

Humboldt County

2019-2020 SPELLING BEE PROGRAM

Junior High Spelling Word List (Includes: Level I, Level II, and Level III Words)

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MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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LEVEL I

aba	course fabric of wool or hair fiber with felted finish; loose, sleeveless robe worn by Arabs <i>"The people who were wearing an aba were protected from the sun."</i>
abase	to humble or humiliate <i>"Although I need money badly, I will not abase myself by working for pennies."</i>
abate	to make less in amount, degree, force <i>"We could tell by the sun peeking through the clouds that the storm would soon abate."</i>
abhor	to shrink from in fear; disgust or hatred; detest <i>"I abhor baiting my fishhook with worms."</i>
ably	skillfully <i>"We were ably assisted by a team of volunteers."</i>
abode	a place where one lives or stays; home; residence <i>"They remained in their warm abode."</i>
absorb	to suck up or drink in; assimilate; to take in and not reflect <i>"The paper towel will absorb the spilled milk."</i>
absurd	so clearly untrue or unreasonable as to be ridiculous <i>"It was absurd to say the baby could reach the counter."</i>
acme	highest point; peak; summit <i>"The team reached its acme when it won the national championship."</i>
active	characterized by much action or motion; lively, busy, agile, quick <i>"The family's active schedule was hectic."</i>
adherent	a person who is loyal to a leader, group or religion; sticking fast to an object or surface <i>"Everyone who works at that company is required to be completely adherent to all the terms of the contract."</i>
advise	to give advice or an opinion to; counsel <i>"The lawyer will advise clients in the most effective way possible."</i>
against	in opposition to; contrary to; adjoining or next to <i>"The student council voted against school uniforms."</i>
almond	the edible, nutlike kernel of the small, dry peachlike fruit of a tree <i>"Modesto is known as an almond growing region."</i>
amaze	to fill with great surprise or sudden wonder; astonish <i>"The musician's talent will amaze the audience."</i>

ambush	an arrangement of persons in hiding to make a surprise attack <i>"The sheriff did not suspect an ambush."</i>
amend	to make better; improve <i>"The government tries to amend the laws."</i>
antics	odd and funny; ludicrous; pranks, capers <i>"The antics of the puppy made everyone laugh."</i>
appeal	to make a request to a higher court for the rehearing or review of (a case) <i>"You can have your appeal heard in private if you want to."</i>
appoint	to name or select officially for an office, position <i>"We will appoint a chairman."</i>
approve	to give one's consent to; sanction; confirm <i>"My supervisor won't approve my day off because there is no one to cover my shift."</i>
arbor	a place shaded by trees or shrubs <i>"The children played in the cool arbor."</i>
arid	lacking enough water for things to grow; dry and barren <i>"The arid soil did not produce."</i>
arrange	to put in the correct, proper, or suitable order <i>"The librarian will arrange the books."</i>
arrest	to seize or take into custody by authority of the law <i>"The officer plans to arrest the suspect."</i>
assure	to give confidence to <i>"As I mounted the unbroken horse, my friends tried to assure me that I could stay on it."</i>
babble	to talk foolishly or too much; blab <i>"The child would babble often."</i>
balance	equality in amount, weight, value or importance; the amount still owing after a partial payment <i>"They paid the balance in full."</i>
ballad	a romantic or sentimental song with the same melody for each stanza <i>"The singer sang a beautiful ballad."</i>
ballot	a ticket or paper by which a vote is registered; act or method of voting <i>"The class president was elected by a written ballot."</i>

balsa	a tropical American tree that yields an extremely light and buoyant wood used for airplane models, rafts <i>"The balsa provides wood for models."</i>
bandit	anyone who steals, cheats, exploits <i>"The bandit was arrested."</i>
bankrupt	a person legally declared unable to pay his debts <i>"The store's owner was bankrupt and had to go out of business."</i>
banter	to tease or make fun of in a playful, good-natured way <i>"The children banter with each other."</i>
barge	a large boat, usually flat-bottomed, for carrying heavy freight on rivers, canals <i>"The barge was loaded with timber."</i>
barley	a cereal grass; grain used in making soups, malts and as feed for animals <i>"The chef always added barley to the soup to thicken it."</i>
barren	not bringing useful results, unproductive; unprofitable <i>"The barren field was eroding."</i>
barter	to trade for goods or services without using money <i>"The market offered to barter groceries for custodial work."</i>
basalt	a dark, tough, fine to dense-grained, extrusive volcanic rock commonly occurring in sheetlike lava flows <i>"The basalt was discovered in the mountain."</i>
basin	a washbowl or sink <i>"The dishes were set in the basin."</i>
believe	to take as true; to have confidence in the promise of another <i>"I believe in the goodness in the world."</i>
bellow	roar with powerful sound, like a bull; cry out loudly in pain or anger <i>"The bellow of the angry bull reverberated through the pasture."</i>
biceps	muscles having two heads, especially the large muscles in front of the upper arm or the corresponding muscles in the back of the thigh <i>"When performing an arm flex, the biceps are in charge of the bending movement."</i>
boggle	to confuse or overwhelm <i>"These magic tricks will boggle your mind."</i>
bolster	to prop up as with a bolster, support, strengthen, or reinforce <i>"The coach tried to bolster the team's spirit."</i>

break	to split into pieces; come apart; burst <i>"As the crystal fell to the floor, I saw it break into pieces."</i>
brief	condensed; short; outline of an argument <i>"The synopsis of the story was very brief."</i>
burglar	a person who commits burglary <i>"The burglar was brought to trial."</i>
buyer	one who buys; consumes <i>"The buyer noticed an increase in prices."</i>
caboose	the trainmen's car on a freight train, usually at the rear <i>"The caboose was the last car."</i>
caldron	a large kettle or boiler <i>"The stew simmered in the caldron."</i>
candid	very honest or frank in what one says or writes <i>"If I am to be candid, I must admit I am very unhappy with this situation."</i>
canny	careful and shrewd in one's actions and dealings; clever and cautious <i>"The canny engineer designed the road."</i>
canter	a smooth, easy pace like a moderate gallop; to ride or move at a canter <i>"The horse began to canter."</i>
capstone	the uppermost stone of a structure <i>"The capstone was granite."</i>
caption	a heading or title, as of a newspaper article <i>"They read the caption carefully."</i>
carafe	a bottle of glass or metal for water, coffee <i>"The server filled the carafe with water."</i>
career	one's progress through life or in a particular vocation <i>"It is important to choose a career carefully."</i>
carp	To complain or find fault in a petty or nagging way <i>"It is easy to carp about another's decisions."</i>
cashier	an officer in a bank or company responsible for receipts and disbursements <i>"The cashier collected the receipts and recorded them for the bank."</i>
central	in, at, or near the center <i>"The central position was desired."</i>

channel	a course through which something moves or is transmitted, conveyed, expressed <i>"The channel for the boat was narrow."</i>
charmer	a delightful, fascinating, or attractive person <i>"The baby was a charmer."</i>
charter	the hire or lease of a ship, bus, airplane <i>"We plan to charter a bus."</i>
chicanery	Trickery or deception by quibbling; actions or statements that trick people into believing something that is not true <i>"Let us expose that business for its financial chicanery and reveal how they waste our tax dollars."</i>
chorus	music written for group singing <i>"The group joined together for the chorus."</i>
cluster	a number of persons, animals, or things grouped together <i>"There was a cluster of flowers in the yard."</i>
coffer	chests or strongboxes in which money or valuables are kept <i>"After a successful fund raiser the coffer was full."</i>
collar	the part of a garment that encircles the neck; band or chain or leather for the neck of a dog, cat or other pet <i>"Some pet owners pull their dogs by the collar."</i>
college	a school offering specialized instruction in some profession or occupation <i>"I would never stop you from going to college or doing anything else you wanted to do."</i>
coming	drawing near; approaching <i>"The dog is coming toward us."</i>
commit	to give in charge of trust; to deliver for safekeeping; entrust; to do or perpetrate an offense or crime <i>"Because of the back-up on projects, the plumber can't commit to too many jobs this week."</i>
compel	to enforce or constrain; as to do something; to get by force <i>"Hunger will compel animals to follow a scent."</i>
compress	to squeeze together <i>"The machine will compress the cotton bales."</i>
copy	to make a thing like something else; to imitate <i>"We can make a copy of the letter on the machine."</i>

concern	to draw in; to engage or involve; cause to feel uneasy or anxious <i>“The issue of money was a concern for the school staff after their budget was cut by a lot.”</i>
control	to govern; to direct; restraint; regulate <i>“The Board of Directors will control communication.”</i>
convert	to change from one form to another <i>“We learned how to convert fractions from our teacher.”</i>
convoy	a protecting escort, as for ships or troops; a group traveling together <i>“Destroyers will convoy the troopships.”</i>
copra	the source of coconut meat or coconut oil <i>“Hawaii produces a great amount of copra.”</i>
corral	an enclosure for holding or capturing horses or other livestock; pen; to confine; roundup <i>“The wild horses were penned in the corral on the ranch.”</i>
correct	to change from wrong to right; to point out or mark the errors of <i>“Schoolteachers often take papers home to correct.”</i>
corrupt	spoiled; contaminated; morally unsound <i>“The corrupt official accepted a bribe.”</i>
costly	expensive; at the cost of great effort <i>“The diamond ring was a costly piece of jewelry.”</i>
crabby	cross; ill-tempered; complaining <i>“The crabby baby moaned and whimpered due to a missed afternoon nap.”</i>
craft	special skill, art or dexterity; occupation requiring special skill <i>“They worked hard learning the skills of their craft.”</i>
crash	to fall or break with a loud noise; to fall out of control so as to land damaged <i>“The vase fell with a crash and broke into a hundred pieces.”</i>
credit	belief; trust; confidence; faith; person or things bringing approval or honor <i>“Even though I turned in my homework last week, I apparently did not get credit for it since I received a zero in the gradebook.”</i>
creek	a small stream of water; a narrow or winding passage <i>“The water in the creek ran merrily along between high banks.”</i>

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

dapper	small and neat; trim; active and smart <i>"The students looked dapper in their class photo."</i>
data	things known or assumed; facts or figures for information <i>"The computer analyst fed the data into the machine."</i>
dazzle	to confuse, surprise, or overpower with brilliant qualities, display <i>"The sun's dazzle on the water hurts my eyes."</i>
deafen	overwhelm with noise <i>"The volume of the loudspeaker will deafen the audience."</i>
debark	to unload from or leave a ship or aircraft <i>"We will proceed to debark the material as soon as the plane stops."</i>
decent	proper and fitting; not immodest; conforming to approved social standards <i>"A decent salary is important for a comfortable standard of living."</i>
defect	lack of something for completeness; deficiency; forsake one's cause and join the opposition <i>"It was on sale because of a defect in the pattern."</i>
defend	to guard from attack; repel; support, protect, maintain or justify <i>"The soldiers will defend the fortress to the last man."</i>
deflect	to turn or make bend to one side; swerve <i>"They used their shields to deflect the arrows."</i>
defrost	to remove ice by thawing <i>"It was time to defrost the freezer."</i>
deft	skillful in a quick, sure and easy way; dexterous <i>"With deft fingers, I knitted the sweater."</i>
delay	to put off to a future time; postpone; to make late; slow up <i>"The delay in getting started caused them to be late."</i>
delta	fourth letter of the Greek alphabet; deposit of sand and soil, usually triangular in shape, at the mouth of a river <i>"The Nile River has a delta which is quite large."</i>
demand	to ask for boldly or urgently; order to appear or summon <i>"The subpoena is a demand by the court."</i>
demon	devil, evil spirit; a person or thing regarded as evil or cruel <i>"The pumpkin looks like a demon mask, the kind that is used to ward off danger and evil."</i>

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

disarm	to deprive of the ability to hurt; to take away weapons, make friendly <i>"The police asked the robbers to disarm, promising no one would be hurt."</i>
discard	to throw away, abandon; get rid of as having no value <i>"They planned to discard the unwanted clothing."</i>
discord	lack of agreement; conflict; inharmonious combination of tones <i>"The sense of discord in the committee made us nervous."</i>
dismal	causing gloom; depressing; bleak; dreary <i>"It was a dark and dismal day."</i>
dismiss	send away; cause to leave; put out of one's mind; discontinue or reject a claim <i>"Because of lack of evidence, the judge will probably dismiss the case."</i>
display	to spread out to be seen; exhibit; disclose; reveal <i>"They set up tables and booths to display the goods to be sold."</i>
disrupt	to break up; rend asunder; to disturb or interrupt <i>"Bringing up the subject will disrupt the orderliness of this meeting."</i>
distant	having a gap of space between; separated; far away, remote; cool in manner; faraway or dreamy look <i>"London, England is many miles distant from California."</i>
distinct	clearly perceived or marked off; plain, well-defined; individual <i>"The medal he received showed a distinct and special honor."</i>
distract	to draw the mind away in another direction; divert <i>"Some argue that fidget spinners help some students and others claim that the toys only distract from learning."</i>
distress	to cause sorrow or misery; pain; suffering <i>"When the boat caught fire, the captain issued a distress call."</i>
dither	to be nervously excited or confused <i>"Before the curtain rose, the actors were all in a dither."</i>
dizzy	feeling giddy or unsteady; confused, bewildered <i>"The motion of the ferris wheel made them dizzy."</i>
doctor	a person licensed to practice any of the healing arts, as an osteopath, dentist, veterinarian <i>"The doctor examined the patient."</i>
dogged	not giving in readily; persistent; stubborn <i>"If it wasn't for the politician's dogged commitment, the bill would never have been passed."</i>

dollar	a coin or piece of paper money of the value of a dollar <i>"The dollar was found on the sidewalk."</i>
donor	a person who donates or gives <i>"The donor prefers to remain anonymous."</i>
dormant	sleeping; quiet; still; inoperative; inactive <i>"Some plants and animals are dormant during the cold weather."</i>
dosage	the system to be followed in taking doses, as of medicine <i>"Don't forget to check the dosage of medicine before taking it."</i>
doting	foolishly fond; excessively <i>"As doting pet owners, the couple always treat their beloved dogs as if they are children."</i>
dowdy	not neat or stylish in dress or appearance; shabby <i>"Many of the candidates appeared dowdy."</i>
downy	soft and fluffy, like down <i>"The child petted the downy chick."</i>
draggy	slow moving; lethargic; dull; boring <i>"Some of us are draggy, especially in the early morning."</i>
drama	the quality of being dramatic <i>"The plays will bring drama to the audience."</i>
drastic	acting with force; having a violent effect; harsh; extreme <i>"We sometimes have to take drastic steps to get someone to listen."</i>
drawer	a sliding box in a table, bureau, chest that can be drawn out and then pushed back into place. <i>"The wooden drawer slid smoothly into place."</i>
dreadful	inspiring dread; terrible or awesome <i>"The volcano's eruption was dreadful."</i>
drizzle	a fine, mistlike rain <i>"The drizzle dampened the pavement."</i>
druggist	person authorized to fill prescriptions; pharmacist <i>"We always take our prescriptions to the same druggist at the drugstore."</i>
dual	of two; having or composed of two parts or kinds; double <i>"The Governor had a dual personality, sometimes very kind, sometimes very aloof and severe."</i>

duplex	double or twofold; two units operating in the same way <i>"They lived in one half of a duplex."</i>
during	throughout the whole time of; all through <i>"The doctor had a call and had to leave during the speech."</i>
dusky	lacking light; dim; shadowy <i>"In the dusky room, they could only identify outlines."</i>
eclipse	the partial or total obscuring of the sun when the moon comes between it and the earth; or of the moon when the earth's shadow is cast upon it. <i>"We studied the lunar eclipse in class."</i>
edict	an official proclamation or public order made by authority or decree <i>"The edict issued by the government had to be obeyed by all."</i>
efface	to rub out, as from a surface; erase; wipe out; obliterate <i>"They tried to efface the memory."</i>
effect	anything brought about by agent; result; influence or action on something by something else <i>"The ocean tides have an effect on the sailing of ships into the harbor."</i>
effort	the using of energy to get something done; attempt; endeavor <i>"When the hurricane struck Louisiana, volunteers immediately began their effort to provide relief to the victims."</i>
eject	to throw out; cast out; expel; emit <i>"The referees shall eject the three players from the hockey game due to instigating a fight with the other team."</i>
elate	to raise the spirits of; make very proud, happy, or joyful <i>"The surprise party should elate our friend."</i>
elect	to pick or choose; select <i>"We will elect one of our members to the Student Body."</i>
elude	to avoid or escape from by quickness, cunning, evade <i>"We will try to elude the traffic congestion."</i>
embark	to board a ship, airplane; to begin a journey, an enterprise <i>"We embark on our journey to Europe at 7:00 p.m."</i>
emblem	a visible symbol of a thing, class of people; a sign <i>"The national emblem of Canada is a maple leaf."</i>
emboss	to cover or decorate with designs; to carve, raise or print a design so it is above the surface; embellish; ornament <i>"The artist likes to emboss jewelry with a design of flowers."</i>

emerge	to develop or evolve as something new, improved <i>"A new town will emerge after construction."</i>
employ	to make use of; to keep busy or occupied; to engage services or labor for pay <i>"The new business is seeking to employ fifty qualified workers."</i>
empty	not full; containing nothing; unoccupied; vacant <i>"The windows are boarded up in the empty building."</i>
enact	to make a bill into law; pass a decree; ordain <i>"The President would like Congress to enact the new tax law."</i>
encamp	to set up a campsite; to put in a camp <i>"The meadow along the river looked like a good site to encamp."</i>
enchant	to charm; bewitch; set a spell on as by magic; delight <i>"Their acting will enchant all who see the play."</i>
enclose	to shut in all around; hem in; fence in; surround <i>"We plan to enclose the play area."</i>
endless	having no finish; going on forever; infinite <i>"An endless chain was formed by joining the ends that can move continuously over the wheels."</i>
endorse	to give approval to; support; sanction <i>"The community will endorse the candidate."</i>
endow	provide with money, talent, quality or property, etc. <i>"The family's desire is to endow the hospital with a large sum of money."</i>
enfold	to wrap up; embrace <i>"When hiking through a valley in the morning, fog will sometimes enfold you."</i>
engage	to employ or keep busy; occupy <i>"The children at the carnival will engage in fun games."</i>
English	the language of the people of England, the official language of the British Commonwealth, the U.S., Liberia, etc. <i>"We study English in school."</i>
engorge	to devour greedily <i>"The hungry bear seemed to engorge all the salmon in the river."</i>
engrave	to cut or etch into a metal plate, wooden block, etc. <i>"The jeweler will skillfully engrave the ring with personal initials."</i>

engross	to occupy one's whole attention <i>"This book will thoroughly engross the students."</i>
engulf	to swallow up; overwhelm <i>"The raging river will engulf the house."</i>
enjoin	to urge or impose with authority; order, enforce <i>"The police will enjoin the crowd to disperse."</i>
enlist	to enroll for service, as in the armed forces; to get help, support, aid, etc. <i>"The high school student went to the recruitment office to enlist in the military upon graduation."</i>
enrich	to give greater value, importance, effectiveness, etc., to <i>"The new class will enrich the curriculum."</i>
enroll	enlist; to record in a list; register; become a member <i>"We are both going to enroll in the choir."</i>
enter	to come or go in or into; pierce; to make an entry of <i>"I hope the relay team will enter the race because I'm sure they can win."</i>
epic	long narrative poem about the traditional and heroic deeds of a hero; poem having style, dignity and importance in relating a story <i>"The Iliad is a familiar epic poem."</i>
equal	of the same quantity, size, number, degree, intensity, quality, etc. <i>"People of all social standing should be given equal opportunities."</i>
error	state of believing what is incorrect or wrong; mistake <i>"Be careful that you don't make an error in spelling this word."</i>
erupt	burst forth or out; to break out in a rash <i>"Lava will erupt from the volcano."</i>
escort	one or more persons or cars, ships, etc., accompanying another for protection or to show honor or courtesy <i>"Young minors won't be allowed on the plane unless they have a guardian to escort them."</i>
ethnic	designating any, or of any, of the basic groups or divisions of mankind, having the same customs, characteristics, history or language <i>"It is a great idea to take an ethnic studies class."</i>
excel	to be better or greater than; superior to <i>"We all want to excel in whatever we do."</i>

facet	any of a number of sides or aspects, as of a personality <i>“They had never noticed the generous facet of the principal’s personality.”</i>
facile	not hard to do or achieve <i>“After years of practice, playing a musical instrument appears facile.”</i>
factor	any of two or more quantities which form a product when multiplied together <i>“The second factor in the problem was copied wrong.”</i>
faddish	having the nature of a fad <i>“The couple’s clothing was very faddish.”</i>
faithful	having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility; conscientious <i>“My dog is a very faithful companion.”</i>
famine	any acute shortage <i>“The people were suffering from the famine.”</i>
fancy	decorative, light, whimsical; imaginative; liking or fondness <i>“The window curtains were made of a fancy material.”</i>
fashion	to make in a certain way; give a certain form to; shape; mold <i>“The potter will fashion the clay to resemble a lion.”</i>
feeble	without force or effectiveness <i>“Their feeble attempt was not successful.”</i>
femur	thighbone <i>“The hip and femur bones were fused together and no movement was possible at that joint.”</i>
ferry	to take across a river or body of water in a boat or ship; to deliver by flying to the destination; a boat or plane used for this purpose <i>“The boat was used to ferry the people to the island.”</i>
fervent	having or showing great warmth of feeling; intensely devoted or earnest; ardent <i>“The children showed a fervent devotion to their pet.”</i>
fiction	anything made up or imagined, as a statement, story, etc. <i>“This movie is a work of fiction, including fantastical creatures that do not really exist such as dragons, griffins, and goblins.”</i>
fifteen	the cardinal number between 14 and 16 <i>“Fifteen boys belong to the scout troop.”</i>

final	last, or coming at the end; concluding; finish <i>"This is my final word on the subject."</i>
finite	having measurable or definable limits; not infinite <i>"There was a finite number of beads in the bowl."</i>
first	preceding all other; earliest; foremost in rank, quality, importance <i>"The excited kindergartner was first in line at the door each day."</i>
fitful	spasmodic; restless <i>"When I visited the doctor, he was concerned about my fitful heartbeat and ordered an EKG."</i>
flagrant	glaringly bad; notorious; outrageous <i>"The performance was flagrant, and the audience left."</i>
fluid	that can flow; not solid; able to move and change shape without separating when under pressure <i>"Water is an important fluid for survival."</i>
flaming	burning with fire; blazing; intensely emotional <i>"We watched the fire flaming and casting sparks high in the air."</i>
flimsy	thin and easily broken or damaged; poorly made and fragile <i>"The door was flimsy and could not be locked."</i>
fluent	moving or flowing smoothly; able to write or speak easily, expressively <i>"The teacher was fluent in three languages."</i>
flunk	to fail in school work; to give a mark of failure; unsatisfactory work <i>"If you don't start studying harder, you will flunk out."</i>
forbid	to rule against; not permit; prohibit <i>"The teacher tried to forbid the students from using their cell phones, but they wouldn't listen."</i>
format	a plan for the organization and arrangement of a specified production <i>"We have to write our essays using a very formal format."</i>
forty	cardinal number between 39 and 41; four times ten <i>"The shoes will cost more than forty dollars."</i>
fracas	noisy fight or loud quarrel; brawl <i>"They were having a fracas in the hall."</i>
fresh	recently obtained or grown; newly made; not salted, preserved, pickled <i>"The fruit was fresh and firm."</i>
frolic	playful trick or game; merriment, gaiety, fun; lively party <i>"The small children frolic about in a happy, carefree way."</i>

froth	to cause to foam; whitish mass of bubbles <i>"Shaking the drink will make froth in it."</i>
fuel	any material such as wood, gas or coal, burned to supply heat or power <i>"We bought a cord of logs for fuel for the fireplace."</i>
furnish	supply, provide or equip; to put furniture into a room <i>"They decided to furnish the den with modern pieces."</i>
gallant	stately; imposing <i>"The gallant ship cruised into the harbor."</i>
gamut	the entire range or extent, as of emotions <i>"The poet demonstrated the gamut of emotions in each poem."</i>
garb	clothing; manner or style of dress; to clothe, dress, attire <i>"The objective was to determine how well the improved garb will keep the astronauts warm."</i>
garble	to confuse or mix up unintentionally <i>"To me, that's so much unnecessary garble."</i>
garlic	bulbous plant of the lily family <i>"Some people do not appreciate the flavor of garlic."</i>
garnish	to trim, adorn, decorate; embellish <i>We often see parsley used as a garnish."</i>
gather	to cause to come together in one place; to pick, pluck or collect <i>"We hired extra labor to gather the fruit."</i>
gently	courteously, kindly; mild or pleasantly <i>"The wind blew gently and rocked the hammock back and forth."</i>
geode	a globular stone having a cavity lined with inward growing crystals or layers of silica <i>"The miner discovered the geode."</i>
gifted	having a natural ability or aptitude; notably superior in intelligence <i>"The gifted child excelled in music."</i>
giggle	to laugh with a series of uncontrollable, rapid, high-pitched sounds, suggestive of foolishness, nervousness, etc. <i>"While watching the premiere of a new comedy show I started with a smirk, then a giggle, then a full out laugh."</i>
global	round like a ball; globe-shaped <i>"Several national representatives gathered together at a global conference to discuss issues that are plaguing our world as a whole."</i>

glisten	to shine or sparkle with reflected light, as a wet or polished surface <i>"The new car did glisten in the sunlight."</i>
glory	great honor attained by doing something important or valuable, worshipful adoration; heaven or the bliss of heaven <i>"The glory of the sunset drew all eyes."</i>
glossy	having a smooth, shiny appearance or finish <i>"The glossy cat was sleeping in the window."</i>
glower	a sullen, angry stare; scowl <i>"After the boxers shook hands, they began to glower at each other."</i>
gobble	to eat quickly and greedily <i>"The chickens gobble the grain."</i>
gossip	a person who chatters or repeats idle talk and rumors, esp. about the private affairs of others <i>"The gossip strained to overhear the conversation."</i>
govern	to exercise authority over; rule, administer; direct or control <i>"The officials will govern in an orderly manner."</i>
grammar	the system of word structures and word arrangements of a given language at a given time <i>"In order to speak the language, an understanding of grammar is helpful."</i>
granite	a very hard, crystalline, plutonic rock, gray to pink in color, consisting of feldspar, quartz, and smaller amounts of other minerals <i>"The polished granite shone in the sunlight."</i>
grasp	to take hold of; grip; seize; to understand mentally <i>"Climbers wear special gloves designed to make it easier to grasp the slippery rocks."</i>
grateful	feeling or expressing gratitude <i>"The exhausted runners were very grateful for the bottles of water brought in by their coach."</i>
grater	scraper; to use to rub skin from vegetables, etc. <i>"How many lemons do you need for the grater to make the pie?"</i>
gratis	a favor without a charge or fee <i>"The printing of the tickets for the fund raiser were given gratis."</i>
graze	to feed on (growing grass, herbage, a pasture, etc.) <i>"The cattle will graze on the slopes all winter."</i>

gritty	of, like, or containing sand; brave; plucky <i>"Water from the creek left a gritty substance in the bottom of the cup."</i>
gruel	thin, easily digested broth made of meal with water or milk <i>"The delicious, warm gruel did not hurt my sore throat."</i>
habit	habitual or characteristic condition of mind or body; disposition <i>"It was his habit to have cereal every morning for breakfast."</i>
hammer	to strike repeatedly with or as with a hammer <i>"The camp director tried unsuccessfully to hammer the tent stakes into the frozen ground."</i>
happen	to take place; occur; befall <i>"They could not predict what would happen."</i>
harbor	a place of refuge, safety, retreat; a protected inlet, branch of the sea, etc., used as shelter and anchorage for ships <i>"Ships lay at anchor in the broad sunny harbor."</i>
harmful	able to cause hurt or damage <i>"We found the cold weather harmful to our houseplants."</i>
harvest	time of year when matured fruit, grain, vegetables, etc. are reaped; season's yield; gathering of a crop <i>"We usually harvest our pumpkins and squash for Halloween."</i>
having	possessing; owning; bearing <i>"Everyone seemed to be having fun at the fair."</i>
heckle	to annoy or harass by interrupting with questions or taunts <i>"The audience began to heckle the speaker."</i>
hermit	a person who lives by himself in a lonely or secluded spot, often from religious motives; recluse <i>"No one had seen the hermit for twenty years."</i>
hidden	concealed; secret <i>"The detective was looking for the hidden trunk."</i>
hinge	a joint or device on which a door, gate, lid, etc., swings <i>"The hinge needed oiling."</i>
hobble	to walk lamely or awkwardly; limp <i>"The horse tried to hobble to the corral."</i>
hollow	empty or worthless; not real or meaningful <i>"They knew that the praise was hollow."</i>

honest	frank and open <i>"The store owner had an honest face."</i>
honor	to respect greatly; regard highly; esteem <i>"The family met to honor the visiting grandparents."</i>
hopeless	impossible to solve, deal with, teach, etc. <i>"After working on the problem for ten hours, it appeared hopeless."</i>
hoping	expecting; desiring <i>"We are hoping everyone will be on time."</i>
hostile	having or showing ill will; unfriendly; antagonistic <i>"The lion appeared hostile as the hunter approached."</i>
huckster	an aggressive or haggling merchant, esp. one who uses questionable methods <i>"The huckster at the fair was making a fortune."</i>
human	of or belonging to the human race; mankind; person <i>"We should do more to help our fellow human beings."</i>
humble	low in condition, rank, or position; lowly; unpretentious <i>"The humble home was neat and tidy."</i>
hunger	discomfort, pain or weakness caused by lack of food; starvation; craving <i>"This organization has been a leader in the fight against world hunger."</i>
idler	person who does no work; wastes time; lazy person <i>"You are not lazy, and still you are an idler."</i>
ignite	to set fire to; cause to burn <i>"They will ignite the trees with a torch."</i>
ignore	to disregard deliberately; pay no attention to; refuse to consider <i>"The driver appeared to ignore the road signs."</i>
impact	to force tightly together; pack; wedge; hit with force; violent contact <i>"The two cars collided with violent impact."</i>
impede	to bar or hinder the progress of; obstruct or delay <i>"Some members tried to impede the program."</i>
impish	mischievous <i>"The child gave an impish grin and then ran down the street."</i>
impose	to force on another or others without right or invitation; obtrude <i>"Although they did not receive an invitation, they tried to impose on the family."</i>

