

TOEFL VOCABULARY

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abandon [ə'bændən]

v. [abandoned; abandoned; abandoning] **to give up completely**
abandoned the sinking ship.

abash [ə'bæʃ]

v. [abashed; abashed; abashing] **to lose self-confidence; to confuse, put to shame**
abashed before the assembled dignitaries.

abdicate [æbdi'keɪt]

v. [abdicated; abdicated; abdicating] **to give up claim to**
abdicated the throne

abet [ə'bet]

v. [abetted; abetted; abetting] **to encourage -or support**
treacherously abetted the enemy.

abridge [ə'brɪdʒ]

v. [abridged; abridged; abridging] **to shorten**
abridged his lengthy speech.

abrogate [ˈæbrəʊgeɪt]

v. [abrogated; abrogated; abrogating] **to abolish or render void**
a treaty abrogated by mutual consent.

abstemious [æb'sti:mjəs]

adj. **moderate in the use of food or drink**
abstemious in his habits.

academic [ˈækə'demɪk]

adj. **pertaining to school**
theoretical academic interests
an academic discussion, with no practical implications.

accede [æk'si:d]

v. [acceded; acceded; acceding] **to agree to**
accede to a request.

accelerate [æk'seləreɪt]

v. [accelerated; accelerated; accelerating] **to quicken, speed up**
took an accelerated course in order to graduate early.

accolade [ækə'leɪd]

n. **an award or salute**
a tremendous accolade for a returning hero.

accord [ə'kɔ:d]

n. [accords] **agreement or harmony**
in full accord with his view.

acrimonious [ækri'məniəs]

adj. **sharp or harsh in language or temper**
stung by the acrimonious remark.

acumen [ə'kju:mən]

n. **keenness of mind or insight**
showing exceptional business acumen.

admonish [əd'mɒnɪʃ]

v. [admonished; admonished; admonishing] **to warn or find fault gently**
admonishing the unruly child.

adversary [əd'vesəri]

n. [adversaries] **an opponent**
his adversary in a bitter debate.

adversity [əd've:siti]

n. [adversities] **misfortune**
calm in the face of adversity.

aesthetic [i:s'θetik]

adj. **pertaining to the beautiful**
interested in aesthetic values rather than in purely practical affairs.

affable [æfəbl]

adj. **sociable, courteous, and agreeable in manner**
a much admired, affable gentleman.

affluent [æfluənt]

adj. **prosperous, flourishing; copious**
a large bequest from an affluent grandfather.

aggressive [ə'gresiv]

adj. [more aggressive; most aggressive] **self-assertive; attacking, offensive**
annoyed people by his aggressive attitude;

alacrity [ə'lækriti]

n. **eagerness; cheerful promptness**
responded to the flattering offer with alacrity.

alienate [ə'ɪljəneɪt]

v. [alienated; alienated; alienating] **to estrange**
alienated by his gruff manner.

allay [ə'leɪ]

v. [allayed; allayed; allaying] **to calm; to lessen in severity**
at ease now that his fears have been allayed.

allude [ə'lu:d]

v. [alluded; alluded; alluding] **to refer to indirectly**
alluded quite subtly to his friend's misfortune.

allure [ə'ljuə]

v. [allured; allured; alluring] **to tempt by flattery or an attractive offer**
allured by the prospect of a new job.

ambiguous [æm'bigjuəs]

adj. having or expressing more than one possible meaning, sometimes intentionally puzzled by the **ambiguous** statement.

amenable [ə'mi:nəbl]

adj. obedient; willing to submit
amenable to the suggestion.

amiable ['eimjəbl]

adj. good-natured; friendly
attracted friends by his **amiable** disposition.

anachronism [ə'nækrə'nizəm]

n. a thing placed or occurring out of its normal time
A machine gun at the Battle of Yorktown would be an **anachronism**.

analogy [ə'nælədʒi]

n. [analogies] a relation between two things shown in the resemblance not of the things themselves but of their characteristics
He indicated points of **analogy** between the two situations.

anarchy ['ænəki]

n. state of confusion or lawlessness
a country brought to utter **anarchy** by civil war.

animus ['æniməs]

n. a feeling of hatred
felt no **animus**, even against the enemy.

annals ['ænəlz]

n. [annals] historical records
in the **annals** of literature.

anonymous [ə'nɒniməs]

adj. of unknown authorship
an **anonymous** publication.

anthology [æn'θɒlədʒi]

n. [anthologies] a collection of choice literary works
an **anthology** of modern poetry.

antithesis [æn'tiθisis]

n. [antitheses] contrast; the direct opposite
He is the exact **antithesis** of what I find attractive in men.

apathy ['æpəθi]

n. lack of feeling, emotion, or interest
attributed his failure to **apathy**, rather than lack of ability.

apprehensive [æpri'hensiv]

adj. fearful
Being unprepared, John is **apprehensive** of the examination.

apprise [ə'praiz]

v. [apprised; appraised; apprising] **to inform**
apprised his lieutenants of the new situation.

approbation [æprə'beɪʃən]

n. **approval; praise**
a plan that met with hearty approbation.

apt [æpt]

adj. [apter; aptest] **likely; inclined or disposed**
apt to succeed.
an apt remark.
apt at woodcarving.

arbiter ['ɑ:bɪtə]

n. **a person who has authority to decide matters in dispute**
a fair decision rendered by the arbiter.

archetype ['ɑ:tɪ'taɪp]

n. **an original pattern**
copies reproduced from the archetype.

arid ['æɪrɪd]

adj. **dry; barren**
the arid desert land.

aristocracy [æɪrɪs'tɒkrəsi]

n. [aristocracies] **government by the best people; a privileged class**
special privileges enjoyed by the aristocracy.

armistice ['ɑ:mɪstɪs]

n. [armistices] **a temporary suspension of hostilities.**
The armistice halted the war.

artful ['ɑ:tfʊl]

adj. **sly; crafty**
attained his mean objective by artful measures.

articulate [ɑ:'tɪkjʊlɪt]

v. **to speak clearly or distinctly**
articulated slowly so that he could not be misunderstood.
an articulate man, always ready to give his views.

ascetic [ə'setɪk]

adj. **rigorously self-denying**
pursued the ascetic life of a monk.

askance [ə'skæns]

adv. **with distrust**
looked askance at the forged signature.

asseverate [ə'sevəreɪt]

v. [asseverated; asseverated; asseverating] **to declare positively; to confirm asseverated his views with conviction.**

assiduous [ə'sɪdʒuəs]

adj. **industrious**

an assiduous worker, toiling long hours.

asylum [ə'saɪləm]

n. [asylums] **a place offering shelter and retreat found asylum from persecution.**

atheist ['eɪθiɪst]

n. [atheists] **one who denies that God exists**
The atheist declared, "There is no God."

attribute ['ætrɪbjʊ:t]

v. [attributed; attributed; attributing] **assign**

attributed his success to bard work.

Generosity was his outstanding attribute.

augment [ɔ:g'ment, 'ɔ:gmənt]

v. [augmented; augmented; augmenting] **to increase or enlarge**
an army augmented by numerous enlistments.

auspicious [ɔ:'spɪʃəs]

ad. **indicating a happy outcome**

The prospect for this project appears auspicious.

authentic [ɔ:'θentɪk]

adj. **genuine**

proved to be an authentic document.

autocratic [ɔ:tə'krætɪk]

adj. **despotic**

feared by the masses as an autocratic ruler.

avarice ['ævərɪs]

n. **excessive greed**

a fortune accumulated by avarice and miserliness.

awry [ə'raɪ]

adj. **unsymmetrical; not straight**

the picture, hanging awry on the wall.

banal [bə'nɑ:l]

adj. **lacking in freshness, originality, or vigor**

bored by his banal remarks.

baneful ['beɪnfʊl]

adj. **destructive, poisonous**

a baneful effect, causing serious injury.

banter ['bæntə]

n. conversation which is amusing and not serious
He considered himself a master of witty **banter**.

baton [bæ'təʊn]

n. a stick or staff

The conductor wielded his **baton** gracefully.

belie [bi'lai]

v. [belied; belied; belying] to give a false idea of
His gracious manner **belied** his evil purpose.

bellicose ['belikəʊs]

adj. inclined to quarrel; warlike

His **bellicose** attitude often got John into fights.

belligerent [bi'lidʒərənt]

adj. engaged in war

two **belligerent** nations warring fiercely.

benevolent [bi'nevələnt]

adj. kindly; charitable

like a **benevolent** monarch, bestowing many favors.

