abase  lower; degrade; humiliate; make humble; make (one-self) lose self-respect
abash  embarrass
abate  subside or moderate
abbreviate  shorten
abdicate  renounce; give up (position, right, or responsibility)
aberrant  abnormal or deviant
aberration  deviation from the normal; mental disorder
abet  assist usually in doing something wrong; encourage
abeyance  suspended action
abhor  detest; hate
abject  (of a condition) wretched; as low as possible; lacking pride; very humble; showing lack of self-respect; Ex. abject apology
abjure  renounce upon oath
ablution  washing
aboriginal  being the first of its kind in a region; primitive; native; indigenous; N. aborigine
abortive  unsuccessful; fruitless
abrasive  rubbing away; tending to grind down
abridge  condense or shorten
abrogate  abolish
accede  agree
accelerate  move faster
accessible  easy to approach; obtainable
accessory  additional object; useful but not essential thing
acclaim  applaud; praise; greet with great approval; announce with great approval; Ex. The new drug has been acclaimed as the most important discoveries for years; N: strong expression of approval and praise
acclimate  adjust to climate or environment; adapt
acclivity  sharp upslope of a hill; OP. declivity
academic  related to a school; not practical or directly useful
accreditation  award of merit; strong praise and approval
merit  good quality deserving praise; merits: aspect of character or behavior deserving approval or disapproval; Ex. judge each plan on its own merits; V: deserve; earn
demerit  fault; bad quality
earn  gain for the performance of service or labor; gain (something that one deserves); deserve
accommodate  oblige or help someone; adjust or bring into harmony; adapt; make enough space for; ADJ. accommodating: helpful and obliging
accomplice  partner in crime
accord  agreement
accost  approach and speak first to a person
acountre  equip; N. accoutrement
accretion  growth or increase in size by gradual addition; growth; increase; increase by natural growth; Ex. towers and other accretions of the castle; V. accrete
accrued  come to one as a gain; accumulate over time; come about by addition; Ex. benefits that accrue from scientific research; Ex. interest accruing in a bank account; N. accrual
acerbity  bitterness of speech and temper; ADJ. acerbic: bitter; acrid (in taste, manner, or tone)
acme  peak; pinnacle; highest point
acoustics  science of sound; quality that makes a room easy or hard to hear in
acquiesce  assent; agree passively; comply without protest
acumen
- deliverance from a charge; V. acquit: free from a charge or accusation; discharge from a duty; conduct (oneself) in a specified manner
- sharpness (of mind or senses of sight or hearing)
- ability to judge quickly and well; Ex. business acumen

acrid
- bitter (to the taste or smell); sharp; bitterly pungent
- stinging; caustic; bitter in words or manner; N. acrimony: bitter ill-natured animosity in speech or behavior
- stinging; caustic; bitter in words or manner; N. acrimony: bitter ill-natured animosity in speech or behavior
- fear of heights

acuity
- sharpness of judgment; ability to act
- something attached to but holding an inferior position

actuate
- motivate; activate; cause to act
- something attached to but holding an inferior position

actuary
- someone who advises insurance companies
- something attached to but holding an inferior position

actuarial
- calculating; pertaining to insurance statistics
- calculating; pertaining to insurance statistics

acute
- (of the senses) sharp; quickly perceptive; keen; penetrating; brief and severe; Ex. acute sense of smell/analysis/pain
- (of the senses) sharp; quickly perceptive; keen; penetrating; brief and severe; Ex. acute sense of smell/analysis/pain

addiction
- compulsive habitual need
- something attached to but holding an inferior position

adaptable
- expert at; very skilled
- expert at; very skilled

address
- direct a speech to; speak to; deal with or discuss; direct one's efforts or attention to; make with a destination; N: formal speech
- direct a speech to; speak to; deal with or discuss; direct one's efforts or attention to; make with a destination; N: formal speech

adhere
- stick fast; be a devoted follower; N. adhesion: adhering; devotion; loyalty
- stick fast; be a devoted follower; N. adhesion: adhering; devotion; loyalty

adherent
- supporter; follower
- supporter; follower

adjacent
- adjoining; neighboring; close by
- adjoining; neighboring; close by

adjourn
- suspend until a later time; move from one place to another
- suspend until a later time; move from one place to another

adjunct
- something attached to but holding an inferior position
- something attached to but holding an inferior position

adjuration
- solemn urging; V. adjure: entreat earnestly; enjoin solemnly
- solemn urging; V. adjure: entreat earnestly; enjoin solemnly

adjutant
- staff officer assisting the commander; assistant
- staff officer assisting the commander; assistant

admonish
- warn or speak to with gentle disapproval; reprove
- warn or speak to with gentle disapproval; reprove

adorn
- decorate
- decorate

adroit
- skillful (in using mind or hand)
- skillful (in using mind or hand)

adulation
- flattery; admiration that is more than is necessary or deserved
- flattery; admiration that is more than is necessary or deserved

adulterate
- make impure or of poorer quality by adding inferior or tainted (contaminated) substances
- make impure or of poorer quality by adding inferior or tainted (contaminated) substances

advent
- arrival
- arrival

adventitious
- accidental; casual; happening by chance
- accidental; casual; happening by chance

adversary
- opponent; enemy
- opponent; enemy

adverse
- going against; opposing; unfavorable; hostile
- going against; opposing; unfavorable; hostile

adversity
- great hardship or affliction; misfortune; calamitous event
- great hardship or affliction; misfortune; calamitous event

advert
- refer
- refer

advocate
- speak in favor of; support (an idea or plan); urge; plead for
- speak in favor of; support (an idea or plan); urge; plead for

aegis
- shield; protection; defense
- shield; protection; defense

aerie
- nest of a large bird of prey
- nest of a large bird of prey

aesthetic
- artistic; dealing with or capable of appreciating the beautiful (of a person or building); CF. aesthete; CF. aesthetics
- artistic; dealing with or capable of appreciating the beautiful (of a person or building); CF. aesthete; CF. aesthetics

affable
- easily approachable; easy to talk to; warmly friendly
- easily approachable; easy to talk to; warmly friendly

affected
- artificial; pretended
- artificial; pretended

affidavit
- written statement made under oath (for use as proof in a court of law)
- written statement made under oath (for use as proof in a court of law)

affiliation
- joining; associating with
- joining; associating with

affinity
- feeling of kinship; similarity; Ex. strong affinity for her; Ex. many affinities between two languages
- feeling of kinship; similarity; Ex. strong affinity for her; Ex. many affinities between two languages

affirmative
- positive assertion; confirmation; solemn pledge by one who refuses to take an oath; V. affirm; Adj. affirmative; CF. affirmative action: positive discrimination
- positive assertion; confirmation; solemn pledge by one who refuses to take an oath; V. affirm; Adj. affirmative; CF. affirmative action: positive discrimination

afflict
- state of distress; trial; cause of distress or suffering; V. afflict: inflict grievous suffering on
- state of distress; trial; cause of distress or suffering; V. afflict: inflict grievous suffering on

affluence
- abundance; wealth
- abundance; wealth

affront
- insult; offense; intentional act of disrespect; V: insult or hurt the feelings of intentionally
- insult or hurt the feelings of intentionally

agape
- openmouthed
- openmouthed

agenda
- items of business at a meeting
- items of business at a meeting

agglomeration
- collection; heap; V. agglomerate: gather into a rounded mass; N. aggolomeate: jumbled mass; heap
- collection; heap; V. agglomerate: gather into a rounded mass; N. aggolomeate: jumbled mass; heap

aggrandize
- make greater; increase in power, wealth, rank, or honor; N. aggrandizement
- make greater; increase in power, wealth, rank, or honor; N. aggrandizement

aggregate
- sum; total; ADJ. V: gather into a mass or whole; accumulate; add up to; Ex. aggregate 100 dollars
- sum; total; ADJ. V: gather into a mass or whole; accumulate; add up to; Ex. aggregate 100 dollars

aghast
- filled with great surprise or fear; horrified
- filled with great surprise or fear; horrified
agility nimbleness; ability to move quickly
agitate stir up; disturb
agnostic one who is skeptical of the existence or knowability of a god or any ultimate reality
agog highly excited; intensely curious
agriculture pertaining to land or its cultivation; Ex. agrarian reform
alacrity cheerful promptness without reluctance
alchemy medieval chemistry
agog highly excited; intensely curious
agnostic one who is skeptical of the existence or knowability of a god or any ultimate reality
albeit pious purpose
agenda list of items to be discussed or done
aggregate total amount
ambiguity unclear or doubtful in meaning; having more than one possible interpretation
ambiguous unclear or doubtful in meaning; having more than one possible interpretation
amiable agreeable; lovable; warmly friendly
ambience environment; atmosphere; Ex. restaurant with a pleasant ambience; ADJ. ambient: completely surrounding; Ex. ambient temperature
ambitious having a strong desire to achieve power, influence, or fame
ambition strong desire to achieve power, influence, or fame
alimentary supplying nourishment
alliteration repetition of beginning sound in poetry
amalgamate (of societies or groups) combine; unite in one body
amalgam combination of different things; mixture of metals (containing mercury) used for filling holes in teeth
amass collect (gradually, in a very large amount)
amazon female warrior
ambidextrous capable of using either hand with equal ease
ambience environment; atmosphere; Ex. restaurant with a pleasant ambience; ADJ. ambient: completely surrounding; Ex. ambient temperature
ambiguous unclear or doubtful in meaning; having more than one possible interpretation
amphibian able to live both on land and in water; N. amphibian
ample enough; abundant; spacious; large in size; Ex. ample opportunity/garden; N. amplitude: quality of being ample; abundance; largeness of space
amphitheater oval building with tiers of seats; CF. arena
ample enough; abundant; spacious; large in size; Ex. ample opportunity/garden; N. amplitude: quality of being ample; abundance; largeness of space
amplify increase in size or effect; expand; broaden or clarify by expanding; intensify; make stronger; Ex. amplify one’s remarks with a graph
amputate cut off part of body; prune (a limb)
amok(amuck) in a state of rage; Ex. run amok
amulet charm; talisman; an object worn believed to protect against evil, bad luck
anchronism an error involving time in a story; something or someone misplaced in time; ADJ. anachronistic

analgesic causing insensitivity to pain; N.

analgesia condition of being unable to feel pain

analogous comparable; similar

analogy similarity; parallelism; comparing two similar things

anarchist person who seeks to overturn the established government; advocate of abolishing authority

anarchy absence of governing body; state of disorder

anathema solemn curse; someone or something regarded as a curse; V. anathematize

ancestry family descent; ADJ. ancestral

anchor secure or fasten firmly; be fixed in place; N. anchorage

ancillary serving as an aid or accessory; auxiliary; N.

anecdote short story of an amusing or interesting event

anemia condition in which blood lacks red corpuscles; ADJ. anemic

anesthetic substance that removes sensation with or without loss of consciousness; N. anesthesia

anguish acute pain; extreme suffering

angular sharp-cornered; having an angle; not rounded (body); bony; lean; gaunt; stiff in manner

animadversion critical remark; V. animadvert: comment critically with disapproval

animated lively; spirited

animosity active enmity

animus hostile feeling or intent; animosity; hostility; disposition

annals records arranged in yearly parts; history

anneal reduce brittleness and improve toughness by heating and cooling (metal or glass)

annex attach; add to a large thing; take possession of; incorporate (territory) into a larger existing political unit (by force); N: building added to a large one

annihilate destroy

annotate comment; make explanatory notes

annuity yearly allowance

annul make void

elope run away secretly with the intention of getting married

androgyne drug that relieves pain or trouble; 진통제; opiate; ADJ. Ex. anodyne statement

anoint consecrate; put oil on (in a religious ceremony)

anomalous abnormal; irregular

anomaly irregularity

anonymity state of being nameless; anonymity; ADJ. anonymous

antagonism hostility; active opposition; V. antagonize: cause to become an enemy; N. antagonist: person who is opposed to another; opponent; adversary; principal character in opposition to the protagonist

protagonist leader or noticeable supporter of an idea; chief character in a play or story

antececeede precede

antecedents preceding events that influence what comes later; ancestors or early background

antediluvian antiquated; extremely ancient

anthem song of praise or patriotism; Ex. national anthem

anthology book of literary selections by various authors; CF. omnibus

anthropoid manlike; resembling a human being; N.

anthropologist student of the history and science of humankind

anthropomorphic having human form or characteristics

anticlimax letdown in thought or emotion; something unexciting, ordinary, or disappointing coming after something important or exciting

antidote remedy to counteract a poison or disease; Ex. antidote to the economic troubles

antipathy aversion; dislike or opposition

antiquated obsolete; old-fashioned; outdated

antique made in an earlier period and usu. valuable; N: object that was made in an earlier period and that is rare or valuable

antiquity quality of being very old; ancient times; 고대

antiseptic substance that prevents infection in a wound; ADJ.

antithesis contrast; direct opposite of or to; ADJ. antithetic or antithetical

antler bony growth on the head of a deer

anvil iron block used in hammering out metals

apathy lack of caring; indifference; lack of concern or interest in important matters; Ex. He was sunk in apathy after his failure; ADJ. apathetic

ape imitate or mimic (a person’s behavior or manner)

aperture opening; hole; adjustable opening in a camera that limits the amount of light

apex tip; summit; climax; highest point

aphasia loss of speech due to injury or illness

aphorism pithy maxim or saying; ADJ. aphoristic

apiary a place where bees are kept

hive box for bees; V: cause to go in a hive

apiculture bee-keeping

apiarist person who keeps bees

aplomb poise; composure in difficult situations; assurance; self-confidence
poise  good judgment with composure; balance; V: place in a carefully balanced position

apocalyptic  prophetic; pertaining to revelations especially of disaster; N. apocalypse

apocryphal  (of a story) widely believed but untrue

apogee  highest point; the point farthest from the earth; OP. perigee

apolitical  having an aversion or lack of concern for political affairs

apologist  one who writes in defense of a cause or institution; N. apologia

apoplexy  stroke; loss of consciousness caused by too much blood in the brain

apostate  one who abandons his religious faith or political beliefs; N. apostasy

apotropaic  devotional, demonological; having the purpose of deflecting evil

apothecary  druggist; pharmacist

apothegm (apophthegm)  pithy, compact saying

application  diligent attention; diligence; V. apply oneself

apparent  seeming true; seeming to exist; seeming to be the case

apparent  seeming true; seeming to exist; seeming to be the case

apparent  seeming true; seeming to exist; seeming to be the case

appreciate  be thankful for; increase in worth; be thoroughly conscious of; ADJ. appreciable: enough to be felt; Ex. appreciable difference

apprehend  arrest (a criminal); dread; perceive; N. apprehension

apprehensive  fearful; discerning

apprise  inform

probation  approval

appropriate  acquire; take possession of for one’s own use without permission; set aside for a particular purpose; allocate; CF. misappropriate

appurtenances  subordinate possessions; something added to a more important thing

apropos  with reference to; regarding; Ex. remarks apropos (of) the present situation; ADJ. ADV.

aptitude  fitness; talent

aquiline  curved; hooked; of or like an eagle; Ex. aquiline nose

arable  fit for growing crops; Ex. arable land

arbiter  person with power to decide a matter in dispute; judge who is in a position of make influential judgments; Ex. supreme arbiter of fashion in beachwear

arbitrary  unreasonable or capricious; random; tyrannical; Ex. arbitrary ruler

arbitrate  act as judge (at the request of both sides)

arboretum  place where different trees and shrubs are studied and exhibited

arboreal  of or living in trees

arcade  a covered passageway usually lined with shops

arcane  esoteric; secret; mysterious; known only to the initiated; Ex. arcane ritual; Ex. arcane process closed to the uninitiated listener

archaeology  study of artifacts and relics of early mankind

archaic  antiquated; no longer used; belonging to the past; N.

archetype  prototype; primitive pattern

archetypal  (of a story) widely believed but untrue

array  marshal; draw up in order; arrange in order; clothe splendidly; adorn; N: fine clothes; ordered group; Ex. in battle array

arrears  being in debt; money that should have been paid; work that should have been done

arrhythmic  lacking rhythm or regularity; N. arrhythmia

arrogance  pride; haughtiness; ADJ. arrogant: unpleasantly self-important (with a strong confidence in one’s own importance and a lack of respect for other people)

arroyo  gully; narrow channel formed by rainwater

artery  blood-vessel; CF. vein

articulate  effective; distinct; expressing ideas clearly; having clear sounds; having joints; Ex. articulate speech; V: express thoughts and feeling clearly; pronounce clearly; unite by joints

arsenal  storage place for military equipment
- artifacts object made by human beings, either hand-made or mass-produced
- artless without guile; open and honest
- ascendency controlling influence; position of controlling influence; CF. in the ascendant
- certain find out for certain; make certain
- ascetic practicing self-denial; avoiding physical pleasures and comforts; austere; Ex. ascetic life of Buddhist monks; N. asceticism
- ascribe refer; attribute; assign
- aseptic preventing infection; having a cleansing effect
- ashen ash-colored; deadly pale
- asinine stupid; Ex. asinine remarks
- askance with a sideways or indirect look (with disapproval or distrust); Ex. look askance at
- askew crookedly; slanted; at an angle
- asperity sharpness; roughness; severity (of temper or weather); Ex. asperities of a Russian winter
- aspersion slanderous remark; Ex. cast aspersions on
- aspirant seeker after position or status
- aspire seek to attain (position or status); long for; Ex. aspire to become president; Ex. aspire to/after the leadership
- assail assault
- assay analyze (to discover what materials are present); evaluate (soil or ore)
- assent agree; accept; N. assessment
- assert state strongly or positively; demand recognition of (rights, claims, etc.); make a claim to (by forceful action); Ex. assert one’s independence
- assiduous diligent
- assimilate absorb; take (food) into the body and digest it; understand (knowledge) completely and be able to use properly; cause to become homogeneous (the people of a country or race in the wasy of behaving or thinking)
- assuage mak less severe; ease or lessen (pain); satisfy (hunger); soothe (anger)
- assumption something taken for granted; the taking over or taking possession of; Ex. her assumption of power; V. assume
- a person who governs in place of a ruler who is ill, absent, or still a child; ADJ. Ex. the Prince regent
- assurance firm statement that something is certainly true; promise or pledge; certainty; confidence in one’s own ability; self-confidence; Ex. In spite of all his assurances, he did not come back; Ex. assurance of his loyalty; Ex. The teacher lacked assurance in frown of his class; V. assure; tell firmly with confidence; ensure; make (something) certain to happen; make (someone) feel sure; give confidence to; ADJ. assured: self-assured; confident in one’s own ability; showing certainty
- asteroid small planet
- astigmatism eye defect which prevents proper focus; OP. stigmatism
- astral relating to the stars
- astringent binding; causing contraction (stopping bleeding); harsh or severe; stringent; Ex. astringent criticism
- astronomical enormously large or extensive
- astute wise; shrewd; keen; seeing quickly something that is to one’s advantage
- asunder into parts; apart; V. sunder
- asylum place of refuge or shelter; protection (religious or political)
- asymmetric not identical on both sides of a dividing central line
- atavism resemblance to remote ancestors rather than to parents; reversion to an earlier type; throwback; ADJ. atavistic
- atheistic denying the existence of God; N. atheism
- atone make amends for; pay for; Ex. atone for
- atrocity brutal deed; ADJ. atrocious
- atrophy wasting away; V. weaken and lose flesh and muscle (through lack of blood or lack of use)
- attentive alert and watchful; listening carefully; paying attention; considerate; thoughtful; politely helpful; Ex. attentive audience; Ex. He was attentive to the old lady; N. attentions: act of courtesy and consideration
- attenuate make thin; weaken
- attest testify; bear witness
- attribute essential quality; V. ascribe; explain
- attrition rubbing away by friction; gradual decrease in numbers or strength; reduction in the work force without firing employees; wearing away of opposition by means of harassment; Ex. a war of attrition
- atypical not normal; not typical
- audacious daring; bold; N. audacity
- audit examination of accounts of a business; official examination; V.
- augment increase; add to
- augury omen; prophecy; sign of coming events; V. augur: predict; foretell; be a sign of (something in future)
- august impressive; majestic
- aureole sun’s corona; halo; bright circle of light
- auroral pertaining to the aurora borealis; CF. aurora australis
- auspicious favoring success; giving signs of future success; Cf. auspices
austere forbiddingly stern; ascetic; without comfort or enjoyment; severely simple and unornamented; Ex. a monk’s austere life; Ex. austere grandeur of the cathedral; N. austerity

authenticate prove genuine

authoritarian subordinating the individual to the state; completely dominating another’s will; Ex. authoritarian regime/father

authoritative having the weight of authority; regarded as providing knowledge that can be trusted; reliable; peremptory and dictatorial; Ex. authoritative dictionary/manner; CF. definitive

autocratic having absolute unchecked power; dictatorial; N. autocrat, autocracy

autononmous self-governing; N. autonomy

auxiliary offering or providing help; additional or subsidiary; N: helper; assistant

avalanche great mass of falling snow and ice

avarice greediness for wealth

avenger take vengeance for something or on behalf of someone; Ex. They avenged his death by burning the village; Ex. He swore to avenge his brother; Ex. They avenged themselves on their enemy.

aver state confidently; declare as true

averse reluctant; disinclined; not liking or opposed; Ex. averse to cats/doing the house work

aversion firm dislike

avert prevent; avoid; turn away (eyes or thought); Ex. An accident was averted by his quick thinking; Ex. She averted her eyes from the terrible sight.

aviary enclosure for birds; large cage

avid greedy; extremely eager for; Ex. avid learner; N. avidity

avocation secondary or minor occupation

avow declare openly; N. avowal

avuncular of or like an uncle

awe solemn wonder; feeling of respect mixed with wonder and fear; V. fill with awe; ADJ. awesome

awful terrible; very bad

awl pointed tool used for piercing

awry distorted; crooked; bent; Ex. Our plans have gone awry.

axiom self-evident truth requiring no proof

azure sky blue

babble chatter idly or foolishly; make continuous sounds like water running gently over rounded stone; N.

bacchanalian drunken
luxuriate take pleasure in great comfort

bastion stronghold; something seen as a source of protection; Ex. the last bastion of male chauvinism

bate let down; lessen the force of; moderate; restrain; Ex. with bated breath; CF. abate

bauble trinket; cheap jewel; trifle

bawdy indecent; obscene; about sex in a rude funny way; CF. bawd

beatific giving or showing bliss; blissful

bliss complete happiness; ADJ. blissful

beatitude blessedness; state of great happiness

mystic of hidden meaning and spiritual power; Ex. mystic ceremonies; N. CF. mysticism

dress with vulgar finery

finery beautiful clothes for a special occasion

bedraggle wet thoroughly; ADJ. bedraggled: draggled

beeline direct quick route

befuddle confuse thoroughly

fuddle make stupid or confused as with alcholic drink; N. in a fuddle: confused

beget father; become the father of; produce; give rise to

beggrudge envy; give or allow unwillingly; grudge; Ex. We shouldn’t begrudge him his success.

grudge deep feeling of dislike; Ex. grudge fight; V.

beguile deceive; mislead or delude; cheat; pass time pleasantly; charm or attract; Ex. beguiling smile

beemoth huge creature; something of monstrous size or power

beholden obligated; indebted; owing thanks; obliged or indebted from gratitude

behoove(behove) be suited to; be incumbent upon; be right and necessary; Ex. It behooves one to do.

belabor harp on; dwell on tediously; explain or go over excessively or to a ridiculous degree; assail verbally; beat severely; attack physically

belated delayed

beleaguer besiege or attack (with an army); harass; beset

believe contradict; give a false impression; disguise; Ex. The poor sales belied our high hopes; Ex. Her smile belies her true feeling of displeasure.