impress	to leave pressure on so as to leave a mark <i>"We will impress the leaf on the paper to make a design."</i>
impulse	a sudden inclination to act, without conscious thought <i>"They could not resist the impulse to walk in the rain."</i>
incite	to set in motion, to urge to action; stir up, rouse <i>"The news of the riot may incite others to act."</i>
indent	to cut toothlike points into; in from the regular margin; edge cut <i>"We were taught to indent five spaces for each paragraph."</i>
index	pointer; indicator; such as needle on a dial; alphabetized list <i>"At the library, we refer to an index to locate a book."</i>
induct	to lead in; install, as in office; initiate; enroll in the services <i>"The chairman used a candlelight ceremony to induct new members."</i>
inert	having few or no active properties <i>"The inert gas is not considered to be a danger."</i>
infant	a very young child; baby <i>"An infant will choose to cry when it is hungry, tired, or in pain, since it lacks any other means of communication."</i>
infect	to contaminate with a disease-producing organism or matter <i>"Germs infect the air we breathe."</i>
infirm	weak; feeble, as from old age; frail; shaky <i>"The nurse enjoyed taking care of the infirm and helping them experience joy in their final hours."</i>
inflect	to vary or change the tone or pitch of (the voice); modulate <i>"When giving a speech, it is important to inflect your voice loudly to be heard."</i>
influx	the point where a river joins another body of water <i>"They found good fishing at the influx of the rivers."</i>
ingrate	an ungrateful person <i>"The ingrate refuses to thank anyone for help."</i>
inkling	a vague idea or notion; suspicion <i>"The child had an inkling that the smallest present was the best one."</i>
inmost	located farthest within; most secretive or intimate thoughts <i>"The treasure was hidden in the inmost chamber of the cave, well-hidden from prying eyes."</i>

innate	existing naturally rather than acquired; possessed at birth, inherent <i>“Is leadership an innate quality or can it be taught to those who aspire to greatness?”</i>
inset	to insert into something else; a map set inside the border of a larger one; a piece of material sewed into a garment <i>“The inset shows the downtown section of the city.”</i>
inspire	to fill with high or reverent emotion; stimulate to creativity or action <i>“The concert did inspire them to be musicians.”</i>
instant	urgent; pressing; soon to happen; without delay; immediate <i>“We can buy so many instant foods; some ready to eat or drink as soon as hot water is added.”</i>
intact	with nothing missing; kept or left whole; sound; entire <i>“Fortunately, the singer’s voice is still intact after throat surgery.”</i>
item	separate things; one piece of news or information <i>“Bread was an item on their grocery list.”</i>
jabber	fast, incoherent, nonsensical talk; gibberish <i>“No one could understand the jabber of the twins.”</i>
jacket	a short coat, usually with sleeves; outer coating; cover envelope <i>“This blue jacket would look nice with your new skirt.”</i>
jagged	having sharp projecting points; notched or ragged <i>“The jagged edge scratched the smooth surface of the table.”</i>
jargon	incoherent speech; gibberish; specialized vocabulary and idioms of those in their own line of work <i>“They recognized the jargon of their classmates taking computer classes.”</i>
jetsam	that part of the cargo thrown overboard to lighten the ship in danger; discardings <i>“Some of the jetsam they threw overboard might be sorely missed later.”</i>
jitney	formerly old slang for five cents, a nickel; small car or bus which travels a regular route and charges a low fare for passengers to ride <i>“The driver of the jitney now charges passengers a dollar.”</i>
joker	a person who excites laughter; any hidden unsuspected difficulty <i>“Some joker keeps setting off the fire alarm.”</i>
jostle	to bump or push, as in a crowd; elbow or shove roughly <i>“The reality show contestants will jostle”</i>

juror	a person who is a member of a jury or a jury panel; taker of an oath <i>"The verdict form is signed by the presiding juror."</i>
justice	reward or penalty as deserved <i>"The people in the courtroom waited for the judge to announce the justice that would be administered to the guilty party."</i>
kapok	fiber used for stuffing mattresses, sleeping bags, pillows, etc. <i>"After such a long time of use, the kapok had to be replaced."</i>
kelp	large, coarse brown seaweed; ashes of seaweed from which iodine is obtained <i>"The water was so clear we could see long beds of kelp floating."</i>
kettle	a metal container for boiling or cooking things; pot <i>"The stew was boiling in the kettle."</i>
kindling	bits of dry wood or other easily-lighted material for starting a fire <i>"The campers gathered kindling for the fire."</i>
kindly	gracious; agreeable; pleasant <i>"I prefer to be a kindly individual, but I find it difficult to be nice to people who are rude."</i>
kinship	close relation, family; close connection <i>"The two cousins kept up a warm kinship all their lives."</i>
kosher	loosely, prepared according to traditional Jewish recipes <i>"The kosher pickles were very tasty."</i>
label	identifying card or paper; to classify; descriptive word or phrase <i>"The label on the bottle was too old to be deciphered."</i>
ladle	to dip out and pour as with a ladle <i>"The cook will ladle the soup for each customer."</i>
lament	an outward expression of sorrow; lamentation; wail <i>"A long lament was heard in the garden."</i>
lance	any sharp instrument resembling a lance, as a fish spear <i>"Using a lance, the Indian speared the fish."</i>
landfill	the disposal of garbage or rubbish by burying it under a shallow layer of ground <i>"The landfill is being debated by the city government."</i>
lanky	awkwardly tall and lean or long and slender <i>"The lanky cowboy ducked as he entered the house."</i>

lantern	transparent case for holding a light and protecting it from wind and weather; room containing the lamp at the top of a lighthouse <i>"The light from the lantern helped us to find our way along the rocky path."</i>
lather	the foam or froth formed by soap or detergent in water; excited state <i>"Soap does not lather well with hard water and can leave a sticky feeling."</i>
lawful	legal; permitted by law; just or valid <i>"It is not lawful to park in front of a hydrant."</i>
lecture	an informative talk given before an audience, class, etc., and usually prepared beforehand <i>"The history lecture was very interesting."</i>
legend	story handed down for generations, popularly believed historical and true <i>"The rock legend sold out shows during the 40th anniversary farewell tour."</i>
legume	any of a large family of herbs, shrubs, and trees, including the peas, beans, vetches, clovers, etc., with usually compound leaves, flowers having a single carpel, and fruit that is a dry pod splitting along two sutures <i>"Lima beans are a member of the legume family."</i>
lettuce	any of a genus of hardy, annual composite plants; specif., a plant grown for its crisp, succulent, green leaves <i>"A succulent lettuce salad was served first."</i>
license	a document, printed tag, permit, etc., indicating that such permission had been granted <i>"The officer asked to see the driver's license."</i>
lightning	a flash of light in the sky caused by the discharge of atmospheric electricity from one cloud to another or between a cloud and the earth <i>"The lightning flashed in the sky."</i>
liking	fondness; affection; preference; taste; pleasure <i>"The movie was a bit too scary for my liking."</i>
limb	an arm, leg, or wing <i>"Be careful not to break a limb while roller skating."</i>
limber	easily bent; pliant; flexible; supple <i>"We used slow exercises to limber up before the race began."</i>
limit	border, beyond which something ceases to be, or to be possible <i>"The map defined the limit of the property."</i>

lining	to cause to or to bring to a straight row or conformity; in alignment <i>"The astronomer was lining up several telescopes to look at the stars."</i>
linkage	a linking or being linked <i>"The investigator studied the linkage between the clues."</i>
listless	having no interest in what is going on about one, as a result of illness, weariness, dejection, etc., spiritless; languid <i>"The listless dog lay on the floor by the fire."</i>
litter	the young borne at one time by a dog, cat, or other animal which normally bears several young at a delivery <i>"We were able to find good homes for our dog's entire litter of puppies without any difficulty."</i>
lively	full of life; active; vigorous <i>"No one wanted to leave the lively party."</i>
livid	grayish-blue; lead-colored <i>"The taxpayers are livid about the proposed tax hike."</i>
living	to have life; alive, not dead; true to reality <i>"Several different types of living creatures make their homes in the pond next door."</i>
lizard	loosely, any of various similar reptiles or other animals, as alligators or salamanders <i>"The green lizard was basking in the sun."</i>
lobster	any of a group of large edible sea crustaceans having five pairs of legs <i>"Lobster is thought to be very delicious eating by many people."</i>
local	relating to place; restricted; particular part or specific area <i>"The newspaper printed mostly local news items."</i>
locale	A place or locality, especially in reference to events or circumstances connected with it; the scene of setting, as of a novel, play or motion picture <i>"The family wanted to move to a warmer locale."</i>
lonely	alone; solitary <i>"If you're lonely when you're alone, you're not in good company."</i>
loose	not confined or restrained; free; unbound <i>"The sails were loose in the breeze."</i>
lucid	clearheaded; rational <i>"The lucid thinker explained the axiom."</i>

luster	brightness; radiance; brilliance <i>"The luster of the silver dazzled the crows."</i>
magnet	a person or thing that attracts; piece of iron or steel that attracts metal <i>"A magnet is often fastened to a potholder to be attached to the stove."</i>
major	greater in size, importance, number or rank; designating a specific field of study in which a student specializes and receives his degree <i>"Since the brain and the heart are major organs in the system, any damage done to them is considered a priority by doctors."</i>
making	formation; construction; creation; production; manufacturing, etc. <i>"The actor's appearance was key in the making of the documentary."</i>
malice	active ill will; desire to harm another or to do mischief; spite <i>"The book had been torn with malice."</i>
mangle	to spoil; botch; mar; garble <i>"The writer began to mangle the translation."</i>
manner	a way or method in which something is done or happens, mode or fashion of procedure <i>"The toddler acted in a horrible manner, screaming and throwing a fit in the middle of dinner."</i>
march	to walk with regular, steady steps of equal length; steady advance <i>"The members of the band learned to march carrying their instruments."</i>
margin	the blank space around the printed or written area on a page or sheet <i>"Many notes were written in the margin."</i>
market	to deal in a market; buy or sell <i>"They put a new product on the market."</i>
marvel	a wonderful or astonishing thing; prodigy or miracle <i>"We all admired the marvel of travel in space."</i>
massive	large or imposing or impressive; of considerable magnitude <i>"The new bank was massive."</i>
mature	fully or highly developed, perfected, worked out, considered, etc. <i>"As the plans mature, we will better know the instructions."</i>
matzo	the unleavened bread eaten by people celebrating the Jewish holiday, Passover <i>"The matzo was prepared very carefully."</i>
medic	a physician or surgeon <i>"The medic quickly provided assistance to the sick child."</i>

medley	a musical piece made up of tunes or passages from various works <i>"The chorus performed the medley very well."</i>
melon	any of several large, juicy, thick-skinned, many-seeded fruits of certain trailing plants of the gourd family, as the watermelon, muskmelon, cantaloupe, etc. <i>"We all enjoyed eating the melon."</i>
mental	of or for the mind or intellect; without using written symbols <i>"The teacher's mental strength was tested when the principal was observing the class."</i>
merely	no more than; and nothing else; only <i>"We merely know the address."</i>
message	a communication passed or sent between persons by speech, in writing, by signals, etc. <i>"Everyone listened to the President's message on radio."</i>
method	a way of doing anything; process; definite procedure <i>"Reading through the book, the builder searched for a simpler method to lay the home's foundation."</i>
metric	a theory or a system of measurement <i>"The United States may adopt the metric system."</i>
middle	in between; intermediate; intervening <i>"I sit in the middle of my best friends."</i>
mileage	aggregate distance in miles or total number of miles traveled; recorded, etc. <i>"Compared to a car, a plane's mileage is going to be significantly greater since they can travel at a much faster speed."</i>
milling	circular or random motion of or as a herd or crowd <i>"The ducks were milling around the bread crumbs."</i>
mimic	imitative; inclined to copy; to ape; make believe; mock <i>"The architecture in our home was designed to mimic a similar style found in Paris."</i>
mindful	having in mind; aware; heedful, or careful <i>"The children were mindful of the danger of playing in the street."</i>
minute	the sixtieth part of any of certain units <i>"As we watched the clock, the minute went very slowly."</i>
mishap	an unlucky or unfortunate accident <i>"The doctor wanted to avoid the mishap."</i>

misspell	to spell incorrectly <i>The class did not misspell a single word.</i>
modern	up-to-date; of recent times; period of history after the middle ages <i>“They disagreed in preference of modern or period furnishings.”</i>
musty	having a stale, moldy taste or smell; worn out; antiquated <i>“The dampness seemed to linger in the basement, giving it a musty smell”</i>
napkin	small piece of cloth or paper used at table to wipe the fingers or lips <i>“A napkin was at the left of each plate.”</i>
narrate	to tell in writing or speech <i>“The teacher began to narrate the story.”</i>
narrow	close; careful; not liberal; prejudiced <i>“We all try to avoid having a narrow mind.”</i>
nasty	very unpleasant; objectionable <i>“The townspeople were tired of the nasty weather.”</i>
native	belonging to a locality or country by birth, production, or growth; indigenous <i>“The African Penguin is native to southern African waters, with distinctive pink patches of skin above its eyes.”</i>
nectar	any very delicious drink; sweetish liquid in flowers gathered by bees to make honey <i>“The icy cold lemonade was like nectar to the thirsty child.</i>
neglect	not to heed; leave undone; lack of sufficient or proper care <i>“If you neglect to water the plants, they will die.”</i>
nerve	strength; energy; vigor <i>“Though several police officers agreed to join the SWAT team, only the bravest had the nerve to disarm the bomb.”</i>
nestle	to settle or house as in a nest; shelter <i>“The birds would nestle in the tree house.”</i>
nibble	to eat with quick bites, taking only a small amount at a time <i>“The kittens began to nibble on the food.”</i>
nickel	a U.S. or Canadian coin made of an alloy of nickel and copper and equal to five cents <i>“The jogger spotted a shiny nickel on the pavement.”</i>

noble	having or showing high moral qualities or ideals, or greatness of character; lofty <i>"According to the legend, only a truly noble person could pull the magic sword from the stone."</i>
nomad	member of a tribe of people having no permanent home; wanderer <i>"The nomad never stays in a city for more than two months."</i>
normal	the usual state, amount, degree, etc.; especially the median or average <i>"The normal weather pattern is changing."</i>
notice	a written or printed sign giving some public information, warning or rule <i>"The public meeting notice was posted all over town."</i>
novel	new and unusual; relatively long narrative of fictional events <i>"The studio is looking for novel concepts to turn into an original television series."</i>
nubby	covered with small nubs, or lumps; having a rough, knotted surface <i>"The nubby fabric was rough to touch."</i>
object	n. a thing that can be seen or touched; v. to oppose; protect <i>"The chair was the only object in the room." <i>"The committee's resolution states that they object to having the dance."</i></i>
oblong	longer than broad; elongated, specif., (a) rectangular and longer in one direction than in the other, esp. longer horizontally, (b) elliptical <i>"They wondered what was in the oblong box."</i>
observe	to celebrate or keep (a holiday, etc.) according to custom <i>"They observe the holiday in July."</i>
occur	to take place; happen <i>"The celebration will occur next week."</i>
odor	a smell, whether pleasant or unpleasant; fragrance, stench, etc. <i>"The odor of baking bread filled the home."</i>
offend	break a law; commit a crime or sin; to create anger or displeasure <i>"The comedian's jokes did not offend all of the audience members, but several stormed out of the show."</i>
offense	the condition of being offended, esp. of feeling hurt, resentful, or angry; umbrage <i>"No offense, but I really didn't like that restaurant."</i>

office	a position of authority or trust, esp. in a government, business, institution, etc. <i>"Our neighbor was running for the office of mayor."</i>
oleo	combining form meaning oleomargarine <i>"I prefer oleo to butter on my bread."</i>
omit	to fail to include; leave out <i>"The non-dairy version of the dish requires you to omit the whole milk and use soy milk."</i>
optic	of the eyes; sense of sight <i>"The optic nerve was not damaged."</i>
orbit	the path taken by a heavenly body during its periodic revolution around another body <i>"The orbit of the earth is being measured."</i>
ornate	heavily ornamented or adorned, often to excess <i>"The ornate window was filled with jewels."</i>
ostrich	a large, swift-running bird of Africa and the Near East, the largest and most powerful of living birds: it has a long neck, very long legs with two toes on each foot, and small, useless wings; the white tail and wing feathers of the male are used in millinery and as trimming <i>"The white ostrich feather was a rare find."</i>
owing	due; unpaid; because of <i>"The balance owing was ten dollars."</i>
ozone	an unstable, pale-blue gas, with a penetrating odor; it is an allotropic form of oxygen <i>"The ozone layer protects the planet from that which can cause serious harm."</i>
package	a wrapped or boxed thing or group of things; parcel <i>"I hope the package will arrive in the mail today."</i>
padlock	a removable lock with a hinged or pivoted link to be passed through a staple, chain, or eye <i>"Look for a locked padlock on the status bar at the bottom of your screen."</i>
palace	any large, magnificent house or building <i>"The U.S. History class visited the palace for its rich history during the 19th century."</i>
pampas	the extensive treeless plains of Argentina and some other parts of South America <i>"Cattle raising is an important industry on the pampas."</i>

panel	a section or division of a wall, ceiling, or other surface <i>"The carpenter replaced the panel on the wall."</i>
panic	sudden, unreasonable fear; to give way to or show fear; hysteria <i>"They did not panic when the fire broke out."</i>
parcel	a small, wrapped bundle; package <i>"The parcel was lost in the mail."</i>
pardon	release from further punishment; cancel; forgive; excuse; overlook <i>"The sign outside the newly-rebuilt restaurant asked customers to pardon the dust and mess."</i>
parlor	a small, semiprivate sitting room apart from the main lounges in a hotel, inn, etc. <i>"We plan to meet our friends in the parlor."</i>
parrot	to repeat or imitate, esp. without understanding <i>"Under the old system, students often had to stand to attention and repeat lessons parrot style."</i>
parting	dividing; separating; leavetaking or departure <i>"They were parting for the summer months."</i>
partner	a person who takes part in some activity in common with another or others <i>"Most climbers have a partner with their gear, ready to help."</i>
passage	permission, right, or a chance to pass <i>"Since air was not coming out of the vent, there must have been blockage in the passage of the air."</i>
passive	offering no opposition or resistance; submissive; yielding; patient <i>"The passive cat was carried to the veterinarian's office."</i>
pastry	dough made of flour and shortening, used for the crust of pies, tarts; all fancy baked goods, including cakes, sweet rolls, etc. <i>"I like cooking and making pastry."</i>
pasture	to graze or feed on (grass, etc.) <i>"The cattle will pasture in the meadow."</i>
pattern	a regular, mainly unvarying way of acting or doing <i>"The psychologist will study the animal's behavior pattern."</i>
payee	the person to whom a check, note, money, etc. is payable <i>"The payee on the check was not the person who did all the work."</i>
peddler	person going from place to place selling small articles <i>"The peddler always had fresh vegetables to sell."</i>

pennant	long, narrow flag; banner, usually triangular in shape <i>"The sailboat flew a pennant under the national flag."</i>
pensive	thinking deeply or seriously, often of sad or melancholy things <i>"You may remember the way each scene ended with someone looking pensive or significant."</i>
peremptory	leaving no opportunity for denial or refusal; imperative; positive or assertive in speech, tone or manner <i>"Ignoring the judge's peremptory request will get you placed behind bars!"</i>
perfect	complete in all respects; without defect; flawless; correct; exact <i>"The blazing sunset made a perfect ending to the day."</i>
perfume	a pleasing smell or odor; sweet scent, as of flowers; fragrance <i>"The gardener enjoyed the perfume of the flowers."</i>
persist	refuse to give up; continue; remain; prevail; endure <i>"In the face of opposition, we must persist on this measure."</i>
perturb	to cause to be alarmed, agitated, or upset; disturb or trouble greatly <i>"The loudspeaker may perturb the musician in the adjoining room."</i>
pesky	annoying; disagreeable; troublesome <i>"We all swatted at the pesky mosquitoes."</i>
picnic	pleasure outing at which a meal is eaten outdoors <i>"We looked forward to a picnic at the beach."</i>
picture	to form a mental picture or impression of; imagine <i>"The football player tried to picture the coming game."</i>
pigment	coloring matter, usually insoluble powder, mixed with oil or water, etc., to make paints; coloring matter in the cells, tissues of plants, animals <i>"Pigment in some plants is increased when they grow in full sun."</i>
pilgrim	person who wanders; traveler to shrine or holy place; any member of the English Puritans who founded Plymouth colony in 1620 <i>"The English pilgrim traveled from England to Massachusetts in a boat named the Mayflower."</i>
pilot	steersman; licensed person qualified to operate a ship or aircraft <i>"The pilot landed the plane safely."</i>
pity	sorrow felt for another's suffering; compassion; sympathy <i>"I feel pity for the homeless people who don't have a warm place to sleep in the winter."</i>

placid	undisturbed; tranquil; calm; quiet <i>"There was no wind to disturb the placid waters."</i>
plastic	molding or shaping matter; capable of being molded; flexible; impressionable <i>"The forks were throwaways made of plastic."</i>
plenty	prosperity; opulence; large number; many <i>"The picnic tables were heaped with plenty of food."</i>
plunder	to rob or despoil by force, esp. in warfare <i>"The military will plunder the village after the battle."</i>
plural	of or including more than one; involving or being one of <i>"The plural of this noun is formed according to the principle listed."</i>
polar	opposite in character, nature, direction, etc. <i>"The twins were polar in their taste in music."</i>
police	the governmental department organized for keeping order, enforcing the law, and preventing, detecting, and prosecuting crimes <i>"The community is dependent upon the police for its safety."</i>
poncho	a cloak like a blanket with a hole in the middle for the head <i>"The warm poncho is valuable in winter weather."</i>
portion	share; part of <i>"They were willing to give up a portion of their food."</i>
portly	large and heavy in a dignified, stately way; stout; corpulent <i>"The portly mouse gets stuck in the mouse hole after a big meal."</i>
possess	to have as an attribute, quality, faculty, etc. <i>"The Dali Lama is known to possess wisdom."</i>
poster	large printed card or paper for advertisement <i>"We will choose an art student to illustrate the poster."</i>
posture	the position or carriage of the body in standing or sitting; bearing <i>"Good posture is important for good health."</i>
powder	any dry substance in the form of very fine, dustlike particles, produced by crushing, grinding, etc. <i>"Without rain, the soil became a powder."</i>
prank	mischievous trick or practical joke <i>"They planned many a prank for April Fool's Day."</i>
predict	foretell a future event or happening; tell what one believes may happen <i>"Sometimes it is possible to predict when there will be an earthquake."</i>

prepare	to make ready, usually for a specific purpose; make suitable; fit; adapt; train <i>“How are you going to prepare for the spelling competition?”</i>
pretend	to claim or profess falsely; to make believe in play <i>“They could pretend to be astronauts.”</i>
preview	a restricted showing, as of a movie, before exhibition to the public generally <i>“We were delighted to see the preview of the film.”</i>
primp	to groom; to dress up in a fussy way <i>“There’s no reason to primp, you look great as you are.”</i>
prior	preceding in time; earlier; previous <i>“References from a prior employer were needed.”</i>
proceed	to advance or go on; to move along or to be carried on; come forth <i>“After answering this question, please proceed to the next.”</i>
product	made by nature or by human industry; result <i>“The product is obtained by multiplying two or more numbers together.”</i>
profess	make an open declaration of; affirm; claim to have an interest, etc. <i>“They profess to know the road; so we will follow them.”</i>
program	acts, speeches, etc. that entertain; a list of these; scheduled ceremony <i>“The last program was the most entertaining of the year.”</i>
progress	moving forward or onward; development; advance; goal <i>“Their progress shows when they devote enough time to study.”</i>
prompt	quick to act or do; ready; punctual; done, spoken, without delay <i>“The teacher distributed a prompt for the in-class essay.”</i>
proof	testing or trying of something; anything establishing the truth <i>“The proof of the pudding is in the eating.”</i>
prosper	succeed; thrive; grow vigorously; wealth; good fortune <i>“Having found the right soil conditions, the farmer’s crop began to prosper.”</i>
protect	shield from injury; guard; defend <i>“Promising to protect and serve, the police officer’s main goal was to make the city a safer place for its residents.”</i>
prying	improperly curious or inquisitive <i>“Someone was prying into their personal affairs.”</i>

public	belonging to or concerning the people; community, rather than private <i>"Most city parks are for the use of the public."</i>
pulpit	raised platform or lectern from which the clergy preaches in a church <i>"From the pulpit, the speaker spoke into a microphone."</i>
pump	to force in or out or through; to question closely; move up or down <i>"We moved the handle up and down to pump the water from the well."</i>
punish	to cause to undergo pain or loss; to penalize; to treat harshly <i>"During the press conference, the sheriff vowed to punish those responsible for the heinous crime."</i>
puppet	doll; small, usually jointed figure, humanlike, moved on a show stage <i>"The children will put on a puppet show."</i>
purr	low vibratory sound made by cat or kitten, usually when pleased <i>"Cats aren't the only animals that purr loudly, gorillas also release a low vibrating sound when they are happy."</i>
raft	flat structure of logs, boards fastened together, floated on water <i>"They pulled the raft behind their speed boat."</i>
ragged	shabby or torn from wear; tattered; uneven; rough; not finished <i>"Their clothing was ragged and dirty."</i>
rally	to summon or bring together for a common purpose; assist; support a cause <i>"The Sergeant was sent to rally the troops."</i>
ramp	sloping, sometimes curved surface, joining different levels <i>"A ramp for the wheelchair was built at all entrances to the house."</i>
rampant	growing luxuriantly; flourishing <i>"The roses were rampant in the garden."</i>
random	lacking aim or purpose; without careful choice; haphazard <i>"To fairly choose the winner, the store owner pulled a random slip out of the hat full of numbered papers."</i>
rapt	carried away with joy; enraptured; engrossed with love <i>"The toddler watched the cartoon in rapt attention."</i>
rather	preferably; more willingly; with more justice, logic, reason <i>"Would you like to go out to dinner, or would you rather eat at home?"</i>
rating	a placement in a certain rank or class <i>"The program received the top rating."</i>

razor	sharp-edged cutting instrument for shaving or cutting off hair <i>“A child should not play with a razor.”</i>
react	to act in return or reciprocally <i>“The director did not expect the actors to react that way.”</i>
recess	to halt temporarily <i>“The court will recess until afternoon.”</i>
reckless	careless; heedless <i>“The reckless driver was arrested.”</i>
record	to print for future use; make a permanent or office note of; to register in some permanent form <i>“Because there is no record of the purchase having taken place, the product cannot be returned to the store.”</i>
recur	to return, as in thought or memory; happen or occur again <i>“I’ll go back to the doctor if the symptoms of my illness start to recur.”</i>
redeem	to get back; recover, as by paying a fee <i>“It’s exciting to redeem points for prizes in school.”</i>
reduce	to lessen in any way, as in size, weight, amount, value, price, etc., diminish <i>“Ways to reduce corporate waste in offices are being discussed by those that want to decrease spending.”</i>
reflect	to bend or throw back light, heat or sound; mirror; reproduce an image <i>“The teacher asked us to reflect on our grade and make a plan for improving it.”</i>
refresh	to make feel cooler, stronger, more energetic, etc., than before, as by food, drink, or sleep <i>“The players needed to refresh themselves after the long game.”</i>
refuge	a place of safety; shelter; safe retreat <i>“The deer sought a refuge from the hunters.”</i>
regret	to feel sorry or mourn for; troubled or remorseful <i>“We regret to announce the death of a favorite professor.”</i>
reject	refuse to accept; throw away, discard; rebuff <i>“We felt we had to reject his very low offer to buy our house.”</i>
rejoin	to come into the company of again; reunite <i>“We were happy to have him rejoin and become a member again.”</i>

relent	to soften in temper; become less severe, stern, stubborn <i>“Perhaps my principal will relent and allow me to go if I promise to return on time.”</i>
remark	notice; observe; perceive; say or write in comment; say briefly <i>“Workers at the textile factory would often remark about their low pay and terrible benefits.”</i>
remind	to cause a person to remember <i>“A string tied on my finger will remind me to return my library books.”</i>
remnant	what is left over; remainder; residue <i>“Before I could get the remnant of the partially eaten doughnut off the floor, the dog ate it.”</i>
remote	distant in connection, relation, bearing, or the like <i>“Because it is such a remote area, there are no paved roads or electricity in the area.”</i>
render	to give, hand over, submit, as for approval; to give in return <i>“When you finish shopping, the clerk will render a bill for payment.”</i>
renew	to make fresh, strong again; bring back into good condition <i>“An efficient cleaning will renew the look of the fabric.”</i>
repress	to keep down or hold back <i>“It was difficult for the dog to repress instincts to chase trucks.”</i>
rescue	to free or save from danger, imprisonment, evil, etc. <i>“They were heroes because the rescue had been a success.”</i>
reserve	to hold over to a later time <i>“An influx of visitors made it extremely difficult to reserve a resort suite over the holiday weekend.”</i>
respect	to show honor or esteem for; show consideration for; deference, dutiful regard; reference; show politeness by visiting or presenting oneself <i>“The children respect their parent’s decisions and honor them even if they don’t agree.”</i>
restful	having a soothing effect; quiet; peaceful <i>“The sound of lapping waves against the ship’s hull was restful, and I grew sleepy.”</i>
retain	to keep in mind <i>“After studying the words for six weeks, we should retain most of them.”</i>