bereave [bə'ri:v]

v. [bereaved, bereft; bereaved, bereft; bereaving] to deprive or leave desolate by loss
a widow just **bereaved** of her husband.

besmirch [bis'mɜ:tʃ]

v. [besmirched; besmirched; besmirching] to soil or dirty
besmirched his opponent's good name with vile epithets.

biased ['baɪəst]

adj. prejudiced

misled by a **biased** point of view.

bibliophile ['bibliəfai]

n. a lover of books

The **bibliophile** fingered the old book fondly.

bizarre [bi'zɑ:]

adj. queer; unusual in appearance

bizarre clothes, outlandish in the extreme.

bland [blænd]

adj. [blander; blandest] gentle; polite

a **bland** diet, without irritating foods.

blandishment ['blændɪfmənt]

n. a flattering speech or act

attracted people by his **blandishments**.

blemish ['blemɪʃ]

v. [blemished; blemished; blemishing] to scar or spoil

Bad associates **blemished** his character
a character without a **blemish**.

blight [blait]

v. [blighted; blighted; blighting] **to ruin or decay**
the rotting wheat-, **blighted** by incessant rain.

blithe ['blaið]

adj. [blither; blithest] **gay and light-hearted in spirit or mood**
spread cheer with her **blithe** spirit.

bog [bɒg]

n. [bogs] **a swamp**
sank into the spongy **bog**.

bombastic [bɒm'bæstɪk]

adj. **high-sounding; pretentious in language**
a **bombastic** speech, inflated with meaningless high-flown words.

boorish ['buriʃ]

adj. **unrefined in speech or manners**
exhibited the **boorish** manners of a backwoodsman.

bucolic [bju:'kɒlɪk]

adj. **relating to the countryside**
The painting shows a typically **bucolic** scene with peasants harvesting crops in a field.

buffoon [bʌ'fu:n]

n. **a clown**
acting like a **buffoon**, full of ludicrous tricks.

bulwark ['bulwək]

n. [bulwarks] **an embankment used as a fortification; a person, idea, or object serving as a protection**
a lofty **bulwark** for defense.
acted as a **bulwark** in the fight against crime.

bumptious ['bʌmpjəs]

adj. **obnoxiously conceited or self-assertive**
a **bumptious** monitor, puffed up with his own importance,

cabal [kə'bæɪ]

n. **a small group of persons engaged in plotting**
a **cabal** of prominent persons united to overthrow the government.

cacophonous [kæ'kɒfənəs]

adj. **unharmonious sounding**
a **cacophonous** blare of trumpets, noisy and discordant.

cadaverous [kə'dævərəs]

adj. **corpse-like; hence, haggard, pale**
His face appeared **cadaverous** from long imprisonment.

callous ['kæləs]

adj. [more callous; most callous] **unfeeling or insensitive**
made callous by long suffering.

calumniate [kə'lʌmnieit]

v. [calumniated; calumniated; calumniating] **to accuse falsely or maliciously in order to injure another's reputation; slander**
calumniated his political opponent by spreading false rumors.

candid [kædid]

adj. **frank, outspoken**

The two presidents have had candid talks about the current crisis.

cantankerous [kæn'tæŋkərəs]

adj. **ill-natured; quarrelsome**

showed a cantankerous and sullen disposition.

capricious [kə'prɪʃəs]

adj. **inclined, through some whim or fancy change the mind, purpose, or actions suddenly**
a capricious person, undependable in mood or temper.

captious ['kæpʃəs]

adj. **quick to find fault about trifles**

a captious critic pouncing on slight laws.

caricature [kærikə'tʃuə]

n. [caricatures] **a picture or other description of a person which exaggerates ludicrously one or more of his distinctive features**

not a realistic portrait but a malicious caricature.

castigate ['kæstigeit]

v. [castigated; castigated; castigating] **to punish or criticize severely**
castigated for using improper language.

celestial [si'lestjəl]

adj. **pertaining to the sky; heavenly**

a celestial pageant of bright stars.

chauvinist [ʃəuvinist]

n. **an extreme patriot**

a chauvinist with most pride in his country.

chicanery [ʃi'keinəri]

n. [chicaneries] **trickery, deception**

practised chicanery all his shady dealings.

chronic ['krɒnik]

adj. **continuing a long time; habitual**

a chronic complaint, persisting for years.

circumspect ['sə:kəmspekt]

adj. **cautious**

looked about him **circumspectly**.

circumvent [sə:kəm'vent]

v. [circumvented; circumvented; circumventing] **to gain an advantage by the use of trick to evade by the use of deception; to go around**
circumvented the law by evasive practices.

civil ['sɪv]

adj. **of or having to do with citizens or the state; polite, courteous**
We I civil duties as well as civil liberties.

clamorous ['klæməərəs]

adj. **loud and noisy**
a clamorous outburst the crowd outside.

clandestine [klæn'destɪn]

adj. **secret; stealthy**
a clandestine meeting known only to a few.

clement ['klemənt]

adj. **merciful; gentle**
a clement judge who tempered justice with leniency.

coalition [kəʊ'eɪʃən]

n. [coalitions] **alliance; merging of various units into one unit**
three parties forming a coalition to rule the country.

coercion [kəʊ'eɪʃən]

n. **compelling a person by physical force or other means to do something against his will**
rendered his services without the slightest coercion.

cogent ['kɔdʒənt]

adj. **having the force to compel, usually by appealing to reason**
persuaded by cogent arguments.

collusion [kə'lʊʒən]

n. **working together secretly for an evil purpose**
acted in collusion to overthrow the government.

commodious [kə'mɔdjəs]

adj. **roomy**
a commodious apartment.

compatible [kəm'pætəbl]

adj. **capable of existing together in harmony**
It was when we started living together that we found we just weren't compatible.

compendium [kəm'pendiəm]

n. [compendiums, compendia] **a brief summary of the main ideas of a larger work**
a compendium of chemistry in a slim volume.

compensation ['kɒmpen'seɪʃən]

n. **payment for services**

just compensation for his labor.

complacent [kəm'pleisnt]

adj. **self-satisfied**

looked on his own performance with a complacent smile.

compunction [kəm'pʌŋkʃən]

n. **regret for wrongdoing**

displayed slight compunction for his misdeed.

concede [kən'si:d]

v. [conceded; conceded; conceding] **to yield; to admit as true**

conceded victory to a superior force.

condign [kən'dain]

adj. **well-deserved (applied chiefly to punishment)**

received condign punishment for his crime.

condole [kən'dəul]

v. [condoled; condoled; condoling] **to express sympathy with another in sorrow, pain, or misfortune**

condoled with each other in their grief.

condone [kən'dəun]

v. [condoned; condoned; condoning] **to forgive or overlook (an offense)**

condoned the deed, in view of the offender's age.

confederate [kən'fedərit]

n. [confederates] **a person allied with others for a special purpose (frequently a bad one)**

joined his confederate in secret enterprise.

two confederate groups hurrying to their rendezvous.

congenial [kən'dʒi:njəl]

adj. **possessing similar interests and tastes; able to get on well with others**

congenial people with similar backgrounds.

congenial to his taste.

conjecture [kən'dʒektʃə]

v. [conjectured; conjectured; conjecturing] **to guess**

Without facts, we can only conjecture about his guilt.

consecrate [ˈkɒnsikreɪt]

v. [consecrated; consecrated; consecrating] **to set apart as sacred; to devote or dedicate to some aim**

consecrate the battlefield with a monument to the dead heroes.

consecrated his life to teaching.

consensus [kən'sensəs]

n. [consensuses] **general agreement**

The consensus of the committee was that no action should be taken.

consternation [kɒnstə(:)'neɪʃən]

n. **amazement; lack of courage caused by fearful prospect**

The threat struck deep consternation into John.

construe [kən'stru:]

n. to interpret, explain the sense of, or analyze
construed the statement to his own advantage.

consummate [kən'sʌmit]

adj. perfect or highly accomplished
achieved with **consummate** skill.
consummated the deal without delay.

contemptuous [kən'temptjuəs]

adj. expressive of contempt (an emotion involving anger and disgust)
cast a **contemptuous** look at his subordinate.

convivial [kən'viviəl]

adj. festive; gay
a **convivial** party.

copious ['kəʊpiəs]

adj. plentiful
shed **copious** tears at the bad news.

corpulent ['kɔ:pjulənt]

adj. fat
corpulent due to excessive eating.