belittle disparage; depreciate

bellicose warlike

belligerent quarrelsome

moan lament; moan for; express sorrow or disapproval of

bemused confused; lost in thought; preoccupied

benediction blessing

benefactor gift giver; patron; person who does good or who gives money for a good purpose

beneficent kindly; doing good

beneficial helpful; useful; advantageous

beneficiary person entitled to benefits or proceeds of an insurance policy or will

benefit advantage; anything that brings help, advantage, or profit; money provided by the government to the people; fund-raising public entertainment; Ex. unemployment benefit; V: receive benefits; be beneficial to; give benefits

benevolent generous; charitable; having a wish to do good

benign kindly; favorable; not malignant (disease); Ex. benign tumor

benison blessing

bent determined; Ex. bent on advancing in the business; N: natural talent or inclination

bequeath leave to someone by means of a will; hand down in his will; N. bequest

berate scold strongly

bereavement state of being deprived of something valuable or beloved; state of being bereaved or bereft

bereaved deprived of (someone beloved through death)

bereft deprived of (something valuable); lacking

berserk mad with violent anger; frenzied; madly excited

beseech beg; plead with

beset harass or trouble from all directions; hem in

hem surround tightly so that movement is impossible; Ex. hem in; N.

besiege surround with armed forces; harass (with requests); annoy continually

besmirch soil; defile; make dirty

bestial beastlike; brutal; inhuman; very cruel

bestial beastlike; brutal; inhuman; very cruel

bestow confer

betoken signify; indicate; be a sign of

token outward sign; Ex. a token of our gratitude

betray be unfaithful; reveal (unconsciously or unwillingly); Ex. Her trembling hands betray her anxiety.

betroth become engaged to marry

bevy large group; Ex. a bevy of starlets

bicameral two-chambered as a legislative body

bicker quarrel

biennial every two years

bifurcated divided into two branches; forked

bigotry stubborn intolerance

bigot one who is intolerant (in matters of religion or politics)

intolerant not willing to accept ways of thinking different from one’s own; CF. tolerant; CF. tolerate
♠ bilious suffering from indigestion; sick from having too much bile; irritable; easily irritated
♠ bilk swindle; cheat
♠ billowing swelling out in waves; surging
♥ billow large wave of water; a great swell or surge (of smoke); V: surge, swell, roll in billows
♥ swell long wave of water that moves continuously without breaking; V.
♥ surge powerful movement of or like a wave; V.
♠ bivouac temporary encampment; camp without tents; V.
△ bizarre fantastic; violently contrasting; noticeably odd; strikingly unconventional
♠ blanch bleach; whiten; make white or pale
♠ bland soothing or mild (food); agreeable; causing no trouble or offence
♠ blandishment flattery
♠ blare loud or harsh roar or screech; dazzling blaze of light
♥ screech unpleasant high sharp sound; shriek; V.
♥ dazzle make blind with a sudden intense light; amaze; fill with wonder
♠ blasé bored with pleasure or dissipation; uninterested or bored
♠ blasphemy irreverence; sacrilege; cursing; bad language about God or holy things; V. blasphem; ADJ. blasphemous; CF. sacrilege
♠ blatant extremely (offensively) obvious; loudly offensive; Ex. blatant lie; N. blatancy
♠ bleak cold or cheerless; frigid; unlikely to be favorable; depressing
♠ blighted suffering from a disease; destroyed
♥ blight plant disease; V: infect with blight; ruin; destroy
♠ blithe(blithesome) gay; joyous
♠ bloated (unpleasantly) swollen or puffed as with water or air
♠ blowhard talkative boaster; braggart
♠ bludgeon club; heavy-headed weapon; V.
♠ bluff pretense (of strength); deception; high cliff; ADJ: rough but good-natured

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△ blunder error; stupid mistake
♠ blunt utter impulsively from nervousness or excitement
♠ bluster blow in heavy gusts; threaten emptily; bully; speak in a noisy or bullying manner; CF. breeze, gust, gale
♥ bully one who is habitually cruel to weaker people; V.
△ bode foreshadow; portend
△ bogus counterfeit; not authentic; intentionally false; Ex. bogus interview
♠ bohemian unconventional (in an artistic way)

△ boisterous violent; rough; noisy
♠ bolster support; reinforce
♠ bolt door bar; fastening pin or screw; length of fabric; large roll of cloth; V: dash or dart off; fasten (a door); gobble down
♥ dart move or throw suddenly and quickly
♥ gobble eat very quickly
♠ bombardment attack (as with missiles or bombs); V. bombard
♠ bombastic pompous; using inflated language
♥ bombast grandiloquent, pompous speech
♠ boon blessing; benefit; something very helpful
♠ boorish rude; insensitive
♥ boor rude, insensitive person
♠ bouillon clear beef (or meat) soup
♠ bountiful generous; graciously generous; showing bounty
♥ gracious kind in a generous way (to someone less important)
△ bourgeois middle class; selfishly materialistic; too interested in material possessions
△ bovine cowlike; placid and dull; slow-thinking; calm
♠ bowdlerize expurgate; CF. Thomas Bowdler
♠ brackish somewhat saline
♠ bragadocio boasting
♥ brag boast
♠ braggar boaster; bragger
♠ brandish wave around (a weapon); flourish
♠ bravado swagger; assumed air of defiance; false show of bravery
♥ swagger walk or behave with an over-confident manner
♠ brawn human muscle; muscular strength; sturdiness
♥ brawny muscular; having well-developed muscles
♥ sturdy strong and firm (in the body)
♠ brazen insolent; without shame; bold; Ex. brazen lie; V: face with bold self-assurance or with unshamed confidence

♥ brawl noisy quarrel
♠ breach breaking of contract or duty; fissure or gap; opening; V.
△ breadth width; extent
△ brevity conciseness; shortness of duration
△ brindled tawny or grayish with streaks or spots (of animals)
♥ tawny brownish yellow
♠ bristling rising like bristles; showing irritation
♥ bristle short stiff hair; V: (hair or fur) stand up stiffly
brittle hard but easily broken; difficult; unstable; Ex. brittle situation
broach introduce as a subject; moot; open up
brocade rich, figured(patterned) fabric
brochure pamphlet
brooch ornamental clasp; pin
claw hold firmly within arms
brook tolerate; endure; Ex. brook no interference; N: small stream
browbeat bully; intimidate
browse graze; feed on growing grass; skim or glance at casually
graze (of an animal) feed on growing grass; cause (an animal) to feed on grass; scrape (esp. the skin) or touch lightly in passing; brush; Ex. We can’t graze the cattle till summer; N: surface wound
skim read or glance through quickly; touch lightly in passing; brush; remove from the surface of a liquid
brunt main impact or shock (of an attack or blow); Ex. brunt of the argument
brusque blunt; abrupt; curt; not wanting to waste time being nice
buccaneer pirate
bucolic rustic; pastoral
buffet strike forcefully; slap; batter; knock out; N: table with food set out for people to server themselves; meal at which people help themselves to food that’s been set
slap hit quickly with the flat part of the hand; N. CF. smack
bufoonery clowning
bufoon stupid person; clown
claw act stupidly; play the fool; N.
bugaboo bugbear; object of baseless terror
bullion gold and silver in the form of bars
bulwark strong wall built for defense; earthwork or other strong defense; person who defends
bungle mismanage; blunder; botch; blow; spoil by clumsy behavior
botch mismanage; blow
buoyant able to float; cheerful and optimistic; N. buoyancy; Ex. buoyancy of wood/water/American market
bureaucracy overregulated administrative system marked by red tape; ADJ. bureaucratic
burgeon grow rapidly; grow forth; send out buds; Ex. burgeoning computer industry; CF. bludgeon
burlesque give an imitation that ridicules; imitate mockingly
burnish make shiny by rubbing; polish
buttress support; prop up; N. stationary structure to support wall; Ex. flying buttress
prop support placed under or against something; V.
buxom full-bosomed; plump; jolly
plump pleasantly fat; nicely rounded
cabal small group of persons secretly united to promote their own interests
cache hiding place; V.
cacophonous discordant; inharmonious; N. cacophony: unpleasant mixture of loud sounds
cadaver corpse; dead human body
cadaverous like a corpse; pale
cadence rhythmic rise and fall (of words or sounds); beat; regular beat of sound; rhythm
cajole persuade by praise or false promise; coax; wheedle coax persuade by flattery
calamity disaster; misery
calculated deliberately planned; likely
caldron(cauldron) large kettle
caliber ability; quality; diameter of the inside of a round cylinder; Ex. work of very high caliber
calligraphy beautiful writing; excellent penmanship
callous hardened; unfeeling; without sympathy for the sufferings of others; unkind
callus area of thick hard skin
callow youthful; immature; inexperienced
calorific heat-producing; N. calorie
calumny malicious misrepresentation; slander
camaraderie good-fellowship; CF. comrade
cantata story set to music to be sung by a chorus (shorter than an oratorio)
canter slow gallop; V. CF. trot
canto division of a long poem
canvas determine or seek opinions, votes, etc.; go through (a region) to solicit votes or orders; conduct a survey; N.
capacious  spacious

capacity  mental or physical ability; role; position or duty; ability to accommodate; Ex. in my capacity as president

capillary  having a very fine bore; resembling a hair; fine and slender; Ex. capillary attraction; N. very fine hairlike tube; CF. capillarity

capitulate  surrender; give up all resistance

caprice  whim; sudden change of mind without any real cause

capricious  unpredictable; fickle

captation  title; chapter heading; text under illustration

captious  faultfinding; too critical

carafe  glass water bottle; decanter

carapace  shell covering the back (of a turtle, tortoise, crab, etc.)

carat(karat)  unit of weight for precious stones; measure of the purity of gold

carcinogenic  causing cancer; N. carcinogen

cardinal  chief; most important; N: priest; cardinal number: number that shows quantity rather than order

cardiologist  doctor specializing in ailments of the heart

career  rush wildly; go at full speed

career  rush wildly; go at full speed

care  lurch; sway from side to side; move with irregular swinging movement; stagger

care  lurch; sway from side to side; move with irregular swinging movement; stagger

caricature  distortion; burlesque

carillon  a set of bells (often in a tower) capable of being played

carnage  destruction of life; slaughter; killing of large numbers of people or animals

carnal  fleshy; sensual; concerning the desires of the body

carnivorous  meat-eating; N. carnivore; CF. herbivore

carnage  destruction of life; slaughter; killing of large numbers of people or animals

carnal  fleshy; sensual; concerning the desires of the body

caricature  distortion; burlesque

carrier  map-maker

cascade  small waterfall

caste  one of the hereditary classes in Hindu society; social stratification; prestige

castigation  punishment; severe criticism or disapproval

casualty  serious or fatal accident; person killed or wounded in an accident or battle

casual  happening by chance; irregular; occasional; informal; showing or feeling little interest; Ex. casual reader/labor/remar

cataclysm  deluge; upheaval; earthquake; violent and sudden event or change

catalyst  agent which brings about a chemical change while it remains unaffected and unchanged; CF. catalysis

catapult  slingshot; hurling machine; V: fire from catapult

cast  throw forcefully; shout out violently

cataract  great waterfall; eye abnormality (causing a gradual loss of eyesight)

catastrophe  calamity; disaster

catcall  shout of disapproval or displeasure (made at the theater or a sports match); boo; V.
catechism  book for religious instruction in question-and-answer form; religious instruction by question and answer; V. catechize
categorical  without exceptions; made without any doubt in mind; unqualified; absolute

castigation  punishment; severe criticism or disapproval

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castigation  punishment; severe criticism or disapproval

castigation  punishment; severe criticism or disapproval

castigation  punishment; severe criticism or disapproval

castigation  punishment; severe criticism or disapproval

castigator  overseer of morals (also taking the census); person who eliminates inappropriate matter; V.
- censorious severely critical
- censure blame; criticize; express strong disapproval; N: severe criticism; strong disapproval
- centaur mythical figure, half man and half horse
- centigrade denoting a widely used temperature scale (basically same as Celsius)
- centrifugal radiating; departing from the center
- centrifuge machine that separates substances by whirling them
- centripetal tending toward the center
- centurion Roman army officer (commanding a company of about 100 soldiers)
- cerebral pertaining to the brain or intellect; intellectual rather than emotional; CF. cerebrum
- cerebration thought; working of the brain
- ceremonious marked by formality; extremely formal and polite; CF. ceremony: conventional social courtesy
- unceremonious not done politely without due formalities
- certitude certainty
- cessation stoppage
- cession yielding to another; ceding
- chafe warm by rubbing; make sore by rubbing; N.
- chaff worthless products of an endeavor; husk (outer seed cover) separated from grain; Ex. separate the wheat from the chaff
- chaffing bantering; joking
- chagrin annoyance and disappointment; vexation (caused by humiliation or injured pride)
- chalice goblet; consecrated cup
- chameleon lizard that changes color in different situations
- chaste morally pure; virginal; abstaining from illicit sexual acts; modest; simple (of a style of writing); not highly decorated; austere
- chasten discipline; punish in order to correct; CF. castigate
- chastise punish as by beating; criticize severely
- chauvinist blindly devoted patriot; zealous adherent of a group, cause, or sex; ADJ. chauvinistic; CF. chauvinism; Nicolas Chauvin
- check stop motion; curb or restrain
- checkered marked by great changes in fortune; with many changes of fortune; CF. checked: having a pattern of squares
- cherub angelic; innocent-looking; N. cherub; CF. seraph: winged angel of the highest order
- chicanery trickery; deception
- chide scold; rebuke (someone who has done wrong)
- chimerical fantastically improbable; highly unrealistic; N. chimera: unreal fancy; fire-breathing female creature
- chisel swindle or cheat; N: wedgelike tool for cutting
- chivalrous courteous; faithful; brave; N. chivalry
- choleric hot-tempered; bad-tempered; irritable; easily angered; CF. cholera
- choreography art of representing dances in written symbols; arrangement of dances
- chore daily domestic task (such as cleaning, cooking, and shopping); unpleasant task
- chortle chuckle with delight; N.
- chuckle laugh quietly
- chronic long established as a disease
- chronicle report; record (in chronological order)
- churlish boorish; rude; N. churl: boor; yahoo
- ciliated having minute hairs; CF. cilium; CF. cilia: eyelash
- cipher nonentity; worthless person or thing; zero; secret code; N.
- circuitous roundabout
- circuit closed circular line around an area; circumference; regularly repeated journey from place to place
- circumlocution indirect or roundabout expression (by using an unnecessarily large number of words esp. when trying to avoid answering a difficult question directly)
- circumscribe limit; confine; draw a line around
- circumspect prudent; cautious; acting after careful thought
- circumvent outwit; defeat by behaving more cleverly; outsmart; baffle; avoid; get around
cistern reservoir or water tank
citadel fortress
cite quote; commend; Ex. cited for bravery in an official record
civil having to do with citizens; not military or religious; courteous and polite; Ex. married in a civil ceremony; Ex. civil strife/disorder/law; N. civility; CF. civic
clarvoyant having foresight; fortuneteller; N. clairvoyance
hindsight understanding the nature of an event after it has actually happened
clamber climb by crawling with difficulties; scramble
clamor loud continuous noise; continuous demand or complaint made by a large number of people; V: make a clamor; express (a demand) continually and loudly; ADJ. clamorous
clandestine secret
chaperon older person who accompanies and supervises a young unmarried woman
clangor loud resounding noise; sound of repeated clanging
clapper striker (tongue) of a bell
clear strike the palms of the hands together with a sudden explosive sound; come together suddenly with a sharp sound; put or send promptly; Ex. clap the thief in jail; N: clapping; loud or explosive sound; CF. applause
clairvoyant having foresight; fortuneteller; N. clairvoyance
clarion shrill, trumpetlike sound; kind of trumpet used in former times
claustrophobia fear of being locked in
clavicle collarbone
scrimmage disorderly fight between two or more people
cleave split or sever; cling to; remain faithful to; N. cleavage; ADJ. cloven
cleft N: split
clemency disposition to be lenient in deciding punishments; mildness as of the weather; ADJ. clement
cliché phrase dulled in meaning by repetition; platitude; ADJ. clichéd
bromide platitude; chemical compound used to calm excitement
cliente body of customers
climactic relating to the highest point; N. climax; CF. climactic
clime climate
clique small exclusive group of people
cloister monastery or convent
cloth great influence (especially political or social); hard blow with fist
cloying distasteful (because excessive); excessively sweet or sentimental; V. cloy: become unpleasant through too much sweetness or excess
coagulate congeal; thicken; clot; N. coagulant
clot half-solid lump formed from a liquid (or blood); V.
pudding hot sweet dish
coalesce combine; fuse; N. coalescence
codify arrange (laws or rules) as a code; classify; N. code: system of words used instead of ordinary writing; collection of laws, rules, established social customs
coercion use of force to get someone to object; compelling; V. coerce
coeval living at the same time as; existing during the same period of time; contemporary; of the same age
coerce live together
cohere stick together
cohesion tendency to keep together
cohorts group of people who share some common quality; armed band; a group of between 300 and 600 soldiers under one commander (in the ancient Rome)
collage work of art put together from fragments
scrap  small bit or fragment; discarded waste material; fight; Ex. a scrap of paper/ cloth; V: break into parts for disposal; discard as worthless; fight; quarrel

scrap  leftover food

scrappy  quarrelsome

collate  examine and compare in order to verify authenticity; arrange in order (the sheets of a book before they are bound)
collateral  security given for loan; ADJ: secondary; descended from the same person but through different sons or daughters

collation  a light meal; collating
colloquial  pertaining to conversational or common speech; informal; N. colloquialism: colloquial expression
colloquy  informal discussion; conversation

collusion  conspiring in a fraudulent scheme to cheat or deceive others; V. collude
colossal  huge
colossus  gigantic statue; person or thing of great size or importance
comatose  in a coma; extremely sleepy
coma  deep prolonged unconsciousness caused by disease, poison, or a severe blow
combustible  easily burned; N. CF. combustion
comely  attractive; agreeable; having a pleasing appearance
homely  not good-looking; unattractive
comestible  something fit to be eaten
comeuppance  deserts; well-deserved punishment or misfortune; rebuke
deserts  what someone deserves
comity  courtesy; civility; Ex. comity of nations
commandeer  take (private property) for military use without needing permission or giving payment; draft for military purposes
draft  first rough form; conscription; draught; V: make a draft of; conscript
draught  current of air (through a room or to a fire); act of pulling roads; act of swallowing liquid or amount of liquid swallowed at a time
commemorative  remembering; honoring the memory of; Ex. commemorative stamp
commemorate  honor the memory of; serve as a memorial to; Ex. commemorate the 100th anniversary/ those who died in the war
commensurate  equal in extent; of the same size
commiserate  feel or express pity or sympathy for
commodious  spacious and comfortable
communal  held in common; public; of a group of people; of a commune

commune  small (often rural) community whose members share work and income; V: exchange thoughts or feelings; Ex. commune with nature
compact  agreement; contract; ADJ: tightly packed; firm; brief; concise; Ex. compact statement
compatible  harmonious; in harmony with; able to exist together
compelling  overpowering; irresistible in effect; holding one’s attention; that compels one to do something; Ex. a compelling adventure story; V. compel
compulsion  compelling; strong desire that is difficult to control; irresistible impulse
compulsory  obligatory; that must be done
compulsive  resulting from compulsion
compendium  brief, comprehensive summary; ADJ: compendious
compensatory  making up for; repaying
compilation  listing of information in tabular or book form; compiling
compile  assemble; gather; accumulate; make (a report or a book) from facts and information found in various places; Ex. compile a dictionary
complacency  self-satisfaction; smugness; ADJ. complacent
smug  self-satisfied; complacent
complaisant  trying to please; obliging; willing to please others
complement  complete; consummate; make perfect; N.
complementary  serving to complete something
compliance  conformity in fulfilling requirements; readiness to yield; disposition to yield to others; V. comply
compliant  readily acting in accordance with a rule, order, or the wishes or others; yielding; conforming to requirements
complicity  participation; involvement (in a questionable act or a crime)
component  element; ingredient
comport  bear one’s self; behave; Ex. comport oneself; N. comportment
deport  send out of the country; behave; N. deportation, deportment
bearing  deportment; connection
composure  mental calmness
compound  combine; produce by combining; increase; make worse by adding to or increasing; exacerbate; Ex. compound an error; ADJ: consisting of two or more parts; N: combination of two or more parts; area enclosed by a wall containing a group of buildings; Ex. factory compound; CF: complex
comprehensive  broad; including a lot or everything; thorough; inclusive
comprehend  include; understand
compute  force into less space; squeeze; contract; put into fewer words; N: thick mass of cloth pressed to part of the body to stop bleeding or swelling, reduce fever, etc.

comprise  include; consist of

compromise  adjust or settle by making mutual concessions; endanger the interests or reputation of; put into danger, disrepute, or a dishonorable position; Ex. compromise one’s principle; N.

compunction  remorse; strong uneasiness caused by guilt

reckon  count; calculate; regard as; think; suppose

concatenate  link as in a chain

concentric  having a common center

conceit  vanity or self-love; too high opinion of one’s own value; extravagant metaphor (in poetry)

vain  full of self-admiration; conceited; without result; unsuccessful; N. vanity

concentric  having a common center

conception  beginning; forming of an idea; fertilization; V. conceive: form an idea in the mind; devise; become pregnant; Cf. inception

conceived  an act of yielding; conceding; something conceded; point, right, etc. given unwillingly; privilege of maintaining a business in a certain place; Ex. oil concessions in the North sea; Cf. concessionaire

conciliatory  reconciling; soothing; V. conciliate: reconcile; soothe; win the friendly feelings (by removing anger)

conceive  brief and compact

conjecture  surmise; guess; V.

condolent  trusted friend (to whom one tells one’s secret)

confide  tell in confidence (to a person one trusts); be confident about

confidence  self-assurance; calm unworried feeling based on a strong belief in one’s abilities; strong belief in the ability of a person or plan; trust or faith in a person or thing; something confided; secret; Ex. confidence in your ability; Ex. I’m telling you this in confidence; Ex. exchange confidences about their boyfriends; ADJ. confident

confidential  spoken or written in secret; trusted with private matters; Ex. confidential secretary

constrain  shut in an enclosed space; restrict; keep within limits; N. confinement

confiscate  seize; take possession of (private property) by official order (usu. as a punishment); commandeer

confiscation  great fire

confuse  puzzle

congeal  freeze; coagulate

congenial  pleasant; friendly; in agreement with one’s tastes and nature; Ex. congenial weather

congenital  existing at birth

conglomerate  a mass of material sticking together

conglomerate  corporation made up of several different companies in diversified fields; mass of various material gathered together; rock consisting of small stones held together by clay; V.

congruity  correspondence of parts; harmonious relationship; Cf. congruence

congruent  in agreement; harmonious; corresponding; coinciding exactly; Cf. congruous

conifer  pine tree (usu. evergreen); cone-bearing tree; ADJ. coniferous; CF. deciduous; CF. evergreen

conjecture  surmise; guess; V.
conjugal  pertaining to marriage

conjure  cause to appear by magic; summon (a devil or a spirit) by magical power; practice magic (esp. by very quick movement of the hands); evoke; conjure up: bring into the mind; Ex. The magician conjured a rabbit out of his hat.

connivance  pretense of ignorance of something wrong; assistance; permission to offend; V. connive: feign ignorance (of a wrong); cooperate secretly in an illegal action; conspire

connoisseur  person competent to act as a judge of art, etc. (whose judgments are respected); a lover of an art

connotation  suggested or implied meaning of an expression; V. connote

connubial  pertaining to marriage or the matrimonial state

matrimony  state of being married

patrimony  property inherited from a father

consanguinity  kinship; relationship by birth

consanguineous (consanguine)  having a common ancestor

conscientious  scrupulous; through and careful; Ex. conscientious worker

conscript  draftee; person forced into military service; V.