revenge	to inflict damage, injury, or punishment in return for an injury, insult, etc. <i>"The leaders plotted revenge for the bombing."</i>
riddle	any puzzling, perplexing, or apparently inexplicable person or thing, as a difficult problem or enigmatic saying: enigma <i>"My best friend loves a good riddle."</i>
riding	the act or a person or thing that rides <i>"The kids were riding their bikes."</i>
rind	a thick and firm outer coat or covering, as of certain fruits, cheese and meats <i>"To make this particular pie, the recipe instructions say to add the grated orange rind and toss the apple slices in the mixture."</i>
risky	hazardous; dangerous <i>"Shopping during that sale was risky because it drew such immense crowds."</i>
rival	person who tries to compete with another; try to equal or surpass <i>"Since our football team is playing our school rival during the championship game, we are sure to have a spirited match."</i>
roost	perch for birds to rest or sleep; stay or settle down for the night <i>"The pelican settled in to roost on top of the lifeguard stand."</i>
ruin	the remains of a fallen building, city, etc., or something destroyed, devastated, decayed, etc. <i>"The explorer discovered the ruin deep within the jungle."</i>
rumor	definite talk not based on knowledge; hearsay; gossip <i>"We have heard a rumor that there will be no test tomorrow."</i>
running	the act of a person or thing that runs; racing; managing; proceeding, etc. <i>"The students were running the business and making lots of money."</i>
rush	to move or go swiftly; dash recklessly or rashly; haste; hurry <i>"When the bell rings, the students rush for the door."</i>
rustle	to make or cause to make an irregular succession of soft sounds <i>"The leaves rustle in the wind."</i>
safety	the quality or condition of being safe; freedom from danger; injury, or damage; security <i>"Safety precautions are very important both at home and at school."</i>
saga	any long story of adventure or heroic deeds <i>"The full saga of the State Spelling Bee will be known this spring."</i>

salad	a dish, usually cold, of raw or cooked vegetables or fruit, served with a dressing or in gelatin <i>"We prefer our salad with our entrée, rather than at the beginning of dinner."</i>
scaffold	temporary wood or metal framework to support workmen and/or material <i>"A scaffold was placed on the side of the building so that surveyors would have a bird's eye view of the area."</i>
scald	to burn or injure with hot liquid or steam; heat almost to the boiling point <i>"Big spoonfuls of steaming, hot oatmeal scald my tongue and blistered it."</i>
scan	to look at closely; analyze verse; score of vision <i>"The air controller must alertly scan each blip appearing on the screen."</i>
scant	inadequate in size or amount; not enough; meager; short ration <i>"The recipe called for a scant cup of sugar."</i>
scarlet	very bright red with a slightly orange tone <i>"The scarlet car captured everyone's attention."</i>
scary	causing alarm; frightening <i>"Being alone in the dark is sometimes scary."</i>
scorch	to damage, char or discolor the surface by burning; parch; wither by heat <i>"The hot sun will scorch the plants if they're not covered."</i>
scorn	extreme, often indignant contempt for someone or something; utter disdain <i>"The soldiers were trained to look upon their enemies with scorn."</i>
screen	anything that shields or protects or conceals like a curtain; coarse mesh of wire used to sift out finer from coarser parts <i>"We hastily improvised a screen out of an old blanket."</i>
scribble	illegible or careless handwriting; scrawl <i>"The doctor's scribble was hard to read."</i>
script	the manuscript, or a copy of the text, of a stage, film, radio, or television show <i>"Two writers collaborated on the script for the film."</i>
scurry	to run hastily; scamper <i>"The rabbits will scurry through the woods."</i>

secret	kept from public knowledge or from the knowledge of a certain person or persons <i>"A secret passcode was used by members to enter the exclusive clubhouse."</i>
secure	free from fear, care, doubt, or anxiety; not worried, troubled, or apprehensive <i>"Within the fort, the cavalry felt secure."</i>
selfish	too much concern with oneself; having little or no concern for others <i>"I think I've been very selfish, being mainly concerned with my side of the story."</i>
sentence	a decision or judgment, as of a court; esp. the determination by a court of the punishment <i>"The sentence was in the defendant's favor."</i>
sentry	sentinel, esp. any of the military guard posted to warn of danger <i>"The sentry would not open the gate to anyone without identification."</i>
session	a school term or period of study, classes, etc. <i>"The fall session of school was about to end."</i>
shadow	a definite area of shade cast upon a surface by a body intercepting the light rays <i>"The dragon's shadow darkened their path."</i>
shady	shaded, as from the sun; full of shade <i>"The bench under the trees was cool and shady."</i>
shaky	not firm; weak, unsteady; trembling, not dependable; questionable <i>"After the earthquake, the walls were shaky."</i>
shampoo	the act of washing hair, a rug, etc. <i>"The beautician will shampoo your hair next."</i>
shepherd	a person who herds and takes care of sheep <i>"The shepherd guarded the flock during the night."</i>
shiny	full of, or reflecting, light; bright; shining <i>"The shiny car caught our attention."</i>
signal	a sign or event fixed or understood as the occasion for prearranged combined action <i>"The bugle will signal the attack."</i>
skeptic	person who habitually doubts, questions or suspends judgment on generally accepted matters <i>"You can believe in ghosts if you like, but I'm a skeptic."</i>

skillful	having or showing skill; accomplished; expert “The skillful musician performed flawlessly.”
skirmish	a brief encounter between small groups, usually an incident of a battle “The skirmish was quickly forgotten after the peace treaty was signed.”
slacken	to become less active, intense, brisk “The runners began to slacken their pace.”
slimy	of or like slime “The slimy trunk was retrieved from the bottom of the lake.”
sluggish	slow or slow-moving; not active; dull “The engine was sluggish and difficult to start.”
snorkel	to move or swim under water using a snorkel “We plan to snorkel when we are in Hawaii.”
spectrum	a continuous range or entire extent “The newspaper reported a wide spectrum of opinion.”
spirit	vivacity, courage, vigor, enthusiasm “The fans’ spirit cheered the team to victory.”
splendid	worthy of high praise; grand; glorious; illustrious “The 4 th grade students did a splendid job reading to the kindergartners.”
stubborn	person who refuses to comply; resisting unreasonably; obstinate “Donkeys are said to be stubborn like some people I know.”
submit	to refer to others for decisions; to yield to the control of another “We will submit our plan to the committee.”
tactics	any method used to gain an end; esp., skillful methods or procedure “Although successful, their tactics were questioned.”
tarnish	to dull or discolor the surface of a metal object; to spoil, mar or debase a memory; lose luster from oxidation “Silver needs to be polished often or it will tarnish .”
tariff	duty or tax placed by a government on imports and some exports; any list or scale of prices, charges etc. “We felt the tariff was too high.”
temper	reduce in intensity; frame of mind; disposition; mood “We temper clay by moistening and kneading it.”
terrace	a small, usually roofed balcony, as outside an apartment “Flowerpots lined the terrace outside the apartment.”

theft	the act or an instance of stealing; larceny <i>"The theft was reported to the police quickly."</i>
thicket	a thick growth of shrubs, underbrush, or small trees <i>"Several deer were spotted in the thicket."</i>
thirsty	feeling thirst; wanting to drink <i>"The thirsty runners lined up at the fountain."</i>
thrifty	practicing or showing thrift; economical; provident <i>"The thrifty couple had saved their money for a trip around the world."</i>
throng	a great number of people gathered together; crowd <i>"As soon as the store opened, a throng of customers rushed through the doors to get the limited deals."</i>
traffic	the movement or number of automobiles along a street, pedestrians along a sidewalk, ships using a port, etc. <i>"The traffic at the intersection was very busy."</i>
transform	to change the form or outward appearance of <i>"The potter will transform the clay into a beautiful bowl."</i>
translate	to put in different words; rephrase or paraphrase in explanation <i>"The tutor tried to translate the assignment."</i>
tremor	a trembling, shaking, or shivering <i>"Everyone in town felt the tremor of the earthquake."</i>
tribute	something given, done, or said, as a gift, testimonial, etc., to show gratitude, respect, honor, or praise <i>"Their success was a tribute to great leadership."</i>
truly	in a true manner; accurately, genuinely, faithfully, factually, etc. <i>"It takes a mature person to truly apologize when they are wrong."</i>
tunnel	an animal's burrow <i>"The rabbits live in the tunnel behind the barn."</i>
twang	a quick, sharp, vibrating sound, as of a taut string <i>"The guitar twang signaled the beginning of the concert."</i>
uproar	loud, confused noise; din <i>"The uproar was very difficult to quiet."</i>
useful	that can be used to advantage; serviceable; helpful <i>"The fork is a useful utensil."</i>
vacant	having no occupant <i>"The apartment next to us is vacant."</i>

vaccine	any preparation of killed microorganisms, living weakened organisms, etc., introduced into the body to produce immunity to a specific disease by causing the formation of antibodies <i>"The polio vaccine was a tremendous advance in medicine."</i>
vanish	go or pass suddenly from sight; cease to exist; come to an end <i>"The stain will vanish overnight."</i>
vigil	watchful staying awake; a watch kept for a period of time <i>"After their morning vigil was interrupted, the rest of the day seemed to be full of nothing but trouble."</i>
volume	the quantity, strength, or loudness of sound <i>"The volume of the music was deafening."</i>
vowel	a letter, as a, e, i, o, u and sometimes y, representing such a sound <i>"A vowel is found usually in every word."</i>
wallet	a pocketbook, as of leather, with compartments for paper money, cards, etc., billfold <i>"Help! Somebody has run off with my wallet."</i>
warbler	a bird which sings in trills, runs or quavers; songster <i>"Though we could not see it, we heard the melodious song of the warbler."</i>
warmth	state of giving off moderate degree of heat; moderate, mild heat <i>"We could feel the warmth of the sun on our faces."</i>
welcome	freely and willingly permitted or invited <i>"You are welcome to use the library."</i>
welfare	the state of being or doing well; condition of health, happiness, and comfort; well-being, prosperity <i>"The welfare and safety of the children is our main concern."</i>
western	toward or facing the west; story, motion picture of cowboys, frontiersmen <i>"California is a western state bordering the Pacific Ocean."</i>
whisper	to say very softly, esp. by whispering <i>"Whisper the password in my ear so that no one else in the room will know the code."</i>
whistle	to make a clear, shrill cry; said of some birds and animals <i>"We heard the birds whistle in the trees."</i>
whittle	to reduce, destroy, or get rid of gradually, as if by whittling away with a knife <i>"We hope to whittle down the cost of the project."</i>

whoosh	to make a quick, hissing or rushing sound of something moving swiftly through the air <i>“At takeoff, the rocket will whoosh by the airport.”</i>
width	distance from side to side; breadth <i>“We have to measure the width of the shelf to make sure it will fit the space.”</i>
wiggle	to move or cause to move with short, jerky or twisting motions from side to side; wriggle shakily or sinuously <i>“After two hours in the same seats, the children began to wiggle.”</i>
wild	living or growing in its original or natural state; not civilized or domesticated; not controlled; unruly; rough; violently disturbed <i>“Abandoned in the forest, the kitten soon learned to survive and became as wild as the animals it lived with.”</i>
windy	characterized or accompanied by wind <i>“On the windy day, the tree was blown over the street.”</i>
wiring	the action of a person or thing that wires <i>“The electrician did the wiring very quickly.”</i>
wisdom	learning knowledge; good judgment; wise discourse or teaching <i>“The people of the tribe often sought wisdom from their spiritual healer.”</i>
withdraw	to retract or recall <i>“The automobile distributor will withdraw that model.”</i>
witness	a person who saw, or can give a firsthand account of, something <i>“The next witness was called to testify.”</i>
wobble	move unsteadily from side to side, as in walking <i>“The baby took one step and then began to wobble.”</i>
woman	a female human being; adult female; femininity <i>“The term ‘lady’ was once restricted to a woman of the higher social class.”</i>
wonder	the feeling of surprise, admiration, and awe aroused by something strange, unexpected, incredible, etc. <i>“As the first snowflakes fell, the child was filled with wonder.”</i>
worth	wealth; possessions; riches <i>“No one could estimate the owner’s worth.”</i>
wrapper	that in which something is wrapped; covering; cover <i>“The gum wrapper was a shiny silver.”</i>

yawn	an act of yawning or opening wide <i>"The movie was boring, and the audience began to yawn."</i>
yearling	an animal one year old or in its second year <i>"The rancher brought the yearling into the barn."</i>
yellow	changed to a yellowish color as by age <i>"It was early autumn and the leaves were starting to yellow."</i>

LEVEL II

abacus	frame with beads or balls sliding back and forth on wires or in slots for doing or teaching arithmetic <i>“Sliding each bead from one side to the other, the student used the abacus to count out the number of days in a week.”</i>
abandoned	give up something forever; wild or uncontrolled <i>“During the snow storm, many people abandoned their cars on the highway.”</i>
abdicate	to give up formally (a high office, authority, throne, etc.) <i>“If police officers were to abdicate their role in the community, there may be safety issues.”</i>
abdominal	lower part of the trunk of the human body; in, on or for the abdomen <i>“The abdominal bandage seemed too tight.”</i>
abduction	carrying off a person by force or fraud; kidnapping <i>“Detectives are questioning several witnesses about the child’s abduction.”</i>
aberration	a departure from what is right, true, correct <i>“Since I did not properly adjust my camera settings, all of my pictures have a blurry aberration on them.”</i>
aborning	while being born or created <i>“The festival is an excellent chance to see new talent aborning.”</i>
abrading	scraping; wearing off by rubbing against <i>“Gripping the handle was abrading the shine of the leather.”</i>
abrogate	to cancel or repeal by authority <i>“Congress must abrogate the new tax law.”</i>
abscess	swollen and inflamed area of the body tissues <i>“A tame rabbit was brought in with a large abscess about the size of an egg on its cheek.”</i>
absconded	went hastily and secretly away; left and hid to escape the law <i>“They absconded with the stolen money.”</i>
accede	To give consent, approval or adherence; agree; assent <i>“At your insistence and to avoid a prolonged argument, I will accede to your contract terms.”</i>
accentuate	to emphasize; heighten the effect of <i>“The purple pillow should accentuate the room.”</i>
acclamation	loud applause, approval, or welcome <i>“The standing ovation was the biggest acclamation of the night.”</i>

acetylene	a colorless, poisonous, highly flammable gaseous hydrocarbon <i>"This most brilliant of the illuminating gases is acetylene."</i>
achromatic	refracting light without spectra color separation <i>"The camera lens was achromatic."</i>
acknowledge	admit to be true or as stated; recognize or accept <i>"I acknowledge that the signature is mine."</i>
acquittal	discharge of duty; being set free by the court <i>"From lack of evidence submitted, the judge decreed an acquittal."</i>
acrid	sharp, bitter, or stinging, or irritating to the taste or smell <i>"The food critic scowled at the acrid taste."</i>
across	from one side to the other; over; through <i>"The hotel was across the highway."</i>
addendum	thing added or to be added; an appendix or supplement <i>"The name of the second speaker is an addendum to the program."</i>
addressee	person to whom mail, etc. is addressed <i>"This message is intended solely for the addressee."</i>
admonition	a mild rebuke; reprimand <i>"After the storm, the city issued a stern admonition to residents who needed to avoid flooded areas."</i>
adolescence	the time of life between puberty and maturity; youth <i>"During adolescence, one is often uncertain."</i>
aerate	To expose to the action or effect of air or to cause air to circulate through <i>"You really should aerate the soil before planting the seeds."</i>
aesthetic	sensitive to art and beauty <i>"In order to help develop their children's aesthetic tastes, many family trips to art galleries were planned."</i>
affinity	close relationship <i>"Fish have an affinity with water."</i>
afflatus	artist's or poet's inspiration or powerful impulse <i>"What was the afflatus behind the artist's new painting?"</i>
agglomeration	a jumbled heap, mass, etc. <i>"The agglomeration of articles for the rummage sale was staggering."</i>
aghast	feeling great horror or dismay <i>"Upon seeing a ghost, they were aghast."</i>

agriculture	work of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock <i>“California is a leader in agriculture.”</i>
alabaster	a translucent, whitish, fine-grained variety of gypsum, used for statues, vases, etc. <i>“Famous structures like the Egyptian pyramids and the Sphinx are made of a combination of hard, translucent minerals like alabaster.”</i>
allotment	portion <i>“The meeting continued beyond the time allotment.”</i>
ambiguous	not clear <i>“The treaty is very ambiguous.”</i>
anachronism	anything that is or seems to be out of its proper time in history <i>“In today’s computer world, a floppy disk is an anachronism.”</i>
anathema	a thing or person greatly detested <i>“Some animal lovers view any type of animal control as an anathema.”</i>
ancillary	subordinate; subsidiary; auxiliary; assisting <i>“The company hopes to boost its sales by releasing ancillary products.”</i>
annulment	to do away with; invalidate; put an end to <i>“By appealing the verdict, the lawyer hoped for an annulment of the original decision by a superior court.”</i>
anonymous	no name known or acknowledged; name withheld <i>“The poem was written by an anonymous poet.”</i>
antidote	a remedy to counteract a poison <i>“An antidote for the deadly chemical substance was being created in the lab.”</i>
antiquated	no longer used or useful; obsolete <i>“The old cabin contained some antiquated relics of the olden days.”</i>
antithesis	a contrast or opposition of thoughts <i>“Love is the antithesis of hate.”</i>
aphorism	a short phrase that expresses a true or wise idea; a terse saying embodying a general truth or astute observation <i>“When decorating, remember the familiar aphorism that less is more.”</i>
apocryphal	spurious; counterfeit <i>“The apocryphal memories of the countess cannot be admitted as evidence.”</i>

apothecary	a pharmacist or druggist <i>“Run down to the apothecary to get a refill on that prescription.”</i>
apparition	a strange figure appearing suddenly and thought to be a ghost <i>“After hearing the spooky story, the children thought they saw an apparition.”</i>
appendix	additional or supplementary material at the end of a book <i>“The appendix contained an alphabetized list of terms used.”</i>
appetizing	stimulating; savory; delicious <i>“The appetizing smells in the kitchen made us long for dinnertime.”</i>
application	the act of putting on something; anything applied; a remedy <i>“The application of heat to sore muscles gives relief from pain.”</i>
appraisal	evaluation of price by an expert for sale, taxes, duty, etc. <i>“The customs officer quickly made an appraisal of the jewelry.”</i>
appreciate	to think well of; understand and enjoy; recognize and be grateful for <i>“We sincerely appreciate the help given us.”</i>
appropriation	money set aside for a specific use <i>“A request was made for the appropriation of one million dollars toward charities that offer free cleaning help to patients battling cancer.”</i>
aqueduct	large pipe made for bringing water from a distant source <i>“The aqueduct provided the farmers with much needed water for crops.”</i>
archetype	the perfect example of a type or group <i>“Mickey Mouse is the archetype for cartoon characters.”</i>
arrival	to come to a place; reached destination <i>“Because of the blizzard, my arrival to New York will be delayed.”</i>
arrogance	self-importance; overbearing pride; haughty <i>“Knowing how to speak in an authoritative way, without displaying arrogance is a soft skill that not everyone possesses.”</i>
artifact	any object made by human work <i>“The artifact was discovered near the site of the ancient burial ground.”</i>
artillery	guns of large caliber, too heavy to carry; cannon or missile launchers <i>“The role of artillery is to bombard heavily defended positions so other forces can move in with less resistance.”</i>

ascension	the act of ascending <i>"We watched the balloon's ascension into the clouds."</i>
asceticism	religious doctrine where self-denial is practiced to reach a higher spiritual state <i>"A Buddhist monk is an example of someone practicing asceticism."</i>
asinine	stupid, silly, obstinate, etc. <i>"It's asinine to build a house on such a poor foundation."</i>
aspire	to be ambitious <i>"Each contestant will aspire to win."</i>
assign	to set apart or mark for specific purpose; place or set a task or duty <i>"The teacher will assign the lesson for the next class."</i>
athlete	person trained to contest for prizes in exercises, games, sports <i>"The athlete is used to heavy physical exertion."</i>
atrophy	a wasting away of body tissue, organ, or the failure of an organ or part to grow or develop, as because of insufficient nutrition <i>"Without proper nutrition, the muscles will atrophy."</i>
avuncular	of, like, or in the relationship of, an uncle <i>"Avuncular advice is apt to be kindly and indulgent."</i>
axiom	statement accepted as true; maxim; self-evident <i>"Although you keep using that axiom as the basis for your paper, the concept itself is not true."</i>
baccalaureate	an address or sermon delivered to a graduating class at commencement <i>"The graduating seniors and their families will attend the baccalaureate."</i>
bailiwick	one's particular area of authority, activity, interest <i>"The coach's bailiwick is tennis."</i>
balloon	large airtight bag that when filled with air, floats above the earth; small inflatable rubber bag used as a toy <i>"The balloon was filled with helium gas."</i>
balustrade	a railing <i>"The balustrade was made of cedar."</i>
barrage	a heavy, prolonged attack of words, blows <i>"Suddenly the speaker was under a barrage of questions."</i>
barrel	large round container; any hollow or solid cylinder <i>"An empty barrel makes more noise than a full one."</i>

bassoon	double-reed bass woodwind instrument having a long mouthpiece attached <i>“The clarinet, flute, saxophone and bassoon are all woodwind instruments.”</i>
battalion	a large group of soldiers arrayed for battle; any large group joined in some activity <i>“While a company is smaller than a battalion, a battalion is smaller than a brigade, and there are many battalions within one brigade.”</i>
beguile	to influence by trickery or flattery; mislead; delude <i>“The realtor hoped to beguile buyers by decoration the house with fancy furnishings.”</i>
belligerent	of war; fighting; seeking war or a fight; readiness to quarrel <i>“You make more friends by being nice than you do by being belligerent.”</i>
benevolent	doing or inclined to do good; kindly; charitable <i>“The company has proved to be a most benevolent employer.”</i>
biennial	happening every two years <i>“The reunion is held on a biennial basis.”</i>
bilingual	of or in two languages; capable of using two languages with equal skill <i>“It is an advantage to be bilingual when applying for a job.”</i>
bizarre	marked by extreme contrasts and incongruities of color, design, or style <i>“The bizarre movie we watched last night was so odd we left the theater in stunned silence.”</i>
blossom	flower or bloom, esp. of a fruit-bearing plant; begin to develop <i>“We went to Washington, D.C. to see the cherry trees in blossom.”</i>
blurred	smeared or stained; hazy or indistinct <i>“The writing was blurred and difficult to decipher.”</i>
bracelet	ornamental band or chain worn on the wrist, arm, or ankle <i>“This is a bracelet and this one will be a necklace.”</i>
braggadocio	a braggart <i>“You are handsome, but you don’t have to be such a braggadocio.”</i>
brimming	to be full to the top <i>“The polluted lake was brimming with discarded soda cans and water bottles.”</i>
broody	to dwell moodily on one’s thoughts; a fowl, ready to hatch eggs <i>“Why are you so broody today?”</i>

buffoon	person who is funny and always clowning around <i>"The script was so poorly written, not even the actor's role as a buffoon was able to amuse the audience."</i>
building	any structure that is built with walls and roof; the act of constructing <i>"They worked in one building and lived in another."</i>
bumptious	disagreeably conceited, arrogant, or forward <i>"When my bumptious classmate gave the wrong answer to the teacher's question, I could not help but laugh."</i>
burglary	the act of unlawfully entering with intent to commit a theft or felony <i>"The police put out descriptions of the thief who committed the burglary."</i>
cacophony	jarring sound <i>"The cacophony in the freshman dining room was horrendous to the ears."</i>
cadence	any rhythmic flow of sound <i>"The radio announcer had a hypnotic cadence."</i>
calligraphy	beautiful handwriting; penmanship <i>"Calligraphy is an art – a talent to be thankful for."</i>
camaraderie	loyalty and warm, friendly feeling among comrades <i>"Even though we were all different, we established a sense of camaraderie while taking a class together."</i>
camouflage	disguise or concealment of this kind <i>"The tanks' camouflage prevented enemy planes from seeing them."</i>
cannibal	person who eats human flesh; animal which eats its own kind <i>"The missionary taught the cannibal how to stop the practice."</i>
canonical	according to or ordered by church law <i>"These regulations are canonical."</i>
capacious	roomy, spacious <i>"Since we have over 100 people coming to the training, we need to find a capacious venue."</i>
capitulation	statement of the main parts of a subject; conditional surrender <i>"Their leader decided that capitulation was best."</i>
carbonaceous	of, consisting of, or containing carbon <i>"Coat tar is carbonaceous."</i>

carburetor	a device in which air is mixed with gasoline spray to make an explosive mixture in an internal combustion engine <i>"The carburetor in the truck had to be replaced."</i>
cardinal	of main importance; principal; chief <i>"In case of emergency, the cardinal thing to do is to call the police."</i>
caricature	picture of imitation of person in which certain mannerisms or features are exaggerated for effect <i>"On our vacation, I paid an artist to sketch a hilarious caricature of the group."</i>
carrier	transporter, such as paper boy, mailman; train, airplane; ship <i>"To conserve resources, please reuse this carrier bag."</i>
carousel	a merry-go-round <i>"The children were riding on the carousel."</i>
casserole	earthenware or glass baking dish; the food baked and served in this dish <i>"We decided to make a casserole of lasagna."</i>
cataclysm	any great upheaval that causes sudden and violent changes <i>"The weakened government could not withstand another cataclysm."</i>
cataclysmic	of the nature of, or having the effect of, a cataclysm; of, relating to, or resulting from a cataclysm <i>"It is believed that a cataclysmic impact caused the extinction of the dinosaurs."</i>
cataplexy	a condition in which consciousness and feeling are suddenly and temporarily lost, and the muscles become rigid <i>"The chief difficulty in the study of cataplexy is the rareness of the disease."</i>
catastrophe	the culminating event of a drama, tragedy; disastrous end; any great and sudden calamity or failure <i>"The sudden earthquake in Mexico City was a tragic catastrophe."</i>
caveat	a warning <i>"The caveat on the pack of cigarettes says that smoking can be harmful to your health."</i>
centennial	100 years; happening once in 100 years; celebration of 100 th anniversary <i>"This year will be their city's centennial."</i>
cerebellum	the section of the brain behind and below the cerebrum; functions as the coordinating center for muscular movement <i>"In the accident, the cerebellum was injured."</i>

cessation	ceasing or stopping, either forever or for a period of time <i>“Since the bad weather has caused a temporary building cessation, the museum will not be completed on time.”</i>
chagrin	mortification <i>“Much to my chagrin, I failed my math test.”</i>
chamois	a soft leather made from the hide of a chamois, deer or sheep <i>“The gloves were made of chamois leather.”</i>
chandelier	lighting fixture hanging from a ceiling, with branches for candles or bulbs <i>“The chandelier swayed, and we hurried out from under it.”</i>
chaotic	completely confused or disordered condition <i>“The era of the Hundred Years’ War was very chaotic.”</i>
charlatan	fake <i>“The phony scientist was a charlatan.”</i>
chiffon	sheer, lightweight fabric of silk, nylon, etc.; cooking made light and porous, by the addition of stiffly beaten egg whites <i>“Under a magnifying glass, chiffon resembles a fine net or mesh which gives it some transparency.”</i>
chimerical	imaginary <i>“The police refused to listen to the person’s chimerical tale of an alien abduction.”</i>
chivalry	the noble qualities a medieval knight was supposed to have; courage, honor and readiness to help the weak, and to protect women <i>“An act of chivalry could include holding the door open for someone.”</i>
choppy	shifting constantly, as the wind or the sea; rough with short, broken waves <i>“The lake became choppy in the storm.”</i>
choreography	the art of devising dances, especially ballets <i>“The choreography for the dance scenes in ‘The Turning Point’ was quite good.”</i>
chronic	continuing indefinitely; perpetual; constant <i>“A chronic problem is difficult to face.”</i>
cinematographer	a motion-picture cameraman <i>“A cinematographer is essential to making a film.”</i>
cinnamon	yellowish-brown spice, popular in fruit pies or quick breads <i>“Cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger were all measured carefully for the pie filling.”</i>

circuitous	roundabout; indirect; devious <i>"We took a circuitous path up the mountain."</i>
clairvoyance	keen perception or insight <i>"The fortune teller's clairvoyance with a crystal ball was amazing."</i>
clique	a small, exclusive group of people <i>"Slang terms are often known only within a clique or in-group."</i>
coercive	of coercion or tending to coerce <i>"During the American Revolution, the colonists fought against what they saw as the coercive government of Great Britain."</i>
collate	to compare in order to consolidate; to gather together in proper order, such as pages of a book, for printing or for a binder <i>"We spent a few hours in the library to collate the roster pages."</i>
colleague	associate in office <i>"A positive relationship with a colleague can make a big difference at work."</i>
collide	to come into violent contact; strike violently against each other <i>"If the two cars continued on the same path, they would eventually collide."</i>
colloquial	conversational <i>"Because a job interview is such a serious event, one should not speak in a colloquial tone."</i>
comatose	as if in a coma; lethargic; torpid <i>"The patient remained in a comatose condition."</i>
command	to give orders to; direct with authority; control; to have jurisdiction over <i>"It was evident the young soldier would command obedience."</i>
commercial	connected with trade; stores, office buildings; made or operating primarily for profit <i>"The commercial course offered training in business methods, marketing, sales."</i>
commingle	to mingle together; intermix, blend <i>"Ground waters originating in different beds commingle into one stream."</i>
commission	authorization to perform duties or tasks; percentage of money taken in on sales given as pay; group with authority to act <i>"They were a commission authorized to work for the people."</i>

commit	deliver for safekeeping; give in charge; to put in custody <i>“The United Nations decided to commit several military resources to help other countries.”</i>
community	all the people living in the district, city, etc.; similarity, likeness of taste; the condition of living with others <i>“People in this community want to keep the area safe for children to play in.”</i>
compassionate	feeling or showing compassion <i>“The compassionate nurse listened to the patient’s tale.”</i>
competition	rivalry; contest; official participation in organized sport <i>“They met in order to consider the kind of fixed rules needed for the competition.”</i>
concurrent	happening at the same time; existing together; converging <i>“The judge gave the defendant concurrent sentences.”</i>
condescend	to make concessions; agree; assent <i>“Do you think the CEO would ever condescend to have lunch with us in the cafeteria?”</i>
condign	deserved; suitable <i>“The movie was not condign for those under the age of thirteen.”</i>
conditional	containing, implying, or dependent on a condition or conditions; qualified; not absolute <i>“If both countries reduce their nuclear weapons development, the conditional treaty will become formal.”</i>
condolence	expression of sympathy with another in grief <i>“A note of condolence is appropriate at time of death.”</i>
confabulation	to talk together in an informal way; chat <i>“The students met for a confabulation before going to class.”</i>
conjecture	an inference, theory, or prediction based on guesswork; guess <i>“I’ve made a conjecture on how the situation would turn out.”</i>
connecting	fastening two things together; related or associated <i>“Wires were strung, connecting one pole to the next.”</i>
connoisseur	a person who has expert knowledge and keen discrimination in some field, especially in the fine arts or in matters of taste <i>“The head chef at the popular seafood restaurant is viewed as a lobster connoisseur.”</i>
consensus	an opinion held by all or most <i>“The consensus of party professionals was sought.”</i>