cosmopolitan ['kɔzmə'pɒlitən]

n. [cosmopolitans] one who is at home in all countries
A **cosmopolitan** can feel at ease anywhere in the world.
a world-wide traveler, **cosmopolitan** in tastes and attitudes.

coterie ['kəʊtəri]

n. a group of people joined by common interests a coterie of select friend.
a **coterie** of writers

countenance ['kauntinəns]

n. [countenances] a face
His **countenance** expressed his complete disgust.
refused to **countenance** disrespectful conduct.

crass [kræs]

adj. [crasser; crassest] coarse and stupid
displayed **crass** ignorance.

craven ['kreivən]

n. [cravens] coward
the deed of a **craven**, motivated by fear.
a **craven** act which shocked the world.

credence ['kri:dəns]

n. trust or belief
gave little **credence** to the rumor.

credible ['kredəbl]

adj. **worthy of belief**

a **credible** story, true to life.

creditable ['kreditəbl]

adj. **deserving or reflecting Credit or honor**

applauded for his creditable performance.

credulous ['kredjuləs]

adj. **inclined to believe anything; easily imposed upon**

a **credulous** fool whom anyone can dupe.

cringe [krɪndʒ]

v. [cringed; cringed; cringing] **to shrink in fear**

cringing before superior force.

crucial ['kru:ʃiəl]

adj. [more crucial; most crucial] **decisive or critical; difficult**

the crucial event that decided the outcome.

cryptic ['kriptɪk]

adj. **containing hidden meaning**

a **cryptic** message, difficult to decipher.

culpable ['kʌlpəbl]

adj. **deserving blame or censure**

removed from office for culpable negligence.

cumbrous ['kʌmbərəs]

adj. **burdensome and clumsy**

a **cumbrous** knapsack, impeding his march.

curb [kə:b]

v. [curbed; curbed; curbing] **to control, check, or restrain**

forcibly curbed the people's protest.

cursory ['kə:səri]

adj. **hurried; hence, superficial**

Time permitted only a cursory examination.

curt [kə:t]

adj. [curter; curtest] **rudely abrupt**

offended by the curt response.

cynical ['sɪnikəl]

adj. **sneeringly distrustful of the good motives or conduct of others**

belittled the hero with a cynical remark.

dearth [dɜ:θ]

n. **scarcity**

a **dearth** of news, brought about by censorship.

deference [ˈdɛfərəs]

n. **submitting to the wishes or judgment of another**
yielded out of deference to the old man.

deity [ˈdi:iti]

n. [deities] **a god**
The sun was a deity to ancient peoples.

delectable [diˈlɛktəbl]

adj. **very pleasing**
a delectable meal, tastefully prepared.

delete [diˈli:t]

v. [deleted; deleted; deleting] **to erase or cancel, take out or remove**
deleted an offensive phrase.

delineate [diˈlini:it]

v. [delineated; delineated; delineating] **to sketch or portray**
striking features, delineated by a master artist.

delinquent [diˈlɪŋkwənt]

n. [delinquents] **an offender**
found to be a delinquent by the court.
too many people who are delinquent in meeting their civic duties.

deluge [ˈdelju:dʒ]

n. [deluges] **a great flood; downpour**
a spring deluge which caused the river to overflow.

demagogue [ˈdeməgɒg]

n. **a leader who tries to stir the passions of people for his own purposes**
the mob roused by an unprincipled demagogue.

demeanor [diˈmi:nə]

n. **behavior; bearing**
carrying himself with a proud demeanor.

demure [diˈmjʊə]

adj. [demurer; demurest] **affectedly or falsely modest or prim**
serious demure as a Victorian maiden.

denounce [diˈnaʊns]

v. [denounced; denounced; denouncing] **to speak against**
denounced by the press as a traitor.

deplete [diˈpli:t]

v. [depleted; depleted; depleting] **to empty or to use up**
depleted the public treasury by vast building programs.

deplore [diˈplɔ:]

adj. **to express sorrow or grief over**
a lamentable situation deplored by all parties.

depraved [dɪˈpreɪvd]
adj. of low morals; corrupt
a **depraved** mind, devising evil.

deprecate [ˈdepreɪkeɪt]
adj. to plead or argue against a certain course of action
deprecated the proposal severely.

depreciate [diˈpriːʃieɪt]
adj. to belittle or speak slightingly of
depreciated John's acting ability.

devastation [devəˈsteɪʃən]
n. widespread ruin
the city left in utter **devastation** by war.

devious [ˈdiviəs]
adj. winding; indirect
took a **devious**, rather than the direct way home.
used **devious** means to attain his wicked ends.

devoid [diˈvɔɪd]
adj. lacking in; not possessing
a speech **devoid** of even a trace of ill-will.

devout [diˈvəʊt]
adj. [devouter; devoutest] devoted to religious observances
devout in his regularity of attendance at worship.

dictum [ˈdɪktəm]
n. [dicta, dictums] art authoritative statement; a saying
an imperial **dictum** demanding instant compliance.

didactic [diˈdæktɪk]
adj. designed to teach, imparting a lesson
a poem with a **didactic** purpose.

diffident [ˈdɪfɪdənt]
adj. lacking in self-confidence
too **diffident** to lead a group.

dilemma [diˈlemə]
n. [dilemmas] a situation calling for a choice between two equally difficult alternatives; hence, a difficult or perplexing situation
faced with a **dilemma** defying solution.

dilettante [dɪlɪˈtænti]
n. [dilettantes, dilettanti] one who dabbles in the fine arts for amusement only and without concentrated study
a doctor by profession, a **dilettante** in art.

disconcert [dɪskənˈsə:t]

v. [disconcerted; disconcerted; disconcerting] **to confuse; to embarrass**
disconcerted by his suspicious stare.

disconsolate [dis'kɒnsəlit]
adj. **depressed; without hope or possibility of consolation**
made disconsolate by abject poverty.

discourse [dis'kɔ:s]
v. **to converse or talk; to discuss**
discoursed at length on the rise of political parties.

discrete [di'skri:t]
adj. **separate**
two discrete issues, totally unrelated.

discursive [di'skɜ:siv]
adj. **rambling from one subject to another**
a discursive letter, covering many topics.

disparity [dis'pærɪti]
n. [disparities] **inequality; difference in image, quantity, character, or rank**
great disparity between promise and performance.

dispassionate [dis'pæʃənɪt]
adj. **free from feeling or partiality**
coldly dispassionate as the chairman of the meeting

dispatch [dis'pætʃ]
v. [dispatched; dispatched; dispatching] **to do speedily; to send off**
dispatched with remarkable promptness.
done with all possible dispatch.

dispel [dis'pel]
v. [dispelled; dispelled; dispelling] **to drive away; to scatter**
dispelled a doubt that had lingered.

dissent [di'sent]
v. [dissented; dissented; dissenting] **to disagree; to differ in opinion**
He dissented violently, rejecting compromise.

dissolute [di'sɒljut]
adj. **living loosely; unrestrained in conduct or morals**
his life wasted by dissolute conduct.

distraught [di'strɔ:t]
adj. **mentally distressed; distracted**
distraught by trials and tribulations.

diverse [dai'vɜ:s]
adj. **varied; different**
two diverse characters; one candid, the other insincere.

diverting [dai'vɜ:tiŋ]

adj. **entertaining**
a **diverting** one of the most amusing I've ever seen.

divulge [dai'vʌldʒ]
v. [divulged; divulged; divulging] **to make public or reveal**
refused to divulge his source of information.

dogmatic [dɒg'mætɪk]
adj. **positive in expressing an opinion; asserting an opinion as though it were an undisputed fact**
spoken dogmatically, as if the speaker considered himself infallible.

dolorous ['dɒləərəs]
adj. **sorrowful; mournful**
a **dolorous** song full of sorrow for past joys.

dynamic [dai'næmɪk]
adj. **forceful**
possessed dynamic energy, tireless and powerful.

ecclesiastic [ɪkli:zi'æstɪk]
adj. **pertaining to the clergy or the church**
recognized as an authority in ecclesiastic matters. Antonyms: secular, lay
an **ecclesiastic** of liberal views.

edict ['i:dɪkt]
n. **a public command or proclamation issued by an authority**
proclaimed by royal edict.

edify ['edɪfaɪ]
v. [edified; edified; edifying] **to instruct or uplift, particularly in morals or religion**
a story that **edifies** the reader, as well as entertains him

effete [e'fi:t]
adj. **no longer productive; hence, lacking in or, worn out**
powerful in ancient days, now an effete civilization.

