficult lesson to learn.”*  
 Word Forms: tritely, triteness
- truculence:** (*n*) brutal cruelty and aggressiveness  
*After the fight in school, Truman was expelled; the school board said that his truculence was a danger to the others.*  
 Word Forms: truculent, truculently, truculency
- truncated:** (*adj*) shortened by cutting off a part  
*The author published a truncated version of the novel, because most people would not read a book with so many pages.*  
 Word Forms: truncate, truncately, truncation      Related Word: trunk
- turgid:** (*adj*) pompous or swollen  
*Turner wrote a turgid speech that was sure to alienate at least half the audience with its pompousness.*  
 Word Forms: turgidity, turgidness, turgidly      Antonym Forms: unturgid, unturgidly
- turpitude:** (*n*) vile, shameful behavior  
*In the play, the character's turpitude exceeds the villainous behavior exhibited by typical antagonists.*
- tyro:** (*n*) a beginner  
*As a tyro at snow skiing, Tyrone hired an instructor to give him a lesson before heading up the mountain.*  
 Word Form: tyronic
- ubiquitous:** (*adj*) existing everywhere at once; omnipresent  
*The fog was ubiquitous, blanketing the countryside.*  
 Word Forms: ubiquitously, ubiquitousness      Antonym Form: nonubiquitary, nonubiquitous, nonubiquitously
- umbrage:** (*n*) offense; displeasure  
*The customer took umbrage at the clerk's rudeness and reported him to the corporate office.*
- unctuous:** (*adj*) unpleasantly and excessively suave  
*The unctuous salesman winked at the ladies and flashed his college football ring at the men; ironically, his “charm” chased most customers away.*  
 Word Forms: unctuously, unctuousness, unctuousity
- untenable:** (*adj*) impossible to defend  
*Tina made an untenable argument that fell apart on cross examination.*  
 Word Forms: untenably, untenability, untenableness      Antonym Form: tenable
- upbraid:** (*vb*) to criticize severely  
*The sergeant upbraided the cadet for failing to put his gun together correctly.*  
 Word Form: upbraider      Antonym Form: unupbraided
- usury:** (*n*) the practice of lending money at an extremely high interest rate  
*If you borrow money from a loan shark instead of from a bank, nothing can protect you from the resulting usury.*  
 Word Form: usurious
- vacillate:** (*vb*) to waver or move back and forth  
*Vanessa vacillated between the two universities; one minute she was attending the in-state school, and the next she was going to the college three states away.*  
 Word Forms: vacillatingly, vacillation, vacillant, vacillator      Related Word: oscillate

- vainglorious:** (*adj*) feeling excessive self-importance or pride for one's own accomplishments  
*The vainglorious actor brushed aside the reporter's question about the charity in order to talk about the Oscar he won.*  
 Word Forms: vaingloriously, vaingloriousness, vainglory      Related Word: vain:
- venerated:** (*adj*) highly respected  
*The venerated teacher had earned the respect of his students by helping them meet the high expectations he set for them.*  
 Word Forms: venerate, venerable, venerably, venerability, veneration, venerationally, venerator
- veracity:** (*n*) honesty; truthfulness  
*The mechanic was known for his veracity, so customers trusted his diagnoses of their car problems.*  
 Word Form: veracious      Antonym Form: nonveracity      Related Words: verify, verisimilitude
- verbose:** (*adj*) using or containing too many words  
*At the graduation ceremony, the valedictorian gave a verbose speech that caused many people to fall asleep.*  
 Word Forms: verbosely, verboseness, verbosity      Related Word: verbal
- verdant:** (*adj*) green with color or green with inexperience  
*The verdant garden was lush with plants.*  
 Word Forms: verdancy, verdantly      Antonym Forms: unverdant, unverdantly
- verisimilitude:** (*n*) the appearance of truth; the quality of seeming to be true  
*Even though the movie was based on a true story, the film lacked verisimilitude.*  
 Word Forms: verisimilitudinous, verisimilar, verisimilarly      Related Words: veracity, similitude
- vestige:** (*n*) a small trace  
*The bricks from one corner of the foundation were the last vestiges of the historic hotel.*  
 Word Forms: vestigial, vestigially, vestigium
- vicissitude:** (*n*) a change or variation  
*After a period of vicissitude in which Vin experienced much loss, he rebounded and regained control of the company.*  
 Word Forms: vicissitudinous, vicissitudinary
- vim:** (*n*) energy and enthusiasm; vitality  
*Surprisingly, Victor attacked the science project with vim; he usually procrastinated and bemoaned such homework.*
- virtuoso:** (*n*) a person who has mastered a certain skill or field  
*Tonight I am attending a free concert in the park that features a young virtuoso on the violin.*  
 Word Forms: virtuoso (*adj.*), virtuosic, virtuosity      Related Words: virtue, virtuous
- viscous:** (*adj*) sticky; thick  
*The viscous nature of maple syrup makes it difficult to remove from dishes once it hardens.*  
 Word Forms: viscously, viscousness, viscosity
- vitiate:** (*vb*) to make imperfect; to corrupt  
*The king was vitiated by power; soon after his coronation, he began to abuse his subjects and destroy the fair laws.*  
 Word Forms: vitiable, vitiation, vitiator
- vitriolic:** (*adj*) harsh or corrosive in tone  
*The orchestra teacher's vitriolic criticism stung Victoria; she had practiced all week only to be harshly critiqued in front of the entire class.*  
 Word Forms: vitriolically, vitriol
- vituperate:** (*vb*) to use abusive language  
*A children's welfare agency was contacted when the mother vituperated her son in the doctor's office.*  
 Word Form: vituperator      Antonym Form: unvituperated
- vociferous:** (*adj*) marked by loud outcry  
*When the newspaper ran an article on the benefits of a dress code, there were vociferous complaints from the students.*  
 Word Forms: vociferously, vociferousness, vociferate, vociferation, vociferant, vociferator      Related Word: voice
- voluble:** (*adj*) talkative or fluent with words  
*The voluble hairdresser talked the entire time he cut my hair.*  
 Word Forms: volubility, volubly      Antonym Forms: nonvolubility, nonvoluble, nonvolubleness