constitutional	of or in the constitution of a person or thing; basic; essential <i>"Everyone in the United States has constitutional rights."</i>
contemplate	to think about intently <i>"The scientists will contemplate the new theory."</i>
contemptuous	full of contempt; scornful; disdainful <i>"The speaker was very contemptuous of the hecklers."</i>
contumacy	insubordinate resistance to authority; stubbornness <i>"The judge was quick to use contumacy in having argumentative defendants removed from the courtroom."</i>
convey	to make known; communicate in words, actions, appearance <i>"These flowers convey my appreciation."</i>
convoluted	extremely involved; intricate <i>"The convoluted plot was difficult to understand."</i>
cooperate	to act or work together; to combine to produce an effect <i>"The children were asked to cooperate by remaining in their seats."</i>
corridor	long passageway or hall <i>"The corridor was lengthy with several rooms opening from it."</i>
corsair	a pirate ship <i>"The corsair sailed the Arabian Sea."</i>
coruscate	to give off flashes of light; glitter; sparkle <i>"The gemstones did coruscate in the sunlight."</i>
countervail	to make up for; compensate <i>"Long hours of practice in tennis may countervail natural talent."</i>
critique	the act or art of criticizing; criticism <i>"The director did not like the critique of the latest movie."</i>
croissant	a crescent roll <i>"A hot, buttery croissant was enjoyed by each one attending the festive brunch."</i>
crucifixion	a crucifying or being crucified <i>"Many changes have taken place in the legal system since no one will most likely ever have to experience a crucifixion."</i>
currency	medium of exchange; circulation; common acceptance; general use; paper money in circulation in any country <i>"The currency of other countries is sometimes larger in size than ours."</i>

debacle	an overwhelming defeat or rout <i>"We have much to learn from the latest military debacle."</i>
decelerate	to reduce speed; slow down <i>"The driver began to decelerate around the bend."</i>
deciduous	shedding leaves annually <i>"The fall colors on the deciduous trees are beautiful."</i>
deductible	that can be deducted <i>"The expenses involved with the party were not a deductible business expense."</i>
dehydrate	to lose water; become dry <i>"Long distance running can dehydrate a runner."</i>
deign	to condescend to give <i>"I would not deign to comment on such disgusting behavior."</i>
delicacy	pleasing in taste, odor, texture; fragile beauty or graceful slightness <i>"Caviar is considered a delicacy by many."</i>
demagogue	a person who obtains power by appealing to the emotions and prejudice of the populace <i>"The demagogue gained power very quickly and ruthlessly."</i>
depressant	lowering the rate of muscular or nervous activity; to sadden or lower <i>"The medicine was given as a depressant."</i>
derrick	large apparatus for lifting and moving heavy objects; tall tapering framework over an oil well <i>"Don't stand under the arm of a derrick."</i>
description	the art, process or technique of picturing in words; sort or variety <i>"The detailed description of the product was listed incorrectly on the label."</i>
designate	to point or mark out; specify; appoint <i>"I will designate one of my friends to chair this committee."</i>
develop	to cause to grow; to build up or expand; to expose to various chemicals to cause a picture to become visible <i>"After growing and cooking with cabbage from my garden, I began to develop a taste for the green vegetable."</i>
dexterity	skill in using one's mind; cleverness <i>"The baby's dexterity was amazing."</i>
diagnostic	of or constituting a diagnosis <i>"Diagnostic procedures, such as X-rays, may save someone's life."</i>

dialysis	the separation of crystalloids from colloids as the elimination of impurities from the blood during kidney failure <i>"One of our child movie stars has to be hospitalized for dialysis."</i>
diaphanous	so fine or gauzy in texture as to be transparent or translucent <i>"The diaphanous curtains made the room light."</i>
differentiate	distinguish between <i>"The shopper tried to differentiate between the two sweaters."</i>
dilapidated	broken down; shabby and neglected <i>"We bought a dilapidated house and tried to repair it."</i>
dilemma	predicament; a situation in which one must choose between alternatives <i>"The witness was struggling with a dilemma on whether or not to take the stand and testify."</i>
dirge	a funeral hymn <i>"For a class project, my psychology professor asked all of use to write a poetic dirge about a deceased love one."</i>
discern	to perceive or recognize <i>"A detective's job is to discern who is guilty of a particular crime by evaluating the evidence."</i>
discipline	training that develops self-control, character or orderliness and efficiency; acceptance of or submission to authority <i>"Sometimes the act of discipline is harder for the trainer than the trainee."</i>
discombobulate	to upset the composure of; disconcert <i>"Working twelve hours a day for seven straight days would discombobulate anyone."</i>
disproportionate	not in proportion <i>"The harsh punishment was disproportionate to the infraction."</i>
dissatisfied	not pleased <i>"They were angry and dissatisfied with the given explanation."</i>
disseminate	to scatter seed; to sow widely; spread abroad <i>"When the dandelion becomes that feathery little puffball, the breezes cause it to disseminate."</i>
dissent	differ in belief or opinion; the act of disagreeing; nonconformity <i>"It's a teacher's job to challenge students, urging them to dissent against theories that cannot be proven."</i>

dissertation	a formal and lengthy discourse or treatise on some subject <i>“Students can either do a dissertation or take part in a practical project.”</i>
distressful	painful; grievous; feeling or causing misery, worry or trouble <i>“Seeing reports and pictures of starvation in other countries is very distressful.”</i>
divination	a successful guess; clever conjecture <i>“A fortune teller is able to tell the future through divination.”</i>
doddering	shaky, tottering or senile <i>“We had the tree topped and pruned; but in its doddering state, it was still a hazard.”</i>
doggerel	trivial, poorly constructed verse; jingle <i>“During the poetry contest, the judges gave low scores to the doggerel poems.”</i>
duplicator	machine for making exact copies of letters, photograph, map drawing, etc. <i>“Copies of the proposed budget were made on the duplicator.”</i>
ebullient	overflowing with enthusiasm, high spirits <i>“After winning the game, the fans were ebullient.”</i>
eccentric	not having the same center; deviating from the norm, as in conduct; unconventional <i>“The eccentric furniture designer is known for turning unusual objects into tables and chairs.”</i>
ecclesiastical	of the church <i>“The ecclesiastical history of our church was a topic of discussion during the morning service.”</i>
echelon	any of the levels of responsibility or importance in an organization <i>“The prominent college ranks among the top echelon of schools in the nation.”</i>
eclectic	selecting or choosing from various sources; not following any one system, but selecting and using what may be considered the best elements of all systems <i>“The collection includes an eclectic mix of historical artifacts.”</i>
ecstasy	feeling overpowering joy; great delight; rapture <i>“Whenever I eat at my favorite restaurant, I am in ecstasy.”</i>
ecstatic	subject to ecstasy <i>“The student was ecstatic at being accepted at the university.”</i>

eczema	an inflammatory, itching disease of the skin <i>“Dishwashing liquid can be a skin irritant and cause hand eczema.”</i>
effectuate	to bring about; cause to happen; effect <i>“The team members are trying to effectuate change in spring training rules.”</i>
effete	lacking in wholesome vigor; degenerate; lacking strength, courage or spirit <i>“Some would say that the three-strikes laws have proven to be completely effete at combating non-violent crime.”</i>
effigy	A representation or image, especially sculptured, as on a monument <i>“An effigy of one of the country’s elected officials was burned in the streets by the angry mob.”</i>
effrontery	unashamed boldness; impudence; audacity; presumption <i>“The actress was insulted by the critic’s effrontery.”</i>
egalitarian	advocating, or characterized by the belief that all men should have equal political, social and economic rights <i>“The country’s government was egalitarian.”</i>
ellipsis	the omission of a word or words necessary for complete grammatical construction but understood in the context <i>“If words are left out at the end of a quoted sentence, use ellipsis marks followed by the necessary ending punctuation.”</i>
emanate	to emit; come forth; issue, as from a source <i>“The only light seemed to emanate from the far end of the tunnel.”</i>
embarrass	to cause to feel self-conscious, confused, and ill at ease <i>“My poem was not meant to embarrass you.”</i>
embassy	the position or functions or business of an ambassador; official residence of an ambassador <i>“We had to choose an ambassador to represent our country at their embassy.”</i>
embellish	to decorate or improve by adding detail <i>“The artist will embellish the vase.”</i>
eminence	a high or lofty place, thing, etc., as a hill <i>“The old citadel sits on an eminence with a commanding view of the city.”</i>
emulate	to try to equal or surpass; to rival successfully <i>“The baby birds strutted back and forth trying to emulate the actions of their parents.”</i>

encapsulate	to put in concise form; condense <i>"We tried to encapsulate the week's news in five minutes."</i>
encyclopedic	comprehensive in scope; giving information about many things <i>"People participating in certain game shows need to have an encyclopedic memory."</i>
endeavor	try to achieve; an earnest attempt; effort <i>"We will endeavor to find our way out of the maze without help."</i>
engrossing	taking the entire attention; very interesting; absorbing <i>"The play was a good one engrossing us during the several acts."</i>
ensemble	all the parts considered as a whole <i>"The jazz ensemble is composed of five musicians playing as a group."</i>
epitaph	an inscription on a tomb or gravestone in memory of the person buried there <i>"We tried to read the epitaph on the monument."</i>
epithet	an adjective, noun, or phrase used to characterize some person or thing, often specifically a disparaging one <i>"The angry customer screamed an epithet into the phone and slammed down the receiver."</i>
epitome	a short statement of the main points of a book, report, incident; abstract; summary; representative or typical of a class <i>"The cheetah is the epitome of a fast-running animal."</i>
equable	not varying or fluctuating much <i>"Our equable cat is always calm and never causes much of a stir."</i>
equivocal	two or more meanings; purposely vague; misleading; ambiguous <i>"The scientist's theory is equivocal and has not been proven in a lab experiment."</i>
errand	a trip to carry a message or do a definite thing; purpose or object for which one goes or is sent <i>"I couldn't stop because I was on an errand."</i>
esoteric	beyond the understanding or knowledge of most people <i>"Few people attended the esoteric lecture on holography."</i>
establishment	holding the chief power or influence; a government; officially recognized institution or business <i>"The establishment refuses to give up any of its power to the people."</i>
etymology	The origin and development of a word, affix, phrase, etc. <i>"The origin and development of words is a branch of linguistics called etymology."</i>

eulogy	speech or writing in praise of a person, event or thing; commendation <i>"We listened with full hearts to the eulogy on President Kennedy."</i>
euphoria	a feeling of vigor, well-being, or high spirits <i>"The team had the euphoria that comes from winning."</i>
evanescent	tending to fade from sight; vanishing; ephemeral <i>"We momentarily saw the evanescent rainbow."</i>
eventual	happening at the end of, or as a result of; ultimate; final <i>"Much practice would lead to eventual success."</i>
exacerbate	to exasperate; annoy; irritate; embitter <i>"If you do not take your medicine, your condition will exacerbate, and you will feel worse."</i>
excellence	the fact or condition of being better or greater; superiority <i>"Excellence can be achieved through hard work and a commitment to practicing your craft."</i>
excusable	free from blame; justifiable; pardonable <i>"Late arrival for a job interview is never excusable."</i>
exercise	active use or operation; activity for the purpose of training or developing the body or mind; set program of formal speeches, ceremonies <i>"Before piano practice, it is good to exercise the fingers."</i>
exiguous	scanty; meager <i>"Due to my exiguous knowledge of history, I was bound to lose quickly at the history trivia game."</i>
existence	state or fact of being; continuance of life, living; manner of living <i>"The scientist found evidence of the existence of a rare species of plant."</i>
exonerate	to relieve of a burden; unload; free from guilt; absolve <i>"By looking at the surveillance tapes, the store manager was able to exonerate the morning cashier of the register theft."</i>
exotic	foreign, not native; strange in a different way; fascinating <i>"We grow exotic orchids in our greenhouse."</i>
expedient	useful for effecting a desired result <i>"While the patient has no insurance, it is expedient that the hospital staff take all life-saving methods, regardless of their costs."</i>
expertise	the skill, knowledge, judgment of an expert <i>"Because of my expertise in criminal justice, I was invited to be the guest speaker at our town's police conference."</i>

expletive	an oath or exclamation <i>“It is inappropriate to shout an expletive in professional settings.”</i>
expression	squeezing out, as of juice; putting into words; eloquent manner of speaking; a look, intonation or sign <i>“An idiomatic phrase ‘catch cold’ is an expression.”</i>
expropriate	to deprive of ownership; dispossess <i>“The state will expropriate acreage for the new airport.”</i>
extensive	wide scope; covering a large area; great extent <i>“The areas of cultivation were extensive.”</i>
fabricate	to make, build, construct; manufacture; invent a story <i>“They will fabricate an exact model so we can imagine the finished work.”</i>
facetious	joking, or trying to be jocular, esp. at an inappropriate time <i>“Although my offer may have sounded facetious, I really want to help you with your problem.”</i>
facsimile	an exact reproduction or copy <i>“The painting was a facsimile of the original.”</i>
factitious	forced or artificial <i>“Speculators were responsible for the factitious value of some stocks.”</i>
fallacy	aptness to mislead; false or mistaken; deceptive; incorrect <i>“Having money makes you happy is a fallacy because happiness has nothing to do with wealth.”</i>
familiar	friendly, informal or intimate; too friendly, presumptuous <i>“It was great to return home to familiar surroundings.”</i>
fantasize	to create or imagine or have daydreams about <i>“It is easy to fantasize a dream world of only the good things.”</i>
farthermost	most distant; most remote <i>“At this point, the farthermost thing on the horizon was the top of the mountain.”</i>
fascination	strong attraction; charm; allure <i>“The kitten’s fascination with the ball of yarn was a delight to watch.”</i>
fastidious	not easy to please; very critical or discriminating <i>“With fastidious attention to detail, the musician practiced the piece again.”</i>
feasible	capable of being done or carried out; possible; practicable <i>“Chartering a bus seems the most feasible method of transportation.”</i>

febrifuge	any substance for reducing fever <i>"Aspirin is a popular febrifuge."</i>
felicitous	well-chosen; appropriate; apt; yielding great pleasure <i>"Even though it is raining today, we are still having a felicitous time indoors."</i>
ferocious	fierce; savage; violently cruel <i>"The lion has a ferocious growl."</i>
fickle	changeable or unstable in affection, interest, loyalty <i>"The fickle weather soon had me changing from my shorts into my thick slacks."</i>
fictitious	imaginary happening; not real; false; pretended; assumed for disguise <i>"Some novelists use a fictitious name under which they write."</i>
filibuster	legislative body member who obstructs the passage of a bill by making long speeches, introducing irrelevant issues, etc. <i>"The senator carried out the filibuster, ignoring remarks from the floor."</i>
finally	the end; in conclusion; irrevocably <i>"We finally made it to the end of the long road."</i>
finesse	adroitness and delicacy of performance <i>"The hockey player's finesse won the game."</i>
firmament	the sky, viewed poetically as a solid arch or vault <i>"The sun and the moon are both seen in the firmament at that time."</i>
fissure	long, narrow, deep cleft or crack; dividing or breaking into parts <i>"The ice, breaking up, opened a wide fissure between the floes."</i>
fixative	that is able or can make permanent; a substance to prevent fading <i>"Dentures require a strong fixative."</i>
flabbergast	to make speechless with amazement; astonish <i>"Seeing a dog climb a tree may flabbergast you."</i>
flagging	weakening or drooping; tired <i>"Because few people are coming to the movie theater, the cinema is looking for ways to boost its flagging sales."</i>
flannelette	soft, cotton cloth, light in weight <i>"Our puppy loved dragging a piece of flannelette around the house."</i>
fleecy	soft and light <i>"In Hawaii, we saw fleecy clouds drifting in a deep azure sky."</i>

flippant	glib; talkative; frivolous and disrespectful; saucy <i>“Although my apology to the judge sounded flippant, I was really sorry for my actions.”</i>
flourish	blossom; grow vigorously; succeed, thrive; prosper <i>“The seeds will soon flourish and provide our eyes with beauty.”</i>
fluctuate	to move back and forth, up and down; to be continually changing <i>“Bank interest rates fluctuate from time to time.”</i>
fluoride	A salt of hydrofluoric acid consisting of two elements, one of which is fluorine; a chemical sometimes added to drinking water and toothpaste to help keep teeth healthy <i>“A fluoride mouth wash will help to prevent tooth decay.”</i>
follower	disciple; servant or attendant <i>“The band has a devoted follower who has every one of their albums and posters.”</i>
footloose	free to do as one likes, or to go where one likes; no responsibilities <i>“Europe is filled with footloose students every summer.”</i>
foppery	actions or dress of a vain person <i>“Some people regard the platform shoe as an unfortunate foppery of the 1970s.”</i>
forehead	part of the face between the eyebrows and the hairline; the front part of anything <i>“The unicorn is a mythical animal which looks like a horse with a long horn coming out of its forehead.”</i>
foreword	an introductory remark; introduction; preface <i>“I intended to stay up late reading the latest best seller, but I barely made it through the foreword before dozing off.”</i>
forfeit	to lose, give up, or be deprived of <i>“A lack of players caused the team to forfeit the game.”</i>
forgetting	fail to recall in the mind; overlooking; omitting <i>“I feel awful about forgetting my friend’s birthday.”</i>
fractious	peevish; irritable <i>“The fractious attitude of some of the participants clouded the otherwise enjoyable event.”</i>
fraudulent	deceitful; based on trickery; intentional deception <i>“The investigation proved the papers to be fraudulent.”</i>

frequency	the fact of occurring often or repeatedly <i>“With the frequency of being paid every week motivated the teenage boy to take this job instead of the job that paid once a month.”</i>
fuchsia	shrubby plants of the evening primrose family; purplish red color <i>“The fuchsia were in bloom—a riot of pink, white and red color!”</i>
fuliginous	full of smoke or soot <i>“Smog has caused many of the high-rises in the city to be fuliginous.”</i>
furrier	a dealer in the pelts of animals; person who makes or repairs fur garments <i>“In the marketplace, there were 22 shoemakers, 13 potters, and only one furrier.”</i>
galleon	large Spanish ship of the 15 th /16 th century <i>“The galleon had four decks at the stern.”</i>
gambol	to jump and skip about in play; frolic <i>“To gambol about the dance floor is to have a good time.”</i>
garnishee	to attach a debtor’s property, wages, etc. by the authority of a court, so it can be used to pay a debt <i>“It is required by law to garnishee the employee’s salary.”</i>
garrison	troops stationed in a fort; to place troops on duty <i>“Once the troops make it to the garrison they will rest for the night.”</i>
garrulous	talking too much; loquacious <i>“Though my window is closed, I can still hear my garrulous neighbors loudly gossip in the night.”</i>
gazettes	newspaper, various official publications <i>“The poems were published in all the official gazettes throughout the state.”</i>
generally	to or by most people; popularly; extensively; usually <i>“It is generally thought that the changing to daylight savings time is a good thing.”</i>
generic	that is not a trademark <i>“The generic product was cheaper than the brand name product.”</i>
genuine	purebred; not counterfeit or artificial; real; true <i>“The jeweler confirmed that the stone was a genuine emerald.”</i>
ghastly	horrible; frightful; ghostlike; very bad or unpleasant <i>“There was a ghastly smile on the creepy monster’s face.”</i>

gimlet	a small boring tool with a handle at right angles to a shaft having at the other end a spiral, pointed cutting edge <i>"The district attorney's gimlet eyes bored through witnesses like a power drill."</i>
giraffe	large cud-chewing animals of Africa with very long necks and legs <i>"The giraffe often reaches a height of 18 feet."</i>
gladiolus	any of the genus of plants of the iris family; a flower <i>"The garden was filled with gladiolus of many colors."</i>
glossary	foreign terms, definitions, translations, included in alphabetical listings at the end of a textbook <i>"We really appreciated the glossary because some of the words were difficult and unknown to us."</i>
gnash	to grind or strike together, as in anger or pain <i>"The caged tigers gnash their teeth and lunge at the bars."</i>
gorgeous	brilliantly colored; magnificent; beautiful; wonderful <i>"When we looked out the balcony of our hotel, the only thing we noticed was the gorgeous view of the ocean."</i>
government	exercise of authority over a state, district, country, etc.; the executive or administrative branch <i>"Our government is constituted by the political coalition in power."</i>
grammatical	conforming to the prescribed rules of grammar <i>"The teacher was impressed by the students' essays that were concise and grammatical."</i>
grandiloquent	using high-flown, pompous, bombastic words and expressions <i>"The applicant's use of grandiloquent terminology failed to impress the job interviewer."</i>
gratify	give pleasure or satisfaction to; indulge <i>"I had to gratify my longing for a sweet with one piece of cake."</i>
grievance	circumstance thought to be unjust; resentment or complaint <i>"In order to receive a refund, I must put my grievance in writing and then mail the complaint to the hotel manager."</i>
grizzled	gray, or streaked with gray; having gray hair or whiskers <i>"Grizzled veterans in uniform gathered at the war monument."</i>
grueling	extremely trying; exhausting; harsh treatment <i>"To some, working in the mine seemed a grueling punishment."</i>
guileless	candid, frank; open <i>"The guileless baby was not afraid of strangers."</i>

gymnasium	room equipped for physical training and games of sport <i>"In the gymnasium, the stands were filled with cheering fans."</i>
habilitate	clothe, equip, outfit; education or train mentally or physically handicapped <i>"Teachers were needed to habilitate the mentally ill patients."</i>
handkerchief	small piece of cloth, usually rectangular, for wiping the nose, eyes or face; cloth carried or worn for ornament <i>"To deal with runny noses, we always keep a cotton handkerchief within reach."</i>
handwriting	writing done by hand with pen, pencil, chalk, etc., a style of forming letters <i>"The handwriting on the old letter was faded and hard to read."</i>
happening	occurrence; incident; event <i>"That happening on stage brought a spontaneous burst of applause."</i>
harmonize	to be in accord; agree; pleasing arrangement of singing <i>"One of the strengths of the quartet is that they could harmonize all four voices with perfect pitch."</i>
hazardous	involving chance; risky; dangerous <i>"They loved mountain climbing even though they knew it to be hazardous."</i>
heartily	friendly, sincere, cordial way; with zest, enthusiasm <i>"The audience laughed heartily throughout the play."</i>
hegemony	leadership or dominance, especially that of one state or nation over others <i>"The Chinese say the Soviets are establishing military hegemony over the free world."</i>
helicopter	kind of aircraft lifted vertically and moved horizontally in any direction, or kept hovering by large motor driven rotary blades <i>"The police helicopter is a crime deterrent."</i>
hemorrhage	heavy bleeding <i>"To terminate the internal hemorrhage, the surgeon must operate and stop the bleeding."</i>
heroism	quality of brave action; nobility; valor <i>"The firefighters' heroism in rescuing the child from the water was recognized."</i>
hexagon	six cornered; plane figure with six sides and six angles <i>"The playground was laid out as a hexagon, using all available space."</i>

hibernate	to spend the winter in a dormant state <i>"Bears hibernate in dens and caves or hollow trees for the winter."</i>
hilarity	noisy merriment; boisterous gaiety <i>"Smiling ourselves, we listened to the hilarity from the party next door."</i>
historical	concerned with history as a science; based on people or events of the past <i>"The historical book was based on things that happened in the early 19th century."</i>
honesty	refraining from lying, cheating or stealing; being truthful <i>"Honesty is always the best policy."</i>
horrible	terrible, dreadful; frightful; very bad; ugly <i>"I had a horrible feeling I would be late and miss my train."</i>
hospitable	friendly, kind and solicitous toward guests; favoring comfort of new arrivals; receptive or open to new ideas <i>"Southern people are said to be most hospitable even to strangers."</i>
hubbub	confused sound of many voices; uproar; tumult <i>"The hubbub ceased as the chairman's gavel was heard."</i>
humanity	human; human characteristics or nature; mankind; people <i>"Humanity everywhere does not always have the same kindness or sympathy."</i>
humorous	funny; amusing; comical <i>"The humorous video went viral after a few million people found the dancing cat to be funny enough to share."</i>
hurricane	violent tropical cyclone with winds moving at 73 or more miles per hour <i>"A hurricane is often accompanied by torrential rains."</i>
hurried	to act more rapidly; rushed or rushing; hasty <i>"They hurried away from the scene of the accident."</i>
hybrid	anything of mixed origin, unlike parts <i>"Rock and roll is a hybrid of blues and jazz."</i>
hydrophyte	a plant growing only in water or very wet earth <i>"Each hydrophyte was a different color."</i>
hygiene	science of health and its maintenance; sanitary practices; cleanness <i>"We are taught hygiene for the preservation of health and prevention of disease."</i>

hymeneal	a wedding song <i>“The ground was spread with leaves and flowers, and their musicians sung a hymeneal song.”</i>
hyperbole	obvious and intentional exaggeration; an extravagant statement or figure of speech not intended to be taken literally <i>“During the hurricane, it seemed as though the hyperbole, ‘raining cats and dogs’, was almost accurate.”</i>
hypochondriac	a person who has hypochondria <i>“My college roommate was a hypochondriac who wore a facial mask to avoid inhaling germs.”</i>
hypocrisy	a pretending to be what one is not, or to feel what one does not feel <i>“When you agree to serve a cause and then back out, I would call that hypocrisy.”</i>
identify	show to being the thing or person known or thought to be claimed <i>“To cash a check, one must be able to identify oneself.”</i>
ideology	the doctrines, opinions, or way of thinking of an individual class, etc. <i>“What should count, no matter what the ideology is the education of kids.”</i>
idiosyncrasy	personal peculiarity or mannerism <i>“The home’s colorful idiosyncrasy made it stand out in the neighborhood of white houses.”</i>
idolize	to love or adore exceedingly; to worship <i>“The teen had begun to idolize the pop singer and had posters of them plastering the bedroom walls.”</i>
ignominy	shame and dishonor <i>“Our team has to face the ignominy of a long losing streak.”</i>
ignorant	having little knowledge; inexperienced; uneducated <i>“They were ignorant of the facts of the case and could not judge.”</i>
illicit	not allowed by law; prohibited; unauthorized <i>“They plotted together at an illicit meeting.”</i>
illuminate	light up; make clear; to brighten; elucidate <i>“They strung more lights to illuminate the pool area.”</i>
illustrate	make clear by examples; to furnish with explanatory drawings, pictures <i>“Once the preschool book was written, the artist was hired to carefully illustrate the book with a picture on every page.”</i>

imaginary	fanciful; unreal; visionary <i>“Telling the kids a story about characters who lived in an imaginary world with dragons and princesses excited the kids.”</i>
immature	not ripe; not completely grown or developed incomplete <i>“The oranges are immature and will not be fully ripe until January.”</i>
immediate	having nothing coming between; in direct contact; not separated <i>“When code clue was announced at the hospital, everyone noticed the immediate attention of every doctor and nurse.”</i>
immigrant	person coming into a new country, region or environment to settle there <i>“During the early 1900s, an immigrant entering into New York City was mostly from Ireland and Germany.”</i>
immunity	resistance to disease; protection against disease <i>“Having a childhood disease does not always develop an immunity to it.”</i>
impasse	deadlock <i>“Because of the impasse between workers and management, the factory has been closed for two weeks.”</i>
impatience	annoyance because of delay; restless eagerness to go or do <i>“The children were starting to show signs of impatience.”</i>
impecunious	having no money <i>“Plans are being developed to help the impecunious people in the city who are without housing.”</i>
imperialism	the policy and practice of seeking to dominate the economic or political affairs of underdeveloped areas or weaker countries <i>“The nation’s imperialism has once again led to a war with a country that refuses to be controlled by outside authorities.”</i>
impertinent	not showing proper respect or manners <i>“As the site’s webmasters, it is their job to monitor the online forum for impertinent comments.”</i>
imperturbable	that cannot be disconcerted, disturbed, or excited; impassive <i>“The imperturbable cat sat in the midst of the moving.”</i>
implement	any article or device used or needed for a given activity; fulfill <i>“Unfortunately, this plan is harder to implement than we thought it would be.”</i>
importance	significance; a matter of consequence <i>“The doctor explained the importance of eating healthy meals and getting rest to the sick patient.”</i>

impression	mark or imprint made by physical pressure; a vague notion “Our footprints made an impression in the sand.”
impulsive	sudden inclination to act; acting spontaneously “ <i>In a burst of impulsive generosity, I offered to pay.</i> ”
inaccurate	not correct; not exact; in error “ <i>The statement in the paper was an inaccurate quote.</i> ”
incandescence	white hot “ <i>The metal was heated to a state of incandescence.</i> ”
incident	likely to happen as a result; happening; occurrence “ <i>This incident may bring serious results.</i> ”
included	enclosed; contained; involved “ <i>The use of the pool was included with the rental of the apartment.</i> ”
incongruous	lacking harmony or agreement “ <i>There’s something incongruous about eating dessert before the main course.</i> ”
incorrigible	that cannot be corrected, improved, or reformed “ <i>Even after spending a year in jail, the thief remains incorrigible and unafraid of the law.</i> ”
incredible	unbelievable; seemingly impossible “ <i>The wildflowers will be incredible after this rain.</i> ”
incredulous	showing doubt or disbelief “ <i>Their eyes were large with incredulous joy.</i> ”
incubator	artificially heated container for hatching eggs “ <i>The chicks hatched in the incubator were downy and soft to touch.</i> ”
incumbent	currently in office “ <i>The incumbent president of the company is resigning so a younger person can take control of the business.</i> ”
indefinite	not precise or clear in meaning; vague; blurred; uncertain “ <i>An indefinite amount of money was to be spent.</i> ”
independent	free from control; self-governing; self-reliant “ <i>The independent school district is completely separate from other schools in the area.</i> ”
indicate	direct attention; to point out; declare “ <i>The compass will always indicate which way is north.</i> ”