egotistic [ˌi:gə'tɪstɪk]
adj. **conceited**
an **egotistic** person, flourishing on praise.

egregious [ɪ'ɡri:dʒəs]
adj. **often of mistakes, extremely and noticeably bad**
It was an egregious error for a statesman to show such ignorance.

ejaculate [ɪ'dʒækjuleɪt]
v. [ejaculated; ejaculated; ejaculating] **to exclaim or utter suddenly**
ejaculated a cry of horror.

elicit [ɪ'lɪsɪt]
v. [elicited; elicited; eliciting] **to draw out**
elicited no response from the audience.

elucidate [ɪ'lu:sɪdeɪt]

v. [elucidated; elucidated; elucidating] **to make clear; to explain**
elucidated his theory so that even a schoolboy could understand it.

emissary ['emisəri]

n. [emissaries] **a person sent on an errand or mission**
delegated his emissary to conclude a pact.

engender [in'dʒendə]

v. [engendered; engendered; engendering] **to cause, produce, or stir up**
an act that engendered good will.

ennui ['anwi]

n. **boredom; weariness of mind**
fell asleep at the meeting from sheer ennui.

ensue [in'sju:]

v. [ensued; ensued; ensuing] **to follow or result**
Silence ensued when the leader arose to speak.

entreat [in'tri:t]

v. [entreated; entreated; entreating] **to beg earnestly**
entreated the judge to show mercy.
She refused to become involved with him despite his passionate entreaties.

ephemeral [i'femərəl]

adj. **very short-lived**
an ephemeral joy, lasting but a day.

epicurean [epikju'ri:ən]

n. **a person devoted to luxurious living and pleasure**
an epicurean, seeking to enjoy every meal.
His entire existence demonstrated his epicurean tastes.

epigram ['epigræm]

n. [epigrams] **a brief pointed saying**
a speech full of original epigrams.

epitaph ['epita:f]

n. [epitaphs] **a tombstone inscription**
an epitaph engraved on marble.

epithet ['epiθet]

n. [epithets] **a phrase that describes a quality (good or bad) in a person or thing**
"Glaring" error is a commonly used epithet.

equanimity [i:kwə'nimiti]

n. **evenness of temper or mind**
suffered his cruel fate with equanimity.

err [ə:]

v. [erred; erred; erring] **to make a mistake or to do something wrong**
He erred in agreeing to her appointment.

erratic [i'rætik]

adj. **irresponsible, eccentric; lacking a fixed purpose** erratic behavior
He drove in an **erratic** course down the road.

erudite [erudait]

adj. **having or containing a lot of specialist knowledge**
an **erudite** person, an editor of many books.

esoteric [esəu'terik]

adj. **understood by only a select few**
an **esoteric** subject, discussed only by scholars.

exceptionable [ik'sepʃənəbl]

adj. **objectionable**
exceptionable behavior, universally criticized.

exculpate ['ekskʌlpeit]

v. [exculpated; exculpated; exculpating] **to free from blame**
exculpated by a jury.

exemplary [ig'zempləri]

adj. **serving as a model; commendable**
exemplary conduct approved by all.

exodus ['eksədəs]

n. **departure, emigration**
the pathetic **exodus** of refugees from their homeland.

exotic [ig'zəutik]

adj. **strange and foreign**
an **exotic** costume imported from Asia.

expatiate [eks'peɪʃieit]

v. [expatiated; expatiated; expatiating] **to speak or write at great length**
He **expatiated** on the subject for two hours.

expatriate [eks'peɪtriət]

v. [expatriated; expatriated; expatriating] **to banish or exile; to withdraw from one's country**
expatriated for treachery to his country.
expatriates who left the United States to live in Paris.

expedient [iks'pi:djənt]

adj. **convenient in helping to attain some purpose**
found it **expedient** to maintain silence at that moment.
tried all **expedients** to achieve a quick result.

exploit ['eksplɔɪt, iks'plɔɪt]

v. **to use for one's selfish purpose**
refugees **exploited** by unscrupulous employers.
lauded for his **exploits** in science.

expound [iks'paʊnd]

v. [expounded; expounded; expounding] **to set forth in detail; to explain**
expounded his theory in a learned article.

expurgate [ˈɛkspəːgeɪt]

v. [expurgated; expurgated; expurgating] **to purify (usually a piece of writing) of offensive material**
expurgate all obscenities before the book could be sold.

extemporaneous [ɛkstɛmpəˈreɪnjə]

adj. **done or spoken on the spur of the moment or without preparation**
an **extemporaneous** speech.

extinct [ɪksˈtɪŋkt]

adj. **no longer existing or active**
the **extinct** dinosaur, alive only in history.

extirpate [ˈɛkstəːpeɪt]

v. [extirpated; extirpated; extirpating] **to root out, destroy totally**
extirpated the cause of trouble.

extraneous [ɛksˈtreɪnjəs]

adj. **not essential; foreign**
excluded material **extraneous** to the subject.

exultation [ɛgzəlˈteɪʃən]

n. **great rejoicing**
received the good news with **exultation**.

facade [fəˈsɑːd]

n. [facades] **front or face, especially of a building**
a **facade** of marble.

facetious [fəˈsiːʃəs]

adj. **given to joking or inappropriate gaiety; said in fun**
brightened the evening with his **facetious** remarks.

fallacious [fəˈleɪʃəs]

adj. **unsound; misleading**
led astray by **fallacious** reasoning and plans.

fallible [ˈfæləbl]

adj. **liable to make mistakes or be deceived**
Being human, Tom was naturally fallible.

fathom [ˈfæðəm]

v. [fathomed; fathomed; fathoming] **to penetrate and understand**
difficult to fathom his mysterious actions.

fatuous [ˈfætjuəs]

adj. **foolish; silly**
a **fatuous** suggestion that struck us as stupid.

fealty [ˈfiəlti]

n. [fealties] **faithfulness**

The soldiers were pledged to **fealty** to their ruler.

feasible [ˈfiːzəbl]

adj. **workable**, proved practical by previous experience.

a **feasible** plan

feign [feɪn]

v. [feigned; feigned; feigning] **to pretend**

He **feigned** to be angry, but we saw through his pretense.

felicity [fiˈlɪsɪti]

n. [felicities] a **state of happiness**; a high ability

promoted **felicity** in the nation.

lie has a **felicity** of language, mastery of the well-chosen phrase.

fervid [ˈfɜːvɪd]

adj. **spirited**; ardent

a **fervid** debater, full of emotion.

festoon [fesˈtuːn]

n. [festoons] a **garland of flowers, leaves, etc.** hung between two points

the room bright with **festoons** of Thanksgiving decorations.

a room **festooned** with spring flowers.

fetish [ˈfetɪʃ]

n. **something that is believed to have magical powers**; an object of unreasoning devotion and worship

savages worshipping the **fetish** in a ceremonial dance.

Photography, begun as a hobby, became a **fetish**.

fiasco [fiˈæskəʊ]

n. [fiascos, fiascoes] a **ludicrous and complete failure**

all his glorious plans ending in a **fiasco**.

fictitious [fɪkˈtɪʃəs]

adj. **unreal**; made-up

used a **fictitious** name to avoid being recognized.

flaccid [ˈflæksɪd]

adj. **lacking firmness**

muscles grown **flaccid** after the illness.

flagrant [ˈfleɪgrənt]

adj. **outstandingly bad**

condemned for his **flagrant** abuse of power.

flamboyant [flæmˈbɔɪənt]

adj. **elaborately showy**

written in a **flamboyant**, style, full of highly decorative imagery.

flaunt [flɔːnt]

v. [flaunted; flaunted; flaunting] **display or wave boastfully**

flaunted the excellent report before his delighted parents.

fleeting ['fli:tɪŋ]

adj. **passing swiftly**

the fleeting hours of happiness

fluctuate ['flʌktʃueɪt]

v. [fluctuated; fluctuated; fluctuating] **to waver from one course to another; to vary irregularly**

his mood fluctuating with every hour.

forbear [fɔ:'beə]

v. [forbore; forbore; forbearing] **to exercise self control; to keep from**

forbearing to shoot the animal despite temptation.

forensic [fə'rensɪk]

adj. **pertaining to public discussion or law courts**

a lawyer gifted in forensic debate.

fortuitous [fɔ:'tju:ɪtəs]

adj. **accidental**

a fortuitous meeting with a friend in need.

fracas ['frækɑ:]

n. [fracases, fracas] **a disorderly quarrel**

A fracas broke up the meeting.