- wane:** (*vb*) to grow smaller  
*Wayne's interest in basketball began to wane after he played hockey; he even sold his basketball shoes to buy skates.*  
 Antonym: wax      Note: These two words are often used to describe the fullness of the moon.
- wanton:** (*adj*) unrestrained; immoral; unjustified  
*The pundit released wanton criticism on the book, even though it had been reviewed positively by other critics.*  
 Word Forms: wantonly, wantonness      Antonym Form: unwanton
- whimsical:** (*adj*) characterized by carefree impulses  
*The babysitter's whimsical personality meant that the kids were never bored; one minute they were making peanut butter cookies, and the next they were reenacting a scene from a famous play.*  
 Word Forms: whimsically, whimsicality      Related Words: whim, whimsy
- wily:** (*adj*) sly and cunning  
*The wily real estate agent tried to get us to buy the house even though it was full of termites.*  
 Word Forms: wile, wilily, wiliness      Antonym Form: unwily
- wistful:** (*adj*) expressing longing or yearning  
*Willie gave the car one last wistful look before he left the dealership; he wished he had the money to buy it.*  
 Word Forms: wistfully, wistfulness
- wizened:** (*adj*) shriveled  
*The old man's face was wizened with age.*  
 Word Form: wizen
- wraith:** (*n*) a ghost  
*Ray was upset after seeing a wraith which he believed forecasted his death.*  
 Word Form: wraithlike
- zealous:** (*adj*) enthusiastic and devoted  
*The zealous sports fan had a tattoo of his favorite team's logo on his ankle.*  
 Word Forms: zealously, zealousness, zealot      Related Word: zeal
- zenith:** (*n*) the highest point  
*The actress reached the zenith of her career when she won an Oscar for her role in the blockbuster.*  
 Word Form: zenithal
- zephyr:** (*n*) a soft breeze  
*The cool zephyr coming off the water was refreshing in the hot sun.*