indirect	not straight; deviating; not fair and open; secondary <i>"The path was easily followed but seemed long and indirect."</i>
indiscreet	lacking prudence; unwise; careless <i>"You are likely ill-suited to be a secret agent if you are indiscreet and do not know how to act with caution."</i>
individual	existing as a single separate thing or being; particular; unique <i>"The individual was distinguished from others by special characteristics."</i>
indomitable	not easily discouraged <i>"Even after three attempts, the new skier was indomitable."</i>
inducement	motive; incentive; persuasion <i>"Delicious looking desserts in the bakery window were an inducement for the dieting walker passing by the store."</i>
indurate	to make callous, unfeeling, or stubborn <i>"The country's leaders developed an indurate attitude toward the citizens."</i>
industrial	productive manufacturing; connected with habitual employment <i>"Small factories, shops, business offices, etc. were all in this industrial area of the city."</i>
inertia	a tendency to remain in a fixed condition without change <i>"The nation was declining due to inertia."</i>
infatuated	lacking sound judgment; foolish <i>"Even as a young child, the singer was infatuated with music."</i>
inferior	lower in space, in order, status, quality, etc. <i>"The new apartment was inferior to our last one."</i>
infirmary	feebleness; weakness; frailty or ailment; defect <i>"The elderly are much more likely to fall victim to a serious infirmary."</i>
infraction	a breaking of a law, pact; violation; infringement <i>"As soon as the referees saw the infraction, they threw yellow flags on the field."</i>
inimical	unfriendly; hostile <i>"The inimical participants at the rally prevented the audience from having fun."</i>
initiate	introduce; start; to admit a new member <i>"The teacher will initiate the students by teaching them the fundamentals."</i>

innovation	something newly introduced <i>"Americans are always interested in innovation."</i>
inordinate	lacking restraint or moderation <i>"Some dogs are very hyper and require an inordinate amount of attention from their owners."</i>
inquiry	question; query; an investigation or examination <i>"The new neighbor made inquiry of several householders concerning the customs of the neighborhood."</i>
insatiable	constantly wanting more; that cannot be satisfied or appeased <i>"The adventurer had an insatiable curiosity for exploring caves."</i>
inscrutable	that cannot be easily understood <i>"Not even the leading experts in criminology could understand the killer's inscrutable motives."</i>
insinuation	sly hint or suggestion <i>"Your insinuation of unfairness on my part is unjust."</i>
interior	on the inside; inner; away from the coast; border or frontier <i>"The apple looked ripe, but the interior was green and hard."</i>
intermittent	stopping and starting again at intervals; periodic <i>"Heavy traffic forced us into intermittent driving."</i>
intravenous	in, or directly into, a vein or veins <i>"The doctor prescribed intravenous feeding for the patient."</i>
intrepid	not afraid; bold; fearless <i>"The intrepid adventurer climbed the rocky mountain without fear."</i>
intrinsic	belonging to the real nature of a thing <i>"If students want to accomplish their academic goals, they must have the intrinsic motivation to push themselves."</i>
inveigle	to lead on with deception <i>"The salesperson intended to inveigle me into buying the car."</i>
invisible	that cannot be seen; out of sight; imperceptible <i>"The mountains were invisible because of the heavy fog."</i>
irascible	easily angered; quick-tempered <i>"It does not take much to aggravate my irascible neighbor who is annoyed by any little noise."</i>
iridescent	having or showing shifting changes in color or an interplay of rainbow-like colors, as when seen from different angles <i>"The iridescent gemstone glowed with warm colors in the lamplight."</i>

irregular	not conforming to established rule, method, standards; not uniform <i>“The trains run on an irregular schedule, frustrating commuters.”</i>
irreparable	not reparable; that cannot be repaired, mended, remedied <i>“If the condors disappear, that will be an irreparable loss.”</i>
isthmus	a neck; a narrow passage; narrow strip of land, having water at each side and connecting two larger bodies of land <i>“The Isthmus of Panama connects Central America and South America.”</i>
jettison	throwing overboard goods to lighten a ship or airplane in an emergency <i>“The pilot ordered the crew to jettison some of the cargo to conserve fuel.”</i>
judiciary	the court of laws and judges in a country, state, etc.; the branch of government that includes courts of law and judges <i>“The state judiciary consists of supreme court and district court judges.”</i>
judicious	having, applying, or showing sound judgment; wise and careful <i>“The judicious driver stopped at the crosswalk.”</i>
kohlrabi	a garden vegetable related to the cabbage: the edible part is a bulbous portion of the stem just above the ground <i>“The kohlrabi grew very well in the fertile soil.”</i>
lackadaisical	listless; languid <i>“If I receive lackadaisical service in a restaurant, I generally will not return to that establishment.”</i>
lagging	falling behind; not keeping up; loitering; lingering <i>“This work must go forward without a lot of lagging.”</i>
languid	sluggish <i>“Those two acted like languid people, lacking force and quickness.”</i>
languish	to lose vigor or vitality <i>“Without regular exercise, the body will languish.”</i>
largo	relatively slow, but faster than largo <i>“The section of the sonata must be played largo.”</i>
lassitude	state of being weary; tired and listless <i>“The dry desert heat caused a feeling of lassitude in all of us.”</i>
laureate	worthy of honor; distinguished; pre-eminent, especially among poets <i>“Rudyard Kipling was a poet laureate of England.”</i>

lavalier	an ornament hanging from a chain, worn around the neck <i>“The jeweler created a diamond lavalier that was well worth the cost.”</i>
legation	a diplomatic minister and his staff collectively, representing his government in a foreign country <i>“The French legation provided travel information.”</i>
leisurely	without haste; deliberate; slow; unhurried <i>“They enjoyed a leisurely stroll along the boardwalk.”</i>
liaison	a linking up or connecting of the parts of the whole <i>“The negotiator acted as a liaison between players and management.”</i>
library	room or building where a book collection is kept for reading or reference; a collection of books, periodicals, musical scores, etc. <i>“The library was extensive, but we could not find some references we needed.”</i>
literally	exactly; not imaginatively; actually in fact <i>“The house literally burned to the ground.”</i>
lobbyist	representative of a special interest group trying to influence the introduction of or voting on legislation <i>“In the crowded ballroom, the lobbyist tried hard to attract the legislator’s attention.”</i>
lullaby	song for lulling baby to sleep; cradle song; music for this <i>“The baby falls asleep fastest with a soothing lullaby.”</i>
luminary	any famous or well-known person <i>“The luminary stopped to sign an autograph.”</i>
luminous	giving off light; shining; bright <i>“The moon was luminous in the night.”</i>
maleficent	harmful; hurtful; evil <i>“Most people view terrorists as maleficent individuals.”</i>
malign	to speak harmful untruths about; speak evil of; slander; defame <i>“People who malign others by telling falsehoods are usually unhappy with their own lives.”</i>
malingering	to pretend to be ill or otherwise incapacitated in order to escape duty or work <i>“The lazy student tried to malingering when it was time to work on the essay.”</i>
malleable	capable of being changed, molded, trained, etc. <i>“Tin is a very malleable metal.”</i>

mallet	hammer with heavy wooden head and short handle; long-handled hammer with cylindrical wooden head used in playing croquet <i>"Using the croquet mallet, he knocked the ball through the hoop."</i>
maneuver	any movement or procedure intended as a skillful or shrewd step toward some objective <i>"The large ship's maneuver brought it closer to port."</i>
mangy	shabby and filthy; sordid; squalid <i>"We need to get rid of that mangy old carpet in the bedroom."</i>
manifest	make clear or evident; itemized list of cargo or bill of lading <i>"The manifest showed a number of things they had not expected."</i>
mapped	drawing charted or arranged on a flat surface; survey or explore <i>"Their journey was mapped for them on a detailed chart."</i>
marriage	wedlock; matrimony; wedding <i>"The couple prepared for their upcoming marriage by buying custom rings."</i>
marshmallow	confection or candy made from sugar, starch, corn syrup and gelatin <i>"Marshmallow candy is not my favorite."</i>
matted	closely tangled together in a dense mass <i>"Water was still flowing across the island, carrying along a matted raft of vegetation and small household items."</i>
maudlin	foolishly and tearfully or weakly sentimental <i>"I could not enjoy the movie because it was so maudlin it came across as incredibly foolish."</i>
maximize	to increase to the maximum; raise to the highest possible degree; enlarge, intensify <i>"Companies are trying to maximize profits."</i>
meaningful	having significance or purpose <i>"School rules must be put in a context that is meaningful to the students."</i>
meddlesome	interfering; mixing in affairs without being asked <i>"Our boss's meddlesome ways makes everyone in the office uncomfortable."</i>
mellifluous	sounding sweet and smooth; honeyed <i>"At night the stream outside our cabin makes a mellifluous sound that is very peaceful to our ears."</i>
merriment	gaiety; fun; mirth; something that amuses or entertains <i>"The clowns brought much merriment to the small children."</i>

messenger	one who carries or delivers; forerunner; harbinger <i>“The law firm sent a messenger to pick up the documents from their clients’ business office.”</i>
metallic	having the nature of metal; containing or producing metal <i>“The new car was a bright, metallic green.”</i>
metamorphosis	change of form, shape, structure, or substance <i>“The metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly is one of nature’s miracles.”</i>
miasma	an unwholesome or befogging atmosphere, influence <i>“A miasma of smog hung low in the sky, polluting the atmosphere considerably.”</i>
miscreant	an evil person; criminal; villain <i>“For the computer savvy miscreant, it is a great age in which to be a hacker.”</i>
middling	medium quality or size; moderately good or well <i>“They’ve had only middling success.”</i>
minimum	smallest possible quantity, number or degree; lowest point <i>“The minimum number for the committee was five.”</i>
mnemonic	helping, or meant to help, the memory <i>“Our math professor taught us a simple mnemonic for remembering how to complete the equation.”</i>
molasses	thick, dark brown syrup produced during the refining of sugar <i>“We enjoyed the newly baked bread spread with molasses.”</i>
monologue	a play, skit, or recitation for one actor only <i>“Most of the playwright’s words began with a monologue that described what would take place during the play.”</i>
mucilage	gum or glue, etc. used as an adhesive <i>“Mucilage from the prickly pear fruit may work as a natural, non-toxic way to disperse an oil spill.”</i>
muggy	hot and damp with no stirring of air <i>“When it’s hot and muggy, no one feels like working.”</i>
mulligatawny	an East Indian soup of meat, etc., flavored with curry <i>“The chef had a very special recipe for mulligatawny.”</i>
munificence	very generous in giving; lavish <i>“I thanked them for their munificence.”</i>

mutter	low, indistinct tone; to complain or grumble <i>“All we heard was a mutter when the student received a disappointing report card.”</i>
muumuu	a full, long, loose garment for women, usually worn by Hawaiians <i>“The unofficial dress code, especially on a Friday, is flowery aloha shirts and muumuus.”</i>
mystify	to puzzle or perplex <i>“When they don’t see the radio, the sound will mystify them.”</i>
narrative	in story form; a story, account, tale <i>“Between the scenes of the play, one student read narrative passages.”</i>
necessary	essential; indispensable; mandatory <i>“The increase in dues made it necessary for us to amend the bylaws.”</i>
neither	not one or the other; no one <i>“Neither of the two cousins was invited to attend.”</i>
nineteen	nine more than ten <i>“Nineteen guests attended the dinner.”</i>
nominee	candidate for election; one chosen or appointed <i>“There were several candidates on the ballot, but only one nominee for the office treasurer.”</i>
normally	naturally; usually; ordinarily <i>“We could normally expect a full day’s work during the summer.”</i>
novelette	short fictional story <i>“The novelette was made into a movie script.”</i>
numismatist	coin collector <i>“The rare four dollar U.S. coin was verified as legitimate by a numismatist who was familiar with various coins.”</i>
oasis	fertile place in the desert; welcome relief from difficulty <i>“The oasis had a good water well and was fringed with welcome shade.”</i>
obsession	persistent idea, desire, emotion <i>“Parents grew concerned when their teenager’s cell phone seemed to be more of an obsession than just a useful device.”</i>
occasion	fact or event making something possible; happening; occurrence <i>“The majesty of the occasion thrilled us all.”</i>
occurrence	happening; event; something that takes place <i>“The second occurrence of the conference will not be until next year.”</i>

offering	gift or contribution; theatrical presentation <i>"They are offering a reward for the return of their cat."</i>
official	holding position of authority; authorized <i>"Only the official administrator of the city could declare a state of emergency."</i>
ogle	to stare at boldly in an impertinent, provocative way <i>"The variety of cookies in the bakery window caused the children to ogle them."</i>
oligarchy	a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few persons <i>"Political office was restricted to those who knew a member of the oligarchy."</i>
omission	failure to include; left out; failure to do as one should <i>"The omission of the word changed the context of the sentence."</i>
omniscient	having infinite knowledge <i>"Unless you're omniscient, you can't possibly predict what type of technology we'll be relying on in twenty years."</i>
onomatopoeia	formation of a word by imitating the natural sound associated with the object or action involved <i>"One example of onomatopoeia is the word 'buzz'."</i>
opaque	not letting light pass through; not transparent or translucent <i>"The window shade was opaque, emitting no light at all."</i>
opponent	person against one; adversary <i>"The candidate's opponent waged a clean campaign."</i>
opulent	very wealthy or rich <i>"The car's interior was opulent."</i>
oread	a mountain nymph <i>"An oread prefers to live in hills and mountains."</i>
ostracize	to banish, bar, exclude <i>"In our food shortage study we wanted to see how many subjects would be willing to ostracize others to save themselves."</i>
pageantry	gorgeous display <i>"There was no shortage of pageantry for the royal couple."</i>
parallel	extending in the same direction, at the same distance, never to meet <i>"Fern Avenue and Cypress Avenue run parallel to each other."</i>

paramount	ranking higher than any other, as in power or importance; chief; supreme <i>"The ability to teach students to think is paramount to a teacher's success."</i>
paraphernalia	personal belongings; articles used in a particular activity <i>"Bring along your fishing paraphernalia when we go camping next week."</i>
parody	a poor or weak imitation <i>"The play was a parody of the Broadway hit."</i>
parsimonious	miserly <i>"Scrooge was a parsimonious man."</i>
passable	can be circulated as genuine; can be traveled, crossed over; adequate <i>"The mountain road was winding and narrow but looked passable."</i>
pedagogue	a teacher <i>"Only a great pedagogue could have taught that complex course."</i>
peppery	highly seasoned; sharp or fiery in speech; irritable <i>"The dip was peppery but really delicious."</i>
perceptive	able to perceive quickly and easily <i>"The driver was perceptive and avoided the accident."</i>
perennial	lasting or continuing for a long time <i>"Billie Jean King was a perennial champion."</i>
perforate	to make a hole or holes through, as by punching or boring; pierce <i>"You must perforate the ballot to record your selections."</i>
pejorative	disparaging or derogatory <i>"While the detectives were supposed to be neutral, they described the suspect in a pejorative manner."</i>
permeable	that which can be permeated <i>"The skin is a semi-permeable membrane."</i>
permission	formal consent; allowing to leave or go <i>"We were required to have parental permission to ride the bus."</i>
pernicious	fatal; deadly <i>"The common cold is usually not a pernicious disease."</i>
perpetuity	the state or quality of being perpetual <i>"Many say the natural resources of this planet will not last in perpetuity."</i>

persiflage	light, frivolous or flippant style of writing or speaking <i>"Comedians commonly use persiflage in their acts."</i>
persuade	urge to do something; to convince <i>"If your friends try to persuade you to break the law, you should consider making new friends."</i>
pertinent	having a connection with; to the point; relevant <i>"We thought the action was pertinent for the results we desired."</i>
phenomenal	highly remarkable <i>"As one can see from our phenomenal sales, our business is having an amazing year."</i>
phenomenon	any extremely unusual or extraordinary thing or occurrence <i>"Haley's Comet is a phenomenon to remember."</i>
phlegm	thick, stringy mucus discharged from the throat, as during a cold <i>"If the patient is coughing up phlegm, the cough should be allowed to continue."</i>
pinion	to confine or shackle <i>"The police threatened to pinion the suspect."</i>
pittance	small amount or share, such as money <i>"The musicians earn a pittance for their weekly bar show."</i>
plagiarize	to take (ideas, writings, etc.) from (another) and pass them off as one's own <i>"The teacher told the class not to plagiarize any work."</i>
platitude	a commonplace or trite remark, especially one uttered as if it were fresh or original <i>"After hearing the salesperson's unoriginal platitude, I decided to go to another car dealer."</i>
platter	large, shallow dish for serving food <i>"We needed the largest platter for the turkey."</i>
plausible	seemingly true; seemingly honest, trustworthy, etc. <i>"The writer of the movie consulted a professional athlete in order to make the sports' film more plausible."</i>
plebeian	vulgar, coarse, or common <i>"The millionaire called the hotel a plebeian accommodation because it did not offer room service."</i>

plebiscite	a direct vote by the entire people to accept or refuse the measure or program <i>“After the votes in the plebiscite were counted, the city manager announced a new school would be built.”</i>
plenary	for attendance by all members <i>“The plenary session of the association was called to order by the president.”</i>
plentiful	sufficient or more than enough; abundant <i>“A plentiful supply of oranges has caused the fruit’s price to decline.”</i>
poinsettia	Mexican and Central American plant with yellow flowers surrounded by tapering red leaves resembling petals <i>“The name of the poinsettia plant is often mispronounced.”</i>
polarize	to separate into diametrically opposed, often antagonistic, groups, viewpoints <i>“The new housing development will polarize the community.”</i>
porpoise	any of several small, gregarious cetaceans, usually blackish above and paler beneath, and having a blunt, rounded snout <i>“Dolphins and porpoises actually differ in their faces, fins and body shapes.”</i>
possibility	quality or condition of being done, known or acquired <i>“There is a possibility that our next trip will be to Disneyland.”</i>
potpourri	a medley, miscellany, or anthology <i>“A mixture of various meats and vegetables is called a potpourri.”</i>
pottery	place where earthenware is made; ceramics, pots, etc. made of clay <i>“The pottery is not ready for use until hardened by heat.”</i>
practically	in a workable way; almost; nearly <i>“My essay is practically finished now.”</i>
precipitate	to cause to happen before expected <i>“The jolt may precipitate an explosion.”</i>
precursor	a person or thing that goes before <i>“Elvis was the precursor of rock and roll.”</i>
premiere	to exhibit (a play, movie, etc.) for the first time <i>“The audience was filled with anticipation while waiting for the premiere performance to commence.”</i>

premise	to introduce or preface <i>“The entire premise of the case hinges on whether or not the defendant had a motive.”</i>
prestigious	having or imparting prestige or distinction <i>“The prestigious writer had a great following.”</i>
pretense	false claim or profession <i>“The small hotel is without pretense and does not claim to be as grand as a luxury hotel.”</i>
prevision	foresight or foreknowledge <i>“Some prevision warned the explorer of trouble.”</i>
privilege	a right, advantage, favor or immunity granted to one; option to buy or sell <i>“That privilege is held by only a certain group.”</i>
procession	orderly parade moving forward; in an orderly formal way <i>“The elephants moved in procession – trunk to tail.”</i>
prodigy	a person, think or act so extraordinary as to inspire wonder <i>“Mozart was a child prodigy.”</i>
profession	vocation or occupation requiring advanced education or training <i>“The profession of medicine involves intellectual skills as well as education.”</i>
profligate	extremely wasteful; recklessly extravagant <i>“None of the company’s leaders are willing to accept responsibility for the profligate manner in which our money was spent.”</i>
progeny	children, descendants, or offspring collectively <i>“We could be dooming our progeny by ruining the environment.”</i>
proliferate	to multiply rapidly <i>“As nuclear weapons proliferate, we are all concerned.”</i>
propitiate	appease or conciliate <i>“I’ve never gone out of my way to propitiate people.”</i>
propriety	conformity with what is proper or fitting <i>“An etiquette book gives rules of propriety.”</i>
proscenium	the apron of a stage <i>“The curtain closed behind her as she stepped forward to speak to the audience from the proscenium.”</i>

prosciutto	salted ham that has been cured by drying, always sliced paper-thin for serving <i>“For the nightly special, the chef made fettuccini with prosciutto and peas.”</i>
pseudo	sham; false; spurious; pretended; counterfeit <i>“The pseudo – classical architecture follows the ancient customs and is very elegant.”</i>
psychosomatic	designating or of a physical disorder of the body originating in or aggravated by the psychic or emotional processes of the individual <i>“There are several ways in which psychosomatic symptoms can be generated.”</i>
publicly	open to all; commonly known or observed <i>“It was publicly announced that there would be a merger of the companies.”</i>
pursuit	try to overtake or catch; an occupation, career to which one devotes time and energy; striving for <i>“The leopard is capable of reaching a very high speed when in pursuit of a prey.”</i>
qualms	sudden brief feelings of sickness, faintness, nausea; feelings of doubt <i>“My qualms with this company is their lack of contributions to local charities.”</i>
quarrel	cause for dispute or disagreement; to find fault; complain heatedly <i>“A quarrel can break up friendly relations.”</i>
quasi	having a likeness to something; resembling <i>“The quasi scholar carried many books, but never read them.”</i>
questionnaire	form used for gathering information; set of questions <i>“The questionnaire was lengthy but fun to do.”</i>
quixotic	extravagantly chivalrous or romantically idealistic <i>“The burglars were still stuck in the city because their quixotic getaway plan had failed.”</i>
raillery	light, good-natured ridicule or satire <i>“I’m never offended by my manager’s raillery because I know it’s simply good-natured teasing.”</i>
rapport	relationship, esp. a close one; agreement; harmony <i>“The rapport I have with my therapists allows me to talk about my deepest thoughts.”</i>
rascalion	a rascal; rogue <i>“The rascalion ran off with the money.”</i>

rasher	a thin slice of bacon or, rarely, ham, for frying or broiling <i>"A greasy rasher popped and sizzled in the pan."</i>
ratiocinate	to reason logically and methodically <i>"Solving algebra problems requires students to engage in ratiocinate thought to determine the unknown variable."</i>
really	in fact; actually; truly or genuinely <i>"They did not really understand the danger involved."</i>
rebellion	act or state of armed resistance; defiance of authority <i>"The rebellion was well armed and organized."</i>
receipt	written acknowledgement; to mark paid <i>"The receipt showed the invoice had been paid in full."</i>
receptacle	container; vessel to hold something <i>"The antique hall stand had a metal receptacle for wet umbrellas."</i>
recipe	a list of ingredients and directions for preparing a dish; procedure <i>"The recipe for carrot cake was one of the chef's favorites."</i>
reclamation	reclaiming or being reclaimed <i>"The reclamation program for the eroded land was successful."</i>
reconnaissance	an exploratory survey or examination <i>"The corporal led a special squad on a reconnaissance mission."</i>
recycle	to use and reuse again and again <i>"We save a lot of items to take to the recycle collection stations."</i>
redolence	the quality or state of being redolent, fragrant, aromatic <i>"I liked the redolence of the pine boughs."</i>
regenerate	renewed or restored <i>"The brain has the amazing ability to regenerate cells, restoring them as they are lost."</i>
rejuvenate	to make seem fresh or new again <i>"A long vacation will rejuvenate the teachers."</i>
relegate	to refer, commit, or hand over for decision, action <i>"The director will relegate the problem to the committee."</i>
relieve	lessen pressure; lighten or reduce pain; free or send help <i>"They played games to relieve the monotony of the trip."</i>
reminisce	to think, talk or write about remembered events or experiences <i>"As soon as the veterans get together, they reminisce about their service days."</i>

repartee	a quick, witty reply <i>"The repartee between the two actors made the movie really funny."</i>
repatriate	to send back or return to the country of birth, citizenship, or allegiance <i>"We hope they will repatriate our prisoners of war."</i>
repellent	pushing away or driving back; able to resist absorption of water <i>"We applied the solution to the garment to make it water repellent."</i>
repertoire	the stock of special skills, devices, techniques of a particular person or particular field of endeavor <i>"The ball player's repertoire was amazing."</i>
replicate	to repeat or duplicate <i>"The scientist will try to replicate the experiment."</i>
repository	a box, chest, closet, or room in which things may be placed for safe keeping <i>"The jewels were missing from the repository."</i>
repossess	reclaim; get back <i>"The buyer failed to make payment, so the furniture was available for the seller to repossess."</i>
reprehensible	deserving to be reprehended <i>"Assassination is a reprehensible crime."</i>
rescind	to revoke, repeal, or cancel <i>"The officers of the company will rescind the ruling."</i>
resilient	recovering strength, spirits, good humor, etc., quickly; buoyant <i>"The American people are very resilient; they bounce back no matter what happens."</i>
resistance	act of opposing, withstanding; ability to ward off disease <i>"It is hoped that flu shots will increase our resistance to colds."</i>
resonance	the sound produced in the percussion of some part of the body, especially of the chest. <i>"Playing piano sets up resonance in the glass vases nearby."</i>
responsibility	obligation; accountability; dependability <i>"Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is the responsibility of everyone since we ultimately have the power to eat whatever we like."</i>
restitution	a making good for loss or damage <i>"The settlement was a fair restitution for the accident."</i>
retaliate	to return like for like <i>"The government plans to retaliate for the terrorism."</i>

retroactive	having application to or effect on things prior to its enactment <i>"The retroactive pay increase was appreciated by all of the workers."</i>
reverie	a dreamy, fanciful, or visionary notion or daydream <i>"To me music is a reverie that allows me to escape my tedious job."</i>
revolving	circling around; regularly replenished as a charge account <i>"The revolving door is used to keep out drafts of air."</i>
rheostat	a device for varying the resistance of an electric circuit without interrupting the circuit <i>"A light dimmer is a rheostat."</i>
rhythm	flow or apparent movement in a work of art, literature, drama, etc., through patterns in the timing, spacing, repetition, accenting, etc., of the elements <i>"The rhythm of the story kept our attention."</i>
righteous	just, upright manner of acting; morally justifiable <i>"No matter how good and righteous you think your cause is, you cannot break the law."</i>
rigmarole	a foolishly involved, fussy, or time-wasting procedure <i>"Registration for school is full of rigmarole."</i>
rosette	ornament made of ribbons gathered in the shape of a rose <i>"A rosette is perfect for the buttonhole of a lapel."</i>
rubbery	elastic; toughness <i>"Beating eggs too much will result in a rubbery consistency."</i>
ruckus	noisy confusion; uproar; row; disturbance <i>"The ruckus on campus quickly ended."</i>
rudiment	a first principle, element, or fundamental, as of a subject to be learned <i>"One rudiment of singing is proper breathing."</i>
sacrosanct	very sacred, holy, or inviolable <i>"The award-winning filmmakers felt their movies were too sacrosanct to be criticized by the media."</i>
salient	noticeable; conspicuous <i>"Without all of the salient data, it will be impossible for the accountant to prepare your tax returns."</i>
sanguinary	bloodthirsty <i>"I get queasy at the sight of blood so I cover my eyes during sanguinary films."</i>

sapphire	hard, transparent precious stone of deep blue color <i>"My sapphire had a six-pointed star in it."</i>
scallion	variety of onion; long stem and almost bulbless root <i>"We prefer the scallion rather than the large white or yellow onion."</i>
scarcity	inadequate supply; rarity; uncommonness <i>"During the hot spell of summer, we had a scarcity of water."</i>
scathing	searing; withering; harsh or caustic <i>"The scathing criticism did not inspire the students to improve their writing skills."</i>
schism	a split or division in an organized group or society <i>"Because of the schism that has divided the football players, our high school team will not play a game this week."</i>
schooner	a ship with two or more masts rigged fore and aft <i>"The schooner stood well out in the bay but was easily seen."</i>
sciatica	pain and tenderness at some points of the sciatic nerve, usually caused by a prolapsed intervertebral disk <i>"Most sciatica patients are delighted with the results they get after weeks or months of care."</i>
scintilla	a particle; the least trace: used only figuratively <i>"Wild charges flourished without a scintilla of evidence."</i>
sciolism	superficial knowledge <i>"An age of sciolism may get the better of the literary world."</i>
scissors	a cutting instrument; having two blades which work against each other <i>"The scissors used by the kindergarteners have blunt ends."</i>
scrimmage	rough and tumble fight; confused struggle; football play <i>"The two teams lined up to take part in the scrimmage."</i>
scrumptious	very pleasing, attractive esp. to the taste; delicious <i>"Not a crumb of the scrumptious cake was left."</i>
secrecy	the condition of being concealed; kept secluded <i>"Everyone involved in the secrecy of the surprise party did their part."</i>
semaphore	an apparatus or system for signaling <i>"The Navy often uses a semaphore system to send messages between ships at sea."</i>
sensible	easily perceived or noticed; intellectually aware; reasonable <i>"If you are sensible, you will not use your credit cards unnecessarily."</i>

sepulcher	tomb <i>"The fans of the dead celebrity placed flowers and gifts near the marble sepulcher."</i>
sequel	something that follows <i>"Will there be a sequel to the movie?"</i>
seraglio	the palace of a Turkish sultan <i>"The crown jewels were located in the seraglio."</i>
serene	not disturbed or troubled <i>"The serene lake did not have a ripple on the surface."</i>
serviette	a table napkin <i>"Do you have a serviette, please?"</i>
shibboleth	any phrase, custom, etc., distinctive of a particular party, class, etc. <i>"In order to be recognized by fellow club members, you must learn the shibboleth we use as a greeting."</i>
shimmer	shine with unsteady light; glimmer <i>"The reflection from waves made the dim light shimmer."</i>
shrubbery	place of low-growing, woody plantings <i>"We lost the ball when it went into the shrubbery."</i>
silhouette	an outline of a figure, garment, etc. <i>"From the building's dark silhouette in the painting, I can recognize it as the tallest structure in the world."</i>
silverware	tableware made of or coated with silver <i>"The silverware showed clearly the care taken to polish it."</i>
similar	nearly but not exactly the same; resemblance <i>"Our new shoes were similar."</i>
skimmer	that which is used to remove floating matter from a liquid <i>"We had to buy a new net for the pool skimmer."</i>
sleeveless	having no sleeves; nothing over the arms <i>"Winter is not the season for sleeveless clothing."</i>
smidgen	a small amount; a bit <i>"A smidgen of pepper should be added next."</i>
solicitor	one who seeks contributions or trade <i>"The best way of finding a solicitor is through personal recommendation."</i>