frustrate [frʌs'treɪt]

v. [frustrated; frustrated; frustrating] **to prevent (the attainment of an object); to defeat or render ineffectual**

His scholastic progress was frustrated by a serious illness.

fulsome ['fʌlsəm]

adj. **disgustingly excessive**

nauseated by fulsome praise.

garnish ['gɑ:nɪʃ]

v. [garnished; garnished; garnishing] **to trim or decorate**

dishes garnished attractively with greens.

genealogy [dʒi:ni'ælədʒi]

n. [genealogies] **a record of a person's or a family's ancestors or relatives**

an interesting genealogy, including saints and sinners.

genesis ['dʒenɪsɪs]

n. [genesises] **origin**

chemistry, which had its genesis in alchemy.

gesticulate [dʒes'tɪkjuleɪt]

v. [gesticulated; gesticulated; gesticulating] **to make gestures, or indicate feelings by motions**

gesticulated wildly to show his distress.

ghastly ['gɑ:stli]

adj. [ghastlier; ghastliest] **horrible, deathlike**

a ghastly disaster which shocked the world.

gibe [dʒaɪb]

v. [gibed; gibed; gibing] **to laugh at; to utter with scorn**
gibed at his enemy mercilessly.

glib [glɪb]

adj. [glibber; glibbest] **smooth-spoken, fluent**
a glib liar, distorting the truth effortlessly.

gluttonous [ˈglʌtnəs]

adj. **inclined to eat to excess**
gulped down his food in gluttonous fashion.

gossamer [ˈɡɒsəmə]

n. **a very thin gauzelike fabric or structure**
a poem so delicate that it seemed an unreal gossamer.
the gossamer wings of a dragon fly.

gregarious [greˈɡeəriəs]

adj. **habitually fond of associating in a company or herd**
gregarious sheep; that gregarious animal, man.

grimace [ɡrɪˈmeɪs]

n. [grimaces] **a distortion of the face to express an attitude or feeling**
a grimace that was more expressive than words.

hail [heɪl]

v. [hailed; hailed; hailing] **to greet**
The crowd hailed the returning hero.

harangue [həˈræŋ]

v. [harangued; harangued; haranguing] **to deliver a long, noisy speech**
harangued the multitude.
an empty harangue which bored his audience.

harbinger [ˈhɑːbɪndʒə]

n. **a forerunner; ail announcer**
the robin, harbinger of spring.

haughty [ˈhɔːti]

adj. [haughtier; haughtiest] **proud; looking down with contempt on others**
dismissed the messenger in a haughty manner.

heedless [ˈhiːdlɪs]

adj. **thoughtless; taking little care**
rushed into battle, heedless of the danger.

heinous [ˈheɪnəs]

adj. **wicked; hateful**
committed a heinous crime.

heresy [ˈherəsi]

n. [heresies] **an opinion held in opposition to the traditional view**

a view condemned as **heresy**.

hiatus [hai'eitəs]

n. [hiatuses, hiatus] a gap or vacancy; break
left a **hiatus** on the page where he erased a sentence.

histrionic [histri'ɔnik]

adj. pertaining to the theater; designed for show
broke into **histrionic** laughter, hollow and insincere.

hoax [həuks]

n. a trick or deception; a practical joke
played a **hoax** upon the credulous public.
He **hoaxed** the crowd completely with his disguise.

homonym ['hɒmənim]

n. two words having the same sound but different meanings
confusing such **homonyms** as mail and male.

hovel ['hʌvl]

n. [hovels] a dirty or wretched dwelling
born in a **hovel**, died in a mansion.

hyperbole [hai'pə:bəli]

n. [hyperboles] extravagant exaggeration for effect
An example of **hyperbole**: "There are a million objections to the project."

hypothesis [hai'pɒθisi:z]

n. [hypotheses] an assumption made for the sake of argument
worked from a fantastic **hypothesis**.

idiosyncrasy ['idiə'sinkrəsi]

n. [idiosyncrasies] a. personal peculiarity
Wearing white was one of Whistler's **idiosyncrasies**.

ignominious [ignə'miniəs]

adj. incurring public disgrace
suffered an **ignominious** descent from political power.

immaculate [i'mækjuleit]

adj. spotless; pure
an **immaculate** reputation.

imminent ['iminənt]

adj. likely to occur soon
stood in **imminent** peril.

immune [i'mjun]

adj. exempt from; protected from
immune from taxation.

impale [im'pel]

v. [impaled; impaled; impaling] to pierce through with a pointed instrument

impaled a spider to the wall.

impeach [im'pi:tʃ]

v. [impeached; impeached; impeaching] to accuse (a public official) of wrongdoing; to cast discredit upon

impeached the judge for accepting a bribe.

impeached his motives.

impeccable [im'pekəbl]

adj. faultless

performed with **impeccable** skill.

impervious [im'pə:vɪəs]

adj. incapable of being penetrated

a mind **impervious** to new ideas.

implacable [im'plækəbl]

adj. incapable of being soothed, made peaceful, or forgiving

implacable resentment.

implicit [im'plɪsɪt]

adj. implied but not clearly expressed; unquestioning

an **implicit** agreement.

implicit confidence.

import [im'pɔ:t 'ɪmpɔ:t]

n. meaning; significance or importance

a matter of great **import**.

impostor [im'pɔ:stə]

n. [impostors] a person who pretends to be someone else in order to deceive others

He felt like an **impostor** among all those intelligent people, as if he had no right to be there.

imprecation [ɪmpri'keɪʃən]

n. a curse

hurled **imprecations** at those who would not listen to him.

impregnable [im'pregnəbl]

adj. unconquerable

an **impregnable** fortress.

impropriety [ɪmprə'praɪəti]

n. [improprieties] improper act, manners, or expression

guilty of **impropriety** in public office.

improvident [im'prɒvɪdənt]

adj. lacking in thrift; not providing for future needs

an **improvident** spender.

impugn [im'pju:n]

v. [impugned; impugned; impugning] to attack or criticize as false; to call in question

impugned his honesty.

incarcerate [in'karsəret]

v. [incarcerated; incarcerated; incarcerating] **to imprison**
crushed his opponents by incarcerating them.

incisive [in'saisiv]

adj. **cutting, penetrating**
incisive criticism.

incognito [in'kɔgnitəu]

adv. **with one's identity concealed**
traveled incognito.

incontrovertible [inkɔntrə'vɜ:təbl]

adj. **indisputable**
incontrovertible evidence.

increment ['inkrɪmənt]

n. **an increase**
a salary increment.

incumbent [in'kʌmbənt]

n. [incumbents] **an officeholder**
the incumbent in an election.
felt it incumbent to reply.

indefatigable [indi'fætɪgəbl]

adj. **untiring**
an indefatigable worker.

indigenous [in'dɪdʒɪnəs]

adj. **native**
Rice is indigenous to China.

indomitable [in'dɒmɪtəbl]

adj. **stubborn in determination not to be subdued**
indomitable courage.

inference ['ɪnfərəns]

n. [inferences] **a conclusion reached by reasoning from data or premises**
an inference drawn from his remarks.

ingenious [in'dʒi:njəs]

adj. **demonstrating originality, skill, or resourcefulness**
an ingenious device.

ingenuous [in'dʒenjuəs]

adj. **simple and straightforward; concealing nothing**
an ingenuous plan that anyone could see through.

ingratiate [in'greɪʃieɪt]

v. [ingratiated; ingratiated; ingratiating] **to win another's favor or good opinion**
tried to ingratiate himself with the politician.

inhibit [in'hibit]

v. [inhibited; inhibited; inhibiting] **to check or hinder**
inhibited his friend from a foolhardy course.

innocuous [i'nɒkjʊəs]

adj. **harmless; inoffensive**
an innocuous remark, but it enraged him.

innuendo [inju'endəu]

n. [innuendos, innuendoes] **an indirect reference or suggestion (frequently derogatory)**
conveyed his idea by innuendo.

inordinate [i'nɔ:dɪnɪt]

adj. **excessive**
spoiled by inordinate praise.

insatiable [in'seɪjəbl]

adj. **unable to be satisfied**
insatiable greed

inscrutable [in'skru:təbl]

adj. **incapable of interpretation or understanding**
the inscrutable smile of the Mona Lisa.

insidious [in'sɪdiəs]

adj. **working secretly or slyly**
that insidious disease, cancer.

instigate ['ɪnstɪgeɪt]

v. [instigated; instigated; instigating] **to stir up**
instigated discontent among the soldiers.