consecrate  dedicate; sanctify; declare as sacred; Ex. consecrate one’s life to helping the poor

consensus  general agreement; opinion reached by a group

consequential  self-important; significant; consequent; following as a result; Ex. consequential air; CF. subsequent

conservatory (conservatoire)  school of the fine arts (especially music or drama); glass-enclosed area; CF. conservancy

consign  send to a person or place for sale; deliver officially; entrust; put into the care of another; set apart (for a special purpose); N. consignment; CF. consignor, consignee

consistency  absence of contradictions; uniformity; degree of thickness or firmness; Ex. consistency of thick cream; CF. viscous

console  lessen sadness or disappointment; give comfort; allay the sorrow of; N. consolation

consolidation  unification; process of becoming firmer or stronger; V. consolidate: merge; strengthen

consonance  harmony; agreement

consonant  harmonious; in agreement; N.

consort  associate with; keep company; N: husband or wife (or a ruler)

conspiracy  treacherous plot; secret plan against the law (by two or more people)

conspire  take part in a conspiracy; (of events) work together; combine; Ex. Events conspired to produce great difficulties.

consternation  great shock; dismay

constituent  supporter; voter; member of a constituency; component

constituency  voters represented by an elected official; district so represented; group of supporters (or constituents)

constitution  constituting; system of laws; composition of something; physical makeup or structure of a person; Ex. men with strong constitutions

constraint  restraint; compulsion; repression of feelings; reticence; V. constrain: hold back; restrain; compel; oblige; confine forcibly; imprison

construe  explain; interpret; Ex. construe her silence as meaning that she agreed; CF. misconstrue

consummate  complete; V.

drastic  strong; violent and severe; Ex. drastic changes/measures

contaminate  pollute

contempt  scorn; disdain; ADJ. contemptuous; CF. contemptible

contend  struggle; compete; assert earnestly; state strongly

contention  assertion; claim; thesis; struggling; competition

thesis  opinion put forward and supported by reasoned arguments

boost  lift by pushing up from below; increase; raise; N: push upward; increase

contentious  quarrelsome; controversial; likely to cause arguments

contest  dispute; argue about the rightness of; compete for; try to win; Ex. contest the election results; Ex. contest a seat in Parliament; N.

context  writings preceding and following the passage quoted; circumstance in which an event occurs

contiguous  adjacent to; touching upon

continence  self-restraint; sexual chastity; sexual abstinence; voluntary control over bladder and bowel functions; ADJ. continent

contingent  dependent on something uncertain or in the future; conditional; happening by chance; accidental; N: a group of soldiers, ships to a larger force; CF. contingency: future event that may or may not occur; possibility; Ex. prepare for every contingency

contortions  twistings; distortions; V. contort: twist violently out of shape; CF. contortionist

contraband  illegal trade; smuggling; smuggled goods; ADJ.

contravene  contradict; oppose; violate (a rule, law, or custom); N. contravention

contrite  penitent; repentant; N. contrition
contrived unnatural and forced; artificial; not spontaneous; Ex. The ending was rather contrived.

contrive invent or fabricate in a clever way (by improvisation); manage; Ex. contrive to attract his attention

contrivance something contrived; machine or apparatus; clever deceitful plan; scheme

controvert oppose with arguments; attempt to refute; contradict; ADJ. controversial; N. controversy

contumacious stubborn and disobedient; resisting authority (esp. disobedient to an order made by a court)

contusion bruise

bruise injure without breaking the skin; N.

conundrum riddle; difficult problem

convene come together; assemble; call to meet; Ex. convene the council

convention social or moral custom; established practice; formal meeting; international agreement

conventional ordinary; typical; not nuclear; Ex. conventional weapons

converge approach; tend to meet; come together

conversant familiar with; having knowledge of

converse opposite; ADJ.

convert one who has adopted a different religion or opinion; V: change into another form; (persuade to) adopt a particular religion or belief

convex curving outward

conveyance vehicle; transfer; act of conveying; Ex. public conveyance

conviction judgment that someone is guilty of a crime; strongly held belief

convivial pleasantly merry; festive; joyous; gay; characterized by joviality; jovial

convoke call together; Ex. convoke Parliament; N. convocation

convoluted coiled around; twisted; involved; complicated; intricate; complex; N. convolution: twist; one of the convex folds of the surface of the brain

convulsion violent uncontrollable shaking movement (caused by illness); V. convulse; ADJ. convulsive

copious plentiful

cocotte flirt; flirtatious woman; woman who tries to attract the admiration of men without sincere feelings; V.

flirt behave in a way that attracts (sexual) attention; deal triflingly with; N: one (or woman) given to flirting; ADJ. flirtatious

cordial warmly friendly; gracious; heartfelt; Ex. cordial welcome

cordon extended line of men or fortifications to prevent access or egress; (어깨에서 거드랑 밑으로 걸쳐지는) 장식 리본; V.

cornice projecting molding on building (usually above columns or pillars); 처마 장식

cornucopia horn (or horn-shaped container) overflowing with fruit and grain; symbol of abundance; horn of plenty

corollary natural consequence (which naturally follows from something else)

corporeal bodily (rather than spiritual); of a bodily form; material; tangible

corpulent very fat; N. corpulence

corpus collection (of writings or information); Ex. the corpus of Shakespear’s works; Cf. corpse

corpuscle red or white cell in the blood

correlation mutual relationship

correlate either of the correlated things; V.

corroborate confirm; support; strengthen

corrode destroy or wear away gradually by chemical action (over a long period)

corrosive eating away by chemicals or disease; (of language) fierce

corrugated wrinkled; ridged

wrinkle small ridge on a smooth surface (face or cloth); V.

crinkle wrinkle

cosmic pertaining to the universe; vast

coterie group that meets socially; select circle; close group of people with shared interests

countenance approve; support; tolerate; Ex. countenance his rude behavior; N: face; appearance

countermand cancel; revoke (an order)

counterpart thing that completes another; things very much alike; thing that has the same purpose in a different system

coup highly successful action or sudden attack; coup(s) d’état; CF. coup de grâce: deathblow or shot which kills

couple join; unite; OP. uncouple

courier messenger

covenant binding agreement between two groups or people; compact; V: enter into a covenant; promise

coupon agreement between two groups or people; something for sale at a price advantageous to the buyer; V: negotiate; trade; Ex. bargaining power

cover secret; hidden; implied; OP. overt

covetous avaricious; desirous of (someone else’s possessions); V. covet: desire eagerly (someone else’s possessions)

cow terrorize; intimidate

cower shrink quivering as from fear; cringe
- coy shy (flirtatiously); showing a (pretended) lack of self-confidence; modest; coquetish; CF. job offer
- cozen cheat; hoodwink; swindle
- cradled sour; bad-tempered; peevish; difficult to read as handwriting
- far-fetched story too improbable to be believed; implausible; Ex. a far-fetched story
- peevish bad-tempered; irritable; V. peev: make angry
- crit very unrefined; grossly insensible; crude and undiscriminating; Ex. a crit of behavior
- credo creed
- credence belief
- cumulative growing by addition; accumulative
- cupidity greed (for wealth); CF. cupid; CF. Cupid
- curator superintendent; manager (in charge of a museum or a library)
- curmudgeon churlish, miserly individual; bad-tempered old person
- cute (of writing) flowing; running; having the successive letters joined
- curb casual; hastily done with little attention to detail
- curtail shorten; reduce
- cynical skeptical or distrustful of human motives; N. cynicism; CF. cynic: person who believes all people are motivated by selfishness
- dais raised platform for speakers or other important people
- dally trifle with; toy with; treat without the necessary seriousness; procrastinate; waste time
- dank damp; unpleasantly wet
- dapper neat and trim (in appearance); (of small men) neat in appearance and quick in movements; neat; spry
- dappled spotted
- daub smear (as with paint); cover with something sticky; Ex. daub one’s clothes with mud/paint; N: small bit of sticky substance; Ex. a daub of paint
- smear spread or cover with a sticky substance; N: mark made by smearing
- smudge dirty mark with unclear edges made by rubbing; V.
- daunt intimidate; frighten; discourage; dishearten
- dauntless bold; fearless
- dawdle loiter; hang around; waste time doing nothing
- deadlock standstill resulting from the opposition of two unrelenting forces; stalemate
- standby condition of no movement or activity; stop
- deadpan wooden; impassive; with no show of feeling; with an expressionless face
- debauch corrupt morally; seduce from virtue; N. debauchery: wild behavior (with sex and alcohol)
seduce lead away from proper conduct; entice; ADJ. seductive

defiliate weaken (esp. through heat, hunger, illness); enfeeble

bout match; short period of great activity; Ex. wrestling bout; bout of drinking/flu

debonair (of men) friendly, charming, and fashionably dressed; aiming to please; CF. of good disposition

débris rubble; wreckage; scattered remains of something broken or destroyed

debunk expose as false, exaggerated, worthless, etc.; ridicule

débutter young woman making formal entrance into society

début début; first public appearance; formal presentation of a young woman to society

decadence decay; fall to a lower level (of morality, civilization, or art); ADJ. decadent

decant pour off gently (wine or liquid)
decapitate behead

decelerate slow down

décorum propriety; orderliness and good taste in manners; appropriateness of behavior or conduct

décorous proper (in behavior, conduct, or appearance)
décadence downward slope
décolleté (of a dress) having a low-cut neckline; CF. décolletage: low neckline (on a dress)
décret authoritative order; edict; judgment of a court of law; V. order or judge by decree
décomposition decay; V. decompose: decay; break and separate into simple parts
découvrir decode; CF. indecipherable
déclivité downward slope
décolletage: low neckline (on a dress)
défendre give in respectfully; submit; delay till later; exempt temporarily; N. deferment; CF. show respect, comply with, courteous
deférence courteous regard for another’s wish; courteous yielding to another’s wish or opinion (showing respect); ADJ. deferential; OP. effrontery
deféction desertion
deféction shortcoming; V. desert (in order to join the opposite one)
deférer give in respectfully; submit; delay till later; exempt temporarily; N. deferment; CF. show respect, comply with, courteous
défiance refusal to yield; resistance; V. defy; ADJ. defiant
deféction desertion
défier pollute; make filthy or dirty; corrupt morally; profane; desecrate; N: narrow passage or gorge through mountains
definitive most reliable; authoritative and complete; that cannot be improved; conclusive; decisive; definite; Ex. definitive decision by the supreme court
deflect turn aside; turn away from a straight course
defoliate destroy leaves; deprive of leaves (by the use of chemicals); N. defoliant
defray provide for the payment of; undertake the payment of; pay
defrock strip a priest or minister of church authority; unfrock
déguisement long loose garment (worn by monks)
def fictive turn into a god; make a god of; idolize; Ex. Kings were deified; CF. deity
deféindre condescend; stoop
defend stoop; bend forward and down; lower or debase oneself; fall to a lower standard of behavior by doing something; condescend; Ex. stoop to lying
delete erase; strike out
deféicible harmful
delicately consider; ponder; ADJ. done on purpose; slow
délimiter portray; depict; sketch; describe; N. delineation
delirium  mental disorder marked by confusion; uncontrolled excitement; ADJ. delirious

delta  flat plain of mud or sand between branches of a river

delude  deceive

deluge  flood; rush; V.

delusion  false belief; hallucination; deluding; Ex. delusions of grandeur; Ex. under the delusion that

delusive  deceptive; likely to delude; misleading; raising vain hopes; Ex. delusive promises

delve  dig; search deeply; investigate

demagogue  person who appeals to people’s prejudice; false leader of people; CF. demagoguery

demean  disgrace; humiliate; debase in dignity; behave

demeanor  behavior; bearing

demented  insane

demise  death

demographic  related to population balance; N. demography: statistical study of human population

demolition  destruction; V. demolish

demonic(demoniacal)  fiendish; cruel; N. demon: evil supernatural being; devil

demoniacal  fiendish; cruel

demur  object (because of doubts, scruples); raise an objection (showing qualms); hesitate; Ex. demur at the idea of working on Sunday

demure  (of a woman or child) grave; quiet and serious; coy; pretending to be demure

denigrate  blacken; defame

denizen  (animal, person, or plant) inhabitant or resident of a particular place; regular visitor

denotation  meaning; distinguishing by name; V. denote: indicate; refer to directly; mean; CF. connotation

dénouement  final outcome; final development of the plot of a play or other literary work; the end of a story when everything is explained

denounce  condemn; criticize; N. denunciation

depict  portray

déshabille  public revelation of something discreditable

deplete  reduce; exhaust

deplore  regret; express sorrow and severe disapproval for something bad; Ex. deplore their violent behavior; ADJ. deplorable: very bad; deserving severe disapproval; Ex. deplorable living condition

deploy  spread out (troops) in an extended though shallow battle line; distribute (persons or forces) systematically or strategically

battalion  army unit made up of four or more companies

depose  dethrone; remove from office; give a deposition; testify

deposition  testimony under oath; depositing; dethroning

depravity  extreme corruption; wickedness; V. deprave

deprecate  express disapproval of; deplore; protest against; belittle; ADJ. depreciatory

depreciate  lessen in value; belittle; represent as of little value

depredation  plundering; destruction

deranged  insane

institute  organization for a special purpose; V: establish

institution  instituting; (building for the) organization; established custom, practice, or relationship in a society; mental hospital; Ex. institution of marriage

institutionalize  make into an institution; put or confine in an institution

derelict  negligent; (of someone) neglectful of duty; (of something) deserted by an owner; abandoned; N: abandoned property; homeless or vagrant person

dereliction  neglect of duty; abandonment

deride  ridicule; treat with contempt; make fun of; OP. respect

derision  ridicule; ADJ. derisive; CF. derisory

derivative  unoriginal; obtained from another source; Ex. derivative prose style; N.
derivation  deriving; origin or source of something; Ex. the derivation of the word

dermatologist  one who studies the skin and its diseases

dermatologist  one who studies the skin and its diseases

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derogatory  expressing a low opinion; disparaging; V. derogate: detract; disparage

descri  catch sight of (something distant)
desecrate  profane; violate the sanctity of

desecrate  profane; violate the sanctity of

violate  break (a law); defile; desecrate; assault sexually; Ex. violate graves

desiccate  dry up

desolate  (of a place) deserted; unpopulated; (of a person) lonely; forlorn; joyless

desolate  make desolate; forsake; abandon and desert

desperado  reckless, desperate outlaw

desperate  having lost all hope; despairing; reckless and violent because of loss of hope or despair; undertaken as a last resort

despair  look on with scorn; regard as worthless or distasteful; ADJ. despicable: contemptible

despoil  plunder; sack; Ex. despoil the village

despontent  without hope and courage; depressed; gloomy; N. despondency: loss of hope with gloom; dejection
diatribe: bitter scolding or denunciation; invective; abuse

diphthong: relating to the art of debate; mutual or reciprocal; Ex. dialectical situation; N. dialectic: art of arriving at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments

diphtheria: life-size, three-dimensional scene from nature or history; three-dimensional scene with modeled figures against a painted background

dire: warning of disaster; disastrous; (of needs and dangers) very great; urgent; Ex. dire prediction/need of food

dirge: funeral song; slow mournful piece of music (sung over a dead person)

dissuade: correct a false impression; undeceive; free from a wrong belief

dissatisfied: disloyal; lacking loyalty; V. disaffect: cause to lose affection or loyalty

diasteresis: skillful; skill in using hands or mind; N. dexterity

diastem: gap; space; interval; separation; Ex. diastem between teeth

diastole: relax; rest; N. diastole of the heart: period of relaxation between heartbeats

diatribal: pertaining to dialectic

diathesis: tendency; tendency of the body to react in a certain way; Ex. diathesis to cholera

- despot: tyrant; harsh, authoritarian ruler; CF. despotism
- destitute: extremely poor; lacking means of subsistence; utterly lacking; devoid; Ex. destitute of any experience
- impoverish: make poor; deprive of natural strength or something important; Ex. impoverished soil
- desultory: aimless; haphazard; digressing at random
- diaphanous: sheer; transparent
- diadem: crown
- diabolical: diabolic; devilish; fiendish
- didactic: (of speech or writing) intended to teach a moral lesson; teaching; instrumental; N. didacticism
- die: metal block used for shaping metal or plastic; device for stamping or impressing; mold; CF. dice
- diference: shyness; lack of self-confidence; timidity; ADJ. difident
- diffuse: wordy; verbose; rambling; spread out (like a gas); V. spread out in all directions; disperse; N. diffusion; CF. suffuse
- digestion: wandering away from the subject; V. digress
- dilapidated: falling to pieces; in a bad condition; ruined because of neglect; Ex. dilapidated old car/castle; N. dilapidation
- dilate: expand; dilate on/upon/to; speak or write at length on (a subject)
- dilatory: delaying; tending to delay
- dilemma: situation that requires a choice between equally unfavorable options; problem; choice of two unsatisfactory alternatives
- dilettante: aimless follower of an art or a field of knowledge (not taking it seriously); amateur; dabbler; CF. delight
- diligence: steadiness of effort; persistent hard work
- dilute: make (a liquid) less concentrated; reduce in strength; Ex. dilute the influence of the president
- diminution: lessening; reduction in size; V. diminish
- din: continued loud noise; V. make a din; instill by wearying repetition
- weary: tired after long work; V.
- dinghy: small boat (often ship’s boat)
- maroon: leave helpless on a deserted island or coast; ADJ. red brown
- dingy: (of things and place) dirty and dull; Ex. dingy street/curtain
- dull: (of colors or surfaces) not bright; cloudy; overcast; boring; (of edge or sound) not sharp; not rapid; sluggish; slow in thinking and understanding; stupid; V.
- dint: means; effort; Ex. by dint of hard work
- diorama: life-size, three-dimensional scene from nature or history; three-dimensional scene with modeled figures against a painted background
- dire: warning of disaster; disastrous; (of needs and dangers) very great; urgent; Ex. dire prediction/need of food
- dirge: funeral song; slow mournful piece of music (sung over a dead person)
- disabuse: correct a false impression; undeceive; free from a wrong belief
- disaffected: disloyal; lacking loyalty; V. disaffect: cause to lose affection or loyalty
□ disenfranchise disapprove; condemnation

♠ disarray state of disorder; a disorderly or untidy state; Ex. with her clothes in disarray

♠ disavowal denial; disclaiming; repudiating; disowning; V. disavow; CF. disclaim

♠ disband dissolve; disperse; (of a group) break up and separate; Ex. The club has disbanded.

♠ disburse pay out (as from a fund); N. disbursement; CF. purse

□ discernible distinguishable; perceivable; Ex. discernible improvement

□ discerning mentally quick and observant; having insight; perceptive; able to make good judgments; V. discern: perceive

♠ disclaim disown; renounce claim to; deny; CF. disclaimer

□ disclose reveal; N. disclosure

♠ discomfited discomposed; confused

♥ discompose disturb the composure of; confuse

□ discomfit frustrate; put to rout; defeat; disconcert; embarrass; perturb

♠ disconcert confuse; upset; embarrass; perturb

□ disconsolate hopelessly sad (at the loss of something)

□ discord conflict; lack of harmony; dissonance (when musical notes are played)

□ discordant not harmonious; conflicting

♠ discount disregard; regard (a story or news) as unimportant; deduct from a cost

□ discourse serious speech, writing, or conversation; formal discussion (either written or spoken); conversation; V.

□ discredit defame; disgrace; destroy confidence in; disbelieve; N. CF. discreditable: causing discredit; shameful

□ discrepancy lack of consistency or agreement as between facts; difference; Ex. discrepancy between two descriptions

□ discrete separate; unconnected

□ discretion prudence; ability to adjust actions to circumstances; freedom of action or judgment; ADJ. discreet; CF. discretionary

□ discriminating able to see differences; discerning; prejudiced; N. discrimination

♥ discriminate distinguish; make distinctions on the basis of preference

♥ brisk quick and active; marked by liveliness and vigor

♠ discursive (of a person or writing) digressing; rambling (without any clear plan)

□ disdain treat with scorn or contempt

♠ disembark debark; go ashore (from a ship); unload cargo from a ship; CF. embark

□ disenfranchise disfranchise; deprive of a civil right; OP. enfranchise

♠ disengage uncouple; separate; disconnect; stop fighting; OP. engage

□ disfigure mar the appearance of; spoil

♠ disgorged surrender something (stolen); eject; vomit; OP. gorge

♠ disgruntle make discontented

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□ dishearten discourage

♠ disheveled untidy (of hair or clothing); V. dishevel

□ disinclination unwillingness

♠ disingenuous not naive; not candid; sophisticated; worldly wise; OP. ingenuous

♠ disinter dig up; unearth; OP. inter

□ disinterested unprejudiced; free from bias and self-interest; objective

□ disjointed disconnected; lacking coherence; V. disjoint: disconnect; disjoin

□ disjunction act or state of separation; disunity; CF. disjunctive: expressing a choice between two ideas; CF. conjunctive; CF. conjunctive

♠ dislodge remove (forcibly); force out of a position; Ex. dislodge the food caught in his throat; CF. lodge

♠ dismantle take apart; disassemble

♥ mantle loose sleeveless outer garment; cloak; something that covers or envelops; the layer of the earth between the crust and the core

♥ crust hard outer covering (as of earth or snow)

□ dismember cut into small parts; cut (a body) apart limb from limb

♠ dismiss eliminate from consideration; no longer consider; put out of court without further hearing; reject; discharge from employment; direct to leave; ADJ. dismissive; N. dismissal

□ disparage belittle

□ maneuver(manoeuvre) strategic military or naval movement (done for training purposes); carefully planned process; stratagem; V. carry out a military maneuver; use maneuvers in gaining an end

□ disparate basically different; impossible to compare; unrelated

□ disparity difference; condition of inequality; OP. parity

□ dispassionate calm; impartial; not influenced by personal feelings

□ dispatch speediness; prompt execution; message sent with all due speed; V. send to a specified destination; finish promptly; kill