solicitous	showing care, attention, or concern <i>"The parents were solicitous about the child's health."</i>
solstice	either of two points on the sun's ecliptic at which it is farthest north or south of the equator <i>"The summer solstice occurs in June and is the longest day of the year."</i>
somnolent	sleepy; drowsy <i>"The somnolent truck driver stopped for coffee."</i>
sophomoric	of, like, or characteristic of a sophomore or sophomores, often regarded as self-assured, opinionated, though immature <i>"The sophomoric humor in the movie only appeals to teenagers."</i>
spanning	to extend, reach or cross over, etc. <i>"The bridge spanning the mighty river was teeming with traffic."</i>
spasmodic	having an involuntary contraction, temporarily or intermittently <i>"People who have spasmodic seizures may have warning signs that alert them of the upcoming convulsions."</i>
spectroscopy	the use of the spectroscope to study optics <i>"The study of optics is aided by spectroscopy."</i>
speechless	unable to talk; silent, as from shock <i>"The sight of the Grand Canyon made them temporarily speechless."</i>
splutter	making hissing sounds; speak hurriedly; utter sounds of confusion <i>"The rain caused the lamp to splutter."</i>
spoonfuls	as much as a spoon will hold <i>"The plates were filled by heaping spoonfuls."</i>
spotter	person or thing that removes stains; watcher for aircraft <i>"Police brought in a spotter plane to clock the speeds of bikers."</i>
spume	foam, froth, or scum <i>"The water will spume out of the pipe indicating a soapy condition."</i>
statute	established rule; legislation passed <i>"The statute was passed by the state legislative body."</i>
strategic	favorable planning; maneuvering advantageously <i>"Winning at chess consists of strategic moves."</i>
strictly	precisely; exactly; closely enforced <i>"The diet must be followed strictly as ordered."</i>

stymie	to block; impede <i>“At the concert, the security guards worked hard to stymie crazed fans from grabbing their idols.”</i>
subcutaneous	being, used, or introduced beneath the skin <i>“You could consider a splinter a subcutaneous wound since it usually gets stuck under your skin.”</i>
substantive	of considerable amount or quantity; substantial <i>“Their donation of \$5,000 was substantive.”</i>
succinct	clearly and briefly stated <i>“The ideal summary is succinct and to the point.”</i>
succumb	give away to; yield or submit <i>“I will not succumb to the temptations offered by the donut shop.”</i>
superfluous	not needed, unnecessary, irrelevant <i>“I have cut down every superfluous expense.”</i>
superintendent	person in charge; supervisor, custodian <i>“The superintendent was found to be honest and trustworthy.”</i>
supervisor	manager; director <i>“The supervisor is in charge of the courses and the teachers.”</i>
surreptitious	acting in a secret, stealthy way <i>“The conspirators held a surreptitious meeting.”</i>
surveillance	supervision or inspection <i>“The police kept the prisoners under constant surveillance.”</i>
sycophant	a person who seeks favor by flattering people of wealth or influence <i>“While it helps to be a sycophant if you want to excel in politics, you can also go far by simply being straightforward with people.”</i>
syllipsis	a grammatical construction <i>“A syllipsis is used to modify two or more words in the same sentence.”</i>
sympathize	to share or understand another’s feelings; express pity <i>“They could sympathize with their neighbors who had been robbed.”</i>
synthesis	the putting together of parts or elements so as to form a whole <i>“A good composition is the synthesis of many skills.”</i>
syzygy	either of two opposing points in the orbit of a heavenly body at which it is in conjunction to or in opposition to the sun <i>“We studied the condition of syzygy in astronomy.”</i>

technical	technical arts or applied sciences; the practical arts <i>“Only a technical expert would be aware of the meaning of those terms.”</i>
tenacious	persistent, stubborn <i>“The reporter’s tenacious search for the truth helped solve a murder case that had been open for twenty years.”</i>
tenuous	not substantial, slight, flimsy <i>“The tenuous bridge was washed away in the storm.”</i>
therapeutic	serving to cure or heal; curative <i>“The therapeutic massage relieved the pain in my back.”</i>
tranquilizer	a person or thing that tranquilizes <i>“They plan to sedate the giant mammal with a tranquilizer.”</i>
transition	a passing from one condition, form, stage, activity, place to another <i>“The transition from fall to winter was marked by a storm.”</i>
transmission	something transmitted <i>“The radio transmission was received in Brazil.”</i>
triage	the process of sorting victims, as of a battle or disaster, to determine medical priority in order to increase the number of survivors <i>“The paramedics had to immediately do triage upon arriving at the scene of the disaster.”</i>
unctuous	oily or greasy <i>“Goose fat gives the most unctuous flavor but you can use chicken fat.”</i>
unprecedented	unheard-of; novel <i>“The president took unprecedented steps toward peace.”</i>
unscathed	not hurt, uninjured, unharmed <i>“Fortunately, the firefighters were able to get out of the building unscathed.”</i>
utilitarian	of or having to do with utility; usefulness <i>“A garbage can is a very utilitarian gift.”</i>
vengeance	revenge <i>“The family sought vengeance for the loss.”</i>
verdigris	a green or greenish-blue coating that forms like rust on brass, bronze, or copper <i>“The verdigris on the city hall dome must be removed.”</i>

verisimilitude	the appearance of being true or real <i>"The color treatment of black and white movies has a verisimilitude."</i>
vertigo	a subjective sensation of dizziness in which an individual feels that he, or his surrounding, is whirling about sickeningly <i>"During my doctor's visit, I was told my lightheadedness was caused by vertigo brought on by an ear infection."</i>
vicissitude	shifting circumstances <i>"A vicissitude of public life is the election process."</i>
vignette	a short, delicate literary sketch <i>"The vignette was a great work by the promising author."</i>
visionary	a person whose ideas, plans, are impractical, too idealistic, or fantastic; dreamer <i>"The visionary described a utopia that could never exist."</i>
wobbly	shaky; trembly <i>"The legs of the table needed strengthening because they were wobbly."</i>
xenophobia	fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything foreign or strange <i>"Xenophobia sometimes limits people from learning about others."</i>
xylophone	a musical percussion instrument <i>"The xylophone is an instrument in the percussion family."</i>
zealot	a person who is zealous to an extreme degree; fanatic <i>"The zealot was dedicated to the cause."</i>

LEVEL III

aardvark	burrowing African mammal; earth pig <i>"The aardvark feeds on ants and termites and is active at night."</i>
abattoir	to beat down; fell; a slaughterhouse <i>"They built a new abattoir on the outskirts of the city."</i>
abecedarian	beginning student; learning the alphabet <i>"The abecedarian in the class had never attended school until now."</i>
abeyance	temporary suspension, as of an activity or function <i>"Due to the rain, the rodeo was in abeyance."</i>
abhorrence	loathing; detestation; something repugnant <i>"As a pacifist, I have a strong abhorrence of violence."</i>
abnegate	deny or refuse; renounce; to give up all claim to <i>"The school principal hoped the speaker could encourage students to abnegate the use of drugs."</i>
abolitionist	one who favored giving up slavery <i>"My professor is an abolitionist who travels throughout the world speaking out against human rights violations."</i>
abreact	to relieve emotion by talking about it <i>"The young child was surprisingly able to abreact the most complex of feelings."</i>
abscissa	the coordinate representing the distance of a point from the y-axis measured along a line parallel to the x-axis <i>"The abscissa is the value of all x coordinates."</i>
acanthoid	spiny or spiny-shaped <i>"The cactus plant is an acanthoid."</i>
acappella	without instrumental accompaniment <i>"They both sang in the a cappella choir in high school."</i>
accelerator	a person or thing that increased the speed of something <i>"A chemical was used as an accelerator in the development of the film."</i>
accessory	extra; additional; helping in a subordinate way <i>"This silk scarf is the perfect accessory for stylish summer evenings."</i>
accumbent	lying down <i>"The gardener planted accumbent ivy that spread over the old brick walk."</i>
accusatorial	of, or in the manner of, an accuser; blamer <i>"The system became almost completely accusatorial and the judge decided the case on evidence presented by both sides."</i>

acidulous	somewhat sarcastic <i>"Because the salesperson spoke to me in an acidulous tone, I chose to take my business elsewhere."</i>
acme	the highest point <i>"The team reached its acme when it won the national championship."</i>
acolyte	one who assists in a religious service; follower <i>"A cult depends on having one acolyte after another in order to grow."</i>
acquiescent	agreeing or consenting without protest, but without enthusiasm <i>"Most of the class was acquiescent."</i>
adamant	unyielding <i>"The author's pleas to extend the deadline met with adamant refusal."</i>
adiabatic	involving expansion or compression without loss or gain of heat <i>"The compression and power strokes of a gasoline engine are adiabatic processes."</i>
aeronautics	the science, art, or work of designing, making, and operating aircraft <i>"Aeronautics doesn't deal with only space adventures, but the science of flight in general."</i>
aeroneurosis	nervous disorder of airplane pilots caused by the tension of flying <i>"The pilot's abdominal pains were suggestive of aeroneurosis."</i>
affectionately	devotedly; lovingly; warmly <i>"This series of photographs affectionately evokes the experience of watching movies."</i>
affidavit	written statement made before a notary public <i>"Once the affidavit is verified, it will be turned over to the judge to be used as a factor in the guardianship decision."</i>
aficionado	a devoted follower of some sport, art, etc. <i>"Without an aficionado to lead them through the process of building the robot, the science students were forced to figure it out themselves."</i>
agape	with or as with the mouth wide open, in surprise, wonder, etc. <i>"When I first saw the sunset in the Grand Canyon, I could only stand staring with my mouth agape."</i>
agglutinated	stuck together as with glue; joined by adhesion <i>"The blood cells formed an agglutinated mass suspended in the fluid."</i>
aggrieved	offended; wronged; injured in one's legal rights <i>"When the teacher accused the wrong student of throwing the wad of paper, the aggrieved student's face grew red with anger."</i>

agitated	shaken; perturbed; excited <i>“An agitated fan started cursing from the stands as the team made one bad play after another.”</i>
agitprop	of or for agitating and propagandizing <i>“In the 1920’s, agitprop theater was used to influence watchers politically.”</i>
agonistic	contesting; combative <i>“A horde of agonistic lawyers stormed the bench.”</i>
agoraphobia	abnormal fear of crossing, or of being in, open spaces <i>“The psychiatrist sees patients with severe agoraphobia in their homes since they are too fearful to come to the office.”</i>
aiguille	peak of rock shaped like a needle <i>“The aiguille was so high in the air it could be seen for miles.”</i>
akimbo	with hands on hip and elbows bent outward <i>“Arms akimbo, the teacher stood waiting for an answer.”</i>
alacrity	eager willingness or readiness, often manifested by quick, lively action <i>“Tip in hand, the maitre d’ seated the couple with alacrity.”</i>
alchemy	early form of chemistry; changing something to something better <i>“The chief aim in the study of alchemy in the Middle Ages was to change baser metals into gold and to discover the elixir of perpetual youth.”</i>
algae	group of plants having no true root, stem or leaf <i>“Chemicals help to keep algae from growing in the swimming pool.”</i>
alignment	arrangement in a straight line <i>“Because the car’s front end was out of alignment, a mechanic was hired to straighten things up.”</i>
allegiance	obligation of support and loyalty <i>“We took an oath of allegiance upon entering the military, and none of us plan on violating it.”</i>
allonym	another name, usually historical, adopted by an author <i>“The writer’s allonym was Socrates.”</i>
alopecia	loss of hair on the head; baldness <i>“Alopecia is an autoimmune disorder which causes complete hair loss and a shaken self-image.”</i>
altruistic	unselfish <i>“The billionaire is altruistic, giving away millions of dollars every year to various charities.”</i>

alyssum	plant in the mustard family <i>"We planted sweet alyssum as a border along the walkway."</i>
amateur	nonprofessional; one who does something for pleasure rather than for pay <i>"Even though I am an amateur singer, I hope to make a career out of it one day."</i>
amaurosis	partial or total blindness <i>"A small minority of those who experience amaurosis have a stroke or permanent vision loss as a result."</i>
ambiance	an environment or its distinct atmosphere <i>"The ambiance of New Orleans is very European."</i>
ambulatory	able to walk and not confined to bed <i>"We will be opening two new ambulatory care facilities for private patients in May."</i>
ameliorate	to make or become better; improve <i>"The children at the orphanage thought the new wing would ameliorate the current conditions."</i>
amenity	pleasant quality; attractiveness <i>"The walk-in closet was my favorite amenity in the apartment."</i>
amethyst	a purple or violet variety of quartz used for jewelry <i>"I want an amethyst ring, but I don't know what my ring size is."</i>
amoeba	microscopic one-celled animal <i>"The amoeba is found in soil and in water."</i>
amphibious	can live both on land and in water; can operate or travel on land or on water <i>"The seaborne transport made an amphibious landing of troops on shore."</i>
anaglyph	ornament carved in low relief, such as a cameo <i>"The anaglyph sometimes seems three dimensional."</i>
anchorage	money charged for the right to tie up in the port; something to rely on <i>"We left the ship in secure anchorage at the port."</i>
aneurysm, aneurism	sac formed by local enlargement of the weakened wall of an artery, caused by disease or injury <i>"The doctors had to locate and remove the aneurysm."</i>
anguished	distressed; in great pain; suffering from worry <i>"Beneath their highly cool exterior, they were anguished and distraught."</i>

annihilate	to bring to nothing; destroy completely <i>“Nuclear war would annihilate the earth.”</i>
anodyne	relieving or lessening pain; soothing <i>“Soft music is the perfect anodyne to help me relax after work.”</i>
antediluvian	of or relating to the time before the biblical flood; made or developed a long time ago <i>“Our prospective home is in good condition except for an antediluvian heating system that needs to be replaced.”</i>
anthropomorphic	characterized by the ascribing of human characteristics to inanimate objects or animals <i>“The poet wrote an anthropomorphic description of a tree.”</i>
applique	applying decorative material to another by sewing or adhesive <i>“Applique art has a long history in China.”</i>
arabesque	a complex and elaborate design of intertwined flowers, foliage, geometrical patterns, etc., painted or carved in low relief <i>“The famous unicorn tapestry, with its intricate floral pattern, is an arabesque.”</i>
arachnoid	resembling a spider’s web; covered with or made up of thin, soft, entangled hairs <i>“The lacy table cloth at the old restaurant had an arachnoid look to it.”</i>
arboreal	living in trees or adapted for living in trees <i>“Monkeys are arboreal creatures.”</i>
archipelago	a group or chain of many islands <i>“We visited the Philippine archipelago last year.”</i>
arenaceous	sandy <i>“The cactus grows well in arenaceous soil.”</i>
assentation	immediate and usually flattering or hypocritical assent <i>“All of their assentation had negative effects on the company’s reputation.”</i>
assiduous	diligent; persevering <i>“The assiduous students chose to work on their term paper instead of going out to play.”</i>
asthenic	designating or of a constitutional body type of slender physique <i>“Resistance training can benefit the asthenic individual.”</i>
autarky	national policy of getting along without imports <i>“In its disastrous attempt to achieve autarky, the Cambodian government abolished foreign trade.”</i>

bacchant	a drunken carouser <i>"The sleeping bacchant lay propped against the column of the hall."</i>
balalaika	stringed instrument like a guitar but with only three strings <i>"The balalaika is a favorite instrument of the Russian people."</i>
banquet	elaborate meal; formal dinner for many people <i>"A banquet would follow the reception."</i>
barouche	four-wheeled carriage with a collapsible hood, two double seats opposite each other and a box seat in front for the driver <i>"We were able to rent a barouche with a driver to take us through the park."</i>
barrister	counselor-at-law <i>"In England, a barrister is a qualified member of the legal profession."</i>
bedlam	any place or condition of noise and confusion <i>"The pillow fight turned the nursery into bedlam."</i>
behoove	to be morally necessary or proper <i>"It would behoove a jury to examine the evidence carefully."</i>
beneficence	the fact or quality of being kind; doing good; charity <i>"The enterpriser's beneficence is well-known."</i>
bequeathed	left to another in a will; handed down or passed on <i>"The billionaire bequeathed a large sum of money to the local homeless shelter."</i>
bespeak	to be indicative of <i>"The whimsical objects displayed at the gallery bespeak an up and coming artist with a lot of talent."</i>
bevy	any group or collection <i>"My essay grade was low because I had a bevy of mistakes in my paper."</i>
bezique	a card game resembling pinochle <i>"We enjoyed learning how to play bezique."</i>
bibliophile	person who loves or admires books; collector of books <i>"If you are a bibliophile, you can easily spend hours in a bookstore."</i>
bivouac	temporary encampment, esp. in the open <i>"We decided this would be a good place to bivouac for one night."</i>
blitzkrieg	sudden overwhelming attack <i>"The blitzkrieg resulted in a quick victory."</i>

bloodletting	bleeding; bloodshed <i>"Doctors used to believe in bloodletting to cure many illnesses."</i>
bludgeon	short club with heavy loaded end; to bully or coerce <i>"A bludgeon is a short stick used as a weapon."</i>
bolus	a large pill <i>"The vet prepared a bolus of antibiotics for the sick horse."</i>
bourgeois	shopkeeper; member of the middle class; self-employed person <i>"You should be less concerned about being bourgeois and more concerned about helping others."</i>
boutonniere	flower or flowers worn in a buttonhole <i>"The guest at the party was adorned with a white rose boutonniere."</i>
bowdlerize	to remove passages considered offensive from (a book, etc.) <i>"Since the studio feels my film is too racy, it has asked me to bowdlerize the movie so it will be family-friendly."</i>
brachial	of or like an arm; a wing or fin <i>"The swimmers swung arm over arm in a brachial movement, gliding through the pool."</i>
brilliance	brightness; radiance; intensity <i>"The moon shone with almost the brilliance of day."</i>
broccoli	vegetable plant related to the cauliflower <i>"We like broccoli cooked with a cheese sauce."</i>
bromide	a trite saying or statement <i>"Although it is just a cliché, there is a lot of truth in the bromide 'the best things in life are free.'"</i>
brumal	of winter; wintry <i>The brumal temperatures produced frost blossoms on the window panes."</i>
buoyancy	ability or tendency to float; cheerfulness <i>"We tested the boat for its buoyancy."</i>
businesslike	efficient; methodical <i>"The new product now needs to be marketed in a professional and businesslike manner, targeting potential new audiences."</i>
cacography	bad handwriting; incorrect spelling <i>"To improve my cacography, I practice my penmanship at least twenty minutes each day."</i>

cairn	a conical heap of stones built as a monument or landmark <i>"The explorers set up a cairn on the beach to mark the spot where they had first landed."</i>
calcify	to change into a hard, stony substance by the deposit of lime or calcium salts <i>"Rickets is a disease of children characterized by a failure of the growing bones to calcify normally."</i>
caliginous	dark; gloomy; obscure <i>"We lit candles which really didn't help much in the caliginous cellar."</i>
camelopard	early name for the giraffe <i>"The giraffe was called a camelopard because of its long neck like a camel and spots like a leopard."</i>
campanile	a bell tower, esp. one that stands apart from any other building <i>"The bell in the campanile rang loudly."</i>
cancellous	having a porous or spongy structure; close network of veins <i>"Some plants have cancellous leaves."</i>
canescent	become white or grayish <i>"The leaves of some plants become canescent."</i>
cantankerous	disagreeable to deal with; contentious; peevish <i>"By nature, bulls are cantankerous animals that prefer to be left alone."</i>
capriciousness	a change without apparent reason; erratic behavior <i>"On Halloween night, people are known to act upon some capriciousness."</i>
carillon	a set of stationary bells each producing one tone of the chromatic scale <i>"The church carillon peeled out one melody after another."</i>
carrefour	crossroads or intersection; public square or plaza <i>"We planned to meet in the carrefour when we finished our errands."</i>
cartographer	person who makes maps or charts. <i>"We went to the cartographer to get maps of the islands."</i>
castellated	built with turrets and battlements <i>"In Scotland, we saw many castellated buildings that were centuries old."</i>
catachresis	incorrect use of a word or words <i>"The editor checks for catachresis."</i>

catfalque	temporary wooden framework on which a coffin is placed <i>"Under the coffin, the catfalque was draped in white satin."</i>
catechism	a formal series of questions <i>"The catechism is used for religious instruction."</i>
caterwaul	shrill howling sound like a cat; screech <i>"In the quiet of the night, a caterwaul broke the silence."</i>
catharsis	the purifying of the emotions or relieving of emotional tensions, esp. by art <i>"When I hit a punching bag, I am generating my own personal catharsis by releasing my anger into an object."</i>
celerity	swiftness in acting or moving; speed <i>"In order to work as a ball person during a tennis game, you must be able to run with great celerity."</i>
cellophane	thin, transparent cellulose material <i>"We used cellophane to keep the wrappers moisture-proof."</i>
chameleon	lizard with the ability to change skin color; changeable person <i>"The chameleon blended so well with it's surroundings that it was hard to find."</i>
champaign	a broad plain, level and open country <i>"Nebraska is part of that vast Midwestern champaign that invites large-scale farming."</i>
chancellor	chief secretary of an embassy; university title for executive <i>"The chancellor is trying to smooth things over."</i>
characteristic	distinguishing trait, feature or quality; peculiarity <i>"A strong work ethic is a good characteristic to present during a job interview."</i>
charismatic	of, having, or resulting from charisma, the power of winning devotion of large numbers of people <i>"The students became captivated by their charismatic teacher."</i>
chauffeur	driver of a private automobile for someone else <i>"The chauffeur held the door open for me before taking his seat behind the wheel."</i>
chelicera	the first pair of appendages of spiders <i>"The spider uses its chelicera to grasp and crush with."</i>

chiaroscuro	the treatment of light and shade in a painting, drawing, etc., to produce the illusion of depth, a dramatic effect <i>“Many painters use chiaroscuro to heighten the drama in their paintings.”</i>
chide	to scold <i>“I don’t want the boss to chide me for being late again, so I’m setting the alarm for a half hour earlier.”</i>
chignon	a knot or coil of hair worn at the back of the neck <i>“Above the chignon they each displayed a bunch of fresh roses.”</i>
chinoiserie	ornate style of decoration for furniture, textiles, ceramics, etc. <i>“In 18th century Europe, chinoiserie was very popular.”</i>
chlorophyll	the green pigment found in plants <i>“The chlorophyll in plants is deeper in those that grow in bright sunlight.”</i>
choleric	having or showing a quick temper or irascible nature <i>“Since I do not sleep well, I am choleric when someone calls me after I have gone to bed.”</i>
chortle	to make, or utter with, a gleeful clucking or snorting sound <i>“When the professor made a dry joke, not a single student thought it was worth the effort of a chortle.”</i>
chronological	in order of occurrence <i>“I’m trying to achieve a chronological album of snapshots.”</i>
chuff	a boor, churl <i>“I cannot see why they should be rude, chuff, and disagreeable.”</i>
cicerone	a guide who explains the history and chief features of a place to sightseers <i>“In Rome, they hired a cicerone to show them the Colosseum.”</i>
circumlocution	in a roundabout, indirect, or lengthy way of expressing something <i>“Sneaky people who want others to be fooled by their words often use circumlocution to hide their true purposes.”</i>
circumspect	cautious; careful <i>“In this day and age, you need to be circumspect about giving out too much personal information on the internet.”</i>
cirriped	subclass saltwater crustaceans such as barnacles <i>“We hauled the cruiser out of the water to scrape the cirriped from the keel.”</i>

civilian	anyone not a member of the armed forces or police powers <i>"The undercover agent dresses in civilian clothes."</i>
coalesce	to grow together; to unite or merge into a single body, group, etc. <i>"The splint would help the broken bones to continue to coalesce."</i>
coetaneous	contemporary <i>"We selected the coetaneous furniture."</i>
colloquialism	conversational style or usage; informal idiom <i>"Colloquialism is mistakenly thought to be substandard which it is not."</i>
comestible	edible <i>"Although the soldiers were on the road, they prepared a meal that was very comestible."</i>
commensurable	two quantities having a common measure; properly proportioned <i>"Hours and minutes are commensurable."</i>
commodious	offering plenty of room; spacious <i>"The commodious office building housed twelve thousand workers."</i>
contumelious	insulting and humiliating <i>"The schoolyard bullies made contumelious remarks about their classmate that were both insulting and rude."</i>
corroborate	confirm; bolster; support; prove validity <i>"After watching the videotape, the officials were able to corroborate the runner's claim of interference during the race."</i>
costermonger	a person who sells fruits or vegetables from a cart or street stand <i>"This song must have been inspired by the costermonger community of London."</i>
crenelated	furnished with crenelations, in the manner of a battlement <i>"The crenelated molding gave the living room ceiling a solid, fortified look."</i>
cromlech	an ancient monument of monoliths, arranged in a circle and surrounding a mound or dolmen <i>"Stonehenge, the most famous cromlech, rises from the Salisbury plain."</i>
cryptic	mysterious; baffling <i>"Younger children will find it hard to understand the cryptic directions that go along with the chemistry set."</i>
crystallize	to give definite form to; to coat with sugar <i>"Some long-used customs crystallize into laws."</i>

cybernetics	a science dealing with the comparative study of the operations of complex electronic computers and the human nervous system <i>"The application of cybernetics to manufacturing has replaced many workers with machines."</i>
cynosure	one that serves to direct or guide; a center of attraction or attention <i>"For centuries, Paris has been the political, cultural, and economic cynosure for all of France."</i>
darkling	dark, dim obscure, etc. <i>"The night is darkling more rapidly these days."</i>
dastardly	mean; cowardly <i>"The trial exposed the dastardly methods utilized by the mob to acquire huge sums of money."</i>
decant	to pour from one container into another <i>"It was quite difficult to decant perfume from its original bottle into the beautiful vessel without smelling up the whole room."</i>
deficiency	absence of something essential; incompleteness <i>"Vitamin deficiency in the diet can cause illness."</i>
defunct	dead or extinct <i>"The journalist use to write for the newspaper that is now defunct."</i>
deglutition	the act or process of swallowing <i>"Painful deglutition is one of the after-effects of a tonsillectomy."</i>
deleterious	harmful to health; injurious <i>"Eating too much of the wrong foods can be deleterious."</i>
deprecate	to depreciate; belittle <i>"Before you deprecate my actions, you should first review your own behavior."</i>
desuetude	discontinuance from use or exercise <i>"The dusty typewriter has been in desuetude for over four decades."</i>
dichotomy	division into two parts, groups, or classes, esp. when these are sharply distinguished or opposed <i>"Nature and nurture is a dichotomy which has long been debated by scholars."</i>
dilettante	a person who follows an art or science only for amusement and in a superficial way <i>"Even though I have only been employed for a few months as a computer programmer, I am not a dilettante because my work is very important to me."</i>

doyen	the senior member, or dean, of a group <i>“For years, Bob Hope has been the doyen of American comedians.”</i>
dudgeon	anger or resentment <i>“The fuming rancher rode off into the sunset in high dudgeon.”</i>
dyslexia	impairment of the ability to read <i>“Dyslexia caused the student to have difficulty reading text books and taking notes during class.”</i>
eclectic	selecting from various systems, doctrines, or sources <i>“The great movie palaces of the twenties were eclectic extravaganzas of Spanish, Egyptian, and Indian architecture.”</i>
eclecticism	using or upholding a chosen system or method <i>“The professor’s eclecticism of philosophy was easily understood.”</i>
effervescent	bubbling up; foaming; vivacious <i>“The soda pop was so effervescent that its bubbles tickled my nose.”</i>
efficiency	ability to produce with a minimum of effort, expense or waste <i>“The cleaning efficiency of the washing machine decreases when too many items are added at once.”</i>
eidolon	an image without real existence; apparition <i>“The horse and rider appeared out of the fog like an eidolon.”</i>
emollient	something that has a softening or soothing effect <i>“An aggressive ad campaign touted the cream’s emollient powers.”</i>
empyrean	the highest heaven, the abode of God; the sky <i>“We were flying in the empyrean, yet it seemed endless above us.”</i>
encaustic	painted with wax colors fixed with heat, or with any process in which colors are burned in <i>“The ancient encaustic portraits still looked newly painted.”</i>
enchiridion	handbook, manual <i>“We expected the librarian would be able to help locate an enchiridion for us.”</i>
encomiastic	of, belonging to, or bestowing praise; eulogistic <i>“The dinner in honor of Dr. King featured encomiastic addresses by several local dignitaries.”</i>
enfranchise	to give a franchise to; specif., to admit to citizenship, esp. to the right to vote <i>“The 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed to enfranchise all adult women in the United States.”</i>

ennui	weariness and dissatisfaction resulting from inactivity or lack of interest <i>"The typists fought ennui by doing whatever they could to alter their daily routine."</i>
ephemeral	short-lived; transitory <i>"Since current fashion trends are ephemeral, I select more classic styles."</i>
epistemology	the study or theory of the origin, nature, methods, and limits of knowledge <i>"When studying epistemology, one must consider how knowledge is acquired."</i>
eponym	a real or mythical person from whose name the name of a nation, institution, etc., is derived <i>"Romulus is the eponym for the city of Rome."</i>
equanimity	the quality of remaining calm and undisturbed <i>"During the horrible storm, it was hard for us to focus and maintain our equanimity."</i>
equilibrist	performer who does tricks of balancing <i>"The equilibrist on the tightrope high above us held us enthralled."</i>
equipoise	state of balance or equilibrium <i>"The lecturer always tried to keep an equipoise between engaging and challenging assignments."</i>
equipollent	equal in power, effectiveness or significance <i>"The weights had to be equipollent on the scales."</i>
escritoire	a writing desk or table <i>"The escritoire in the museum was very old and well preserved."</i>
espionage	the act of spying <i>"James Bond's films showed the glamorous side of espionage."</i>
etiolate	to blanch or bleach by depriving of sunlight <i>"The blockage of light by the newly erected building next door caused our geraniums to etiolate."</i>
euphemism	use of a word considered less distasteful even though less direct <i>"Instead of referring to the body as a corpse, they used the euphemism, 'remains'."</i>
euphony	the quality of having a pleasant sound <i>"The euphony of the reader's voice tempted me to fall asleep."</i>