integrity [ɪn'tegriːti]

n. **honesty, moral soundness**
a man of proved integrity.

inveigh [ɪn'veɪ]

v. [inveighed; inveighed; inveighing] **to speak angrily or bitterly**
inveighed against economic discrimination.

irascible [ɪ'ræsɪbl]

adj. **easily angered**
Even petty things made Peter irascible.

ire [aɪə]

n. **anger**
aroused his ire.

irksome ['ɜ:k səm]

adj. **tedious, monotonous**
an irksome chore that no one liked.

itinerant [i'tinərənt]

adj. **traveling about; wandering**
an **itinerant** salesman.

jargon [dʒɑ:gən]

n. [jargons] **confused, unintelligible, meaningless talk; special vocabulary used only by members of a group or trade**
Variety, a newspaper written in theatrical jargon.

jaunty [dʒɔ:nti]

adj. [jauntier; jauntiest] **having an air of easy carelessness or liveliness**
walked with a jaunty step.

jeopardy [dʒepədi]

n. **danger**
His life was in jeopardy.

jettison [dʒetəsən]

v. [jettisoned; jettisoned; jettisoning] **to throw overboard (as cargo); to throw off (as a burden or something in the way)**
jettisoned their old candidate as a political liability.

judicious [dʒu'diʃəs]

adj. **wise; using or exhibiting good judgment**
a well-chosen plan, termed judicious by all.

kaleidoscopic [kə'laidə'skɒpik]

adj. **constantly changing or varying in pattern or scenes**
kaleidoscopic views of New York.

ken [ken]

n. **range of sight or understanding**
something beyond our ken.

labyrinth [læbərɪnθ]

n. [labyrinths] **a confusing set of connecting passages or paths in which it is easy to get lost**
Finally, through a labyrinth of corridors she found his office.

lachrymose [lækriməʊs]

adj. **causing or given to shedding tears**
a lachrymose tragedy.

laconic [lə'kɒnik]

adj. **saying much in few words**
a laconic reply that spoke volumes.

larceny [lɑ:sni]

n. [larcenies] **theft**
indicted for grand larceny.

latent [leɪtənt]

adj. **hidden; present but not fully developed**

latent talent that time will reveal.

lavish [ˈlæviʃ]

adj. **profuse or generous; given to extravagance**

lavish in praise.

a lavish spender.

lethal [ˈliθəl]

adj. **deadly**

a lethal weapon.

longevity [lɒnˈdʒeviti]

n. **prolonged duration of life**

a country remarkable for the longevity of its inhabitants.

low [ləʊ]

v. **to bellow softly like cattle**

the lowing herd in the meadow.

lucid [ˈljuːsɪd]

adj. **clear; transparent**

a lucid explanation of a difficult text.

ludicrous [ˈluːdɪkrəs]

adj. **ridiculous; producing laughter**

a ludicrous remark that set them all to roaring.

luminary [ˈluːmɪnəri]

n. [luminaries] **an eminent person; a celestial body**

the platform graced by a number of luminaries.

machiavellian [mækiəˈveliən]

adj. **sacrificing moral principles in order to attain power; politically cunning**

a machiavellian design, wickedly contrived.

malicious [məˈlɪʃəs]

adj. **bearing, or acting with, deliberate ill-will or spite**

hurting with malicious intent.

masquerade [ˈmæskəˈreɪd]

v. [masqueraded; masqueraded; masquerading] **to assume a deceptive appearance or character**

a thief masquerading as an honest man.

a masquerade so perfect no one could guess his identity.

maudlin [ˈmɔːdlin]

adj. **sentimental to the point of tears**

turned maudlin at the mention of his lost dog.

meander [miˈændə]

v. [meandered; meandered; meandering] **to walk about (or talk) aimlessly; to wind about (as a stream)**

meandered through the town, looking into shop windows.

mediocre [ˈmiːdiəʊkə]

adj. average in quality
a **mediocre** performance, unworthy of his talents.

mercenary ['mɜːsɪnəri]
adj. acting solely from a consideration of reward or profit
actuated by a **mercenary** motive.

meretricious [merə'trɪʃəs]
adj. attracting in a false, cheap, or showy manner
a **meretricious** beauty that is too flashy to be real.

meticulous [mə'tɪkjʊləs]
adj. fussy about minute details
took **meticulous** pains with his composition.

mettle ['metl]
n. disposition; spirit
His **mettle** was tried in battle.

microcosm ['maɪkrəʊkɒzəm]
n. a little world, or a universe in miniature
The audience was selected to create a **microcosm** of American society.

mimic ['mɪmɪk]
v. [mimicked; mimicked; mimicking] to make fun of or copy by imitating
mimicked the comedian's gestures.

misanthropic [mɪzən'θrɒpɪk]
adj. hating or distrusting mankind
condemned for his **misanthropic** views.

misnomer ['mɪs'nəʊmə]
n. a name or term that describes wrongly
To call him a brave man is really a **misnomer**.

monologue ['mɒnələʒ]
n. a speech by one person
The actor gave his views in a dramatic **monologue**.

morose [mə'rəʊs]
adj. gloomy; ill-humored
shunned because of his **morose** temper.

motley ['mɒtli]
adj. of various colors; of mixed ingredients
a **motley** costume; a **motley** crowd.

mottled ['mɒtld]
adj. spotted or streaked with varied colors
a **mottled** pony.

mundane ['mʌndeɪn]
adj. of, or pertaining to, the world, as contrasted with the spirit

mundane affairs.

murky ['mɜːki]

adj. [murkier; murkiest] **dark; cloudy**
a murky cavern.

mutable ['mjʊ:təbl]

adj. **given to frequent change in nature, mood, or form**
mutable in mood as a spring wind.

myriad ['miriəd]

adj. **innumerable**
the myriad stars in the heavens.

nautical ['nɔːtikəl]

adj. **pertaining to ships or navigation**
a nautical career.

nettle ['netl]

v. [nettled; nettled; nettling] **to irritate or provoke**
nettled by his critics.

nocturnal [nɒk'tɜːnəl]

adj. **pertaining to, or occurring in, the night**
awakened by the sounds of a nocturnal prowler.

noisome ['noisəm]

adj. **foul-smelling; harmful**
the swamp gave off a noisome odor.

nonchalant [nɒnʃə'lɒnt]

adj. **unmoved or indifferent; casual**
reacted to the news in a nonchalant manner.

nostalgia [nə'stældʒiə]

n. **homesickness**
felt nostalgia for the old homestead.

notorious [nəu'tɔːriəs]

adj. [more notorious; most notorious] **widely known (in a bad sense)**
a notorious gambler.

novice ['nɒvis]

n. [novices] **a beginner**
conducted himself in politics like a novice.

obdurate ['ɒbdjʊrɪt]

adj. **hard-hearted; stubborn**
an obdurate, unrepentant criminal.

oblivious [ə'bliviəs]

adj. **forgetful; absent-minded**
walking oblivious of his surroundings.

obsession [əb'seʃən]

n. [obsessions] a **persistent feeling, idea, activity, etc., which dominates a person; the state of being exclusively preoccupied by a fixed idea**

Now that he has learned bowling, it has become his obsession.

obsolete ['ɒbsəli:t]

adj. **no longer in use**

an obsolete word, not even included by most dictionaries.

obtrusive [əb'tru:siv]

adj. **thrusting oneself or itself into undue prominence**

made himself obnoxiously obtrusive.

obviate ['ɒbviət]

v. [obviated; obviated; obviating] **to prevent, dispose of, or make unnecessary by appropriate actions**

an act which obviated all objections.

omnipotent [ɒm'nipətənt]

adj. **all-powerful**

an omnipotent despot.

onus ['əunəs]

n. [onuses] **burden; duty**

bore the onus of his difficult office creditably.

ostensible [ɒs'tensəbl]

adj. **apparent; pretended**

his ostensible, though not actual, purpose.

ostracize ['ɒstrəsaiz]

v. [ostracized; ostracized; ostracizing] **to banish; to exclude from public favor or privileges**

a former premier ostracized by popular vote.

panacea [pæne'siə]

n. [panaceas] **a remedy for all ills**

seeking a panacea to cure our social troubles.

panegyric [pæni'dʒirik]

n. **a speech or writing of extravagant praise**

delivered a panegyric at his friend's testimonial dinner.

paradox ['pærədɒks]

n. [paradoxes] **a self-contradictory statement; something that appears to be absurd and yet may be true -"Life is too important a matter to be taken seriously."**

a paradox by Oscar Wilde.