□ dispel scatter; drive away; cause to vanish

♥ dispense distribute; prepare and give out (medicines); N. dispensation: dispensing; religious system; official exemption from an obligation or a rule
dispirited

disperse

disquisition

disquietude

disport

dissection

dissemble

dissolution

dissipate

dissident

dissent

disseminate

dissimulate

diva

diurnal

reduce

distant

distend

distill

reduction; reduction to a liquid form;

squander; waste foolishly; scatter

argumentative; cutting apart in order to examine

disguise; hide the real nature of; pretend

distribute; spread; scatter (like seeds)

dissuade not to do; discourage; N. dissuasion

domineer

domicile

dolt

dolorous

dogmatic

doggerel

done

merit

domestic

divine

divest

diversion

divert

divestiture(divestment)

divine

dowse

drag

diversity

diverge

diverge

divert

diversity

meritorious: deserving reward or praise

doctrinaire

doctrine

document

doddling

merit

document

dogged

dogged

dogged

dogged

dogged

dogged

perpetuate

persevere continue steadily in spite of difficulties

doggerel

dogmatic

dold

dold

dold

dold

dold

dold

document

dolorous

dolt

domicile

domineer rule over tyrannically
dominate control; rule; enjoy a commanding position in; overlook from a height; 내리다보다

dominant exercising the most influence; high and easily seen; stronger than the other part of a system; not recessive

don put on; OP. doff

outfit clothing or equipment for a special purpose; Ex. cow- boy outfit

dormant sleeping; temporarily inactive; lethargic; latent

dormer window projecting upright from roof; CF. sleeping room

dorsal relating to the back of an animal; Ex. dorsal fin

dossier file of documents on a subject or person; file; CF. bundle of papers labeled on the back

dotage senility; feeblemindedness of old age; Ex. In one's dotage

dote be excessively fond of; show signs of mental decline

dour sullen; gloomy; stubborn

sullen silently showing ill humor or resentment; dark; gloomy

brood sit on in order to hatch; think deeply or worry anxiously; N. the young of certain animals; group of young birds hatched at one time

douse plunge into water or liquid; dip; immerse; drench; wet throughly; extinguish; throw water over; douse

dowdy untidy (of a woman or clothes); slovenly; dressed in an unattractive way; shabby; CF. unattractive woman

dowcast disheartened; dejected; sad; directed downward

drab dull; lacking color; cheerless; directed downward

draconian extremely severe; Ex. draconian punishment; CF. Draco: Athenian politician

dregs sediment in a liquid; lees; worthless residue

drelv nonsense; foolishness; V. talk nonsense

nonsense speak or writing with no meaning; foolish behavior or language; Ex. make (a) nonsense of: spoil; cause to fail

trickle flow in drops or in a thin stream; N.
droll queer and amusing

queer strange; eccentric; deviating from the normal
drone idle person who lives on other people's work; male bee
drone talk dully; buzz or murmur like a bee; N.
murmur low, indistinct, continuous sound; V. CF. mumble
dross waste matter; worthless impurities

drudgery hard unpleasant work; menial work

drude do drudgery; N: person who drudges
dubious questionable; (of something) causing doubt; (of someone) filled with doubt; N. dubiety

ductile malleable; pliable; (of metals) easily pulled into shape; flexible; (of someone) easily influenced or controlled

dulcet sweet sounding; pleasing to the ear; melodious
dumbfound(dumfound) astonish (making dumb); ADJ. dumbfounded, dumfounded, dumbstruck

dupe someone easily fooled or deceived; V. deceive
duplicity double-dealing; hypocrisy; being dishonest and deceitful; ADJ. duplicitous

duration length of time something lasts
duress forcible restraint, especially unlawfully; coercion by threat; illegal coercion; Ex. a promise made under duress
dutiful(duteous) (of people or their behavior) respectful; obedient (filled with a sense of duty)
dwindle shrink; reduce gradually
dynamic energetic; vigorously active
dynasty generator for producing electricity; energetic person
dyspeptic suffering from indigestion; N. dyspepsia: indigestion; difficulty in digesting food
dys- abnormal; impaired
dyslexia word blindness; learning disorder marked by impairment of the ability to read
dysentery inflammatory disorder of the lower intestinal tract
dearth unrefined; coarse; of earth; Ex. earthy remarks; OP. ethereal
dehy of this earth; terrestrial; worldly; not divine; possible; Ex. no earthly reason
ebb (of the tide) recede; lessen; diminish; N. OP. flow: rise of tide
ebubulent showing excitement; overflowing with enthusiasm; boiling; N. ebullience; N. ebullition: state of boiling
eccentric irregular; odd; unconventional; whimsical; bizarre; not concentric

eccentricity oddity; idiosyncrasy
ecclesiastic ecclesiastical; pertaining to the church; N: minister; priest; cleric; clergyman

chaplain small church (in a prison, college, or hospital)
chaplain clergyman attached to a chapel
padre chaplain (in the armed forces)

eclectic selective; composed of elements drawn from disparate sources; selecting individual elements from a variety of sources; N. eclecticism
selective  careful in choosing; having an effect only on certain things; not general; Ex. eclectic weed killer
eclipse  darken; extinguish; outshine; surpass; cause an eclipse
ecliptic  path of the sun and the planets
ecolgist  person concerned with the interrelationship between living organisms and their environment; person concerned with the detrimental effects of human civilization on the environment; CF. ecology
ecosystem  ecological community together with its environment
economy  efficiency or conciseness in using something; thrifty management of resources
ecstasy  rapture; very strong feeling of joy and happiness; any overpowering emotion; ADJ. ecstatic: causing or experiencing ecstasy
rapture  great joy and delight; ecstasy; ADJ. rapturous
eddy  swirling current of water, air, etc.; V.
edict  decree (especially one issued by a sovereign); official command
sovereign  ruler in a monarchy; ADJ: (of a country) independent and self-governing; having supreme power; supreme; excellent
soverignty  complete independence and self-government (of a country); supremacy of authority; power to govern
edify  instruct; correct morally
edifice  building (of imposing size)
eterie  weird; causing fear because strange
efface  rub out; remove the surface of
effectual  able to produce a desired effect; valid
effective  effectual; producing a strong response; striking; in operation; in effect; Ex. effective speech/photograph
effectuate  effect; produce; achieve; Ex. effectuate a reconciliation
effeminante  having womanly traits
emasculate  weaken; castrate
castrate  remove the sex organs (of a male animal or person)
effervescence  inner excitement or exuberance; showing high spirits; emitting bubbles forming inside; bubbling from fermentation or carbonation; ADJ. effervescent; V. effervesce
effete  having lost one's original power; barren; worn out; exhausted
efficiency  power to produce desired effect; ADJ. efficacious: effectual
effigy  dummy; likeness of a person made of wood, paper, or stone; Ex. burn an effigy of the President
dummy  imitation of a real object used as a substitute; effigy
effluvium  noxious(harmful) smell
effrontery  rudeness without any sense of shame; shameless boldness; presumptuousness; nerve; cheek
effulgent  shining brightly; brilliant
effusion  pouring forth; unrestrained pouring of feeling; V. effuse: pour out; ADJ. effusive: pouring forth; gushing
gush  (of liquid) pour out in large quantities from a hole; make an excessive display of feeling (without true feeling); Ex. Blood gushed from the wound.
egosism  excessive interest in one's self; belief that one should be interested in one's self rather than in others; selfishness; ADJ. egoistic, egoistical
go  one's opinion of oneself; self-esteem
egotistical  egotistic; excessively self-centered(egocentric); self-important; conceited
egotism  tendency to speak or write of oneself excessively; conceit; self-importance
egregious  notorious; conspicuously bad or shocking
egress  exit; opening for going out; act of going out; OP. ingress
ejaculation  exclamation; abrupt ejection (to discharge sperm); V. ejaculate
elaboration  addition of details; intricacy
elaborate  work out carefully; add more detail or information; ADJ.
elated  filled with excited joy and pride; overjoyed; in high spirits; joyful and proud; Ex. elated crowd; V. elate; N. elation
elegy  poem or song expressing lamentation (for the dead); ADJ. elegiacal, elegiac
elicit  draw out fact or information (by discussion or from someone)
elixier  cure-all; panacea; something invigorating
elepis  omission of words from a text; mark used to indicate an omission (when the meaning can be understood without them); PL. ellipses
elliptical  elliptic; oval; of an ellipse; containing an ellipse; ambiguous either purposely or because key words have been left out
eloquent  expressiveness; persuasive speech; ADJ. eloquent: movingly expressive; expressing ideas well so that the hearers can be influenced
elucidate  explain; make clear; clarify; enlighten; CF. lucid
eclusive  evasive; not frank; baffling; hard to grasp, catch, or understand; V. elude: escape from; escape the understanding or grasp of; Ex. elude the hunter; Ex. His name eludes me.
eylian  relating to paradise; blissful
Elysium  place or condition of bliss
emaciated  thin and wasted (from hunger or illness)
emanate  issue forth; come out
emancipate  set free; liberate
- embargo ban on commerce or other activity
- embark commence; go on board a boat; begin a journey
- embed(imbed) enclose; place in something; fix firmly in a surrounding mass
- embellish adorn; ornament; enhance as a story (by adding fictitious details)
- embezzle taking for one’s own use in violation of trust; stealing (of money placed in one’s care)
- emblazon ornament richly (a shield or flag); N. emblazonment
- embody give a bodily form to; incorporate; include
- emblow produce a design in raised relief; decorate with a raised design
- embrace hug; clasp with the arms; adopt or espouse; accept readily; encircle; include; Ex. embrace the cause/socialism; Ex. all-embracing; CF. brace; CF. bracelet
- encircle surround
- embroider decorate with needlework; ornament (a story) with fancy or fictitious details; embellish
- embroil throw into confusion; involve in strife, dispute, or quarrel; entangle; CF. imbroglio
- embryonic undeveloped; rudimentary; N. embryo: organism in the early stage of development
- emend correct (usually a text); N. emendation: correction of errors; improvement
- emetic substance causing vomiting; ADJ.
- eminent rising above others; high; lofty; distinguished; Ex. eminent position
- emissary agent (sent on a mission to represent another); messenger
- emollient soothing or softening remedy (for the skin); ADJ.
- emolument salary; payment for an office; compensation
- empathy ability to identify with another’s feelings, ideas, etc.; identification with and understanding of another’s feelings; V. empathize; CF. sympathy
- compassion sympathy for the suffering of others; ADJ. compassionate
- empirical based on experience
- emulate imitate; rival; try to equal or excel (through imitation)
- enamored in love; Ex. enamored of his own beauty; V. enamor: inspire with love
- encipher encode; convert a message into code; put into cipher
- enclave territory enclosed within an alien land
- encomiastic praising; eulogistic; N. encomium: very high praise; eulogy
- encompass surround; include; Ex. His activities encompass publishing and computers.
- encroachment gradual intrusion; Ex. I resent all these encroachments on my valuable time; V. encroach: take another’s possessions or right gradually or stealthily; intrude; Ex. encroach on/upon
- encumber burden; N. encumbrance
- endearment fond word or act; expression of affection
- endear make beloved; Ex. endear her to everyone; ADJ. dear: loved; cherished; high-priced
- endemic prevailing among a specific group of people or in a specific area or country; peculiar to a particular region or people; CF. pandemic
- endorse approve; support; write one’s signature on the back of; N. endorsement; CF. dorsal
- endue provide with some quality; endow
- enduring lasting; surviving; V. endure: bear (pain or suffering) for a long time; remain alive (in spite of difficulties); last; survive
- energize invigorate; give energy to; make forceful and active
- enervate weaken; take away energy from
- enfranchise admit to the rights of citizenship (especially the right to vote); CF. franchise
- engage attract; employ; hire; pledge oneself; confront; fight; enter into confliction; interlock; lock together; participate; N. engagement: agreement to marry; arrangement to meet someone or to do something; battle
- engaging charming; attractive
- engaged employed; busy; betrothed; involved in conflict
- engender cause; produce; give rise to
- engross occupy fully; absorb
- enhance increase; make greater (as in value, reputation, or usefulness); improve
- enigma puzzle; mystery; ADJ. enigmatic: obscure; puzzling
- puzzle baffle or confuse by a difficult problem; ponder over a problem in an effort to solve; clarify or solve by reasoning; Ex. puzzle out the answer; N.
- enjoin command; order; forbid
- enmity ill will; hatred; hostility
- ennui boredom; listlessness and dissatisfaction resulting from lack of interest; CF. annoy
- enormity hugeness (in a bad sense); excessive wickedness; Ex. enormity of the crime; ADJ. enormous
- enrapture please intensely; fill with rapture and delight
- ensconce settle comfortably; place comfortably (in a secure place)
- ensue follow (as a result)
- entail: make necessary; require; necessitate; involve; limit the inheritance of (property) to a specified succession of heirs; Ex. entail A on/upon B

- enterprise: full of initiative; showing enterprise

- entice: lure; persuade to do (something wrong); attract; tempt

- mischief: behavior (of children) causing trouble with no serious harm; damage; harm; Ex. mischief to the crops; ADJ. mischievous: causing mischief; playfully troublesome

- entity: real being

- entomology: study of insects

- entrance: put under a spell (condition caused by magical power); carry away (fill with strong feeling) with emotion; put into a trance; fill with delight

- trance: hypnotic state; ecstatic state; detachment from one’s physical surrounding (as in contemplation or daydreaming); CF. transition

- hypnosis: induced sleeping state; ADJ. hypnotic; V. hypnotize

- entreat: plead; ask earnestly

- entree (ent´ ree): entrance; a way in; right to enter; main dish of a meal; Ex. entree into the exclusive circle

- entrepreneur: businessperson (who assumes the risk of a business venture); contractor; ADJ. entrepreneurial

- enumerate: list; mention one by one

- enunciate: announce; proclaim; utter or speak, especially distinctly; pronounce clearly; articulate; Ex. This theory was first enunciated by him.

- environ: enclose; surround; N. environs: surrounding area (as of a city)

- eon (aeon): long period of time; an age; longest division of geologic time containing two or more eras

- epaulet (epaulette): ornament worn on the shoulder (of a uniform, etc.)

- fringe: decorative edge of hanging threads; edge

- ephemeral: short-lived; fleeting

- fleet: fast; rapid; N. ADJ. fleeting: passing quickly; ephemeral

- epic: long heroic poem, novel, or similar work of art (celebrating the feats of a hero); ADJ: (of stories or events) resembling an epic; grand

- epicure: connoisseur of food and drink; gourmet; ADJ. epicurean; CF. Epicurus

- Epicurean: believing that pleasure is good and suffering is bad and should be avoided; N.

- epigram: witty thought or saying, usually short

- epilogue: short speech at conclusion of dramatic work

- episodic: (of a story or play) loosely connected; made up of separate and loosely connected parts; N. episode: incident in the course of an experience

- epistemologist: philosopher who studies the nature of knowledge; N. epistemology

- epitaph: inscription in memory of a dead person (as on a tombstone)

- epithet: word or phrase characteristically used to describe a person or thing; descriptive phrase to characterize a person (often contemptuous)

- epitome: perfect example or embodiment; brief summary; Ex. epitome of good manners; V. epitomize: make an epitome of; be an epitome of; embody

- epoch: period of time

- equable: tranquil; of even calm temper; (of temperature) steady; uniform

- equanimity: calmness of temperament; composure

- equestrian: rider on horseback; ADJ.

- equilibrium: balance of opposing forces; balance of the mind; equanimity

- equine: resembling a horse; Ex. equine face

- equinox: period of equal days and nights; the beginning of spring and autumn; Ex. vernal/autumnal equinox; ADJ. equinoctial

- equipoise: balance; balancing force; equilibrium

- equitable: fair; impartial; OP. inequitable

- equity: fairness; justice; OP. inequity

- equivocal: (of words or statements) ambiguous; intentionally misleading; (of behavior) questionable; OP. unequivocal

- equivocate: use equivocal language to deceive people; lie; mislead; attempt to conceal the truth; N. equivocation

- erode: eat away; wear away gradually by abrasion; Ex. The sea erodes the rocks.

- erotic: pertaining to passionate love or sexual love

- errant: wandering (esp. in search of adventure); straying from proper moral standards; Ex. knight-errant

- erratic: odd; irregular in movement or behavior; unpredictable

- erroneous: mistaken; wrong; incorrect

- erudite: (of a person or book) learned; full of learning; scholarly; N. erudition

- scholarly: full of learning; erudite; like a scholar; Ex. scholarly journal

- escape: prank; flighty conduct; reckless adventure that disobeys rules

- prank: mischievous trick

- flighty: (esp. of a woman’s behavior) capricious; often changing, esp. from one lover to another; impulsive
eschew  avoid habitually; Ex. eschew alcoholic drinks

esoteric  hard to understand; known only to the chosen few, esp. initiates; N. esoterica

espionage  spying

espouse  adopt; support (an idea or aim); marry; N. espousal

esteem  respect; value; judge; N.

estimable  (of a person) worthy of esteem; admirable; deserving esteem; possible to estimate

inestimable  impossible to estimate; (apprec) invaluable; of immeasurable worth

estranged  separated; alienated; V. estrange: alienate (people in a family); N. estrangement

airy  of air; high in the air; lofty; immaterial; unreal

ethnic  relating to races

ethnology  study of humankind; study of the different races of human beings; CF. anthropology

ethos  underlying character of a culture, group, etc.; character or ideas peculiar to a specific person, group, or culture; Ex. the company ethos

etymology  study of word parts; study of the origins of words

eugenic  pertaining to the improvement of race; N. eugenics: study of hereditary improvement of the human race

eulogistic  praising; full of eulogy

eulogy  expression of praise, often on the occasion of someone’s death; V. eulogize

euphony  sweet sound; ADJ. euphonious

euphoria  feeling of exaggerated or unfounded (ungrounded; baseless) well-being; feeling of great happiness or well-being (when unreasonable); ADJ. euphoriaric

euthanasia  mercy killing

evanescent  fleeting; vanishing; soon disappearing; V. evanesce

evasive  not frank; trying to hide the truth; eluding; evading; V. evade: avoid (a duty or responsibility) or escape from by deceit

evolve  show clearly

evenhanded  impartial; fair

evocative  tending to call up (emotions, memories)
evoke  call forth (memory or feeling); Ex. That old film evoked memories of my childhood; N. evocation

euca  female sheep

ram  male sheep; V. strike or drive against with a heavy impact

exacerbate  worsen; aggravate; embitter

embitter  make bitter; fill with painful or bitter feelings; make sad and angry; Ex. He was embittered by many disappointments.
exacting  extremely demanding; Ex. exacting standard of safety

exact  demand and obtain by force; Ex. exact a promise from him; N. exaction

exalt  raise in rank or dignity; praise highly; inspire; Ex. exalt the imagination; ADJ. exalted; N. exaltation

exasperate  vex; annoy or make angry (by testing the patience)
exceptional  objectionable; likely to cause dislike; offensive; CF. unexceptional: entirely acceptable

except  exclude; N. exception: objection; exclusion; ADJ. exceptional: unusual; of unusually high quality

ecerpt  selected passage (written or musical) taken from a longer work; V.
exchequer  treasury; Ex. Chancellor of the exchequer

chancellor  legal official of high rank; CF. chancellery (chancellory): position of a chancellor

treasure  keep as precious; cherish

cut away; cut out; N: government tax on good produced and used inside a country; N. excision

exclaim  cry out suddenly; N. exclamation; ADJ. exclamatory

excise  cut away; cut out; N: government tax on good produced and used inside a country; N. excision

exempt  make bitter; fill with painful or bitter feelings; make sad and angry; Ex. He was embittered by many disappointments.

execute  carry out; kill as a lawful punishment/behavior; N. exemplar: typical example; model
exhume  □  dig out of the ground; remove from a grave

♥ urgent  □  compelling immediate action; pressing; persistent; urgent situation; ADJ. exigent

exigency  □  urgent situation; ADJ. exigent

exiguous  □  small in amount; minute

■ existential  □  pertaining to existence; pertaining to the philosophy of existentialism

exempt  □  not subject to a duty or obligation; free from a duty; V.

exertion  □  effort; expenditure of much physical work; V. exert oneself; make a great effort

exhale  □  breathe out; OP. inhale

exhilarating  □  invigorating and refreshing; cheering; V. exhilarate: make cheerful and excited; Ex. exhilarated by the ride in the sports car

exhort  □  urge (by strong argument or advice); Ex. The general exhorted his men to fight bravely; N. exhortation

urge  □  drive or force forward (by causing impulses); drive to take action; impel; entreat earnestly; Ex. urge horses; N. impulse that prompts action

urgent  □  compelling immediate action; pressing; persistent; importunate; Ex. urgent in his demands

exhume  □  dig out of the ground; remove from a grave

coroner  □  public official who investigates any death thought to be of other than natural causes

exigency  □  urgent situation; ADJ. exigent

exiguous  □  small in amount; minute

existential  □  pertaining to existence; pertaining to the philosophy of existentialism

exodus  □  departure (of a large number of people)

exonerate  □  acquit; exculpate; free from blame or guilt

exorbitant  □  (of costs or demands) excessive; exceeding reasonable bounds

exorcise  □  drive out evil spirits

exotic  □  not native; from another part of the world; strange; intriguingly unusual; Ex. exotic flower/dress

intrigue  □  make secret plans; plot; arouse the curiosity of; N: secret scheme; plot; secret love affair

expansive  □  (of a person) outgoing and sociable; broad and extensive; able to increase in size

outgoing  □  sociable; eager to mix socially with others

expatiate  □  talk at length; speak or write in detail

expatriate  □  exile; someone who has withdrawn from his native land; V: exile; banish; leave one’s country

expedient  □  suitable (for a particular purpose although not necessarily morally correct); practical; politic (prudent); N: something expedient

expedite  □  hasten; make go faster

expeditious  □  done with speed; quick; N. expedition

expenditure  □  payment or expense; expending; something expended; output; Ex. receipt for the expenditure; Ex. expenditure of all the energy

expertise  □  specialized knowledge (in a particular field); expert skill

■ expiate  □  make amends for (a sin)

expletive  □  meaningless word; interjection; profane oath; swear-word

interjection  □  exclamation; Ex. “Ouch”

swear  □  vow; promise; use profane oaths; use offensive words

swear-word  □  word considered offensive; Ex. “bloody”

oath  □  solemn promise; blasphemous use of sacred words to express strong feelings; swear-word; Ex. “For Christ’s sake”

explicate  □  explain in detail; interpret; clarify; CF. explicable

explicit  □  totally clear; definite; outspoken

exploit  □  brave and successful act; deed or action, particularly a brave deed; CF. crossing the Atlantic ocean

exploit  □  make use of, sometimes unjustly; N. exploitation

expository  □  explanatory; serving to explain; N. exposition: explaining; exhibition

expostulation  □  protest; remonstrance; reasoning with someone to correct or dissuade; V. expostulate

exposure  □  risk, particularly of being exposed to disease or to the elements; unmasking; act of laying something open; Ex. exposure of governmental corruption

expound  □  explain

expropriate  □  take possession of (often for public use and without payment)

expunge  □  cancel; remove a word or name (from a book or list); erase

expunge  □  clean; remove offensive parts of a book

extant  □  (of something written or painted) still in existence

extraneous  □  not essential; irrelevant; superfluous; external; coming from the outside; Ex. extraneous details/noise/to the subject

extirpate  □  root up; uproot; destroy completely

extol  □  praise very highly; glorify

extort  □  wring from; get money by threats, etc.; obtain by force or threats; CF. extortionate: extorbid

wring  □  twist (to extract liquid); extract by twisting; wrench painfully (necks or hands)

extradite  □  surrender of prisoner by one state to another; Ex. extradition treaty; V. extradite

extraneous  □  not essential; irrelevant; superfluous; external; coming from the outside; Ex. extraneous details/noise/to the subject

extrapolation  □  projection; conjecture; V. extrapolate: infer (unknown information) from known information

extricate  □  free from an entanglement or difficulty; disentangle

inextricable  □  from which it is impossible to get free; that cannot be untied; Ex. inextricable troubles; Ex. inextricable two histories
□ extrinsic external; not essential or inherent; extraneous; OP. intrinsic
□ extrovert person interested mostly in external objects and actions
♥ mingle mix together in close association
♠ extrude force or push out; thrust out; shape (plastic or metal) by forcing through a die
♠ extrude overflown abundance; joyful enthusiasm; flamboyance; lavishness; ADJ. exuberant: high-spirited and lively; growing abundantly and strongly
♥ glow shine brightly without a flame (as of eyes or metals); show redness and heat (in the face) after hard work or because of strong feelings; N: light produced by a heated body; brilliance of a color
♠ exude flow out slowly; discharge (gradually); give forth; N. exudation
♥ ooze (of a thick liquid) pass or flow slowly; N: mud or thick liquid as at the bottom of a river
□ exult rejoice
□ fabricate build; lie; make up (a story) in order to deceive; Ex. fabricate the whole story; CF. fabric: underlying structure; Ex. fabric: society
♠ facade front or face (of building); superficial or false appearance
□ facet small plane surface (of a gem(precious stone)); a side
♠ facetious joking (often inappropriately); unserious; humorous
♠ facile easily accomplished; ready or fluent; superficial; not deep; Ex. facile solution to a complex problem; Ex. facile speaker; N. facility: ability to do something easily and well; ease in doing resulting from skill or aptitude; something that facilitates an action; amenity; Ex. with great facility
□ facilitate help bring about; make less difficult
□ facsimile copy
♠ faction party; clique (within a large group); dissension
♥ dissension disagreement of opinions causing strife within a group
♠ factious inclined to form factions; causing dissension
♠ factitious artificial; produced artificially; sham; false; Ex. factitious tears
♠ factotum handyman; person who does all kinds of work; CF. do everything
□ faculty mental or bodily powers; teaching staff