exigency	a situation calling for immediate action or attention <i>“The gasoline shortage was the exigency that drove the Europeans to manufacture small cars.”</i>
expunge	blot out or strike out <i>“Because the court has decided to expunge my criminal record, there will be no evidence of my past misdeeds.”</i>
extrapolate	to arrive at conclusions or results by hypothesizing from known facts or observations <i>“The scientist tried to extrapolate the future results by looking at data from previous testing dates.”</i>
exuviae	castoff coverings of animals <i>“The students studying the exuviae of the snake found it fragile and almost transparent.”</i>
facetiae	witty sayings <i>“Woody Allen’s facetiae are happy combinations of slapstick comedy and literary satire.”</i>
facultative	left to one’s option or choice; optional <i>Royalty regarded most of the laws as facultative.”</i>
fanfaronade	empty boasting; bluster <i>“Once the fight began, the heavyweight contender’s prediction of a quick victory was exposed as the usual fanfaronade.”</i>
farrago	a confused mixture; jumbles; hodgepodge <i>“The new play was an agreeable farrago of ballet, song, and poetry.”</i>
fasciate	marked by broad colored bands <i>“The raccoon is easily spotted by its mask-like markings and black fasciate.”</i>
feign	to represent fictitiously; put on an appearance of <i>“They tried to feign innocence, but you could see the mischief in their eyes.”</i>
firkin	a small wooden tub for butter, lard, etc. <i>“The shopkeeper scraped up the last of the farmer’s cheese from the firkin.”</i>
flageolet	small fipple flute, similar to a recorder <i>“The musical instrument, the flageolet, is not a popular one today.”</i>
flexuous	winding or weaving <i>“A flexuous goat path led down the steep cliff.”</i>

fluorescence	The emission of radiation, especially visible light, by a substance during exposure to external radiation, as light or x-rays <i>"Modern technology uses x-ray fluorescence."</i>
footpad	a highway robber or hold-up man who travels on foot <i>"A footpad crept from the bushes to attach the unsuspecting stroller."</i>
fremitus	a vibration esp. one felt in a palpitation of the chest <i>"The bass' low C triggered a fremitus that buckled their ribs."</i>
fribble	to waste time; trifle <i>"The family seemed destined to fribble away a fortune on hare-brained schemes."</i>
fructiferous	producing fruit; fruit bearing <i>"We were pleased that the new property we purchased has several fructiferous trees growing on it."</i>
fumarole	a vent in a volcanic area, from which smoke and gases arise <i>"Near the crater's edge, the scientist came upon a small, steaming fumarole."</i>
funambulist	a tightrope walker <i>"The crowd gasped as the funambulist walked a wire stretched between two skyscrapers."</i>
fusillade	an outburst of gunfire; a vigorous outburst especially of criticism <i>"Before the trial started, the defense fired a fusillade of motions to have the case dismissed."</i>
fustigate	to beat with a stick; cudgel <i>"At the five year old's birthday party, the children were given permission to fustigate the piñata with all their strength."</i>
gadfly	a person who annoys others or rouses them from complacency <i>"My neighbor is a gadfly who likes to run to the apartment manager with constant complaints."</i>
galimatias	meaningless talk; gibberish <i>"A baby's galimatias is understood only by the mother."</i>
gasconade	boastful or blustering talk <i>"The football players jumped on the cafeteria table and started to gasconade about their speed and ability to catch impossible throws."</i>
gerrymander	to divide so as to give one political party a majority in as many districts as possible <i>"The political experts discussed how one party's efforts to gerrymander could result in a victory for that faction."</i>

gibbous	designating the moon or a planet in that phase in which more than half, but not all, of the disk is illuminated <i>"The moon turned gibbous and lost the brilliance of its full phase."</i>
gimcrack	showy, but cheap and useless <i>"Many people fall privy to a scam where you buy a gimcrack, which is something that seems nice but is actually subpar."</i>
girandole	revolving cluster of fireworks, water jet; branched candleholder <i>"The Fourth of July girandole lasted about ten minutes."</i>
gratuitous	given or received without charge or payment; free <i>"I reject offers of so-called gratuitous merchandise, as some kind of later payment is often expected."</i>
gregarious	living in herds or flocks <i>"Baboons are gregarious animals, seldom found in isolation."</i>
grisette	a French working girl <i>"An American tourist tried to address the shy grisette in French."</i>
grosgrain	closely woven silk or rayon fabric used for ribbons, trimming <i>"A wide variety of materials were being used, including taffetas, straw and grosgrain."</i>
groundling	a person lacking critical ability and taste <i>"They are gifted filmmakers for sure, but sometimes you just want them to cut back on the irony and climb down to the groundling level."</i>
guerrilla	member of small defensive force of irregular soldiers <i>"When the guerilla soldiers began their attack on the city, they had only a few weapons and no obvious strategy."</i>
gustation	the act of tasting; the sense of taste <i>"The gustation of thirty cakes was an alarming prospect to the judges of the cooking contest."</i>
habiliments	trappings, gear; the dress characteristic of an occupation or occasion <i>"It is a bit silly to adorn dogs with the habiliments of humans."</i>
habitually	frequently; often used; customarily; continually <i>"The president habitually worked until a very late hour."</i>
hagiology	literature dealing with venerated persons; a list of venerated figures <i>"The librarian directed me to a hagiology as a reference for my paper on the lives of saints."</i>
harangue	long, blustery, noisy, scolding; tirade <i>"During last month's meeting, the PTA president gave a harangue against the new superintendent."</i>

heft	to try to determine the weight of by lifting <i>“Because the weight appeared light, its heft surprised those who tried to lift it.”</i>
heinous	outrageously wicked or evil; abominable <i>“Everyone was appalled at the heinous crime.”</i>
heteronym	word with same spelling but different in meaning and pronunciation <i>“Some English words are especially hard to learn, because a heteronym will not always have the same meaning.”</i>
hibernaculum	a structure in which a dormant animal passes the winter <i>“The cave is a hibernaculum to five different species of bats.”</i>
hierarchy	a group of persons or things arranged in order of rank, grade, class, etc. <i>“The corporation has a top-heavy hierarchy, with more vice-presidents than line workers.”</i>
hieroglyphical	picture or symbol representing word, syllable or sound used by ancient people instead of an alphabet of letters; picture writing <i>“The ancient Egyptians’ hieroglyphical pictures are continuing to be found and translated.”</i>
hoary	white, gray, or grayish white <i>“The hoary house was built in the eighteenth century and is now part of a museum.”</i>
homiletics	the branch of theology dealing with the writing and preaching of sermons <i>“In the fall, the core faculty teach Homiletics and Biblical language.”</i>
homogenize	make more uniform by breaking down and blending; to process milk so that fat particles are finely blended and the cream does not separate <i>“Return the mixture to the blender and puree briefly to homogenize the liquid.”</i>
homunculus	a little man; a dwarf; manikin <i>“We talked with the homunculus in the supermarket.”</i>
hors d’oeuvre	an appetizer, served usually at the beginning of a meal <i>“Our favorite hors d’oeuvre was the cheese.”</i>
hummock	a low, rounded hill <i>“The manor on the hummock commanded a fine view.”</i>
hypaethral	open to the sky; roofless <i>“The new stadium was still hypaethral, but a roof was planned for later.”</i>

hypnagogic	of, relating to, or associated with the drowsiness preceding sleep <i>“The professor’s rambling lecture had the whole class nodding and yawning in a hypnagogic lull.”</i>
hypotenuse	the side of a right angled triangle opposite the right angle <i>“Using the Pythagorean Theorem, the mathematician was able to find the triangle’s hypotenuse as well as its shorter sides.”</i>
iconoclast	a person who attacks or ridicules traditional or venerated institutions or ideas regarded by him as erroneous or based on superstition <i>“The successful entrepreneur is an iconoclast who is not afraid to introduce something new to the market.”</i>
idyllic	pleasing and simple; pastoral or picturesque <i>“We spent an idyllic vacation in the country.”</i>
illation	inference; the conclusion drawn <i>“Although several measurements were made, no illations were drawn.”</i>
imbricate	overlapping evenly, as tiles or fish scales <i>“The imbricate pattern was perfect for the child’s Halloween costume of a rainbow fish.”</i>
imbroglio	involved and confusing situation; confused misunderstanding <i>“Things were so totally mixed up it became an imbroglio.”</i>
imbrute	to make or become brutal <i>“Years of unaccustomed drudgery can imbrute a once fine mind.”</i>
immutable	never changing or varying; unchangeable <i>“My medical condition is immutable and cannot be altered even with medication.”</i>
impecunious	having no money; penniless; poor <i>“Plans are being developed to help the impecunious people in the city who are without housing.”</i>
imperceptible	not plain or distinct to the eye or mind; not easily seen <i>“When I had my headphones over my ears, the noise outside was imperceptible.”</i>
impressionable	capable of being influenced intellectually, emotionally; sensitive <i>“The popular star influences many impressionable teens who want to be famous.”</i>
inappropriate	not suitable; not proper or fitting <i>“The dinner was not formal so the ball gown was inappropriate for the occasion.”</i>

inchoate	just begun; in the early stages; not completely formed <i>"Since the power went out in the building, the electrical service has been inchoate, leaving many floors without lights."</i>
incoherent	lacking cohesion; disjointed; rambling <i>"Their theory about time travel was incoherent and difficult to understand."</i>
incommensurate	without a common standard of comparison <i>"A college education may cost a great deal, but it is incommensurate in personal value."</i>
inconspicuous	attracting little attention <i>"The spy attempted to enter the room in an inconspicuous manner."</i>
incorruptible	morally sound; upright; honest <i>"The incorruptible jury member refused to be pressured into voting not guilty by the defendant's family members."</i>
indigenous	existing, growing or produced naturally in a region or country; inborn <i>"The cactus plant is indigenous to the desert areas of California."</i>
indispensable	absolutely necessary; required <i>"The pharmacist is indispensable when it comes to operating a pharmacy."</i>
individually	one at a time; separately; singly; distinctively <i>"They worked well in groups, but were individually characteristic."</i>
inexplicable	cannot be explained, understood or accounted for <i>"The airline was unable to give us any reason for the inexplicable departure delay."</i>
infrastructure	a substructure of underlying foundation <i>"The system of economic production is the infrastructure on which a society is built."</i>
ingratiate	to make acceptable, esp. to seek favor or good graces <i>"While I do like you a great deal, I am not willing to ingratiate myself into your life by telling you a bunch of lies."</i>
innuendo	an indirect remark, gesture, or reference, usually implying something derogatory <i>"The top marketers frequently use a form of innuendo to sell their products."</i>
insectivore	generally small mammals, mainly active at night, that feed on insects <i>"Moles, shrews, hedgehogs are some of the insectivore order."</i>

inspissate	to thicken, as by evaporation <i>“The chef’s chili began to inspissate after several hours of simmering.”</i>
intaglio	a design or figure carved, incised, or engraved into a hard material so that it is below the surface <i>“This trip abroad allows the college art students to study the traditional Italian art of intaglio printmaking.”</i>
intelligence	ability to acquire and retain knowledge; reasoning ability <i>“No amount of intelligence through books or experience is enough if you don’t use it.”</i>
intelligentsia	A group of intelligent and well-educated people who guide, or try to guide, the political <i>“The intelligentsia of the city felt that only the elite should be allowed to learn to read and write.”</i>
interlard	to intersperse <i>“Foreign phrases interlard all of the author’s writings.”</i>
interregnum	interval between two successive reigns; period without the usual ruler <i>“There was no interregnum between the death of one sovereign and the accession of the next.”</i>
interrogatory	expressing or implying a question; set of questions <i>“The interview included a long interrogatory section.”</i>
intumesce	to swell, bubble up, as with heat <i>“The tar used along the pavements for repair will intumesce with the heat of the sun.”</i>
inveigh	to make a violent verbal attack; talk or write bitterly against <i>“No matter how angry I get, I will not inveigh my feelings using social media.”</i>
irenic	promoting peace; peaceful <i>“We should use irenic remarks when speaking to the leader of the labor unions.”</i>
iridescence	a play of lustrous, changing colors <i>“Sunlight turned the oil-slick road into a streak of iridescence.”</i>
irreconcilable	that cannot be brought into agreement; incompatible; conflicting <i>“Their thoughts on the subject were irreconcilable, so the two journalists decided to agree to disagree.”</i>
irremissible	cannot be excused or pardoned; cannot be shirked <i>“Theirs was an irremissible crime, and we expected them to receive a very long sentence of punishment.”</i>

isoseismal	of equal intensity of earthquake shock; connecting or showing points of such intensity <i>"The isoseismal lines for the earthquake are elongated in a north-south direction."</i>
jai alai	a game like handball, popular in Latin America <i>"Jai alai is played with a curved basket fastened to the arm for catching the ball and hurling it against the wall."</i>
jambalaya	a Creole stew made of rice and shrimp, oysters, crabs, ham, chicken, etc., with spices and, often, vegetables <i>"The Creole chef served the jambalaya every Friday."</i>
jaundice	a bitter or prejudiced state of mind caused by jealousy, envy, etc. <i>"It is not uncommon for babies to experience jaundice."</i>
jeopardy	great danger; peril; exposure to conviction <i>"A person on trial is in jeopardy of conviction and punishment."</i>
jetsam	that part of cargo thrown overboard to lighten a ship in danger <i>"The thick jetsam of cargo was powerful proof of the frantic crew's efforts to lighten the sinking ship."</i>
jodhpurs	riding breeches; boots high enough to cover the ankle <i>"The jacket's cord trim is complimented by the cord jodhpurs."</i>
juxtaposition	side by side; close together <i>"The diamond and the sapphire lay in juxtaposition on the velvet covered tray."</i>
kaleidoscope	anything that constantly changes, as in color and pattern <i>"The scenery, through the rain-streaked train window, becomes a kaleidoscope of color."</i>
kedge	to move "a ship" along by hauling on a rope fastened to an anchor dropped at some distance <i>"The longboat rowed out with the cable to kedge the yacht out of the calm."</i>
keen	to lament or wail for the dead <i>"The mourners felt it was their duty to keen over the corpse all night."</i>
kerf	the cut or channel made by a saw <i>"The final kerf caused the plank to snap in the middle."</i>
kinesiology	study of the principles of mechanics and anatomy in relation to human movement <i>"If you're strong in biology and physiology, consider majoring in physical therapy, kinesiology or exercise science."</i>

knout	leather whip used for flogging, esp. in Russia <i>"Criminals in Russia were flogged with a knout."</i>
labile	liable to change; unstable <i>"Oxygen is a highly labile gas that readily forms compounds with other elements."</i>
labyrinth	hard to follow passages; maze; complicated arrangement <i>"A labyrinth of mirrors was fun but scary."</i>
lachrymator	a substance that irritates the eyes and produces tears <i>"This lachrymator dissolves in eye fluids and produces small amounts of irritation sulfuric acid."</i>
lamentation	the act of lamenting; outward expression of grief <i>"It was a time for mourning and lamentation."</i>
lanate	having a woolly or hairy covering or appearance <i>"The young spines and the base of young leaves are densely white-lanate, covered with wooly hairs."</i>
laryngitis	inflammation of the larynx <i>"The teacher was sick with laryngitis and canceled class."</i>
latifundium	large landed estate <i>"In the later years of the Roman Republic, latifundium broke the former economic trend and became the backbone of the Roman economy."</i>
legalese	conventional language of legal forms, documents, etc. <i>"While listening to the conversation between the two lawyers, the teenager struggled to understand what they were saying due to their legalese."</i>
leguminous	of the family of plants bearing legumes or pods <i>"Peas and beans belong to the leguminous family."</i>
lenity	the quality or condition of being lenient; mildness <i>"Lenity was shown to the new lacrosse player regarding penalties."</i>
leprechaun	Irish folklore fairy in the form of a little old man <i>"In Irish folklore, the leprechaun had a large piece of gold."</i>
lethargic	dull or sleepy; sluggish, or lacking energy <i>"Just about any time of day, you can find my lethargic cat curled up asleep in the warmest spot in the house."</i>
linguistics	science of language; study of the structure, etc. of languages <i>"Linguistics are usually divided into descriptive, historical, comparative and geographical."</i>

litigious	quarrelsome <i>“Commission staff and board members are bracing for what they expect will be a long, bitter, litigious squabble.”</i>
looby	a big, clumsy fellow, lout <i>“Their dog was a looby, and they loved it.”</i>
loquacious	very talkative; fond of talking <i>“The two students were both loquacious, so we had to assign one of them to a different seat.”</i>
lotic	designating, of, or living in flowing water <i>“The slick hair of an otter is typical of lotic creatures.”</i>
lovelock	a lock of hair lying apart from the rest of the hair <i>“Babies sometimes develop a lovelock due to sleeping so much on their backs.”</i>
lucubration	laborious work, study or writing; learned and elaborated work <i>“The professor’s literary composition was a lucubration primarily written late at night.”</i>
macabre	grim and horrible <i>“During the famine, the people faced a macabre death.”</i>
magnanimity	quality of being high of mind, rising above pettiness <i>“They gave me a surprising tribute to my magnanimity at our recent Board of Directors meeting.”</i>
magniloquent	boastful or bombastic <i>“The conductor’s wild motions made him seem very magniloquent.”</i>
mahlstick	long light stick used by painters <i>“The children chased each other all around the art studio with a mahlstick in their hands.”</i>
maladroitly	awkwardly; clumsily; badly handled <i>“The cartoon is based on a detective who maladroitly solves cases without the highly intelligent dog.”</i>
malapropos	at an awkward or improper time or place; inopportune <i>“The party was a most malapropos time for the teacher to remind the students about not coming late to class.”</i>
maneuverable	controlled or planned strategy; can be moved by skilled or shrewd plan <i>“The specific aircraft strategy was maneuverable with prearranged signals.”</i>
mannequin	woman or man used for modeling clothing; model of a human <i>“The mannequin in the window seems like a real person.”</i>

mansuetude	gentleness, tameness <i>"Ghandhi's unflagging mansuetude turned nonviolence into an effective political tool."</i>
manumission	liberation; emancipation <i>"After Harriet Tubman's manumission, she helped runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad."</i>
marinara	tomato sauce, seasoned with garlic and spices <i>"We all ordered spaghetti with marinara sauce at the new Italian restaurant."</i>
marionette	puppet; little jointed doll moved by strings or wires <i>"On a miniature stage the puppeteer manipulated the marionette through a short ballet scene."</i>
marquee	roof-like structure or awning over an entrance <i>"The marquee over the entrance to the theater helped protect us from the rain as we waited for our car to be brought to us."</i>
marsupial	mammal having a pouch in which newborn young are carried and nourished <i>"The kangaroo, opossum, wombat and bandicoot are of the marsupial family."</i>
masquerade	ball or party where one wears fancy costumes and masks; disguise <i>"The masquerade was a popular form of party during the 16th and 17th centuries among the aristocracy in England."</i>
matronymic	derived from the name of the mother or a female ancestor <i>"Surnames that are based on the relationship to the father are called patronymic, while surnames based on relationships to the mother are called matronymic."</i>
matutinal	of or in the morning; early <i>"Watching the sun come up was part of the reason for their preference of a matutinal walk."</i>
maw	anything thought of as consuming, devouring, etc., without end <i>"Stuffing money into the military maw does not guarantee an effective army."</i>
maximalist	one who prefers direct or revolutionary action to achieve a goal <i>"A maximalist does not always consider the consequences of revolution."</i>
mayonnaise	creamy salad dressing made of egg yolks, oil, lemon juice, and seasonings <i>"Mayonnaise is sometimes made with vinegar instead of lemon juice."</i>

meander	an aimless wandering <i>“Their conversation tended to meander through a variety of topics.”</i>
medallion	large medal; a relief carving resembling a medal; architectural decoration <i>“In the Olympics, medals are given to the top three athletes in the form of a medallion for them to wear around their neck.”</i>
medieval	characteristic of the Middle Ages; suggestive of <i>“Knights were some of the most important people during medieval times.”</i>
meerschaum	soft, white, heat-resisting clay-like mineral <i>“The porous nature of meerschaum draws moisture and tobacco tar into the stone.”</i>
megalopolis	extensive, heavily populated area, including any number of cities <i>“Los Angeles, with a population of about three million, is the largest city in the megalopolis.”</i>
megillah	long or involved explanation or story <i>“The Hollywood production turned into a complicated megillah with tons of moving parts and pieces.”</i>
meliorate	to make or become better <i>“Their efforts to meliorate the conditions of the homeless were successful.”</i>
memento mori	any reminder of death <i>“Advertising from funeral homes is memento mori and is not welcome in some homes.”</i>
mendacious	not truthful; lying or false <i>“Instead of giving me another mendacious story, just be honest for once.”</i>
mensuration	the act, process, or art of measuring <i>“Mensuration is the branch of mathematics dealing with the determination of length, area or volume.”</i>
Mercurochrome	mild antiseptic and germicide <i>“We always used Mercurochrome for small cuts and scratches.”</i>
meretricious	vulgar; enticing <i>“San Francisco’s Broadway section of entertainment is often considered a meretricious place.”</i>
messuage	a dwelling/house with its outbuildings and adjacent land <i>“In Law, a messuage is a dwelling/house with its outbuildings and adjacent land.”</i>

metalliferous	containing, yielding or producing metal or ore <i>“There are no active metalliferous mines remaining in certain areas.”</i>
methodical	orderly; systematic <i>“The department kept very methodical filing records.”</i>
methoxychlor	insecticide used against flies and mosquitoes <i>“The mosquitoes were especially bad at night, and we were glad to find we had methoxychlor in spray bottles in our supplies.”</i>
mettlesome	spirited; ardent; brave, etc. <i>“Teddy Roosevelt had the mettlesome character needed in a reform movement.”</i>
microfiche	small sheet of microfilm on which a number of pages of microcopy can be recorded <i>“Lloyds of London kept records of casualties on a microfiche.”</i>
mignonette	annual plant bearing spikes of small greenish white or reddish flowers <i>“We always had borders of mignonette in our flower garden.”</i>
milch	kept for milking <i>“The milch cow was very productive.”</i>
millennium	any period of 1000 years; of great happiness, peace or prosperity <i>“The looked-for millennium is the so-called Golden Age.”</i>
mimetic	of or characterized by imitation <i>“The actors have to rely on their mimetic skills.”</i>
miscellaneous	various; mixed; many sided <i>“The drawer contained a miscellaneous collection of odds and ends.”</i>
mischievous	prankish; teasing; full of tricks <i>“The mischievous child was hiding in the closet.”</i>
misogamy	hatred of marriage <i>“The strong feeling of misogamy kept them attending weddings.”</i>
moil	confusion; turmoil <i>“Immigrants once endured the moil of sweatshops for a few dollars a month.”</i>
moiré	a fabric, esp. silk, rayon, or acetate, having a watered or wavy pattern effect (of silks and other fabrics; presenting a watery effect) <i>“A dark red ribbon, made of crimson satin moiré holds the jewel inside the box.”</i>

mollify	pacify; appease <i>"Would a billion dollar contract finally mollify their star quarterback?"</i>
monosyllabic	having only one syllable; to seem terse; uncommunicative <i>"They seemed dazed and their answers to questions were monosyllabic."</i>
moquette	carpet or upholstery fabric with a thick, soft, napped surface <i>"The carpet moquette was warm in color and comfortable to walk on."</i>
morphology	form and structure of animals and plants; of physical geography <i>"Linguistic morphology deals with the internal structure and forms of words."</i>
mozzarella	soft, white Italian cheese <i>"Mozzarella cheese is incorporated in many recipes and has a mild flavor."</i>
muliebrity	womanliness; womanhood; femininity <i>"The small girl was already exhibiting the qualities characteristic of muliebrity."</i>
multifarious	numerous and varied; manifold <i>"The conglomerate's multifarious divisions employ thousands."</i>
multitudinous	very numerous; many; manifold; crowded <i>"The multitudinous group filled the small auditorium to capacity."</i>
munificent	very generous in giving; lavish <i>"The company was commended for its munificent attitude toward employees."</i>
myriad	a great number of persons or things <i>"The defense raised a myriad of objections during the prosecutor's examination."</i>
mythopoeia	the making of myths <i>"In mythopoeia an artificial mythology is created by the writer of prose or other fiction."</i>
nacreous	iridescent; lustrous <i>"The Rolls-Royce was painted a rich nacreous gray."</i>
nankeen	buff-colored, durable cotton cloth <i>"The babies looked adorable in their Halloween sunflower costumes, complete with a nankeen bonnet."</i>

natatorial	of, characterized by, or adapted for swimming <i>“Like all birds which belong to the natatorial type, the majority of the species live in the vicinity of water.”</i>
natatorium	an indoor swimming pool <i>“More like a country club than a home, the Vandenburg mansion features a glassed-in putting green, a natatorium, and two indoor tennis courts.”</i>
nebulous	unclear; vague; indefinite <i>“Only nebulous differences separated the two parties.”</i>
necessarily	unavoidably; inevitably; mandatory <i>“The judging of the parade entries was necessarily eminent within a few minutes.”</i>
necropolis	a cemetery, esp. a large one; a historic or prehistoric burial ground <i>“Somewhere, in an automotive necropolis, lies the crumpled body of my beloved VW.”</i>
negus	a beverage of hot water, wine, and juice, sweetened and spiced <i>“On cold nights, they nursed steaming cups of negus by the fire.”</i>
neologism	a new word or a new meaning for an established word <i>“Each neologism expands our vocabulary.”</i>
nepotism	favoritism shown relatives <i>“As long as nepotism benefits me and provides me with opportunities I would not have otherwise, I will support the practice.”</i>
neurasthenia	a type of neurosis, usually the result of emotional conflicts, characterized by irritability, fatigue, weakness, anxiety, and often localized pains or distress without apparent physical causes <i>“The pains of neurasthenia can effect one’s ability to be productive in the workplace.”</i>
nexus	a connection, tie or link between individuals of a group; members of a series, etc. <i>“In our town, the nexus of the art world is the museum district.”</i>
nickeliferous	containing nickel <i>“The ore brought up from the mine was nickeliferous.”</i>
nickelodeon	player piano or early-type jukebox, operated by a nickel in a slot <i>“We were really interested in the nickelodeon displayed in the museum.”</i>
nihilism	the general rejection of customary beliefs in morality, religion, etc. <i>“Many see in nuclear weapons a terrifying nihilism.”</i>

niveous	snowy; snowlike <i>"We like the cold, brisk, niveous weather."</i>
noctambulism	walking in one's sleep <i>"Sleep walking or night wandering, known also by its Latin name of noctambulism, is a well-known phenomenon."</i>
nonchalant	showing cool lack of concern <i>"In spite of the fire drill, the class was very nonchalant."</i>
nonplus	a condition of perplexity in which one is unable to go, speak, or act further <i>"The union's refusal to negotiate could nonplus the opposition."</i>
noncooperationist	person failing cooperation with government or groups, organizations <i>"Mohandas Gandhi was a noncooperationist who, as a form of protest against the British rule in India, refused to pay taxes."</i>
nostrum	a pet scheme for solving some social or political problem; panacea <i>"Does garlic actually cure colds or is this remedy simply another nostrum?"</i>
nubbin	anything small or undeveloped <i>"For the best apple pie, mound filling inside a flaky crust, cover with crumble and dot with a nubbin of butter here and there."</i>
obcordate	heart-shaped, with the attachment at the pointed end, as a leaf <i>"The five large petals are shaped either obovate or obcordate, long and wide."</i>
obeisance	homage; deference <i>"When you talk back to your teacher, you are not demonstrating obeisance."</i>
obfuscate	cloud over; obscure; unclear <i>"When the darkness began, it was only a small area that began to obfuscate on the near horizon."</i>
objurgate	to chide; to rebuke; to upbraid sharply <i>"The judge's tirade to objurgate the attorney was suffered in silence."</i>
obsequious	meanly or servilely attentive; overly compliant <i>"An excellent server is one who is obsequious and caters to a guest's every need."</i>
occasionally	now and then; sometimes <i>"Occasionally the wind would come up, fill the sail, and we would skip merrily along at a fast speed."</i>

ochlocracy	government by the mob; mob rule <i>"An ochlocracy is only popular with the mob."</i>
offal	waste parts; esp. the entrails, etc., of a butchered animal <i>"The offal is used by meat processors for dog food."</i>
olfactory	of the sense of smell <i>"My cold is interfering with my main olfactory nerve so I cannot smell anything."</i>
oligochaete	class of segmented worms lacking a definite head and few body bristles <i>"The earthworm, an oligochaete, is found chiefly in moist soil and fresh water."</i>
oligopsony	control of the purchase of a commodity or service in a given market by a small number of buyers <i>"The disastrous coffee crop produced a high-priced oligopsony."</i>
olivaceous	of, or like the olive; olive green <i>"The olivaceous color of the carpet did not really appeal to me."</i>
ombudsman	a public official appointed to investigate citizens' complaints against local or national governmental agencies that may be infringing on the rights of individuals <i>"The ombudsman uncovered evidence of widespread bribery at City Hall."</i>
omnivorous	eating any sort of food; indiscriminate, as with the intellect <i>"The fourth grade students were omnivorous readers."</i>
oneiric	of or having to do with dreams <i>"Dali's surrealist canvases are known for their evocative oneiric quality."</i>
oneiromancy	practice of claiming to tell the future by interpreting dreams <i>"The impressionable teenagers were fascinated by the study of oneiromancy."</i>
ophiology	branch of zoology dealing with snakes <i>"I had never liked snakes, so my class in ophiology was almost hated."</i>
opprobrious	abusive; disrespectful; disgraceful <i>"It's not unusual to hear a drill sergeant using opprobrious language when criticizing lazy recruits."</i>
oppugn	to call in question <i>"The strategy was to oppugn all arguments for a new school system."</i>
opuscule	a small or petty work <i>"An obscure opuscule came to light as I did my research."</i>