paraphrase ['pærəfreiz]

v. [paraphrased; paraphrased; paraphrasing] **to restate the meaning of a passage in other words**

paraphrased the poem in a few lines of prose.

parody ['pærədi]

n. [parodies] **a humorous imitation of an author's style and mannerisms**

wrote a **parody** on Kipling's "Gunga Din".
The trial was a **parody** of justice.

peccadillo [pekə'diləu]
n. [peccadilloes, peccadillos] a **petty fault**
possesses one peccadillo among his many virtues.

pecuniary [pi'kju:njəri]
adj. **pertaining to money**
involved in pecuniary difficulties.

pedant ['pednt]
n. **one who proudly shows off his learning or who overrates his knowledge**
like a pedant glorying in his scholarly trifles.

pensive ['pensiv]
adj. [more pensive; most pensive] **sadly thoughtful**
softly sang his pensive song.

peremptory [pə'remptəri]
adj. [more peremptory; most peremptory] **positive in expressing an opinion**
gave a peremptory judgment.

pertinacious [pə:ti'neiʃəs]
adj. **clinging doggedly to an opinion or purpose**
pertinacious in his efforts.

peruse [pə'ru:z]
v. [perused; perused; perusing] **to read carefully**
perused the important letter.

perverse [pə've:s]
adj. [more perverse; most perverse] **willfully bent on doing the wrong thing**
a perverse lad, always disobeying his parents.

petrify ['petrifai]
v. [petrified; petrified; petrifying] **to paralyze with horror, fear, or surprise**
petrified by the enemy bombardment.

plagiarism ['pleidʒjərizm]
n. **adopting and reproducing, without acknowledgment, the writings or ideas of another and passing them off as one's own**
denied the charge of deliberate plagiarism.

platitude ['plætitud]
n. **a dull and commonplace remark**
bored people by his pompous phrases and platitudes.

plebeian [pli'bi(:)ən]
adj. **pertaining to the common people; hence, common or vulgar**
plebeian in his tastes and outlook.

plebiscite ['plebisit]

n. [plebiscites] **a direct vote by the people**
The decision to confederate was ratified by plebiscite.

poignant [ˈpɔɪnənt]
adj. [more poignant; most poignant] **gripping and moving the feelings powerfully; piercing, biting, pointed**
a poignant grief.
a poignant cry; poignant wit.

ponderous [ˈpɒndərəs]
adj. [more ponderous; most ponderous] **very heavy; clumsy**
a ponderous speech, extremely boring.

precarious [priˈkæəriəs]
adj. [more precarious; most precarious] **uncertain or risky**
earning a precarious livelihood, providing no luxuries.

precipitous [priˈsɪpɪtəs]
adj. [more precipitous; most precipitous] **very steep; descending rapidly**
a precipitous cliff.
a precipitous decline in popularity.

precocious [priˈkəʊʃəs]
adj. [more precocious; most precocious] **remarkable for early mental development**
A precocious child, she went to university at the age of 15.

predatory [ˈpredətəri]
adj. **inclined to plunder or rob; preying on, others**
predatory bands roaming the countryside.
predatory animals prowling about.

predilection [priːdiˈlekʃən]
n. **partiality or preference for; a favorable opinion arrived at beforehand**
a predilection for theatricals.

prelude [ˈpreljʊːd]
n. [preludes] **an introduction, forerunner, or preliminary step**
a short prelude to the play.

prerogative [priˈrɒɡətɪv]
n. [prerogatives] **a privilege or power attaching to a position**
It is a woman's prerogative to refuse to tell her age.

prestige [presˈtiːʒ]
n. **esteem or influence accorded for recognized achievements or reputation**
As Senator he enjoyed great prestige.

presumption [priˈzʌmpʃən]
n. [presumptions] **something taken for granted; going beyond proper bounds**
acted on a reasonable presumption.
His question was downright presumption.

prevaricate [priˈværikeit]

v. [prevaricated; prevaricated; prevaricating] **to disguise or conceal the truth to lie prevaricated in order to avoid detection.**

procrastinate [prəʊ'kræstineit]

v. [procrastinated; procrastinated; procrastinating] **to postpone or put off to another time missed his opportunity by procrastinating too long.**

prognosticate [prɒg'nɒstikeit]

v. [prognosticated; prognosticated; prognosticating] **to forecast The Weather Bureau prognosticates daily.**

proletariat [prəʊlə'tɛəriət]

n. **the wage-earning class a truckman, humble member of the proletariat.**

promontory ['prɒməntəri]

n. [promontories] **a cliff an imposing promontory along the coast.**

promulgate [prɒ'məlgeit]

v. [promulgated; promulgated; promulgating] **to publish or proclaim; to spread abroad The President promulgated a decree.**

protuberant [prəʊ'tju:bərənt]

adj. **bulging or swelling out a protuberant jaw.**

provisional [prə'vɪʒən]

adj. **temporary; for the time being a provisional plan until a permanent decision is reached.**

proximity [prɒk'siməti]

n. **nearness worked in close proximity to his home.**

pseudonym ['psju:dənim]

n. **a false name assumed by a writer concealed his identity by a pseudonym.**

punitive ['pju:nitiv]

adj. **inflicting, or concerned with, punishment took punitive measures against deserters.**

quash [kwɒʃ]

v. [quashed; quashed; quashing] **to crush; to render void quashed a rebellion; quashed an indictment.**

querulous ['kwɛrələs]

adj. **given to fault-finding and complaining Her querulous nature estranged many people.**

quixotic [kwɪk'sɒtik]

adj. **extravagantly romantic or idealistic; highly impractical**

a **quixotic** scheme that can never materialize.

raconteur ['rækɒn'tə:]

n. a skilled storyteller

held spellbound by a superb **raconteur**.

radical ['rædɪkəl]

n. [radicals] one who advocates extreme basic changes

The reform movement was led by a **radical**.

radical measures adopted to meet the emergency.

ramification [ræmifi'keɪʃən]

n. a branching; sub-division

studied the subject in all its **ramifications**.

raze [reiz]

v. [razed; razed; razing] to tear down completely

razed the old building.

recapitulate [rikə'pitjuleɪt]

v. [recapitulated; recapitulated; recapitulating] to restate in a brief, concise form; to sum up

recapitulated the main ideas.

reciprocal [ri'sɪprəkəl]

adj. mutual; done in return for something received

held each other in **reciprocal** esteem.

recumbent [ri'kʌmbənt]

adj. lying down; leaning back or down

resting in a **recumbent** position.

redolent ['redlənt]

adj. fragrant; reminiscent of

a room **redolent** of roses.

redolent of olden times.

redoubtable [ri'daʊtəbl]

adj. commanding fear or respect

cringing before a **redoubtable** enemy.

refute [ri'fju:t]

v. [refuted; refuted; refuting] to prove incorrect or false

refuted his opponent's argument.

reiterate [ri:'ɪtəreɪt]

v. [reiterated; reiterated; reiterating] repeat (several times)

reiterated his story once more.

remunerative [ri'mju:nəreɪtɪv]

adj. [more remunerative; most remunerative] profitable

a **remunerative** job.

renegade ['renɪgeɪd]

n. one who forsakes political or party principles or his religious faith
a **renegade** from his former allegiance.

reprisal [ri'praizəl]

n. injury inflicted in turn for one received
took action in **reprisal** against his neighbor.

resentment [ri'zentmənt]

n. [resentments] feeling of displeasure or indignation resulting from mistreatment or abuse
showed **resentment** at what he considered an unwarranted insult.

resilient [ri'ziliənt]

adj. elastic; light-hearted
a **resilient** Spirit, refusing to admit defeat.

respite [ˈrespait]

n. temporary deferment or cessation of work or pain; a temporary delay in the execution of -a sentence
a brief **respite** from labor.
granted the doom man a temporary **respite**.

retribution [retri'bju:ʃən]

n. the reward or punishment exacted for an injury, wickedness, or other action
suffered just **retribution** for his folly.

retrieve [ri'tri:v]

v. [retrieved; retrieved; retrieving] to make good; to recover
retrieved a mistake.
retrieved the suitcase left at the station.
retrieved his lost fortunes.

reverberate [re'və:bəreit]

v. [reverberated; reverberated; reverberating] to echo
a shot **reverberating** through the valley.

rudimentary ['ru:di'mentəri]

adj. [more rudimentary; most rudimentary] in an early stage of development
possessing only a **rudimentary**, knowledge of physics.

rue [ru:]

v. [rued; rued; ruing] to be sorry for
He will **rue** the day he left home.