# Vocabulary Quiz 1

Choose the word or phrase that is most synonymous in meaning with the vocabulary word and write its corresponding letter on the line. Answers are on page 54.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. fawn _____<br>A. to refuse service<br>B. to advance by falsehoods<br>C. to seek attention with flattery<br>D. to tend to livestock | 8. morose _____<br>A. gloomy<br>B. shabby<br>C. lonely<br>D. fussy                                   | 15. desultory _____<br>A. partial<br>B. odd<br>C. cruel<br>D. random                               |
| 2. garner _____<br>A. to earn<br>B. to barter<br>C. to plead<br>D. to influence   | 9. wanton _____<br>A. foolish<br>B. unrestrained<br>C. intentional<br>D. harmless                    | 16. lachrymose _____<br>A. moody<br>B. deficient<br>C. fragile<br>D. sad                           |
| 3. lavish _____<br>A. unrealistic<br>B. drab<br>C. bright<br>D. extravagant   | 10. obdurate _____<br>A. fancy<br>B. stubborn<br>C. illegal<br>D. meager                             | 17. zephyr _____<br>A. a soft breeze<br>B. an old airship<br>C. a short song<br>D. a spring flower |
| 4. overt _____<br>A. secretive<br>B. unattractive<br>C. open<br>D. valuable   | 11. nominal _____<br>A. mature<br>B. quiet<br>C. important<br>D. minimal                             | 18. parry _____<br>A. to collect<br>B. to ward off<br>C. to scold<br>D. to mourn                   |
| 5. upbraid _____<br>A. to efficiently reduce<br>B. to severely criticize<br>C. to gratefully acknowledge<br>D. to artfully design     | 12. disparage _____<br>A. to give up<br>B. to lead<br>C. to criticize<br>D. to shock                 | 19. deleterious _____<br>A. harmful<br>B. empty<br>C. insistent<br>D. irrational                   |
| 6. mar _____<br>A. to travel by sea<br>B. to misbehave<br>C. to adjust<br>D. to make imperfect  | 13. pugilist _____<br>A. an author<br>B. a boxer<br>C. a cab driver<br>D. a critic                   | 20. chary _____<br>A. burnt<br>B. noisy<br>C. trivial<br>D. cautious                               |
| 7. hapless _____<br>A. unimportant<br>B. unlucky<br>C. unruly<br>D. unsuitable  | 14. bevy _____<br>A. an outdated law<br>B. a hefty tax<br>C. a large group<br>D. an unexpected event | Number correct: _____  |

## Vocabulary Quiz 2

Choose the word or phrase that is most synonymous in meaning with the vocabulary word and write its corresponding letter on the line. Answers are on page 54.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. censure _____<br>A. careful revision<br>B. strong disapproval<br>C. written rejection<br>D. blatant disregard                     | 8. obstinate _____<br>A. huge<br>B. irritable<br>C. stubborn<br>D. mean  | 15. peregrinate _____<br>A. to fly<br>B. to scold<br>C. to sleep<br>D. to travel   |
| 2. magnate _____<br>A. an oppressive ruler<br>B. a charismatic person<br>C. an important business person<br>D. a religious authority | 9. pristine _____<br>A. rare<br>B. pure<br>C. principled<br>D. soiled  | 16. verisimilitude _____<br>A. the likeness of images<br>B. the appearance of truth<br>C. the presence of authority<br>D. the portrayal of a character |
| 3. prattle _____<br>A. to delay<br>B. to complain<br>C. to babble<br>D. to disagree  | 10. reproach _____<br>A. to blame<br>B. to advance<br>C. to commande<br>D. to disagree   | 17. imprecation _____<br>A. an allegation<br>B. an opinion<br>C. a curse<br>D. a disagreement  |
| 4. sully _____<br>A. to make dirty<br>B. to speak negatively of<br>C. to offend<br>D. to beg   | 11. augment _____<br>A. to increase<br>B. to educate<br>C. to interrupt<br>D. to observe                                       | 18. churlish _____<br>A. rude<br>B. grumpy<br>C. impulsive<br>D. furious   |
| 5. explicit _____<br>A. strongly denied<br>B. secretive<br>C. puzzling<br>D. clearly expressed                                       | 12. deride _____<br>A. to travel<br>B. to quiz<br>C. to suggest<br>D. to ridicule  | 19. ignominious _____<br>A. disgraceful<br>B. famous<br>C. righteous<br>D. questionable  |
| 6. amiable _____<br>A. friendly<br>B. negotiable<br>C. generous<br>D. innocent   | 13. dilatory _____<br>A. intending to criticize<br>B. intending to supervise<br>C. intending to delay<br>D. intending to speak | 20. penurious _____<br>A. harmful<br>B. stingy<br>C. accusatory<br>D. rowdy  |
| 7. glib _____<br>A. dismal<br>B. arrogant<br>C. humorous<br>D. talkative   | 14. inure _____<br>A. to annoy<br>B. to reduce noise<br>C. to become used to<br>D. to enroll in a college                      | Number correct: _____  |

# Vocabulary Quiz 3

Choose the word or phrase that is most synonymous in meaning with the vocabulary word and write its corresponding letter on the line. Answers are on page 54.