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♠ fallacious false; based on a fallacy; misleading; N. fallacy: false idea or notion; false reasoning; Ex. popular fallacy; Ex. fallacy of the argument
♠ fallible liable to err
♥ falsify make (something written) false by changing
♠ fallow (of land) plowed but not sowed (to improve the quality); uncultivated
♥ sow plant or scatter seed
♠ falter hesitate; weaken in purpose or action; walk or move unsteadily through weakness; N.
♥ stumble trip and almost fall; proceed unsteadily; act faltering; N.
□ fanaticism excessive zeal; proceed unstaddily to a belief or cause; N. fanatic; ADJ. fanatic
♠ fancied imagined; unreal
♠ fancier breeder or dealer of animals; one who has a special interest, as for raising specific plant or animal
♠ fanciful whimsical; visionary; imaginary; produced by imagination; Ex. fanciful scheme
♥ fancy imagination (of a whimsical or fantastic nature); capricious liking; V: imagine; be fond of; ADJ. decorative; elaborate
♠ fanfare call by bugles or trumpets; showy display; spectacular public display
♠ farce broad comedy; mockery; humorous play full of silly things happening; ADJ. farcical
♠ fastidious difficult to please; squeamish; fussy; finicky
♥ squeamish easily shocked or sickened by unpleasant things; fastidious; Ex. A nurse should not be squeamish.
♠ fatalism belief that events are determined by forces or fates beyond one’s control; ADJ. fatalistic; CF. fatal: causing death
□ fathom comprehend; investigate; determine the depth of; N. unit of measurement for the depth of water
♥ fathomless too deep to be measured or understood; unfathomable
♠ fatuous smugly and unconsciously foolish; inane; silly; N. fatuity, fatuousness
□ fauna animals of a period or region; CF. flora
♠ fawning courting favor by cringing and flattering; V. fawn: exhibit affection as a dog; seek favor or attention by obsequiousness
♥ court attempt to gain; seek; woo; risk; behave so as to invite; attempt to gain the favor of by attention; Ex. court disaster
♠ faze disconcert; dismay; embarrass
□ feasible practical; able to be carried out; practicable
♠ febrile feverish
♠ fecundity fertility; fruitfulness; ADJ. fecund: very productive of crops or young
♥ fertile producing many young, fruits, or seeds; (of land) producing good crops; V. fertilize
♥ fruitful producing results; profitable; prolific; producing in abundance
□ feign pretend
feint  trick; shift; sham blow; feigned attack to draw away defensive action; V.

shift  change position or place; exchange (one thing) for another; change in direction or position; Ex. shift the stolen goods; N. group of workers which takes turns with other groups; working period of such a group

felicitous  (of a word or remark) apt; suitably expressed; well chosen

felicity  happiness; appropriateness (of a remark, choice, etc.); quality of being felicitous

feline  of a member of the cat family; N.

fell  cruel; (of a disease) deadly

fell  cut or knock down (a tree or a person); bring down (with a missile)

criminal  person convicted of a grave crime; CF. felony: serious crime

feral  (of an animal) not domestic; wild

fermentation  chemical reaction that splits complex organic compounds; unrest; agitation

ferret  drive or hunt out of hiding; hunt with ferrets; drive out (as from a hiding place); expel; uncover or discover by searching; Ex. ferret out the secret; N. small fierce animal which catches rats and rabbits by going into their holes

fervent  ardent; zealous; hot

fervid  ardent; zealous; hot

impassioned  (of speech) filled with passion; fervent

fervor  glowing ardor; intensity of feeling; quality of being fervent or fervid; zeal; intense heat

fester  rankle; produce irritation or resentment; (of a cut or wound) generate pus or rot; Ex. His insult festered in my mind for days.

festive  joyous; celebratory; relating to a feast or festival

fête(fête)  honor at a festival; celebrate or honor with a feast; N. (outdoor) festival or feast; CF. feast

fetid(foetid)  malodorous; foul

foul  very bad or disagreeable; very dirty; Ex. foul smell/flavor/temper/language/air/deed/weather/means; N. act against the rules; V. make or become foul; commit a foul

fetish(fetich)  object believed to have spiritual powers; object of excessive attention or reverence; CF. fetishism

fetter  shackle; restrict the freedom of; N. chain or shackle for the foot of a prisoner; CF. foot

fiasco  total failure; CF. bottle

fiat  command; arbitrary order; Ex. presidential fiat; CF. let it be done

fickle  changeable (in affections or friendship); faithless

fictitious  imaginary; non-existent; purposely invented to deceive; untrue; Ex. fictitious name/boyfriend; CF. fictional

fidelity  loyalty; accuracy

figment  invention; something invented; imaginary thing; Ex. figment of your imagination

figurative  not literal but metaphorical; using a figure (impression) of speech

figure  written symbols; number; amount represented in numbers; outline or silhouette of a thing or human body; person (well-known); impression; diagram; pattern; group in a dance; Ex. figure of speech; V. calculate with numbers; adorn with figures; appear; consider; Ex. My name did not figure in the list.

figurine  small ornamental statuette (very small statue)

filch  steal (things of small value)

pilfer  steal things of small value; filch; snitch

filial  pertaining to or befitting a son or daughter; Ex. filial respect

filibuster  block legislation or prevent action in a lawmaking body by making very slow long speeches; N; freebooter

freebooter  pirate or plunderer who makes war in order to grow rich

bust  piece of sculpture showing a person’s head, shoulders, and upper chest; V: break up; arrest; Ex. crimebuster

filigree  delicate ornamental lace-like metalwork

lace  cord used to draw and tie together two opposite edges (as of a shoe); delicate fabric made of fine threads; V: draw together by tying a lace

filing  particle removed by a file

finale  conclusion; concluding part

finesse  delicate skill; V: handle with finesse

finicky  too particular; fussy; difficult to please; too concerned with unimportant details or quality; Ex. finicky about her food

fussy  fastidious; finicky; easily upset

fuss: trouble or worry over trifles; make nervous; pay too much attention to; N: needless concern or worry (about a trivial thing); anxious nervous condition; display of attention; Ex. make a fuss over the baby

finite  limited

firebrand  piece of burning wood; hothead; troublemaker; person who stirs up trouble

hothead  person who does things too quickly without thinking; ADJ. hotheaded

fissure  crevice; crack

fitful  spasmodic; intermittent; irregular

fit  sudden outburst of an illness or feeling; convulsion caused by epilepsy

flaccid  flabby; lacking firmness; weak; Ex. flaccid muscles
limp  walk lamely; ADJ: lacking firmness; weak
flag  droop; grow feeble; decline in vigor or strength; ADJ. flagging; CF. unflagging
droop  bend or hang downward; become weakened; Ex. His shoulders drooped with tiredness; N.
flagrant  conspicuously wicked, bad, or offensive; blatant; outrageous
outrage  act of extreme violence or viciousness; resentful anger; V: commit an outrage on; produce anger in; ADJ. outrageous: offensive
flail  beat with or as if with a flail; move wildly; thresh grain by hand; strike or slap; toss about; N: threshing tool consisting of a stick swinging from the end of a long handle
thresh  beat (cereal plants) with a machine or flail to separate the grains from the straw
toss  throw lightly; move or lift (the head) with a sudden motion; flip (a coin) to decide something
flair  talent
flamboyant  ornate; highly elaborate; richly colored; ostentatious; showy; CF. flame
flaunt  display ostentatiously; Ex. “Honey, if you’ve got it, flaunt it!”
flay  strip off skin; plunder; remove the skin from; criticize harshly
fleck  spot; mark with flecks; N: small mark or spot
fledgling(fledgeling)  inexperienced; N: young bird that has acquired wing feathers and is learning to fly; inexperienced person
fleece  wool coat of a sheep; V: shear the fleece from; rob by a trick; swindle; plunder
shear  remove (fleece or hair) by cutting; remove the hair or fleece from; cut with or as if with shears; N: shears; pair of scissors
trickster  person who cheats people
flick  light stroke as with a whip; V: move with a light quick blow; strike with a light quick blow (as from a whip); Ex. flick the switch
flicker  burn unsteadily or fitfully; move waveringly; N: flickering movement or light; brief sensation; Ex. flicker of excitement
flutter  (of a bird with large wings) wave (the wings) lightly, rapidly, and irregularly; vibrate rapidly or erratically; fly by waving quickly; flitter; N.
flinch  hesitate; shrink back (in fear of something unpleasant); Ex. She did not flinch in the face of danger.
flippant  lacking proper seriousness; Ex. flippant remarks about death; N. flippancy
flip  send (something) spinning, often into the air, by striking with a light quick blow; turn over; Ex. flip over
fliit  fly; fly or move lightly or quickly; dart lightly; pass swiftly by; Ex. a bee flitting from flower to flower
floe  flat mass of floating ice
flora  plants of a region or era
florescence  condition or period of flowering
florid  ruddy; (of a complexion) reddish; flowery; very ornate; CF. rose
flush  redden; blush; flow suddenly and abundantly; wash out by a rapid brief flow of water; N: reddish tinge; blush; brief rush; rush of strong feeling; Ex. flush of pride; ADJ: having surfaces in the same plane; even; blushing
blush  become red in the face (from embarrassment or shame); become red or rosy; N.
tinge  give a slight degree of a color or quality to; N: slight degree of a color or quality; Ex. tinged with grey/jealousy
tint  slight degree of color; V: give a tint to
flowery  full of flowers; full of ornate expressions
flotsam  drifting wreckage
jetsam  things thrown from a ship (to lighten the ship)
flounder  struggle and thrash about; proceed clumsily or falter (as in water, mud, snow, etc.); proceed in confusion
thresh  beat with a whip or flail; defeat utterly; talk about thoroughly in order to find the answer; move wildly or violently; Ex. The fishes thrashed about in the net.
flourish  grow well; prosper; make sweeping gestures; wave; brandish; Ex. The trees flourished in the sun. N: showy movement or gesture; embellishment or ornamentation (esp. in handwriting)
flout  reject; mock; show contempt for; scorn; Ex. flout the rules
curb  chain or strap used with a bit to restrain a horse; something that checks; V: check; restrain
fluctuate  waver; shift; rise and fall as if in waves; change or vary irregularly
fluency  smoothness of speech; ADJ. fluent
fluke  unlikely occurrence; stroke of fortune; accidental stroke of good luck; ADJ. fluky
fluster  confuse; make nervous and confused; N.
fluted  having vertical parallel grooves (as in a pillar); V. flute: make long parallel inward curves in; N. flute: long rounded groove incised on the shaft of a column
groove  long narrow channel made in a surface to guide the movement of something; Ex. groove of the record
stammer  speak with involuntarily pauses or repetitions
flux  flowing; series of changes; fluctuation; Ex. in a state of flux
fodder  coarse food for cattle, horses, etc.; feed for livestock; CF. food
foible  small weakness of character; slight fault; CF. feeble
foil contrast; one that by contrast enhances the distinctive characteristics of another
foil defeat; frustrate; prevent from being successful; thwart; CF. fail
foist insert improperly; impose upon another by coercion; palm off; pass off as genuine or worthy; CF. fist
palm conceal in the palm of the hand; palm off: pass off; Ex. palm off some bad oranges onto the lady/the painting as a real Renoir
pass off present falsely; represent falsely to be
foliage masses of leaves; CF. defoliate
foment stir up; incite; instigate; promote the growth of (something evil or unpleasant)
foolhardy rash; reckless; foolishly daring
foray raid; sudden raid or military advance; V.
forbearance patience; forgiveness; V. forbear: refrain from (in a generous and forgiving way); be patient; Ex. forbear to send him to prison
ford place where a river can be crossed on foot; V.
forebears ancestors
foreboding premonition of evil; feeling of coming evil; V. forebode: be a warning of (something unpleasant)
forensic suitable to debate or courts of law; of or used in legal proceedings and the tracking of criminals; Ex. forensic science/medicine
forum public square of an ancient Roman city; public place for open discussion; court of law
foreshadow give an indication beforehand; be a sign of (what is coming); portend; prefigure
prefigure be a sign of; foreshadow
forerunner predecessor; one that comes before and indicates the approach of another
foresight ability to foresee future happenings; prudence in providing for the future
forestall prevent by taking action in advance
nuptial of marriage or the wedding ceremony; N; nuptials; wedding ceremony
forfeit something surrendered as punishment for a crime or breach of contract; V: lose as a forfeit; N. forfeiture
forge counterfeit; reproduce fraudulently; form by heating in a forge and hammering into shape; move with a sudden increase of speed or power; Ex. forged ahead in the last two years; N: furnace where metals are heated
forgo(forego) give up; do without
forswear renounce under oath; abandon; make a solemn promise to give up; CF. abjure
forthright straightforward; direct; frank
forthcoming happening in the near future; ready; willing to help; Ex. No answer was forthcoming.
fortitude bravery; courage; strength of mind
fortuitous accidental; by chance; N. fortuity
foster rear; bring up (for a certain period only); encourage; promote the development of (feelings or ideas); Ex. help foster friendly relations; ADJ: giving parental care although not related by blood; Ex. foster parents
founder fail completely; sink; CF. flounder
founder person who establishes (an organization or business)
fracas brawl(noisy quarrel or fight) in which a number of people take part; melee
fractic unruly; peevish; cranky; bad-tempered; Ex. fractious horse
fraught filled (with something unpleasant); full; Ex. fraught with danger and difficulties; CF. freight
fray brawl; fight; V: wear away or unravel by rubbing; have loose threads developing; cause to become worn out (a person’s temper or nerves); CF. rub
frenetic frenzied; frantic
frenzied madly excited; N. frenzy: violent wild excitement
fresco painting on wet plaster (usually fresh)
paste smooth viscous mixture as of flour(powder made by crushing grain) and water (used as an adhesive); V: cause to adhere by applying paste
pastry paste of flour and water (eaten when baked)
plaster paste that hardens to a smooth solid and is used for coating walls; V.
fret be annoyed or vexed; Ex. fret over your poor grades; N: irritation of mind; ADJ: fretful
friction clash or conflict in opinion; rubbing against
frieze ornamental horizontal band on a wall
carefree  ♥

Johnny cash was carefree and lived his life carefree.

Self-indulgence  exessive indulgence of one’s own desire

Self-indulgence is a bad habit.

Frolicsome  prankish; gay; playful; merry; frisky

Frolicsome people are always having fun.

Frolic  play and jump about happily; frisk; Ex. frolicking young lambs

Frolic is a fun activity.

Fron  fern leaf; palm or banana leaf

Frong is a plant.

Litter  waste material thrown away (as bits of paper scattered untidily); V: cover untidily with scattered litter

Litter is not good for the environment.

Fructify  bear fruit; produce fruit

Fructify apples produce good fruit.

Frugality  thrift; economy; ADJ. frugal: practicing economy; costing little; inexpensive

Frugality is important.

Fruition  bearing of fruit; fulfillment; realization; Ex. come to/be brought to fruition

Fruition is the result of hard work.

Frustrate  thwart; defeat; prevent from accomplishing a purpose

Frustrate often happens in life.

Fugitive  fleeting or transitory; lasting only a short time; roving(wandering); running away or fleeing as from the law; N: one who flees; Ex. fugitives at large

Fugitive people are dangerous.

Fulminate  thunder; explode; issue a severe denunciation

Fulminate is a strong term.

Fulsome  disgustingly excessive; offensively flattering; Ex. fulsome praise/expressions of admire

Fulsome is not a good word.

Fumble  move the fingers and hands awkwardly (in search of something); mishandle or drop a ball that is in play; bungle; botch; spoil by mishandling; N.

Fumble is not good for sports.

Functionary  official (who performs a particular function)

Functionary is a person.

Functional  made for practical use only (without decoration); functioning; Ex. functional modern furniture; CF. functionalism

Functional furniture is useful.

Fundamental  basic; primary; essential

Fundamental concepts are important.

Funereal  sad; solemn; suitable for a funeral

Funereal is for funerals.

Furor  frenzy; great anger and excitement; CF. fury

Furor is a very strong emotion.

Furtive  stealthy; quiet and secret (trying to escape notice); sly; Ex. furtive glance

Furtive is not good for integrity.

Sneak  move, give, or take in a quiet, stealthy way; N: one who sneaks; ADJ. sneaky

Sneak is not good for privacy.

Underhand(underhanded)  done slyly and secretly (being dishonest)

Underhand actions are not good.

Sly  clever in deceiving; secretive; not telling one’s intentions

Sly is not a good word.

Fusillade  simultaneous firing or outburst (of missiles, questions, etc.)

Fusillade is a dangerous activity.

Fusion  union; coalition; V. fuse

Fusion is important in science.

Futile  useless; hopeless; ineffectual

Futile is not a good word.

Fadfly  animal-biting fly; irritating person

Fadfly is not good for people.
trinnen neat or tidy by clipping; reduce by removing what is unnecessary; ornament; decorate (round the edges); Ex. trim the cost; Ex. jacket trimmed with fur; N. ADJ: tidy; in good order

ganner gather; store up; amass
garnish decorate; add a garnish to; decorate (food or drink) with small items such as lemon slices; N.
garrulous loquacious; wordy; talkative; N. garrulity
gastronomy art and science of preparing and serving good food; CF. gastronome
gauzy flashy; showy
flashing showy; gaudy; giving a momentary brilliance
gild cover with a thin layer of gold
gaunt lean and angular; thin and bony; emaciated; barren
gavel hammerlike tool; mallet(wooden hammer) used by a presiding officer or an auctioneer; V.
bid command; utter (a greeting); offer as a price; N: offer of a price; amount offered; earnest effort to gain something; Ex. bid for freedom

gawk stare foolishly; look in open-mouthed awe
gazette official periodical publication; newspaper
genealogy record of descent; lineage; ancestry; study of ancestry
generality vague statement; general statement which is not detailed; quality of being general; greater part; most; Ex. generality of people
generate cause; produce; create
generic characteristic of an entire class or species; of a genus

genus division of animals or plants, below a family and above a species
genesis beginning; origin

geniality cheerfulness; kindliness; sympathy; ADJ. genial: cheerful and good-tempered
genre particular variety of art or literature
genteel well-bred; elegant; striving to convey an appearance of refinement; Ex. genteel poverty
gentility those of gentle birth; high social class; refinement; quality of being genteel

breed produce young; rear; bring up; produce (an undesirable condition); N: kind or sort of animal or plant
crossbreed hybridize; N: hybrid; CF. interbreed; CF. inbreed
well-bred of good upbringing; well-mannered and refined
gentry people of standing(rank or position); people of good family or high social position; class of people just below nobility
gentle kindly; soft; mild; of good family
genuflect bend the knee as in worship

germane pertinent; bearing upon(having connection with) the case at hand; appropriate
germinable pertaining to a germ; creative; Ex. germinal idea
germ earliest form of an organism; seed or bud; something that may develop into something larger or more important; microbe
germinate cause to sprout; sprout

sprout begin to grow; give off shoots or buds; N: new growth on a plant; shoot
shoot new growth from a plant
gerontocracy government ruled by old people
gerontology study of the sociological phenomena associated with old age
geriatrics medical treatment and care of old age
gerrymander change voting district lines in order to favor a political party; N. CF. Elbridge Gerry + (sala)mander
gestate evolve as in prenatal growth; N. gestation: period of development from conception until birth

natal connected with birth; CF. prenatal; CF. postnatal
gesticulation motion; gesture; V. gesticulate: make gestures (while speaking)
ghastly horrible; terrifying; resembling ghosts; CF. aghast
gibberish nonsense; nonsensical or unintelligible talk or writing; babbling
gib mock; make jeering remarks; N: jeering remarks
giddy light-hearted; not serious; frivolous; dizzy; causing dizziness; Ex. giddy youth; Ex. giddy climb/height
gingerly very carefully; ADJ.
girth distance around something; circumference
gist essence; main point; substance
glacial like a glacier; of an ice age; extremely cold; Ex. glacial epoch; CF. iceberg
glaring (of something bad) highly conspicuous; harshly bright; shining intensely and blindingly

glimmer shine erratically; twinkle; N: dim or unsteady light; faint indication; Ex. glimmer of hope

glitter shine brightly with flashing points of light; Ex. glittering diamond ring; N: sparkling light; attractiveness; glamor; Ex. glitter of the sun on the waves
♥ glamor compelling charm; ADJ. glamorous
♠ gourmet connoisseur of food and drink; epicure
❖ graduated arranged by degrees (of height, difficulty, etc.)
♥ graduate arrange into categories or grades; divide into marked intervals (for use in measurement); Ex. graduated ruler
♦ granary storehouse for grain
♣ grandeur impressiveness; stateliness; majesty
♥ stately formal; ceremonious; grand in style or size; majestic
♣ grandiloquent (of a person or speech) using high sounding or important-sounding language; pompous; bombastic
♣ grandiose affectedly grand; pretentious; high-flown; ridiculously exaggerated; impressive; great in size or scope; grand; Ex. grandiose ideas
♥ high-flown highly pretentious or inflated
♥ matinée(matinee) dramatic or musical performance given in the afternoon
♠ granulate form into grains or granules; N. granule: grain or particle
♣ graphic pertaining to the art of delineating; vividly described
♥ vivid (of light or color) bright and distinct; evoking lifelike mental images; Ex. vivid red hair/description
♥ graphite black form of carbon used in lead pencils
♠ grapple wrestle; come to grips with; take hold of and struggle with; Ex. grapple with the burglar
♠ grate make a harsh noise; have an unpleasant effect; shred by rubbing against a rough surface; Ex. grated cheese N: framework of metal bars to hold fuel in a fireplace
♣ gratify please; satisfy; Ex. gratify a desire
♥ gratis free; without charge; ADJ.
♣ gratuitous given freely; unwarranted; uncalled for; done without good reason; Ex. gratuitous comment
♣ gratuity tip
♣ gravity seriousness; ADJ. grave
♣ gregarious sociable; (of an animal) tending to form a group
♣ grievance cause of complaint; complaint
♠ grill question severely; cook on a grill; broil; N: cooking surface of parallel metal bars
♥ broil cook by direct heat; N.
♥ grim causing great fear; unrelenting; determined in spite of fear; Ex. grim smile
♠ grimace facial distortion to show feeling such as pain, disgust, etc; V.
♥ grisly ghastly; horrifying; Ex. grisly remains of the bodies
♠ groom man employed to take care of horses; V: make neat and trim; clean and brush (an animal)
♣ grotesque fantastic; comically hideous; strange and unnatural (causing fear or amusement)
hideous repulsive to the sight; ugly; repugnant; Ex. hideous face/scream

grotto small cavern

grouse complain; fuss; grumble; grouch; N: plump chickenlike game bird

grumble complain; mutter discontentedly; grouch; N.
mutter utter (complaining words) indistinctly in low tones

rumble make or move with a deep rolling sound (as thunder or stomach)
grovel crawl or creep on ground; remain prostrate; behave in a servile manner

grudging unwilling; reluctant; stingy(giving reluctantly)
guile deceit; duplicity; wiliness; cunning; Ex. persuade her by guile

cunning clever in deceiving; sly; N: cleverness in deceiving; deceit

guileless without deceit

guise outward appearance; costume; Ex. in a new guise

gull trick; deceive; hoodwink; N: person who is easily tricked; dupe

gullible easily deceived

gustatory affecting or relating to the sense of taste

gusto eager enjoyment; zest; enthusiasm

gusty windy

gust strong abrupt rush of wind; V. CF. bluster

guy cable or chain attached to something that needs to be braced or steadied; CF. guide

topple become unsteady and fall down

overthrow topple; N.