sacrosanct ['sækərəusəŋkt]

adj. very holy
a shrine. regarded as **sacrosanct**.

sagacious [sə'geʃəs]

adj. [more sagacious; most sagacious] wise; shrewd
proved to be **sagacious** in his judgment.

sallow ['sæləu]

adj. [sallower; sallowest] sick

a **sallow** complexion.

sally ['sæli]

v. [sallied; sallied; sallying] **to rush forth suddenly**

sallied out to meet the enemy.

amused the audience with his **sallies** against his opponent.

sanctimonious [sæŋkti'məuniəs]

adj. **pretending to be religious**

showed his hypocrisy in a **sanctimonious** display of piety.

sanguinary ['sæŋgwinəri]

adj. **bloody**

a **sanguinary** battle.

sanguine ['sæŋgwin]

adj. [more sanguine; most sanguine] **of a hopeful disposition; blood-red in color**

a **perennial optimist, sanguine in temperament.**

sartorial [sɑ:'tɔ:riəl]

adj. **pertaining to a tailor or clothes**

a picture of **sartorial** perfection.

satellite ['sætələit]

n. [satellites] **an attentive or flattering follower; a country influenced or controlled by another prince surrounded by many satellites.**

Freedom is conspicuously absent ,in the Soviet **satellites.**

The moon is the only natural **satellite** of the earth, but in recent years it has been joined by many artificial satellites.

scintilla [sin'tilə]

n. [scintillas] **a trace; a particle**

not a scintilla of convincing evidence.

scourge [skə:dʒ]

v. [scourged; scourged; scourging] **to punish severely; to afflict**

a disease that scourged the country.

The Black Plague was a dreadful **scourge** of the Middle Ages.

scrutinize ['skru:tinaiz]

v. [scrutinized; scrutinized; scrutinizing] **to examine carefully**

scrutinized the contents of the letter.

shibboleth ['ʃibəleθ]

n. **a party slogan**

a **shibboleth** designed to attract votes.

simper ['simpə]

v. [simpered; simpered; simpering] **to smile in a silly or affected way**

She gave her teacher a **simpering** smile.

stood nervously, a **simper** on his face.

sinecure ['sainikjuə]

n. **employment entailing little or no responsibility or labor**
His job was a sinecure.

sinister ['sɪnɪstə]
adj. [more sinister; most sinister] **threatening or showing evil; dishonest**
the sinister look of a gangster.

sleazy ['sli:zi]
adj. [sleazier; sleaziest] **flimsy and cheap**
sleazy cloth which is used only in cheap garments.

slovenly ['slʌvənli]
adj. [slovenlier; slovenliest] **untidy and dirty**
I'll have to improve my slovenly habits - my mother's coming to stay.

soporific [səʊpə'rɪfɪk]
adj. **tending to induce sleep**
a poorly written novel, soporific in effect.

sordid ['sɔ:did]
adj. **mean and base; filthy**
Sordid motives breed selfish actions.

sovereign ['sɒvrɪn]
adj. **supreme power and authority; independent of the control of any other government**
possessing sovereign powers; a sovereign state.

sporadic [spə'rædɪk]
adj. **occurring singly, at irregular intervals; scattered**
sporadic cases of illness.

spurn [spɜ:n]
v. [spurned; spurned; spurning] **to refuse or reject with contempt**
an offer that was spurned instantly.

stoic ['stəuɪk]
n. **indifferent, calm in bearing pain or pleasure; practising remarkable self-control over emotions**
maintained a stoic attitude despite all his trials.

stringent ['strɪndʒənt]
adj. **having a very severe effect, or being extremely limiting**
The most stringent laws in the world are useless unless there is the will to enforce them.

stupendous [stju:pəndəs]
adj. [more stupendous; most stupendous] **amazing by, virtue of its immense size, force, or any quality in exceptional degree**
The circus is a stupendous spectacle.

succulent ['sʌkjʊlənt]
adj. **juicy**
a succulent steak.

sultry ['sʌltri]

adj. [sultrier; sultriest] **close, hot, and moist**
sultry tropical weather.

supine [sju:'paɪn]

adj. **lying flat on the back; inert, inactive, averse to taking action**
resting in a supine position.
a supine, ineffective administrator.

tangible [tændʒəbl̩]

adj. [more tangible; most tangible] **real; actual**
tangible gains which may be seen and counted.

tantamount [ˈtæntəmaʊnt]

adj. **equivalent**
an act that is tantamount to treason.

taunt [to:nt]

v. [taunted; taunted; taunting] **to reproach with contempt**
taunted him with the charge of failure to act promptly.
hurled taunts at his foes.

teeming [ˈti:mɪŋ]

adj. **in abundance, fertile, highly productive**
the teeming tropics, rank with vegetation.

temerity [tiˈmerɪti]

n. [temerities] **unwise or reckless boldness**
leaped into battle with thoughtless temerity.

temporal [ˈtempərəl]

adj. **worldly, as opposed to spiritual; existing for a time only**
a man preoccupied with temporal matters.

temporize [ˈtempəraɪz]

v. [temporized; temporized; temporizing] **to delay or refuse to commit oneself in order to gain time**
temporized while his friends hurried to his aid.

tenet [ˈtenɪt]

n. **a principle of belief held as true**
a tenet of religion which be maintained loyally.

tenuous [ˈtenjuəs]

adj. **slender; not substantial**
clung desperately to his tenuous hope.

tranquil [ˈtræŋkwɪl]

adj. [tranquiler, tranquiliser; tranquillest, tranquillest] **calm; peaceful**
a tranquil summer night.

transgress [trænsˈɡres]

v. [transgressed; transgressed; transgressing] **to break a law or command; to violate a moral principle**
transgressed the bounds of decency; transgressed the law.

tremulous [ˈtremjʊləs]

adj. **trembling**
tremulous with fright.

trivial [ˈtrɪviəl]

adj. [more trivial; most trivial] **of little worth or importance**
a trivial offense.

truculent [ˈtrʌkjʊlənt]

adj. **cruel, fierce; harsh**
a dispute marked by a truculent attitude on both sides.

turgid [ˈtɜːdʒɪd]

adj. **swollen, inflated; using big or high-sounding words**
turgid rivers overflowing their banks.
a turgid prose style.

ubiquitous [juˈbɪkwɪtəs]

adj. **existing everywhere**
The common cold is a ubiquitous complaint.

untenable [ʌnˈtenəbl]

adj. **incapable of being defended or held**
withdrew the argument as untenable.

utilitarian [juːtɪliˈtɛəriən]

adj. **materially or practically useful**
beautiful, but not utilitarian.

vanquish [ˈvæŋkwɪʃ]

v. [vanquished; vanquished; vanquishing] **to subdue or conquer**
an army vanquished with heavy losses.

vaunt [vɔːnt]

v. [vaunted; vaunted; vaunting] **to boast**
proudly vaunted his strength.

veneer [viˈniə]

n. **a superficial appearance or show designed to impress one with superiority**
pierced beneath his thin veneer of elegance.

venerable [ˈvenərəbl]

adj. **deserving respect or reverence because of age**
a venerable leader.

vernal [ˈvɛːn]

adj. **pertaining to spring**
an array of vernal flowers.

versatile [ˈvɛːsətəɪl]

adj. **able to do many things skillfully**
versatile in all the arts.

vicarious [vai'kæəriəs]

adj. **taking the place of another; felt, received, or done in place of another**
took vicarious pleasure in his brother's victory.

vicissitude [vi'sisitju:d]

n. [vicissitudes] **a change from one condition to another, often unexpected**
suffered many vicissitudes of fortune.

virago [vi'ra:gəu]

n. [viragoes, viragos] **a scolding or ill-tempered woman**
My neighbor's wife is a virago.

vituperate [vi'tju:pəreit]

v. [vituperated; vituperated; vituperating] **to scold or blame loudly, find fault with in abusive language**
an angry man, vituperating the world.

waive [weiv]

v. [waived; waived; waiving] **to give up (privileges, etc.); to do without**
waived his rights to the property.

whim [wim]

n. [whims] **a sudden notion or passing fancy**
frequently acted on the whim of the moment.

writhe [raið]

v. [writhed; writhed; writhing] **to twist about (usually with pain)**
writhed in agony on the floor.

zealous ['zeləs]

adj. **full of enthusiasm or eagerness**
a zealous supporter of the government's policies

zenith ['ziniθ]

n. [zeniths] **the highest point**
the zenith of his career.