1. culpable \_\_\_\_\_  
A. worthy of blame  
B. worthy of praise  
C. worthy of affection  
D. worthy of forgiveness

2. amulet \_\_\_\_\_  
A. a valuable gemstone  
B. a historical weapon  
C. a magical charm  
D. a healing potion

3. lampoon \_\_\_\_\_  
A. to catch  
B. to mock  
C. to write  
D. to attack

4. molt \_\_\_\_\_  
A. to cook liquids  
B. to shed feathers  
C. to melt rock  
D. to sift powder

5. discern \_\_\_\_\_  
A. to weaken  
B. to perceive  
C. to discuss  
D. to worry

6. divert \_\_\_\_\_  
A. to amuse  
B. to turn  
C. to ignore  
D. to extend

7. furtive \_\_\_\_\_  
A. temporary  
B. weepy  
C. phony  
D. sneaky

8. partisan \_\_\_\_\_  
A. dividing  
B. favoring one side  
C. celebrating milestones  
D. campaigning for office

9. maverick \_\_\_\_\_  
A. a respected expert  
B. an inexperienced person  
C. a democratic leader  
D. an independent thinker

10. abdicate \_\_\_\_\_  
A. to sway  
B. to inquire  
C. to marry  
D. to give up

11. curmudgeon \_\_\_\_\_  
A. an elderly person  
B. a stingy person  
C. a cranky person  
D. an uneducated person

12. paucity \_\_\_\_\_  
A. willingness  
B. guidance  
C. shortage  
D. revenue

13. vim \_\_\_\_\_  
A. enthusiasm  
B. judgment  
C. melancholy  
D. ambition

14. miscreant \_\_\_\_\_  
A. opponent  
B. hermit  
C. villain  
D. fool

15. mendacious \_\_\_\_\_  
A. agreeable  
B. false  
C. absurd  
D. practical

16. licentious \_\_\_\_\_  
A. legal  
B. probable  
C. greedy  
D. immoral

17. untenable \_\_\_\_\_  
A. unlikely to succeed  
B. impossible to defend  
C. difficult to maintain  
D. unable to identify

18. treacly \_\_\_\_\_  
A. overly dramatic  
B. overly blunt  
C. overly sweet  
D. overly sensitive

19. arrogate \_\_\_\_\_  
A. to presume  
B. to water  
C. to heal  
D. to claim

20. meretricious \_\_\_\_\_  
A. insincere  
B. worthy  
C. confused  
D. protective

Number correct: \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Quiz 4

Choose the word or phrase that is most synonymous in meaning with the vocabulary word and write its corresponding letter on the line. Answers are on page 54.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. laud _____<br>A. to interfere<br>B. to lie<br>C. to impress<br>D. to praise                      | 8. stasis _____<br>A. transformation<br>B. inaction<br>C. sympathy<br>D. economy         | 15. quotidian _____<br>A. common<br>B. relating to speech<br>C. intelligent<br>D. weak                               |
| 2. exasperate _____<br>A. to become harsher<br>B. to breathe deeply<br>C. to fill<br>D. to irritate | 9. tawdry _____<br>A. maddening<br>B. gaudy<br>C. ridiculous<br>D. plain                 | 16. supercilious _____<br>A. rudely bitter<br>B. arrogantly superior<br>C. openly aggressive<br>D. foolishly hopeful |
| 3. affected _____<br>A. fake<br>B. proud<br>C. violent<br>D. wealthy                                | 10. ignoble _____<br>A. dishonest<br>B. disfigured<br>C. disappointed<br>D. dishonorable | 17. turpitude _____<br>A. unearned advantages<br>B. broad vocabulary<br>C. great confidence<br>D. shameful behavior  |
| 4. mollify _____<br>A. to amend<br>B. to soothe<br>C. to propose<br>D. to start                     | 11. desiccate _____<br>A. to spoil<br>B. to ignite<br>C. to dry up<br>D. to abandon      | 18. phlegmatic _____<br>A. unemotional<br>B. disgusting<br>C. unhealthy<br>D. doubtful                               |
| 5. naïve _____<br>A. vibrant<br>B. confused<br>C. gullible<br>D. young                              | 12. corpulent _____<br>A. cruel<br>B. stupid<br>C. fat<br>D. ugly                        | 19. obstreperous _____<br>A. forgetful<br>B. unequal<br>C. defiant<br>D. unlucky                                     |
| 6. pariah _____<br>A. a hero<br>B. a father figure<br>C. a victim<br>D. an outcast                  | 13. banal _____<br>A. overdue<br>B. overused<br>C. overconfident<br>D. overlooked        | 20. inimical _____<br>A. harmful<br>B. regrettable<br>C. sarcastic<br>D. wasteful                                    |
| 7. sportive _____<br>A. playful<br>B. talkative<br>C. physically fit<br>D. active                   | 14. rejoinder _____<br>A. a response<br>B. a guide<br>C. a study<br>D. a review          | Number correct: _____  |