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

panegyric	formal speech of praise; laudation; tribute <i>"The speaker made a panegyric presentation to the workers who had all helped in this year's United Fund campaign."</i>
panjandrum	a self-important, pompous official <i>"It is difficult to work with the panjandrum of the company who creates a somewhat hostile work environment."</i>
panoptic	including in one view everything within sight <i>"The mountaintop afforded a panoptic perch for the whole region."</i>
paradigm	pattern; example; model <i>"The teacher wrote several examples on the board so we would have a paradigm to follow."</i>
parallelogram	a plane figure with four sides, having the opposite sides parallel and equal <i>"A square is a parallelogram."</i>
paralysis	any condition of helpless inactivity or of inability to act <i>"The winter storm closed the roads and left the townspeople in a state of paralysis."</i>
parfleche	rawhide with hair removed by soaking in water and lye <i>"The sides of the parfleche were stitched with raffia using any number of stitching techniques."</i>
parochial	restricted to a small area of scope; narrow; limited <i>"Frequently, the views of big-city dwellers can be just as parochial as those of people who live in small, rural towns."</i>
parquetry	inlaid woodwork in geometric forms, usually of contrasting wood <i>"The parquetry floor was beautifully polished."</i>
parturient	giving birth or about to give birth to young <i>"Taking shelter behind the barn, the parturient mare would give birth to a healthy foal."</i>
patina	any thin coating or color change resulting from age <i>"Two hundred years have left a handsome patina on the Liberty Bell."</i>
patriarchate	position, rank, jurisdiction, territory, etc. of the ruling patriarch <i>"In African tribes, it is essential to know each patriarchate in order to thrive."</i>
pavonine	of or resembling a peacock; rainbow-like in color like a peacock's tail <i>"The peahen does not have the iridescent pavonine beauty of the peacock."</i>

peccadillo	minor or petty sin; fault <i>“While being fifteen minutes past curfew is just a peccadillo, coming home at dawn is a major problem and you have some explaining to do.”</i>
peculate	to steal or misuse money or property entrusted to one’s care, esp. public funds; embezzle <i>“The committee existed only to peculate tax revenue.”</i>
peignoir	a woman’s loose, full dressing gown, like a negligee but shorter <i>“The peignoir was trimmed with lace and ribbons.”</i>
pendulous	hanging or bending downward <i>“Due to the pendulous flaps on the oversized tablecloth, the cat would claw at it.”</i>
penetralia	the innermost parts, as of a temple <i>“The architect planned to put a penetralia in the basement to protect valuable items.”</i>
penury	extreme poverty, destitution <i>“The Depression reduced many families to penury.”</i>
peradventure	by chance <i>“They were sure of the outcome beyond peradventure.”</i>
percipient	capable of or characterized by perceptions; discerning <i>“The English Literature students were percipient to the novel because they understood the plot from start to finish.”</i>
perfuse	to sprinkle, cover over, or permeate with, or as with a liquid <i>“Please perfuse the cloth with the red dye.”</i>
peripeteia	a sudden change of fortune or reversal of circumstances, as in a drama <i>“The scene contains a climatic reversal of fortune, or peripeteia.”</i>
periphrasis	use of many words where one or a few would do; circumlocution <i>“The lecturer’s flowery speech actually didn’t cover much ground but was a periphrasis and a waste of my time.”</i>
permutation	any radical alteration; total transformation <i>“In time, the bacteria will undergo a permutation that will make it unaffected by antibiotics.”</i>
peroration	the concluding part of a speech, in which there is a summing up and emphatic recapitulation <i>“While a peroration is supposed to be the driving conclusion of a speech, it can lose its power if it drones on for too long.”</i>

perspicacious	having keen judgment or understanding <i>"The perspicacious child understood almost everything the adults said."</i>
perspicuity	the quality or state of being clear to the understanding <i>"Because of its lack of perspicuity, the article needed to be edited for clearness."</i>
pertinacious	hold firmly to some purpose, belief, or action, often stubbornly or obstinately <i>"Only the most pertinacious competitors will finish the grueling twenty-three mile marathon."</i>
petroglyph	a rock carving, esp. a prehistoric one <i>"The petroglyph and similar works of rock art are considered a part of Native American's cultural heritage in Arizona."</i>
pharmaceutical	of or by drugs or medicine <i>"Aspirin is probably one of the best-known pharmaceutical medicines."</i>
phlegmatic	hard to rouse to action; sluggish; dull; apathetic <i>"Commuting during rush hour requires a phlegmatic temperament."</i>
phyletic	of or pertaining to a phylum or to an evolutionary line of descent <i>"The new phyletic approach changed the way that taxonomists considered plant classification."</i>
phyllophagous	feeding on leaves <i>"Deer, caribou, reindeer and other ruminant animals can be called phyllophagous animals since leaves and greenery are their food source."</i>
pianissimo	music very soft; a passage of music to be played softly <i>"The symphony ends in a pianissimo."</i>
piassava	stiff, elastic palm fiber used in making brooms, brushes <i>"Leopoldinia piassava is a palm from Brazil from which fiber to make brushes and brooms is obtained."</i>
picaresque	designating or of sharp-witted vagabonds and their roguish adventures <i>"This mildly picaresque novel recounts a teenager's flight from prep school to an eventful weekend in New York."</i>
picayunish	smallness; trivial; petty <i>"Of little value now, the centavo, once like our American penny, worth 1/100 of the peso, is so picayunish as to be almost worthless."</i>
piceous	of or like pitch <i>"The boat had been caulked with a black, piceous substance."</i>

piebald	covered with patches or spots of two colors, esp. with white and black <i>"The piebald racehorse stood out from the rest of the field."</i>
pinniped	having finlike feet or flippers; aquatic animal <i>"Seals, walruses, etc. are pinniped animals."</i>
pizzicato	to pluck the strings of musical instruments instead of using the bow <i>"The direction to the musician to play a note or a passage of the score in a pizzicato manner means to pluck the strings."</i>
plaintive	expressing sorrow or melancholy <i>"The plaintive funeral hymn brought tears to my eyes."</i>
plausibility	seemingly true; seemingly honest, trustworthy, often implying distrust <i>"We were suspicious of the plausibility of their story."</i>
plenipotentiary	a person, esp. a diplomatic agent, given full authority to act as representative of a government <i>"The union has named me its plenipotentiary for the purpose of this bargaining session."</i>
plenitudinous	abundant; full; stout; obese <i>"The warehouse was stocked with a plenitudinous supply of everything."</i>
pleuston	small organisms floating on or near the surface of a body of water <i>"There was pleuston in the form of algae floating on the pond."</i>
plexus	a complexly interconnected arrangement of parts; network <i>"Each segment of the earthworm has its own nerve plexus."</i>
pneumococcal	A bacterium causing lobar pneumonia and associated with certain other diseases like meningitis <i>"In pneumococcal and typhoid infections the organisms may be found in the blood."</i>
pneumonectomy	the surgical removal of an entire lung <i>"This article reports the experiences in doing a pneumonectomy in 24 patients with lung cancer."</i>
poignant	sharp smell; sharply painful to the feelings; piercing; biting <i>"The book's ending was poignant and caused me to reflect upon my own family's life."</i>
pontificate	to speak or act in a pompous or dogmatic way <i>"The professor could pontificate for hours on art."</i>
postiche	a substitute; counterfeit <i>"The jeans were a cheap postiche of designer originals."</i>

precatory	of, having the nature of, or expressing entreaty <i>"Beggars raised precatory hands to the rich tourists."</i>
predation	the act of plundering or praying <i>"The lions were preparing for predation near the waterhole."</i>
preemptive	action taken to stop other action beforehand; seized ahead of others <i>"A settler on public land has the right to make a preemptive bid to buy the property ahead of anyone else."</i>
prehensile	adapted for seizing or grasping <i>"The monkey's long, prehensile tail wraps easily around branches."</i>
prerogative	a prior or exclusive right or privilege, esp. one peculiar to a rank, class, etc. <i>"If you choose to follow your prerogative and behave badly, don't be surprised if there are consequences."</i>
proboscis	elephant's trunk or a long, tapering snout; person's nose, esp. if large <i>"The elephant's proboscis is used to pick up its food and for sensing."</i>
prodigious	wonderful; amazing <i>"The flight of the Voyager is a prodigious accomplishment."</i>
progressive	moving onward or forward; educational system stressing individualism <i>"This is a progressive firm that uses the most modern systems."</i>
prolegomenon	speak beforehand; preliminary remark or essay <i>"The prolegomenon by the chairman gave the audience some idea of what to expect of the lecture."</i>
proliferation	growing by multiplying new parts <i>"The proliferation of the buds on the rosebush was truly amazing."</i>
propaedeutic	an elementary or introductory subject or study <i>"In some areas a propaedeutic class in Beginning Algebra is offered."</i>
propinquity	nearness in time or place <i>"Among their objections to the proposed site for a chemical plant is its propinquity to a housing development."</i>
propylaeum	an entrance; vestibule or portico <i>"The propylaeum to the Acropolis is well known to architects."</i>
prosody	the science or art of versification <i>"While mulling over the poem's prosody, the writer took a special interest in both the meter and rhyme."</i>
protean	very changeable <i>"A chameleon's protean nature supports its survival."</i>

psalmist	composer of sacred songs or poems <i>“The psalmist suggested getting the instruments out and using our voices.”</i>
ptarmigan	northern or alpine grouse which undergo seasonal color changes <i>“The ptarmigan changes its color to blend in with the landscape.”</i>
pterodactyl	any of a number of genera of flying reptiles of the extinct order Pterosauria, from the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, having highly reduced tails and teeth, with a bird-like beak <i>“The preschoolers’ favorite dinosaur, by far, was the pterodactyl.”</i>
pudency	modesty or prudishness <i>“As children grow up, their pudency typically increases.”</i>
pulchritude	physical beauty <i>“Many a starlet would prefer to succeed on the basis of talent rather than pulchritude.”</i>
pullulate	to sprout out <i>“After the rain, purple and white crocuses began to pullulate in the wild garden.”</i>
punchy	forceful; vigorous <i>“The punchy article demanded reform.”</i>
purulent	of, like, containing or discharging pus <i>“The nurse cleaned the purulent wound with great care.”</i>
pythonic	of or like an oracle; prophetic <i>“For fashion trends, Calvin Klein has seeming pythonic powers.”</i>
pyxis	a vase with a cover; small box or case; dry fruit whose top splits off like a lid <i>“The ancient Greeks and Romans used a pyxis to hold coins.”</i>
quaestor	an official in ancient Rome responsible for administration and finance <i>“The quaestor was the state treasurer in ancient Rome.”</i>
quandary	a state of uncertainty <i>“When the lawyer told us our lawsuit options, we realized we were in a quandary about which legal path to take.”</i>
quebracho	tropical tree of the cashew family in America <i>“The hard wood of the quebracho yields an extract used in tanning.”</i>
querulous	full of complaints; peevish <i>“The diners’ querulous comments ceased when their food arrived.”</i>

queue	a plait of hair worn hanging from the back of the head <i>"It's more practical for people with long hair to wear it in a queue while playing sports."</i>
quiescent	quiet; still; inactive <i>"We languished in the quiescent summer air waiting for a breeze."</i>
quintessence	the pure concentrated essence of anything; the most perfect <i>"These chocolate bars are the quintessence of delicious treats for the soul."</i>
quotidian	daily, recurring every day <i>"There is a precise schedule for taking care of quotidian tasks, but all your time is your own once you have completed them."</i>
raconteur	a person who is skilled at telling stories or anecdotes <i>"A screenwriter is a raconteur who simply puts stories on paper."</i>
rambunctious	wild, disorderly, boisterous, unruly, etc. <i>"With a substitute teacher, first-graders are even more rambunctious than usual."</i>
rapparee	plunderer or robber <i>"The rapparee gained entry into the house by an open window."</i>
rarefy	to make or become more refined, subtle, or lofty <i>"We tried to rarefy the conversation by discussing the Picasso exhibit."</i>
rebarbative	repellent, unattractive, forbidding, grim, etc. <i>"Rebarbative and unpleasant, the skunk's smell made passersby gasp with disgust."</i>
recalcitrant	hard to handle or deal with <i>"Even the most recalcitrant students came to respect the teacher's authority."</i>
recidivism	repeated relapse into crime <i>"Criminal recidivism rates are very high."</i>
reciprocity	mutual action or exchange; interchange of equal value <i>"In the two countries, a reciprocity of the reduction of tariffs would be of mutual advantage."</i>
recline	bending or curved downward <i>"The spider plant's long, slender recline leaves and shoots make it suitable for hanging containers."</i>
recrudescence	to break out again after lying latent or relatively inactive <i>"Political violence in Ireland began to recrudescence in 1971."</i>

regrettable	unfortunate; to be remorseful for <i>"It was a regrettable accident, but could not be undone."</i>
rejuvenescence	renewal of youthfulness <i>"They visited the identified fountain of youth in hopes for a rejuvenescence to occur."</i>
relevant	bearing upon the matter at hand; pertinent; to the point <i>"The term relevant implies a close relationship and importance to the matter under consideration."</i>
renaissance	a new birth; revival; great revival of art, literature and learning <i>"The renaissance in Europe in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries began in Italy spreading to other countries and marked the transition from medieval to modern."</i>
repetitious	something done or said over and over again; tiring; boring repeatedness <i>"The repetitious admonitions to 'be careful', 'come right home', and 'don't be late', seemed so unnecessary."</i>
repossession	taken back; retrieved; owned again <i>"It's advisable to never ignore a late notice on car loan payments so that you do not risk repossession from the bank."</i>
requisition	a formal written order, request, or application, as for equipment, tools, etc. <i>"The teacher made a requisition for school supplies."</i>
resuscitate	to revive, esp. to come back to life or consciousness again <i>"The doctor tried to resuscitate the patient."</i>
reticule	a woman's small handbag, originally made of network and usually having a drawstring <i>"The black reticule sagged due to too much weight."</i>
rhapsody	a great delight; ecstasy <i>"The enthusiastic researcher launched into a rhapsody about the latest medical discovery."</i>
rhetor	a master or teacher of rhetoric; an orator <i>"The community action group hired a rhetor to help them prepare for an important speech."</i>
rheumatism	painful condition of the joints and muscles <i>"Rheumatism is characterized by inflammation, pain, and swelling of the joints and muscles."</i>
rhinoplasty	plastic surgery of the nose <i>"This particular cosmetic surgeon specialized in rhinoplasty."</i>

riparian	of, adjacent to, or living on the bank of a river or other body of water <i>“The riparian land of the Nile delta is prized for farming because irrigation is no problem.”</i>
riposte	a sharp, swift response or retort <i>“Full of quick comebacks, the comedian always has a riposte to any heckler in the crowd.”</i>
risible	causing laughter <i>“Even though most of the public felt that the owners of the team had chosen a risible mascot, the crowd still cheered as the giant squid led the team onto the field.”</i>
roentgenize	to subject to the action of X-rays <i>“An injury may result in the necessity for doctors to roentgenize it.”</i>
roil	to stir up; agitate <i>“The unfair referee’s latest call was all it took to roil up the feisty crowd.”</i>
roorback	a false or slanderous story devised for political effect <i>“The opposition launched an election eve roorback on the candidate’s personal finances.”</i>
rubefaction	redness of the skin <i>“A biting mustard plaster produced rubefaction on the patient’s chest.”</i>
rutilant	to have a reddish glow <i>“An autumn sunset transformed the skyscrapers into rutilant towers.”</i>
saccharin	sugar substitute; noncaloric sweetener <i>“Saccharin is a coal tar compound about 500 times sweeter than cane sugar.”</i>
sackcloth	coarse, rough cloth, originally made of goats’ hair, worn as in Biblical times and with ashes sprinkled on the head as a symbol of mourning or penitence <i>“Widows in equatorial Africa actually wear sackcloth and ashes when attending a funeral.”</i>
sacrilegious	violation of something sacred; disrespectfulness of something religious <i>“To some, the opening of the tombs of Egyptian mummies seems sacrilegious.”</i>
sapid	having a taste, esp. a pleasing taste <i>“The disgruntled dieter was allowed to eat nothing more sapid than jello.”</i>

saponaceous	soapy or soaplike <i>“Glucosides found in soapwort, soapbark, etc., become saponaceous when dissolved in water or used as detergents.”</i>
sarcophagus	any stone coffin, esp. one on display, as in a monumental tomb <i>“We visited the famous sarcophagus.”</i>
sarsaparilla	dried roots of the Smilax lily family; extract used as flavor for a carbonated drink <i>“Sarsaparilla seemed to be the favorite soft drink in stories of the Old West.”</i>
satiety	the state of being satiated; surfeit <i>“They ate until their stomachs stretched with a pleasant satiety.”</i>
saturnine	having a melancholy or surly disposition, sarcastic <i>“It was hard to not be saturnine after learning of my favorite musician’s death.”</i>
scalawag	a scamp; rascal <i>“Late last night, the neighborhood scalawag decorated the school with toilet paper.”</i>
scaphoid	navicular (any of various boat-shaped bones) <i>“The outer bone of the first row of carpals in the wrist is a scaphoid one.”</i>
scarify	to criticize sharply <i>“After seeing the play, the critic plans to scarify the actors for their sloppy performances.”</i>
schismatic	tending to or guilty of causing a split in an organized society or church <i>“It was impossible to come to a unanimous decision between the schismatic political parties.”</i>
sconce	a bracket attached to a wall for holding a candle; candles, or the like <i>“There was a huge, wax-encrusted sconce on the wall of the castle’s great hall.”</i>
scrim	a light, sheer, loosely woven cotton or linen cloth, used for curtains, upholstery, linings, etc. <i>“Bold lighting silhouetted the actors against the scrim.”</i>
scullion	a servant doing the rough, dirty work in a kitchen <i>“Having been my own butcher and scullion and cook, I can speak for an unusually complete experience.”</i>
seignior	a feudal lord’s estate. The power and authority of a feudal lord. <i>“They concluded a bargain with the seignior for transport and provisions at a fixed price.”</i>

seismograph	instrument that records intensity and duration of earthquakes and tremors <i>"The seismograph is a great invention, but we are hoping for the invention that will give enough advance notice for evacuation before the quake."</i>
semidiurnal	coming twice a day, as the tides <i>"The tide's semidiurnal shifting constantly exposed the old shipwreck."</i>
seminal	being an early and influential example <i>"We attended a conference where seminal ideas for future scenarios were introduced."</i>
semiotics	a general theory of signs and symbols <i>"The candidates for governor were caught up in the semiotics of popularity polls."</i>
sentient	of, having, or capable of feeling or perception <i>"Mammals are advanced sentient beings with complex nervous systems."</i>
serried	crowded <i>"Like frightened birds, the student protestors were serried into close ranks."</i>
sgraffito	incising the outer coating of slip or glaze to reveal different ground color on ceramics, murals, etc. to produce a design <i>"The effect of sgraffito on the ceramics we bought is really striking."</i>
shenanigans	trickery; mischief <i>"In the comedy show, the three main characters are always involved in shenanigans that result in hilarious consequences."</i>
sidle	to move sideways <i>"The informer tried to sidle behind the conspirators to eavesdrop on their whispered conversation."</i>
sinistrous	ill-omened; unlucky; disastrous; sinistral <i>"They avoided black cats and ladders for fear of sinistrous influences."</i>
skirl	a shrill sound, as of a bagpipe <i>"The ghostly skirl of the pipes drifted over the moors."</i>
slough	moral degradation <i>"The psychologist is working with me to slough negative behaviors from my life."</i>

slumgullion	any inexpensive stew or hash <i>“Using white beans and leftover meat, the cook made a huge pot of slumgullion to feed the homeless.”</i>
snaffle	a bit, usually light and jointed, attached to a bridle and having no curb <i>“The obedient mare replied to the slightest pull on the snaffle.”</i>
sociopath	a psychopathic personality whose behavior is aggressively antisocial <i>“The sociopath possesses an abnormal lack of empathy and can only mimic emotions.”</i>
solecism	a violation of the conventional usage, grammar, etc. <i>“The judge reprimanded the lawyer who exhibited a solecism in court protocols.”</i>
somnambulism	sleepwalking <i>“The bungling bureaucrats operated as though in a state of somnambulism.”</i>
sovereign	above all others; chief; greatest; ruler; royal; outstanding <i>“A sovereign state is independent of all others.”</i>
specious	plausible, but not genuine <i>“Several weight loss products on the market make specious claims as to their effectiveness.”</i>
spelunker	a person who explores caves as a hobby <i>“The Mammoth Caves in Kentucky can offer a spelunker 144 miles of passageway to examine.”</i>
spontaneous	acting with natural feeling, impulse; without remediation <i>“At the close of the program, the audience erupted in a spontaneous burst of applause.”</i>
spoor	the track or trail of an animal, esp. of a wild animal hunted as game <i>“The hunter followed the bloody spoor to the wounded lion’s lair.”</i>
squamous	like, formed of, or covered with scales <i>“The squamous flesh of fish protects their inner parts.”</i>
stertorous	characterized by a harsh snoring or grasping sound <i>“My doctor is concerned about my stertorous breathing and suggested a sleep study to determine why it is so labored.”</i>
stickle	to have objections <i>“They are always ready to stickle over the fine points of etiquette.”</i>
stipple	to paint, draw, engrave, or apply in small points or dots rather than in lines or solid areas <i>“Did you see my stipple portrait?”</i>

stoat	a large European weasel, esp. in its brown summer coat <i>"The dense fur of the stoat has lost its popularity in the fashion world."</i>
stripling	passing into manhood <i>"The stripling helped the young children across the street."</i>
suborn	to induce or instigate (another) to do something illegal <i>"The foreign spy tried to suborn the diplomat into betrayal."</i>
subterfuge	stragem; artifice <i>"Using a false name is a common subterfuge to dodge taxes."</i>
subterranean	beneath the earth's surface; underground <i>"It is necessary to see that there is no wood to earth contact in order to prevent subterranean termite damage to houses."</i>
superannuated	obsolete; old fashioned; outdated; old or worn out <i>"The headquarters would have to be moved soon from this large, superannuated building."</i>
supercilious	disdainful or contemptuous <i>"The supercilious director at the outdoor celebration refused to sit on the ground like everyone else."</i>
superfluity	a quantity or number beyond what is needed <i>"There is a superfluity of apples in the store, outnumbering the bananas three to one."</i>
surrogate	a deputy or substitute <i>"Many people thought the painting was a surrogate for the original piece."</i>
susceptibility	capacity for receiving impressions <i>"We carefully selected stories with the child's susceptibility in mind."</i>
susurrant	whispering, murmuring <i>"We sat on the beach and listened to the susurrant lapping of the waves."</i>
surveillance	supervision or inspection; watch kept over a person <i>"The detective arranged for a surveillance to be kept on the suspect."</i>
svelte	slender and graceful <i>"The beach was a composite of svelte bodies, languidly posed on chairs and towels."</i>
synchronous	happening at the same time <i>"Since both concerts were synchronous, it was hard to drive in the traffic around the auditoriums."</i>

syncopation	syncopated music, a syncopated rhythm, etc. <i>"Syncopation is very typical of New Orleans jazz."</i>
synonymous	having the character of synonyms or a synonym; equivalent in meaning; expressing or implying the same idea <i>"While the terms "rat" and "mice" are often considered synonymous in meaning, they actually represent two different species of animals."</i>
tactile	that can be perceived by the touch <i>"When I accidentally touched the cactus, my tactile senses told my brain to quickly remove my fingers."</i>
tangential	diverging or digressing <i>"The issue of cleaning subway cars is tangential to that of making them run."</i>
tantivy	a full gallop <i>"The horse zipped tantivy between the barrels."</i>
tarn	a small mountain lake <i>"Mountain goats lapped up the ice-cold waters of the tarn."</i>
tautology	needless repetition of an idea in a different word, phrase, or sentence <i>"The call for a 'renaissance of renewal' was the professor's favorite tautology."</i>
tawny	brownish-yellow; tan <i>"If you mix too many different paint colors together you will just get a tawny color that is brownish yellow."</i>
tenebrous	shut off from light; dark; hard to understand; causing or marked by gloom <i>"Tenebrous clouds loomed in the sky and seemed to grow darker as the storm moved into the area."</i>
tergiversate	to desert a cause, party, etc.; become a renegade; equivocate <i>"We were dismayed when our publicity chairman decided to tergiversate in the middle of the campaign."</i>
terpsichorean	having to do with dancing <i>"It was terpsichorean music, not just music to listen to."</i>
terraqueous	consisting of land and water <i>"From our plane we looked down on a beautiful terraqueous area."</i>
terrene	worldly; mundane <i>"The terrene building is a special kind of construction in a special region of that country."</i>

tessellated	laid in small square blocks; arranged in a mosaic pattern <i>"The entryway was a mosaic of tessellated ceramics in two colors."</i>
testaceous	of, like or from shells; having a hard shell <i>"The server gave us small mallets to crack the testaceous crab."</i>
thalassic	of the sea or ocean <i>"Earth was once a shallow thalassic mass slowly nurturing life."</i>
timbre	the characteristic quality of sound that distinguishes one voice or musical instrument from another or one vowel sound from another <i>"The opera star's timbre was rich and filled with vibrato."</i>
tincture	an alcoholic or water-alcoholic solution of a medicinal substance <i>"Laudanum, a tincture of opium, was widely used in nineteenth century homes."</i>
titular	nominal <i>"Parents can have a titular position that their children don't always respect, and their authority does not mean anything at all."</i>
topiary	designating or of the art of trimming and training shrubs or trees into unnatural, ornamental shapes <i>"The musician had topiary hedges that looked like giant notes."</i>
tractable	easily managed; taught; or controlled <i>"If the project becomes too large, it will no longer be tractable by a single manager."</i>
trammel	to confine, restrain or shackle <i>"Fear can trammel mind and body."</i>
triptych	set of three panels or pictures hinged so two side panels fold over the middle <i>"Interior screens can range from fabric-covered triptych folding ones that can be moved around or sliding doors."</i>
trope	the use of a word in a figurative sense <i>"Love at first sight is an overused romance trope."</i>
truckle	to be servile <i>"The teenager will no longer truckle to every parent request."</i>
tumid	swollen; bulging <i>"My eyelid has been tumid since yesterday."</i>
ubiquitous	present or seeming to be everywhere at the same time; omnipresent <i>"Because the police presence was ubiquitous at the parade, everyone felt very safe."</i>

ululate	to wail or lament loudly <i>"It is natural for coyotes to ululate through the night."</i>
umbrageous	shady; easily offended <i>"The umbrageous pepper tree had a park bench under it."</i>
undulant	moving in or as in waves; undulating <i>"The undulant Blue Hills roll to meet the coast near Boston."</i>
usurious	practicing usury <i>"Usurious loan sharks prey upon people in financial desperation."</i>
vacillating	wavering in motion or opinion <i>"A person with vacillating ideas wavers and often changes"</i>
valedictory	farewell speech, esp. one delivered at graduation <i>"On the last day of school, seniors wrote a valedictory stating what they would miss about high school."</i>
velleity	a mere wish that does not lead to the slightest action <i>"The student had a velleity to never see another algebra problem again."</i>
velutinous	soft and velvety <i>"Thick moss turned the tree trunk into a velutinous couch."</i>
venatic	of or engaging in hunting <i>"An antler-lined wall revealed their venatic passion."</i>
verbiage	wordiness <i>"Cutting the verbiage left the author with three pages of the original eight."</i>
verdure	green growing plants and trees <i>"After the long winter, the sheep feasted on the pasture's verdure."</i>
vernacular	commonly spoken by the people of a particular country or place <i>"The vernacular of today's young people is very confusing to some of the older generation."</i>
versatile	competent in many things; many sided; adaptable to many uses <i>"Playing the piano was one of the musician's many versatile accomplishments."</i>
vicarious	shared in or experienced by imagined participation in another's experience <i>"Since I have many food allergies, I tend to be a vicarious eater who enjoys food through stories of others."</i>

viridescent	slightly green; greenish <i>“The lizard’s body is albino and it has an intricate viridescent camouflage.”</i>
visualize	form a mental image <i>“Once you start to avidly pursue your dreams, you can visualize that dream coming true.”</i>
vitreous	of, having the nature of, or like glass <i>“Some new windows are made of unbreakable vitreous plastic.”</i>
vociferous	characterized by clamor or vehement outcry <i>“The fans were so vociferous that they cheered their underdog team to victory.”</i>
vulnerary	used for healing wounds, as herbs or other remedies <i>“Bread mold derives its vulnerary properties from the presence of penicillin.”</i>
wainscot	a wood lining or paneling on the walls of a room <i>“The wainscot in the den was designed in dark oak.”</i>
weir	a fence, as of brushwood or stakes, built in a stream, channel, etc., for catching fish <i>“Caught by the weir, the brook trout wriggled in the sun.”</i>
weird	strange; strikingly odd; fantastic; mysterious <i>“The weird cry of the loon can send chills up one’s spine.”</i>
wheedle	to influence or persuade a person by flattery; soothing words; coaxing, etc. <i>“Credit card companies try to wheedle money out of their customers by rewarding them with credit increases.”</i>
whelp	a young dog <i>“The whelp chewed a hole in my socks while I was out for the night.”</i>
whimsically	oddly out of the ordinary; fanciful; freakish; unpredictable <i>“They were crocuses, scattered whimsically throughout the front lawn.”</i>
wormwood	a bitter, unpleasant, or mortifying experience <i>“The horror film they just watched left them with a feeling of wormwood.”</i>
wrought	elaborated; embellished; not rough or crude <i>“The wrought metal will soon be used to construct the new bridge.”</i>
xerophilous	capable of thriving in a hot, dry climate <i>“The cactus is a xerophilous plant which grows in the desert.”</i>

xyloid	of or like wood; woody <i>"The xyloid section of a plant gives the stem its structure."</i>
yea	to bring forth (young); said of a sheep or goat <i>"The ewe waited until spring to yea her last lamb."</i>
yttria	a heavy white powder, insoluble in water, used in electronics <i>"Yttria is used in making color television tubes."</i>
zabaglione	a frothy dessert made of eggs, sugar, and wine, typically Marsala, beaten together over boiled water <i>"The waiter tempted us with a delightful zabaglione."</i>
zucchetto	skull cap worn by Roman Catholic ecclesiastics <i>"The priest's zucchetto is black, the bishop's purple, the cardinal's red, and the pope's is white."</i>