overturn turn over; capsize; topple

capsize (of a boat) turn over

gyroscope apparatus used to maintain balance, ascertain direction, etc.

habituate accustom or familiarize; addict

hackles hairs on back and neck, especially of a dog; Ex. make someone’s hackles rise

growl low, guttural, menacing sound (as of a dog)
hackneyed commonplace; trite

haggard wasted away; gaunt; Ex. haggard faces of the rescued miners

haggle argue about prices (in an attempt to bargain)

halcyon calm; peaceful; Ex. halcyon days

hale healthy

hail frozen rain drop; V: salute or greet; precipitate hail

hallowed blessed; consecrated; Ex. hallowed ground; V. hallow: set apart as holy

hallucination delusion; false idea; false perception of objects with a compelling sense of their reality; objects so perceived; V. hallucinate; ADJ. hallucinatory

halting hesitant; faltering; not fluent; Ex. halting steps/voice; V: halt: proceed or act with uncertainty; falter; hesitate; waver; stop

waver move or swing back and forth; be uncertain or unsteady in decision or movement; Ex. wavering between accepting and refusing

hamper obstruct; prevent the free movement of; N: place much frequented

hapless unfortunate; luckless

harangue long, passionate, and vehement speech; V.

harass annoy by repeated attacks

habering forerunner (which foreshadows what is to come)

harbor give protection (by giving food and shelter); provide a refuge for; hide; keep in mind (thoughts or feelings); Ex. harbor a grudge/criminal; N: place of shelter; refuge

habitual give protection (by giving food and shelter); hide; keep in mind (thoughts or feelings); Ex. harbor a grudge/criminal; N: place of shelter; refuge

habitat natural home of a plant or animal; CF. habitation

hardy (of people or animals) sturdy; robust; (of plants) able to stand inclement(stormy) weather

harping tiresome dwelling on a subject; V. harp: dwell on(think or speak a lot about) tediously

harrowing agonizing; distressing; traumatic; V. harrow: break up and level (soil) with a harrow; inflict great distress on; agonize; N: farming machine to break up the earth

harry harass, annoy, torment (by repeated attacks); raid

hatch deck opening; lid covering a deck opening; V: emerge from an egg; produce (young) from an egg

latch fastening or lock consisting of a movable bar that fits into a notch; V: close with a latch

notch V-shaped cut in a surface; V.

haughtiness pride; arrogance; ADJ. haughty

haunt (of a spirit) visit (a place); come to mind continually; visit (a place) regularly; frequent; Ex. haunted house; Ex. haunted by his last words; N: place much frequented

haven place of safety; refuge; harbor; Ex. tax haven
havoc widespread damage; disorder; chaos
hazardous dangerous
hazard venture; put in danger; risk; Ex. hazard a guess; N: possible source of danger
hazy slightly obscure; misty; unclear; N. haze: light mist or smoke; confused state of mind
headlong hasty; rash; headfirst; ADV.
headfirst moving with the head leading; headlong
headstrong willful; stubborn; unyielding; determined to have one’s own way; CF. no ‘excessive’
heckler person who verbally harasses others; V. heckle: verbally harass as with gibes (by interrupting a speaker or speech)
hedonist one who believes that pleasure is the sole aim in life; CF. hedonism: practice of living one’s life purely for pleasure
heedless not noticing; disregarding
heed pay attention to; N: close attention
hegemony dominance especially of one nation over others
heinous atrocious; wicked; hatefully bad; Ex. heinous crime
gross total; fragrant; clearly wrong; (of people’s behavior) coarse; corpulent; Ex. gross insolence/behavior; V: earn as a total amount; N: 12 dozens
helm steering wheel of a ship; position of control
herbivorous grain-eating; CF. herbivore
heresy opinion contrary to popular belief; opinion contrary to accepted religion; ADJ. heretical; CF. heretic
hermetic sealed by fusion so as to be airtight; airtight
hermetic concerning alchemy or magic; obscure and mysterious; occult
sterile incapable of producing young; free from microorganism; V. sterilize
hermitage home of a hermit
herpetologist one who studies reptiles; CF. herpetology: branch of zoology that deals with reptiles and amphibians
heterodox (of beliefs) against accepted opinion; unconventional
heterogeneous dissimilar; mixed; not homogeneous; consisting of dissimilar elements or plants
hew cut to pieces with ax or sword; chop; N.
heyday time of greatest success or power; prime
prime period of ideal or peak condition; earliest or beginning stage; Ex. in the prime of life; Ex. prime of the year(spring); ADJ: first in importance or rank; first; V: make ready; prepare
primary first in rank or importance; principal; earliest in time; Ex. primary stages; N. CF. first
primal first in rank or importance; being first in time; original; Ex. man’s primal innocence
primate group of mammals including humans
hiatus gap; pause; gap or interruption in space or time; break
hibernal wintry; wintery; of or like winter
hibernate sleep throughout the winter; N. hibernation
hierarchy arrangement by rank or standing; authoritarian body divided into ranks; body of persons having authority
totem animal, plant, or natural object serving as a symbol of a clan or family; representation of this; Ex. totem pole
hieroglyphic picture writing; ADJ.
hilarity boisterous mirth(merriment; laughter); ADJ. hilarious: full of laughter
hindmost furthest behind; farthest to the rear
wage begin and continue (a war)
hindrance block; obstacle; V. hinder
hinterlands back country; inner part of a country; OP. foreland
hireling one who serves for hire (usually used contemptuously); one who works solely for compensation; Ex. hireling politician
hirute hairy; having a lot of hair
histrionic theatrical; excessively dramatic or emotional; affected; of actors or acting; N. histrionics: histrionic behavior
historic important in history; Ex. historic battle
historical connected with history; based on events in history (whether regarded as important or not)
hoard stockpile; accumulate for future use; N: supply stored for future use
hoary white with age
hoax trick which makes someone take action; practical joke; Ex. hoax mail; V.
holocaust destruction by fire; CF. burnt whole; CF. Holocaust
holster leather pistol case (that hangs on a belt around the waist)
homage honor; tribute; great respect; Ex. pay/do homage to
homeostasis tendency of a system or organism to maintain relative stability or internal equilibrium; CF. homeo-: constant; Ex. homeotherm
homespun domestic; made at home; spun or woven at home; simple and ordinary; Ex. homespun philosophy
spin rotate swiftly; make (thread) by twisting (cotton, wool, etc.); N.
hoily sermon; tedious moralizing lecture; serious warning; ADJ. homiletic
homogeneous of the same kind; uniform in composition throughout
hone  sharpen (a tool); N: whetstone for sharpening a tool

hoodwink  deceive; delude

horde  crowd; swarm

swarm  large group of insects moving in a mass; crowd of people or animals; V: move in a crowd or mass

hortatory  encouraging; exhortive; marked by exhortation; CF: exhort

horticultural  pertaining to cultivation of gardens; N. horticulture: science or art of cultivating fruits, vegetables, or ornamental plants; CF: agriculture: science or art of farming or growing crops

hostility  unfriendliness; hatred; enmity; ADJ. hostile

hovel  shack; small wretched house

hut  crude dwelling; shack

shack  crude cabin

shed  small roofed structure for storage and shelter; V: pour forth; lose by natural process; repel without allowing penetration; radiate; cast; Ex. shed tears/light/water/skin/leaves

hover  hang about; (of birds or aircraft) stay in the air in one place; (of people) wait nearby; stay around one place; wander; be in an uncertain state

hubbub  confused uproar; loud noise; din

hubris  arrogance; excessive self-conceit

hue  color; aspect; Ex. opinions of every hue

hue and cry  outcry; loud cry or clamor; strong protest; Ex. hue and cry against the new rule

humane  marked by kindness or consideration; kind and compassionate; humanitarian

humanitarian  one devoted to the promotion of human welfare; CF: humanism

humdrum  dull; monotonous

humid  damp; N. humidity

humility  humbleness of spirit

humble  of low rank or position; modest; having a low opinion of oneself and a high opinion of others; unassuming; not proud; V. humiliate: make humble; cause to feel ashamed or to lose the respect of others

hummock  small hill; hillock

humus  substance or rich soil formed by decaying vegetable matter; CF: soil

hurtle  crash; rush; move with great speed; Ex. hurtling runaway train

husband  use sparingly; conserve; save; Ex. husband one’s energy; CF: house holder

husbandry  frugality; thrift; economy; agriculture; farming; Ex. animal husbandry; CF: husbandman

hybrid  mongrel; mixed breed; V. hybridize

mongrel  plant or animal (esp. a dog) of mixed breed; ADJ.
illuminative; illusory; illusion; illuminate; illimitable; imbalance; tenant; immaculate; imbue; imbecility; imbalanced; illuminating remarks; illusion; illusive; deceptive; not real; lack of balance or symmetry; disproportion; lack of proportion (between the parts); ADJ. disproportionate; illuminated; clear up or make understandable; Ex. illuminating remarks; misleading vision or visual image; false idea or belief; Ex. delusion; deceiving; based on illusion; causing illusion; deceptive; illusive; deceptive; not real; deceptive; not real; deceptions; delusions; mislead; mislead; misguiding; false idea or belief; Ex. delusion; brighten; enable to understand; enlighten; enable to understand; Ex. illuminating remarks; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; limitless; infinite; 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implication  something hinted at or suggested; implying; implicating
implicit  understood but not stated; implied; unquestioning and complete; Ex. implicit trust
implode  burst inward; CF. vacuum tube
implore  beg
imply  suggest a meaning not expressed; signify
impolitic  not wise; not expedient; not politic
imponderable  weightless; that cannot undergo precise evaluation; CF. pound
import  significance; importance; meaning
significant  expressing a meaning; important; Ex. significant smile; N. significance; importance; meaning; V. signify: denote; mean; signal; make known; matter; be significant
importune  urgent; always demanding; troublesomey urgent or persistent
imposture  beg persistently; make repeated requests (in an annoying way)
impostor  assuming a false identity; masquerade; CF. impostor
masquerade  wear a mask or disguise; pretend; N. costume party or ball at which masks are worn; pretense; disguise
impotent  weak; ineffectical; lacking in physical strength or power
crave  desire; want intensely
imprecation  curse; swearword
impregnation  invulnerable; impossible to capture or enter by force; Ex. impregnable fort/argument; CF. take
impregnate  make pregnant; fill thoroughly; saturate
impromptu  without previous preparation; off the cuff (end of a sleeve); on the spur of the moment
impropriety  impropriety; unsuitableness
improvident  thriftless; not providing for the future
improvise  compose on the spur of the moment
impudent  lacking caution; not prudent; injudicious
impudence  impertinence; insolence
dispute or contradict (often in an insulting way); attack as false or questionable; challenge; gainsay; CF. fight
impuissance  powerlessness; feebleness
impunity  freedom from punishment or harm; CF. punish
impute  attribute; ascribe; charge; N. imputation
inadvertently  unintentionally; by oversight; carelessly
oversee  watch over and direct; supervise; N. oversight: unintentional failure to notice or do something; supervision
inalienable  not to be taken away; nontransferable; Ex. inalienable rights
inane  silly; senseless; Ex. inane remarks; N. inanity
inanimate  lifeless; not animate
inarticulate speechless; producing indistinct speech; not articulate; not expressing oneself clearly
speechless  unable for the moment to speak (because of strong feeling); Ex. speechless with anger
inaugurate  begin formally; install in office; induct into office by a formal ceremony; N. inauguration; ADJ. inaugural
incandescent  strikingly bright; shining with intense heat; emitting visible light when heated; Ex. incandescent light bulb; CF. candle
incantation  singing or chanting of magic spells; magical formula; (the saying of) words used in magic; CF. enchant
chant  tune(melody) in which a number of words are sung on the same note; V. sing (a chant); utter (a slogan) in the manner of a chant
charm  quality of pleasing; amulet; action or formula thought to have magical power; spell; V. attract; cast a spell on; bewitch
bewitch  cast a spell over; captivate completely
recite  repeat aloud (something learned); describe; Ex. recite his complaints; N. recitation
recital  act of reciting publicly; detailed account; performance of music or dance (by a solo performer)
inincapacitate  disable; N. incapacity: lack of capacity
incarcerate  imprison
incarnate  endowed with flesh; invested with bodily form; personified; Ex. devil incarnate; V. give bodily form to; embody
incarnation  act of assuming a human body and human nature; one who personifies something; personification; Ex. previous incarnation/reincarnation
personify  represent (an inanimate object) as a person; be the embodiment or perfect example of; Ex. She is evil/patience personified; N. personification
incendiary  arsonist; ADJ: causing fire; of arson; Ex. incendiary bomb
incense  enrage; infuriate(make furious); make extremely angry; outrage; N: aromatic substance burned to produce a pleasant odor
incentive  spur; motive; something which encourages one to greater activity
incension  start; beginning
incisant  uninterrupted; unceasing

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incanate  (of desire, wish, plan) recently begun; not explicit; at the beginning of development; rudimentary; elementary; Ex. incanate mass
incidence  rate of occurrence; particular occurrence; Ex. high incidence of infant mortality
incidental  not essential; minor; N: something incidental
incident event; event that causes a crisis
incinerate burn to ashes
incipient beginning; in an early stage
incisive (appreciatively) cutting; sharp; Ex. incisive remarks; V. incise: make a cut into
incite arouse to action; goad; motivate; induce to exist; Ex. incite a riot/the crowds to rebellion
inclement stormy; unkind; unmerciful; CF. clement
inclination slope; slant; Ex. steep incline
inclined tending or leaning toward; bent; V. incline: slant; dispose; be disposed; tend
tend have a tendency; take care of; minister; serve at; apply one’s attention; attend
inclusive tending to include all; all-inclusive; Ex. inclusive charge
incognito with identity concealed; using an assumed name; ADJ.
incoherent unintelligible; muddled; unable to express one’s thoughts in an orderly manner; illogical; lacking cohesion; not coherent
incommodious not spacious; inconvenient
incompatible inharmonious; N. incompatibility
incongruity lack of harmony; absurdity; ADJ. incongruous: lacking in harmony; inappropriate
attire clothe; N: clothing; array; apparel
inconsequential insignificant; unimportant
inconsistency state of being self-contradictory; lack of uniformity or steadiness; ADJ. inconsistent: displaying a lack of consistency; erratic; contradictory; incompatible
incontinent lacking self-restraint; not continent; licentious
incontrovertible indisputable; impossible to dispute; not open to question; unquestionable
incorporate introduce something into a larger whole; include; embody; give material form to; ADJ.
incorporeal without a material body; insubstantial
incorrigible uncorrectable
incredulity tendency to disbelief
incredulous withholding belief; skeptical; showing disbelief
increment increase
incriminate accuse of or implicate in a crime; serve as evidence against; cause to seem or make guilty of a crime; Ex. incriminating evidence
incrustation hard coating or crust; V. incrust: encrust; cover with a crust
incubate hatch; warm (eggs) with the body to promote hatching; maintain at optimal environment conditions for development; be holding in one’s body an infection which is going to develop into a disease; N. incubation; CF. incubation: disease
incumbent bearing an office; N: person who holds an office
incurs bring upon oneself
incursion temporary invasion; CF. excursion: short journey
inroad hostile invasion; advance that lessens the quantity or difficulty of something; Ex. The long illness made serious inroads on his savings; CF. raid
indelible not able to be erased
indemnify make secure against damage or loss; compensate for damage or loss; CF. make uninjured
indentation notch; deep recess; V. indent; CF. tooth
indenture bind as servant or apprentice to master; bind by indenture; N: contract binding one party into the service of another for a specified time (as between an apprentice and his master)
indeterminate uncertain; not clearly fixed; indefinite
indicative suggestive; implying; serving to indicate
indices signs; indications; Ex. indices of a student’s potential; CF. index: something that reveals or indicates; sign; Ex. cost-of-living index
indict charge; N. indictment
indifferent unmoved or unconcerned by; having no interest in; mediocre; neither good nor bad
indigence poverty
indigenous native; Ex. plant indigenous to the New World
indigent poor; destitute
indignation anger at an injustice; Ex. righteous indignation; ADJ. indignant
righteous morally upright; just
rightful legally correct; Ex. rightful owner
indignity treatment or situation that causes shame or loss of dignity; respect; offensive or insulting treatment; humiliating or degrading treatment; Ex. I suffered the indignity of having to say that in front of them.
indiscriminate choosing at random; confused; not based on careful distinctions
indisputable too certain to be disputed; beyond doubt
indissoluble permanent; impossible to dissolve or disintegrate
indite write; compose
indolent lazy
indomitable unconquerable; unyielding
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>indubitable</strong></td>
<td>unable to be doubted; which cannot be doubted; unquestionable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>induce</strong></td>
<td>persuade; lead to do something; bring about; N. induction</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>inductive</strong></td>
<td>pertaining to induction or proceeding from the specific to the general</td>
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<td><strong>induct</strong></td>
<td>place formally in office; install; admit as a member; initiate; N. induction: inducting; process of deriving general principles from particular facts</td>
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<td><strong>indulgent</strong></td>
<td>humoring; yielding; lenient; showing indulgence</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>indulge</strong></td>
<td>yield to; gratify; allow oneself a special pleasure; Ex. indulge one’s every whim/a child/in a big cigarette; N. indulgence</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>humor</strong></td>
<td>indulge; comply with the wishes of; N. quality that makes something amusing; state of mind; mood; Ex. in a bad humor; Ex. out of humor</td>
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<td><strong>industrious</strong></td>
<td>diligent; hard-working; N. industry</td>
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<td><strong>inebriated</strong></td>
<td>habitually intoxicated; drunk; N. inebriety</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>inebriate</strong></td>
<td>make drunk; intoxicate; N. intoxicated person</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>intoxicate</strong></td>
<td>make drunk; stimulate or excite; Ex. intoxicated by all the money he might win</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ineffable</strong></td>
<td>unutterable; not to be uttered; taboo; that cannot be expressed in speech; indescribable; unspeakable; inexpressible; Ex. ineffable name/toy</td>
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<td><strong>ineffectual</strong></td>
<td>not effective; not having a desired effect; weak</td>
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<td><strong>inept</strong></td>
<td>irresistible; not to be escaped; unavoidable</td>
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<td><strong>inexact</strong></td>
<td>unsuited; inappropriate; lacking skill; incompetent; CF. inapt: (of statements or ideas) inappropriate</td>
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<td><strong>inequity</strong></td>
<td>unfairness; ADJ. inequitable</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>inerrancy</strong></td>
<td>infallibility</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>inert</strong></td>
<td>inactive; lacking power to move; unable to move or act; Ex. chemically inert; N. inertia: state of being inert; force which keeps a thing in the position or state</td>
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<td><strong>inevitable</strong></td>
<td>unavoidable</td>
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<td><strong>inevitable</strong></td>
<td>relentless; unyielding; implacable; not capable of being changed by entreaty or efforts; Ex. inexorable price rises</td>
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<td><strong>infallible</strong></td>
<td>unerring; never making mistakes</td>
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<td><strong>infamous</strong></td>
<td>notoriously bad; notorious; well known for being bad; Ex. infamous behavior; N: infamy: infamous act; evil fame or reputation</td>
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<td><strong>infantile</strong></td>
<td>childish; infantlike</td>
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<td><strong>infer</strong></td>
<td>deduce; conclude; N. inference</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>infernal</strong></td>
<td>pertaining to hell; devilish; N. inferno: place of fiery heat or destruction</td>
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<td><strong>infidel</strong></td>
<td>unbeliever (with respect to a particular religion)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>infilitrate</strong></td>
<td>pass into or through; penetrate or enter (an organization) sneakily; Ex. infiltrate the troops into enemy territory; CF. infiltrator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
inquisitor questioner (especially harsh); investigator; person making an inquisition

inquisitive eager for knowledge; unduly curious

insalubrious unwholesome; not healthful; Ex. insalubrious place

healthy conducive to good health; Ex. healthy mountain air

healthful conducive to mental or physical health; healthful

insatiable not easily satisfied; unquenchable; Ex. insatiable appetite

inscrutable difficult to understand; impenetrable; not readily understood; mysterious

insensate without feeling; lacking sense; foolish

insensible unconscious; unresponsive; insensitive; unaware; imperceptible; Ex. insensible of his danger/to pain; Ex. insensible change; CF. not the opposite of sensible

insidious treacherous; stealthy; sly; working or spreading harmfully in a stealthy manner; Ex. insidious spreading of dry rot

insightful discerning; perceptive

insinuate hint; imply; suggest indirectly; creep in; introduce or insert (oneself) by artful means; Ex. insinuate himself into the boss’s favor; CF. ingratiating

creep move with body close to the ground; move stealthily or slowly; N.

artful exhibiting art or skill; deceitful; cunning; CF. artifice

insipid lacking in flavor; deceitful; cunning; CF. artifice

insolence impudent disrespect; haughtiness; ADJ. insolent; CF. haughty + rude

insolvent bankrupt; lacking money to pay; N. insolvency

insomnia wakefulness; inability to sleep

insouciant without concern or care; unconcerned; indifferent

instigate start; urge; provoke; incite; Ex. instigate a search/quarrel

insubordination disobedience; rebelliousness; ADJ. insubordinate

insubstantial lacking substance; insignificant; frail; immaterial

insularity narrow-mindedness; isolation; ADJ. insular: of an island; isolated; narrow-minded; CF. peninsula

insuperable insurmountable; unbeatable; Ex. insuperable difficulties

odds chances; probability; disagreement; Ex. The odds are that it will rain. Ex. at odds with

insurgent rebellious; N.