# Vocabulary Quiz 5

Choose the word or phrase that is most synonymous in meaning with the vocabulary word and write its corresponding letter on the line. Answers are on page 54.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. zealous _____<br>A. religious<br>B. prestigious<br>C. enthusiastic<br>D. flashy  | 8. aesthetic _____<br>A. of emotion<br>B. of friendship<br>C. of sound<br>D. of beauty | 15. egregious _____<br>A. dreary<br>B. offensive<br>C. arrogant<br>D. harmless               |
| 2. wane _____<br>A. to understand<br>B. to decrease<br>C. to hurry<br>D. to polish  | 9. sublime _____<br>A. unreal<br>B. disappointing<br>C. supreme<br>D. enjoyable        | 16. chicanery _____<br>A. trickery<br>B. rudeness<br>C. commentary<br>D. lack of seriousness |
| 3. inundate _____<br>A. to mend<br>B. to imply<br>C. to guess<br>D. to flood        | 10. satiate _____<br>A. to criticize<br>B. to punish<br>C. to satisfy<br>D. to mutter  | 17. hegemony _____<br>A. leadership<br>B. change<br>C. knowledge<br>D. weakness              |
| 4. cynical _____<br>A. distrustful<br>B. depressed<br>C. biased<br>D. irresponsible | 11. replete _____<br>A. filled<br>B. gifted<br>C. jumbled<br>D. marked                 | 18. opprobrium _____<br>A. boldness<br>B. disgrace<br>C. greediness<br>D. criticism          |
| 5. bilk _____<br>A. to gather<br>B. to flatter<br>C. to loosen<br>D. to swindle     | 12. pithy _____<br>A. brief<br>B. magical<br>C. selfish<br>D. average                  | 19. pusillanimous _____<br>A. hurtful<br>B. receptive<br>C. timid<br>D. petty                |
| 6. cajole _____<br>A. to harm<br>B. to remind<br>C. to influence<br>D. to caress    | 13. occlude _____<br>A. to shelter<br>B. to reject<br>C. to test<br>D. to block        | 20. solecism _____<br>A. a secret<br>B. a lie<br>C. a prayer<br>D. an error                  |
| 7. stoic _____<br>A. frilly<br>B. unemotional<br>C. childish<br>D. faulty           | 14. indolent _____<br>A. smelly<br>B. fancy<br>C. lazy<br>D. unruly                    |  |

Number correct: \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Answer Key

## Vocabulary Quiz 1

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. D  | 11. D | 16. D |
| 2. A | 7. B  | 12. C | 17. A |
| 3. C | 8. A  | 13. B | 18. B |
| 4. C | 9. B  | 14. C | 19. A |
| 5. B | 10. B | 15. D | 20. D |

## Vocabulary Quiz 2

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. A  | 11. A | 16. B |
| 2. C | 7. D  | 12. D | 17. C |
| 3. C | 8. C  | 13. C | 18. A |
| 4. A | 9. B  | 14. C | 19. A |
| 5. D | 10. A | 15. D | 20. B |

## Vocabulary Quiz 3

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. B  | 11. C | 16. D |
| 2. C | 7. D  | 12. C | 17. B |
| 3. B | 8. B  | 13. A | 18. C |
| 4. B | 9. D  | 14. C | 19. D |
| 5. B | 10. D | 15. B | 20. A |

## Vocabulary Quiz 4

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. D  | 11. C | 16. B |
| 2. D | 7. A  | 12. C | 17. D |
| 3. A | 8. B  | 13. B | 18. A |
| 4. B | 9. B  | 14. A | 19. C |
| 5. C | 10. D | 15. A | 20. A |

## Vocabulary Quiz 5

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. C  | 11. A | 16. A |
| 2. D | 7. B  | 12. A | 17. A |
| 3. D | 8. D  | 13. D | 18. B |
| 4. A | 9. C  | 14. C | 19. C |
| 5. D | 10. C | 15. B | 20. D |