insurmountable overwhelming; unbeatable; insuperable
inundate: flood; overflow; submerge; cover completely; Ex. inundated with work

overwhelm: (of water) cover completely; defeat completely by much greater force; Ex. overwhelmed by grief

submerge: place under water; dip; go under water; cover completely (as with water); Ex. submerged in work

engulf: surround and swallow up

inured: accustomed; hardened; Ex. inured to the Alaskan cold; V. inure: make used to something undesirable; harden; CF. unfeeling

invalidate: weaken; destroy; make invalid; nullify

invalid: one incapacitated (disabled) by a chronic illness; ADJ: incapacitated by illness; not valid; null; V: allow to leave (a military force) because of ill-health

invective: abuse

inveigh: denounce; utter censure or invective; Ex. inveigh against the evils of drink

inveigle: deceive; lead astray by deception; wheedle (cajole); Ex. inveigle her into joining the club; CF. interest dishonestly

inverse: opposite

invert: turn upside down or inside out; reverse the position or condition of

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inveterate: deep-rooted; habitual; CF. grow old

invidious: designed to create ill will or envy; tending to rouse ill will or envy; Ex. invidious comparison

invincible: unalterable; irreversible; impossible to revoke

invulnerable: incapable of injury; impossible to damage or injure

irrelevant: unc applicable; unrelated

irrevocable: impossible to reconcile; incompatible; not able to be resolved

irrefutable: indisputable; incontrovertible; undeniable

irrelevant: not applicable; unrelated

irremediable: incurable; uncorrectable; impossible to remedy

irreparable: not able to be corrected or repaired; impossible to repair

irrepressible: unable to be restrained or held back; impossible to hold back

irreproachable: beyond reproach; blameless; impeccable; Ex. irreproachable conduct

irresolute: uncertain how to act; weak; lacking in resolution; indecisive; N. irresolution

indecisive: marked by indecision; inconclusive; Ex. indecisive battle

indecision: irresolution; inability to make up one’s mind

irretrievable: impossible to recover or regain; CF. retrieve

irreverence: lack of proper respect or reverence; ADJ. irreverent

irrevocable: unalterable; irreversible; impossible to revoke

isotope: varying from of an element

isthmus: narrow neck of land connecting two larger bodies of land

itinerant: wandering; traveling from place to place (to perform work); Ex. itinerant preacher

itinerary: plan of a trip; record of a trip

jab: poke abruptly with something sharp; punch with short blows

jaded: tired or uninterested by surfet; fatigued; surfeited; worn out; wearied; Ex. jaded appetite

jargon: language used by special group; technical terminology; gibberish; nonsensical or incoherent talk

jaundiced: yellowed; prejudiced (envious, hostile, or resentful) from long and disappointing experience of human affairs; Ex. with a jaundiced eye

jaundice: medical condition in which the skin, the white part of the eyes, etc. turn yellow; V: affect with jaundice; affect with prejudice, envy, or hostility; bias

jaunt: trip; short journey

jaunty: cheerful and pleased with life; lighthearted; animated; easy and carefree; dapper in appearance; Ex. jaunty person/hat

jeopardize: endanger; imperil; put at risk; N. jeopardy: danger

jettison: throw overboard (from a ship or plane)

jibe: agree; be in harmony with; gibe

jingoist: extremely aggressive and militant patriot; warlike chauvinist; N. jingoism: extreme nationalism
- jocular - said or done in jest or playfully; marked by joking  
- jest - playful remark or act; V. act or speak playfully  
- jocund - merry  
- jollity - gaiety; cheerfulness; ADJ. jolly: merry; gay  
- jostle - shove; bump; push against (someone) rather roughly; Ex. jostled by the crowds  
- shove - push forward; push roughly; Ex. pushing and shoving to get on the bus; N.  
- bump - hit or knock against with force; N.  
- jovial - good-natured; merry; cheerful  
- jollity - gaiety; cheerfulness; ADJ. jolly: merry; gay  
- judicious - sound on judgment; wise  
- juggernaut - irresistible crushing force; overwhelming advancing force that crushes everything in its path  
- jug - pitcher; container for holding liquids  
- juncture - crisis; point in time; joining point; joint; act of joining  
- junket - trip especially one taken for pleasure by an official at public expense  
- junta - group of persons joined in political intrigue; cabal; group of military officers ruling a country after seizing power (by force)  
- jurisprudence - science of law  
- jurisdiction - right and power to apply the law; authority  
- juridical - of the law and its administration; CF. judicial: of courts of law; CF. judiciary  
- juxtapose - place side by side; CF. next  
- kaleidoscope - tube in which patterns made by the reflection in mirrors of colored pieces of glass, etc. produce interesting symmetrical effects; series of changing events; Ex. kaleidoscope of European history; CF. beautiful  
- ken - range of knowledge; Ex. beyond one's ken  
- kernel - central or vital part; core; whole seed (as of corn)  
- killjoy - grouch; spoilsport; one who intentionally spoils the pleasure of others  
- grouch - bad-tempered complaint; person who keeps complaining; V. complain; grumble  
- spoilsport - one who spoils the pleasure of others  
- kindle - start a fire; ignite; inspire; arouse  
- kindred - related; belonging to the same group; similar in nature or character; Ex. kindred languages; N: relative; kin; kinship  
- kinetic - producing motion; of motion  
- kismet - fate; destiny; Ex. Kismet is the Arabic word for fate.  
- kleptomania - person who has a compulsive desire to steal  
- knave - untrustworthy person; rogue; scoundrel; jack; N. knavery  
- knead - mix; work dough; mix and work into a uniform mass (with the hands); Ex. knead dough  
- knell - tolling of a bell especially to indicate a funeral, disaster, etc.; sound of the funeral bell; V.  
- toll - sound (a large bell) slowly at regular intervals; N: sound of a bell; fixed tax or charge  
- curfew - regulation requiring all people to leave the streets at stated times; signal (as a bell) announcing the hour of a curfew  
- knit - contract into wrinkles; grow together; join together closely; make (a fabric or garment) by interwining yarn or thread; Ex. knit the brow; Ex. The bones should knit together in a few weeks.  
- knit - contract into wrinkles; grow together; join together closely; make (a fabric or garment) by interwining yarn or thread; Ex. knit the brow; Ex. The bones should knit together in a few weeks.  
- knoll - little round hill; hillock  
- knotty - intricate; difficult; tangled; CF. knot  
- kudos - honor; glory; acclaim or praise for exceptional achievement  
- entourage - group of attendants; retinue; CF. surround  
- labile - likely to change; unstable; Ex. emotionally labile; N. lability  
- laborious - demanding much work or care; tedious  
- labyrinth - maze  
- laceration - torn ragged wound; V. lacerate: tear (the skin as with broken glass); wound  
- lacerate - tear or be torn quickly and violently; Ex. The sail ripped under the force of the wind; N.  
- rag - scrap of cloth; ADJ. ragged: old and torn; seeming unfinished and imperfect; Ex. ragged debut/performance  
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- rag - scrap of cloth; ADJ. ragged: old and torn; seeming unfinished and imperfect; Ex. ragged debut/performance  
- lachrymose - producing tears; tearful  
- lackadaisical - lacking interest or effort; lacking purpose or zest; lazy; halfhearted; languid  
- halfhearted - exhibiting little interest or enthusiasm  
- lackluster - lacking luster(shine; gloss); dull  
- laconic - brief and to the point; using few words; terse  
- laconic - brief and to the point; using few words; terse  
- laggard - slow; sluggish; N: one who lags; struggler  
- lag - move or develop more slowly; struggle; Ex. lag behind the rest; N.  
- lag - move or develop more slowly; struggle; Ex. lag behind the rest; N.  
- struggle - stray or fall behind (a main group); spread out in a scattered group; Ex. struggling marathon racer; Ex. straggling branch  

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- laggon - shallow body of water or lake near a sea; lake separated from a sea by sandbars or coral reefs  
- laity - laypersons; laymen; persons not connected with the clergy  
- layman - man who is not a cleric; man who is nonprofessional
lament: grieve; express sorrow; N. lamentation
lampoon: ridicule; N: written attack ridiculing or satirizing a person, group, or institution
lancet: small surgical tool for making incisions
lance: pierce with a lance; cut into; N: spearlike weapon
languid: lacking energy or vitality; weary; sluggish; listless
languor: lack of physical or mental energy; lassitude; depression
lank: long and thin; Ex. Lank, gaunt, Abraham Lincoln
lap: take in food or drink with one’s tongue; splash gently; Ex. waves lapping the shore; N: front area from the waist to the knees of a seated person
larceny: theft; Ex. petit larceny
larder: pantry; place where food is kept
largess: generous gift (given to people who do not have enough)
lascivious: lustful
lust: intense sexual desire; intense eagerness; V.
lassitude: languor; weariness; listlessness
latent: present but not yet noticeable or active; dormant; hidden; N. latency; CF. potential
lateral: of or coming from the side
latitude: freedom from narrow limitations
laud: praise; N. ADJ. laudable: praiseworthy; ADJ. laudatory: expressing praise
lavish: liberal; wasteful; generous or wasteful in giving or using; abundant; profuse; great; Ex. decorated lavishly; V. give in abundance
lax: careless; negligent; not paying enough attention; Ex. lax service
leaven: add leaven to; cause to rise or grow lighter; enliven; N: agent, such as yeast, that causes dough to rise (by fermentation); element that lightens or enlivens
enliven: make lively or spirited; animate
lechery: gross lewdness; lustfulness; ADJ. lecherous; N. lecher: lecherous man
lectern: reading desk or stand for a public speaker
leery: (of someone) suspicious; wary; cautious
leeway: room to move; margin; latitude; Ex. leeway for the deadline
margin: border; room; allowance beyond what is needed; Ex. margin of safety
marginal: of a margin; barely within a limit; Ex. marginal effectiveness/writing ability
legacy: gift made by a will; something handed down from an ancestor
legend: explanatory list of symbols on a map
legerdemain: sleight (dexterity) of hand; CF. light of hand
leniency: mildness; permissiveness; ADJ. lenient: not severe in judgment or punishment
permissive: allowing much freedom; lenient; Ex. permissive society
leonine: like a lion
lethal: deadly
lethargic: drowsy; dull; N. lethargy: state of sluggishness and inactivity
levee: earthen or stone embankment to prevent flooding; CF. raise
levitate: rise and float in the air (especially by magical means); CF. light
levity: lack of seriousness or steadiness; frivolity; lightness of manner
levy: impose (a fine); collect (a payment); impose or collect (a tax); Ex. levy a tax on tobacco
lewd: lustful
lexicographer: compiler of a dictionary; CF. lexicography: work of compiling a dictionary
lexicon: dictionary
liability: drawback; handicap; debts; obligation; responsibility; condition of being liable; ADJ. liable: likely; responsible (for paying)
liaison: contact that keeps parties in communication; communication between groups; one that maintains communication; go-between; secret love affair; V. liaise: keep a connection
libel: defamatory written statement; act of writing something that smears a person’s character; V. ADJ. libelous
libertine: debauched person; dissolute or licentious person; roué; CF. free
roué: lecherous man
libidinous: lustful
libido: psychic and emotional energy or urges behind human activity; sexual desire
libretto: text of an opera or oratorio; CF. book
licentious: amoral; lewd and lascivious; unrestrained
license: official or legal permission; latitude of action or speech; excessive freedom that causes harm or damage; V.
lien: legal claim or right on a property
liber: legal claim or right on a property
lignous: like wood
lilliputian: extremely small; CF. Lilliput in Gulliver’s Travels
limber: flexible; supple; pliable; V.
limbo: region near heaven or hell where certain souls are kept; prison (slang); Ex. Purgatory and Limbo
abode: dwelling place; home
abide: dwell; abide by: comply with; put up with; tolerate; Ex. abide by the rules; Ex. I can’t abide rude people.
limn: draw; outline; describe; CF. line?
limpid crystal clear
lineage descent; ancestry
lineaments features especially of the face; distinctive shape
or contour of the face; CF. line
feature distinctive part of the faces (as the eyes or mouth);
features: overall appearance of the face; prominent or distinc
tive quality; prominent article; film; V: make prominent
linger loiter or dawdle; be slow in leaving; delay going;
continue or persist; be slow to disappear; Ex. The smell lingered for days.
persist continue in existence; last; continue in a course of
action in spite of opposition; Ex. persist in/with something;
ADJ. persistent
linguistic pertaining to language
lionize treat (a person) as a celebrity
liquidate settle accounts; pay off (a debt); clear up; elimi
nate; kill or abolish
list tilt (as of a ship); lean over (to one side)
listless lacking in spirit or energy; languid
litany supplicatory prayer; prayer in which the priest calls
out and the people replies in the same words
lithe flexible; supple; CF. limber
willowy flexible; pliant; slender; CF. willow
litigation lawsuit; N. litigant: one party in a lawsuit; V. li
tigate
litotes understatement for emphasis; Ex. “not bad(=pretty
good)”
understate state with less truth than seems warranted by
the facts; Ex. He understated the seriousness of the crime;
N. understatement; OP. overstate
livid lead-colored; black and blue (as from a bruise); ashen;
enraged; extremely angry
loath reluctant; unwilling; disinclined; Ex. Romeo and
Juliet were both loath for him to go.
loathe detest; ADJ. loathsome: arousing loathing; offen
sive; Ex. loathsome smell
lode metal-bearing vein (long deposit of an ore)
lofty very high
loft room or space under the roof; attic
log record of a voyage or flight; record of day-to-day activi
ties; section of a trunk; V.
loiter hang about/around; stand idly about; linger
loll lounge about
lounge stand, sit, or lie in a lazy, relaxed way
longevity long life; long duration
loom appear or take shape (usually in an enlarged, indis
tinct, or distorted form); Ex. The shadow of the gallows
loomed threateningly. N: apparatus for making thread into
clot
long life; long duration
loft very high
lofty
lugubrious mournful; sorrowful
lull moment of calm; period of reduced activity; Ex. a lull
in the rain; V: cause to become less active; cause to sleep or
rest; Ex. lull the opponents into a false sense of security; CF.
lullaby
lumber move heavily or clumsily; Ex. The bear lumbered
through the woods; N: timber
lumen unit of light energy (one candle’s worth)
luminous shining (esp. in the dark); issuing light; Ex. lu
minous paint/road signs
lunar pertaining to the moon
lunatic insane; Ex. lunatic asylum
lurid wild; sensational; graphic; gruesome; horrible; Ex.
lurid details of the murder
lurk stealthily lie in waiting; slink; exist unperceived
slink move furtively; ADJ. slinky: stealthy; furtive; sneaky
(as in ambush)
luscious pleasing to taste or smell; delicious
luster shine; gloss (of a polished surface)
lustrous shining; brilliant; Ex. lustrous hair
luxuriant abundant; growing healthily and in large
amounts; excessively ornate; rich and splendid; fertile; Ex.
luxuriant forests/prose; CF. luxurious, luxuriate
macabre gruesome; grisly; ghastly; CF. of death
morgue mortuary; place where bodies are kept before
burial or cremation
cremate incinerate (a corpse); N. crematory, crematorium
mace ceremonial staff used as a symbol of authority; club
like medieval weapon
macerate  soft by soaking in liquid; waste away; Ex. macerate powdered wood to make paper

Machiavellian  crafty; double-dealing; of the political doctrine of Machiavelli, which holds that craft and deceit are justified in pursuing political power

machinations  evil schemes or plots; schemes or plots to achieve an evil end; V. machinate

maculated  spotted; stained; CF. immaculate

madrigal  pastoral song; song for several singers without instruments

maelstrom  violent whirlpool; violent or turbulent situation; CF. stream

magisterial  authoritative; imperious; commanding; of a magistrate; Ex. magisterial study of Roman law; Ex. magisterial manner

magistrate  official with power to administer the law

magnanimity  generosity; ADJ. magnanimous: generous

magnate  person of prominence or influence; powerful or influential person (in business or industry); Ex. oil magnate

magniloquent  boastful; pompous

magnitude  greatness (in size or extent); extent

maim  mutilate; injure lastingly; disable; cripple; Ex. maimed for life

mangle  tear or cut to pieces; mutilate or disfigure; Ex. badly mangled bodies

maladroit  clumsy; not skillful; awkward; bungling

malady  illness

malaise  uneasiness; vague feeling of ill health (without any particular pain or appearance of disease)

malapropism  comic misuse of a word; CF. Mrs. Malaprop

manifest  outward demonstration; manifesting; indication of the presence of something; Ex. manifestation of his pronounced musical bent

pronounced  distinct; very noticeable; Ex. pronounced limp

mandate  order; charge; authoritative command; power to govern another country; power to given to a government; region under administration; V: give a mandate to; place under a mandate; Ex. mandated territory

mammoth  gigantic; enormous

manacle  restrain; handcuff; N.

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mammoth  gigantic; enormous

manacle  restrain; handcuff; N.
 marshal put in order; guide ceremoniously to the correct place; Ex. marshal the children into the museum; N: military officer; official

 enlist (cause to) join the armed forces; obtain (help, sympathy, or support)

 marsupial one of a family of mammals that nurse their offspring in a pouch (pocket of skin or leather); CF. kangaroo, opossum, wombat

 martial warlike; of war; Ex. martial art/law

 cadet student at a military school

 martinet strict disciplinarian; person who demands total obedience to rules and orders; CF. Jean Martinet

 martyr one who voluntarily suffers death for his or her religion or cause; great sufferer; Ex. martyr to his rheumatism

 masochist person who enjoys his own pain; CF. masochism

 masticate chew

 materialism preoccupation with physical comforts and things; excessive regard for worldly concerns (rather than spiritual matters)

 maternal motherly; N. maternity: motherhood

 matriarch woman who rules a family or larger social group

 matriculate enroll (in college or graduate school); CF. matrix

 matrix point of origin; array of numbers or algebraic symbols; mold or die; Ex. the matrix of Western civilization

 maudlin effusively sentimental

 sentimental swayed by sentiment; appealing to the sentiments

 maul handle roughly; batter; injure by beating; Ex. mauled by his overexcited fans; N: heavy long-handled hammer

 masochist person who enjoys his own pain; CF. masochism

 meddle interfere; mediate settle a dispute through the services of an outsider; act as an intermediary; produce by mediating; Ex. mediate a cease-fire

 intermediary intermediate; acting as a mediator; N: mediator; go-between

 mediocre ordinary; commonplace; neither good nor bad

 meditation reflection; thought; V. meditate

 medium element that is a creature’s natural environment; nutrient setting in which microorganisms are cultivated; appropriate occupation or means of expression; channel of communication; compromise; middle position between extremes; intervening substance through which something else is transmitted

 medley mixture

 meek submissive; patient and long-suffering

 suitor man who is courting a woman

 megalomania mania for doing grandiose things; mental disorder characterized by delusions of wealth, power, or importance

 melancholy gloomy; morose; blue; N. ADJ. melancholic; CF. melancholia

 blue gloomy; depressed

 melee fight

 mellifluous (of words or a voice) sweetly or smoothly flowing; melodious; having a pleasant tune

 memento token; reminder of the past; keepsake; Ex. memento of your visit

 memorialize commemorate

 memorial something, such as a monument or holiday, intended to honor the memory of a person or event; ADJ: commemorative

 menagerie collection of wild animals on exhibition; zoo

 mendacious lying; habitually dishonest; N. mendacity

 mendicant beggar; ADJ: living as a beggar

 alms money or goods given to the poor

 menial suitable for servants; lowly; mean; N: someone who does menial work (esp. servant in a house)

 mentor counselor; teacher

 mercantile concerning trade or merchants

 mercenary motivated solely by money or gain; N.

 mercurial capricious; quick and changing; fickle; containing the element mercury; Ex. mercurial temper; CF. mood

 quicksilver mercury

 meretricious flashy; tawdry; attractive on the surface but of no real value; Ex. meretricious argument/jewel; CF. prostitute

 vulgar of the common people; deficient in refinement; not refined; coarse; Ex. vulgar display of wealth; N. vulgarism: vulgarity; crudely indecent word; CF. vulgarian: vulgar person; boor; lout
miasma combination (of two business corporations); act of merging

mesmerize hypnotize; N. mesmerism; CF. Franz Mesmer

metallurgical pertaining to the art of removing metals from ores; N. metallurgy: science that deals with extracting metals from ores

metamorphosis change of form; Ex. metamorphosis of caterpillar to butterfly; V. metamorphose: change by metamorphosis

metaphor implied comparison; CF. simile

soar rise or fly high in the air; Ex. The rocket soared into the sky.

metaphysical pertaining to speculative philosophy; of metaphysics; N. metaphysics: branch of philosophy that examines the nature of reality

mete measure; distribute; administer; Ex. mete out justice/punishment

meteoric like a meteor; swift; momentarily brilliant; Ex. meteoric rise to fame; N. meteor

methodical systematic; N. method: systematic method of procedure

meticulous excessively careful (with great attention to detail); painstaking; scrupulous

metropolis large city

mettle courage (to continue bravely in spite of difficulties); spirit; ADJ. mettlesome

miasma swamp gas; heavy vaporous atmosphere often emanating from decaying matter; pervasive corrupting influence; noxious atmosphere or influence

swamp wetland; marsh; V: flood; overwhelm; drench in with liquid

microcosm small representative world; world in miniature; Ex. microcosm of English society

miniature small model; small painting; ADJ: small

migrant changing its habitat; wandering; Ex. migrant birds/workers; N: one that migrates

migratory wandering; V. migrate: move from one region and settle in another; move periodically from one region to another

milieu social environment; means of expression; Ex. feel out of one’s milieu; Ex. His proper milieu is watercolor.

militant combative; bellicose; N.

militate work against; Ex. militate against the chances of promotion; CF. serve as a soldier

militia army composed of ordinary citizens rather than professional soldiers

millennium thousand-year period (as in the New Testament); hoped-for period of happiness and prosperity

mimicry imitation

mime pantomime(act without dialogue); mimicry; mimer; V: mimic; pantomime

minatory menacing; threatening

mincing affectedly dainty(delicate); V. mince: cut (esp. meat) into very small pieces; walk with exaggerated primness; walk in an unnatural way, taking little short steps; Ex. The actor minced across the stage; CF. mincemeat; CF. mincer

dainty delicate; delicately beautiful; fastidious; not easy to please; Ex. dainty movement/dress

exquisite delicate; very finely made; extremely beautiful; Ex. exquisite piece of jewelry

choice delicate; of very fine quality

minion servile dependent; obsequious follower

minuscule(miniscule) extremely small

minute extremely small; CF. minutes: official record of the proceedings at a meeting

minutiae petty or trivial details; CF. minutia

mirage unreal reflection; optical illusion

mire entangle; stick in swampy ground; stick or sink in mire; N: bog; deep mud; Ex. sucked deeper into the mire

mirth merriment; laughter

misadventure mischance; ill luck; Ex. death by misadventure

misanthrope one who hates mankind; misanthropist

tile despicable; unpleasant; disgusting; Ex. vile slander

misapprehension error; misunderstanding; V. misapprehend

miscellany mixture of writings on various subjects; collection of various items

miscellaneous made up of a variety of parts

mischance ill luck

misconstrue interpret incorrectly; misinterpret; misjudge

miscreant wretch; wrongdoer; villain; Ex. kindness to the miscreant; CF. believe

wretch miserable person; bad or despicable person; ADJ. wretched: miserable; bad; contemptible; vile

misdemeanor minor crime; misdeed; wrongdoing

misconduct immoral behavior; bad management; V.
miserly stingy; mean

misgivings doubts

mishap unfortunate accident

mismomer wrong or improper name; incorrect designation

misogamy hatred of marriage

misogynist hater of woman; CF. misogyny

missile object to be thrown or projected

missive letter; written statement; CF. sent

mite very small object or insect-like creature; small coin

mite very small object or insect-like creature; small coin
mitigate: appease; moderate; make or become less in force or intensity

mnemonic: pertaining to memory; assisting the memory; N: device, such as as formula or rhyme, used as a mnemonic aid

mobile: movable; not fixed; N. mobility

mock: ridicule; deride; imitate often in derision

mode: prevailing style; current fashion; manner; way of doing something; Ex. in the latest mode; Ex. simple mode of life

modicum: limited quantity; small amount; Ex. He does not have a modicum of sense; CF. moderate

modish: fashionable; conforming to the current fashion

modulate: tone down in intensity; change the intensity or tone of; regulate; change from one musical key to another; Ex. modulate from E to G

mogul: powerful person; Ex. oil moguls; CF. Mogol, Moghul; CF. Mongolian

molecule: the smallest particle (one or more atoms) of a substance that has all the properties of that substance

mollify: soothe an angry person

mollycoddle: pamper; coddle; baby; indulge excessively

moll(moult): periodically shed or cast off hairs or feathers (for replacement by a new growth)
molten: melted; Ex. molten lava

momentous: very important; N. moment; CF. momentary

momentum: quantity of motion of a moving body; impetus; moving force

monarchy: government under a single ruler

monastic: related to monks or monasteries; removed from worldly concerns

monetary: pertaining to money

monochromatic: having only one color

monochrome: painting in only one color; ADJ.

monogram: design composed of one or more initials of a name; V.

monograph: scholarly article

monolithic: solidly uniform; unchangeable; unyielding; N. monolith: large block of stone

monotheism: belief in one God

monotony: sameness leading to boredom; monotonousness; ADJ. monotonous; CF. monotone

monumental: massive; impressively large; built as a monument

moodiness: fits of depression or gloom; ADJ. moody: given to changeable moods; subject to periods of depression; gloomy CF. mood: state of mind or emotion

moratorium: legal delay of payment or action; Ex. declare moratorium on the building of new houses

morbid: given to unwholesome or unhealthy thought; moody; characteristic of disease; Ex. morbid curiosity; N. morbidity; CF. disease

mordant: biting; sarcastic; stinging; (apprec.) incisive; cutting; Ex. mordant pen/wit

mores: conventions; moral standards; moral customs

moribund: dying; at the point of death; CF. death

morose: ill-humored; sullen; sullenly melancholy

mortician: undertaker; CF. death

morose: ill-humored; sullen; sullenly melancholy

mortify: humiliate by embarrassing excessively; shame; punish the flesh; discipline (one’s body) by self-denial; Ex. mortified by her blunder; Ex. mortify the flesh; CF. cause to die

mosaic: picture made of small colorful inlaid tiles; ADJ.
mottled: blotched in coloring; spotted; Ex. mottled face; V. mottle: mark with blotches of different colors

motive: brief statement used to express a principle

mottled: blotched in coloring; spotted; Ex. mottled face; V. mottle: mark with blotches of different colors

motley: multi-colored (as of a garment worn by a jester); mixed; heterogeneous; CF. jester: one who jests (as a paid fool at medieval courts)
motif: theme; recurrent thematic element in a musical or literary work; single or repeated pattern; figure

motility: ability to move spontaneously; ADJ. motile: moving spontaneously

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movement: legal delay of payment or action; Ex. declare moratorium on the building of new houses

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mountebank: charlatan; boastful pretender

muddle: confuse; mix up confusedly; N: state of confusion

muggy: (of weather) warm and damp

mule*: defraud a person of something; swindle; Ex. mulct the boy of his legacy

multiform: having many forms

multilingual: having many languages; fluent in several languages

multiplicity: state of being numerous or multiple; large number; Ex. multiplicity of details; ADJ. multiple: of more than one element

mundane: worldly as opposed to spiritual; everyday; of the ordinary; Ex. mundane existence; CF. world

munificent: very generous in giving; Ex. munificent benefactor; N. munificence
mural  wall painting
murky  dark and gloomy; thick with fog; vague; Ex. murky night/fog; N. murk: partial or complete darkness; gloom
muse  ponder at length; N: source of inspiration (esp. of a poem)
musky  having the odor of musk; N. musk: odorous substance secreted by an Asian deer
muster  gather; assemble (troops); Ex. muster up one’s strength for the ordeal; N.
musty  stale (in odor or taste); spoiled by age; CF. moist
mutability  ability to change in form; fickleness; ADJ. mutable: able to change; fickle; CF. mutate; CF. mutant
muted  silent; muffled; toned down; Ex. muted traffic noise
mute  silent; without speech; not pronounced; unable to speak; N: one who is incapable of speech; V: soften the sound, color, shade of
mutilate  maim; injure lastingly; deprive of a limb or an essential part
mutinous  unruly; rebellious; Ex. mutinous teenagers; N. mutiny: open rebellion; CF. mutineer
mutiny  open rebellion; CF. mutineer
myopic  nearsighted; lacking foresight; N. myopia
myriad  very large number; ADJ. CF. ten thousand
nadir  lowest point; point on the celestial sphere diametrically opposite the zenith
naiveté(naivity)  quality of being unsophisticated; simplicity; artlessness; gullibility; ADJ. naive(naive): ingenuous; lacking worldliness; simple; credulous
narcissist  conceited person; N. narcissism; CF. narcissus
narrative  related to telling a story; N: narrated account; story; V: narrate: tell (a story); CF. narration
nascent  incipient; coming into being or existence; Ex. nascent ability in music

natation  swimming
natty  neatly or smartly dressed; dapper; smart; Ex. natty dresser
smart  intelligent; quick and energetic; fashionable; Ex. smart pace/restaurant; V: cause or feel a sharp pain; N: smarting pain
nuisance  cause to become sick; fill with disgust; fill nausea
nausea  feeling of sickness and desire to vomit; disgust; CF. seasickness
nauseous  causing nausea; feeling nausea
nautical  pertaining to ships or navigation
navigable  (of a body of water) wide and deep enough to allow ships to pass through; (of a ship or aircraft) able to be steered
nebulous  vague; hazy; cloudy; of a nebula; Ex. nebulous proposal
nebulous  diffuse mass of interstellar dust or gas; galaxy
necromancy  black magic; sorcery; dealings with the dead; art that professes to communicate with the spirits of the dead so as to predict the future; CF. necromancer; CF. necro+: death; Ex. necropolis
nefarious  very wicked
negate  cancel out; nullify; cause to have no effect; deny; N. negation
negligence  neglect; failure to take reasonable care; ADJ. negligent: neglectful; lax; not taking enough care
negligible  so small, trifling, or unimportant as to be easily disregarded
nemesis  someone seeking revenge; source of downfall or ruin; CF. Nemesis
neologism  new or newly coined word or phrase
neophyte  recent convert; new member of a religious group; beginner; CF. plant
nepotism  favoritism (to a relative); CF. nephew
favoratism  display of partiality toward a favored person
nether  lower; Ex. nether garments/regions
nettle  irritate; annoy; vex; ADJ. nettlesome
nexus  connection
nib  beak(bill); pen point
nicety  precision; accuracy; minute distinction or difference; Ex. to a nicety: exactly; precisely; Ex. distinguish between niceties
niggardinly  meanly stingy; parsimonious; N. niggard: stingy person
niggle  spend too much time on minor points (esp. when finding fault); find fault; Ex. niggle over details; ADJ. niggling
nihilist  one who considers traditional beliefs to be groundless and existence meaningless; absolute skeptic; revolutionary terrorist; CF. nihilism: belief that nothing has meaning or value; belief that destruction of existing political or social institutions is necessary for future improvement
nip  nip off; stop something’s growth or development; bite; make numb with cold; Ex. nip the plan; Ex. A guard dog nipped the postman; Ex. fingers nipped by the extreme chill
nip  short quick cut with scissors; V: cut with scissors
pinch  squeeze between the thumb and a finger, or other edges; Ex. I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn’t dreaming. N: amount that can be held between the thumb and a finger
nirvana  in Buddhist teachings, the ideal state in which the individual loses himself in the attainment of an impersonal beatitude
impersonal  not being a person; not showing personal feelings; Ex. impersonal force/manner/organization
nocturnal  done or active at night; Ex. nocturnal animals/raids; CF. nocturne
noisome  foul smelling; very unpleasant; unwholesome
nomadic  wandering; N. nomad: tribe who migrates from place to place
nomenclature  terminology(system of specialized words); system of names or naming things
nominal  in name only; of a name; trifling; (of a sum of money) very small; CF. nominate: propose as a candidate; appoint
nonchalance  indifference; lack of concern; composure; ADJ. nonchalant: unconcerned; cool; indifferent; Ex. nonchalant attitude to his debts
noncommittal  neutral; refusing commitment to a particular opinion; unpledged; undecided
nondescript  undistinctive; ordinary; ordinary-looking; Ex. nondescript fellow in a crowd
notentitity  person of no importance; nonexistence
nonplus  put at a loss; bring to a halt by confusion; perplex; CF. no more
nostalgia  homesickness; longing for the past; Ex. nostalgia for the clothes of 1920s; ADJ. nostalgic
nostrum  questionable medicine; quack medicine; CF. our (remedy)
notable  conspicuous; worthy of note; remarkable; important; distinguished; noted
notoriety  disrepute; ill fame
nova  star that suddenly becomes much brighter and then returns to its original brightness
novelty  something new; newness; ADJ. novel: new; original
novice  beginner
noxious  harmful; CF. obnoxious
nuance  shade of slight difference in meaning or color; subtle distinction
shade  slight difference in degree; nuance; degree of color; Ex. shades of meaning/grey
gradation  series of gradual stages; degree in such a progression
nubile  marriageable; of marriageable age; CF. connubial
nugatory  worthless; futile
nullify  make invalid; make null; invalidate
numismatist  person who collects coins; N. numismatics: study or collection of money, coins, and medals
nuptial  related to marriage or the wedding ceremony; N. nuptials: wedding ceremony
nurture  nourish; feed; educate; rear; care for while it is growing or developing; foster; cultivate; N: something that nourishes; rearing
nutrient  nourishing substance; ADJ: providing nourishment
nutrition  process of nourishing or being nourished; CF. malnutrition

nutritious  providing nourishment
nourish  provide with food necessary for life and growth
nourishment  something that nourishes; food
oaf  stupid awkward person; CF. elf
obdurate  stubborn; refusing to change one’s belief
obeisance  bow (to show respect and obedience)
obelisk  tall column tapering(becoming gradually narrower toward the end) and ending in a pyramid
obese  excessively fat; N. obesity
obfuscate  confuse; muddle; cause confusion; make needlessly complex; make so confused as to be difficult to understand
obituary  death notice (esp. in a newspaper); ADJ.
objective  not influenced by emotions; fair; N: goal; aim
obligatory  binding; required; compulsory; V. oblige: constrain; make grateful; do a favor; accommodate
oblique  indirect; slanting (deviating from the perpendicular or from a straight line); Ex. oblique reference
obliterate  destroy completely; wipe out; Ex. obliterate the village
oblivion  obscurity; condition of being completely forgotten; forgetfulness
oblivious  inattentive or unmindful; unaware; wholly absorbed; forgetful(having the habit of forgetting)
obloquy  slander; disgrace; infamy
obnoxious  offensive; disagreeable; Ex. obnoxious smell
obscure  dark; vague; unclear; not well known; Ex. obscure meaning/village; V: darken; cover; make unclear; Ex. obscure the moon/meaning
obsequious  slavishly attentive; servile; full of servile compliance; sycophantic
slavish  of or like a slave; servile; showing no originality; copied very closely; Ex. slavish devotion/copy of the original
obsequy  funeral ceremony
obcessive  related to thinking about something constantly; of an obsession; preoccupying; N. obsession: compulsive preoccupation with a fixed idea; compulsive idea; V. obsess: preoccupy the mind of excessively
obsidian  black volcanic rock
scion  black volcanic rock

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obtrude push (oneself or one’s ideas) forward or intrude; impose (oneself or one’s ideas) on others; butt in; stick out or extrude; thrust out; Ex. obtrude A on B; ADJ. obtrusive; N. obtrusion; CF: unobtrusive
obtuse blunt; not sharp; stupid; slow in understanding
obviate make unnecessary; get rid of; Ex. obviate the need
Occident the West
occlude shut; close; obstruct; Ex. A blood clot occluded an artery.
occult mysterious; secret; supernatural; beyond human comprehension; CF: mysterious to human ?; OP . bare
oculist physician who specializes in treatment of the eyes
odious arousing strong dislike; hateful (causing hatred); vile
odium detestation; quality of being odious; hatefulfulness; disrepute (resulting from hateful conduct)
odorous giving off an odor
odoriferous giving off an odor
odor having an odor
odyssey long, eventful, adventurous journey
offensive attacking; insulting; distasteful; V . offend: violates; hurt the feelings of; N. offense: offending; violating of a moral or social code; crime; attack; Ex. first offense
offhand casual; done without prior thought or preparation
officious meddlesome; excessively pushy in offering one’s services; overly eager in offering unwanted services or advice; Ex. officious bellboy
pushy disagreeably aggressive
ogle look at amorously; make eyes at; Ex. old men ogling young girls
olfactory concerning the sense of smell
oligarchy government by a privileged few
ominous threatening; of an evil omen
threat sign or warning (of coming danger); Ex. threat of rain; V: express a threat; give warning of (something bad); Ex. The cloud threatens rain.
onipotent all-powerful; having unlimited power
omnipresent universally present; ubiquitous
omniscent all-knowing
omnivorous eating both plant and animal food; devouring everything
onerous burdensome
onomatopoeia words formed in imitation of natural sounds
rustle make slight sounds like silk moving or being rubbed together
onslaught vicious assault; fierce attack; Ex. unexpected onslaught of the enemy
slaughter killing of animals for food; massacre; V: butcher (animals) for food; kill in large numbers
onus burden; responsibility
spare give; use; refrain from harming; save from experiencing; exempt; Ex. spare me 5 minutes; Ex. Take this money and spare my life; Ex. The emperor was spared the onus; ADJ: kept in reserve; free for other use; unoccupied; Ex. spare time
opal opaque dark; not transparent; N. opacity
opaque dark; not transparent; N. opacity
opiate medicine to induce sleep or deaden pain; something that relieves emotions or causes inaction; sleep-producing drug containing opium
opportunity timely; well-chosen
opportunist individual who sacrifices principles for expediency by taking advantage of circumstances; N. opportunism
approbrium infamy; disgrace arising from shameful conduct; vilification (slander); scorn; contempt; Ex. approbrium hurled against him; ADJ. approbrious: expressing contempt; shameful or infamous
optician maker and seller of eyeglasses
optimist person who looks on the bright side; N. optimism
optimum most favorable; optimal; N: most favorable condition
optional not compulsory; left to one’s choice; N. option: act of choosing; choice; freedom or power to choose; something available as a choice; Ex. have no option; Ex. two options
optometrist one who fits glasses to remedy visual defects
opulence extreme wealth; luxuriousness; abundance; ADJ. opulent: possessing great wealth; abundant
opus work (esp. musical composition); Ex. magnum opus: masterpiece; CF: opera
opus work (esp. musical composition); Ex. magnum opus: masterpiece; CF: opera
orator public speaker
oratorio dramatic poem set to music; long musical work with singing but without acting; CF: cantata
ordain decree or command; grant holy orders; predestine; install as a minister, priest, or rabbi; N. ordainment; CF: ordination
ordeal severe trial or affliction; difficult experience; trial (test of patience or endurance); affliction
ordinance decree; authoritative order
ordination ceremony conferring holy orders; ceremony of ordaining a priest
orgy wild drunken revelry; unrestrained indulgence in an activity; Ex. orgy of shopping
orient get one’s bearings; adjust; make familiar with a situation; orientate
orientation act of finding oneself in society; orienting
Orthography; orthodox; ornithologist; orthodox study of birds; adorning to an established doctrine; scientific student of birds; N. ornithology; ostensible; ostensible purpose; pretended; pretended purpose; Ex. ostensible purpose of the expedition; apparent; appearing as such; proessed(pretended); pretended; Ex. ostensible purpose of the expedition; apparent; evident; easily seen or understood; appearing as such; Ex. apparent improvement; ostentatious; showy; trying to attract attention; pretentious; N. ostentation: showy display; ostracize; banish from a group; exclude from public favor; Ex. His friends ostracized him. N. ostracism; blackball; vote against (an applicant); ostracize; N: negative vote; oust; expel; drive out; force out; N. ouster: ousting; outlandish; bizarre; peculiar; unconventional; outmoded; no longer in fashion or use; no longer stylish; old-fashioned; outskirts; fringes; outer borders (as of a city); Ex. outskirts of Boston; outspoken; candid; blunt; blunt; having a dull edge; abrupt and frank in speech or manner; brusque; V: make or become blunt; outstrip; outrun; surpass; outdo; outwit; outsmart; defeat by behaving more cleverly; ovation; enthusiastic applause; overbearing; bossy; domineering and arrogant; decisively important; Ex. overbearing manner/importance; V. overbear: dominate; overt; open to view; public; not secret; CF. covert; overweening; arrogant; presumptuous; overwrought; nervous or excited; extremely agitated; hysterical; wrouught-up; CF. wrought: made or done; hysteria; excessive or uncontrollable excitement; N. hysterics: attack of hysteria; ovoid; egg-shaped; CF. ovum; CF. ovulate; pachyderm; thick-skinned animal; pacifist; one opposed to force; antimilitarist; ADJ. N. pacifism: opposition to war as a means of resolving disputes; pacify; soothe; make calm or quiet; subdue; bring peace to; paean; song of praise or joy; Ex. paeans celebrating the victory; painstaking; taking pains; showing hard work; taking great care; very careful and through; palatable; agreeable; pleasing to the taste; palate; roof of the mouth; sense of the taste; palatial; of or suitable for a palace; magnificent; paleontology; study of prehistoric life or fossils; CF. paleo- : ancient or prehistoric; Ex. paleography: study of ancient written documents; palette; board on which painter mixes pigments(coloring matters); palimpsest; parchment or piece of writing material used for second time after original writing has been erased; parchment; writing material made from the skin of a sheep or goat; pall; become boring; grow tiresome; pallet; small poor bed; Ex. straw pallet; palliate; ease pain (without curing); make less severe or offensive (a crime or illness); pallid; pale; wan; Ex. pallid complexion; palpate; throb; beat rapidly; flutter; tremble; Ex. Her heart began to palpitate.; throb; (of a heart or machine) beat rapidly or violently; N. Ex. hearthrob: heartbeat; sweetheart; palpable; tangible; (of something bad) easily perceptible; obvious; Ex. palpable blunder; palpitate; throb; beat rapidly; flutter; tremble; Ex. Her heart began to palpitate.; throb; (of a heart or machine) beat rapidly or violently; N. Ex. hearthrob: heartbeat; sweetheart; paltry; insignificant; petty; trifling; contemptible; Ex. paltry sum; CF. trash; pan; criticize harshly; panacea; cure-all; remedy for all diseases; panache; flair; manner of doing things without any difficulty (causing admiration); flamboyance; bunch of feathers (on a helmet); Ex. with great panache; CF.잔 아래로 전을 뻗내는 솜씨; pandemic; widespread; affecting the majority of people; N: pandemic disease; CF. all people; pandemonium; wild tumult(cmotion); wild noisy disorder; CF. Paradise Lost; pander; cater to (the low desires of others); cater; provide food and drink (for); cater to: try to satisfy (desires of a bad kind); panegyric; formal praise; encomium; Ex. I don’t deserve such panegyrics; panoramic; denoting an unobstructed and comprehensive view; N. panorama: unbroken view of a wide area;
parable short simple story teaching a moral

paradox something apparently contradictory in nature (that may nonetheless be true); statement that looks false but is actually correct

paragon model of perfection; Ex. paragon of virtue

parallel state of being parallel; similarity; analogy

patronymic last name; a given name or nickname

parathyroid gland in thyroid gland

parthenia unmated; not married

patent evidence of originality; an exclusive right; trademark; CF. scofflaw

patron saint)

parochial confined to a particular community; local; concerned with a local group; Ex. parochial institution

parol lexicon; glossary; dictionary

paroxysm fit or attack of pain, laughter, rage; sudden outbreak

parquet floor made of wood strips inlaid in a mosaic like pattern; CF. strip: long narrow piece

parody humorous imitation; spoof; takeoff; travesty; V.

spoil parody

takeoff burlesque; act of leaving the ground

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patronize support; act superior toward; treat in a condescending manner; be a customer of; N. patron: one that supports; regular customer; N. patronage; CF. boycott

paucity scarcity; dearth

pauper very poor person

peccadillo slight offense or fault; CF. sin

swipe hit with a sweeping motion; N.

pedagogue teacher; CF. child leader

pedagogy teaching; art of education

pedantic bookish; showing off learning; marked by an excessive ostentatious concern for book learning; N. pedantry

bookish fond of books and reading

studious given to diligent study

pedestrian ordinary; dull; unimaginative(lacking in imagination); going on foot; Ex. pedestrian prose; N.

precinct division of a city for election or police purposes; precincts: space that surrounds a building; Ex. precincts of the college

pedigree ancestry; lineage

pediatrician physician specializing in children’s diseases; N. pediatrics

peerless having no equal; incomparable

peer one who has equal standing with another; nobleman; V: look intently; N. peerage; CF. peeress

pejorative (of a word or phrase) suggesting that someone is of little value; negative in connotation; having a belittling effect; Ex. Many women now considers “housewife” a pejorative expression, because it patronized them.

pell-mell in confusion; disorderly; Ex. dash pell-mell

pellucid transparent; limpid(crystal clear); clear in meaning; easy to understand

penance self-imposed punishment for sin; Ex. do penance for one’s sins; CF. penitent

penchant strong inclination; strong liking (esp. for something that is disapproved of by other people); Ex. penchant for fast cars

pendant(pendent) hanging down from something; pendent; N: ornament (hanging from a necklace etc.)

pending not yet decided or settled; impending; Ex. pending decision; PREP. while awaiting; until; Ex. delay the decision pending his return

pendulous hanging; suspended

suspend cause to stop for a period; interrupt; hold in abeyance; defer; hang from above; exclude for a period from a position; Ex. suspended state; Ex. suspend judgment; Ex. suspended from the team; N. suspension

suspense state of being undecided; anxiety or apprehension resulting from uncertainty

penitent repentant; N.

pensive dreamily or deeply thoughtful; sadly thoughtful; thoughtful with a hint of sadness; contemplative; CF. think over

penumbra partial shadow (in an eclipse); CF. almost shadow

penury extreme poverty; stinginess; ADJ. penurious: very poor; stingy

peon landless agricultural worker; bond servant; menial worker; N. peonage

percussive insightful; showing a good ability at perceiving and understanding; aware; wise; of perception

percussion striking one object against another sharply; Ex. percussion instrument; N: striking together of two bodies; sound caused by percussion

perdition damnation; complete ruin; hell

damn condemn; criticize severely; condemn to everlasting punishment; doom; bring to ruin; N. damnation

doom condemnation to a severe penalty; ruin; fate (esp. a tragic or ruinous one); V.

peregrination journey; V. peregrinate

peremptory demanding and leaving no choice; imperative; Ex. peremptory decree/knock

perennial something long-lasting; perennial plant; ADJ: lasting through the year or many years; lasting for a long time; enduring

perfidious treacherous; disloyal; N. perfidy: treachery

perforate pierce; put a hole through

perfunctory done routinely and with little care; superficial; not thorough; lacking interest, care, or enthusiasm; Ex. perfunctory kiss

perigee point of moon’s orbit when it is nearest the earth; CF. apogee

perimeter outer boundary; length of the outer boundary; circumference

bound leap or spring; limit or confine; constitute the limit of; Ex. bounded by Canada; N: leap or jumping; boundary; ADJ: certain; having a duty to do something (legally or morally); confined by bonds; Ex. We are bound to be late; Ex. I am bound to say my opinion; CF. bounce, rebound

peripatetic walking about from place to place (to work); moving; Ex. peripatetic school of philosophy

peripheral of a periphery; marginal; outer; of minor importance; not central; Ex. peripheral nerve/interest

periphery outside edge especially of a round surface; perimeter; Ex. periphery of the town

perjury false testimony while under oath; V. perjure oneself: testify falsely under oath

permeable that can be permeated; penetrable; porous; allowing liquids or gas to pass through; V. permeate: spread or flow throughout; charge
♠ pernicious very harmful; deadly; very destructive; Ex. pernicious effect/anemia
♠ peroration conclusion of an oration; perorating; V. perorate: conclude a speech; speak at great length
♠ perpetrate commit an offense; do (something wrong)
☐ perpetual everlasting
☐ perpetuate make perpetual; make something last for a long time; preserve from extinction; N. perpetuity
♠ perquisite(perk) any gain above stipulated salary; Ex. perquisites such as free meals and a car
♠ personable attractive (in personality or appearance)
☐ perspicacious (of someone) having insight; penetrating; astute
☐ perspicuity clearness of expression; freedom from ambiguity
☐ perspicuous (of something) plainly expressed; easy to understand; Ex. perspicuous comments
♠ pert (esp. of a girl or young woman) impertinent; forward; trim; jaunty; Ex. pert young miss/hat
☀ forward presumptuous or bold
☐ pertinacious holding tenaciously to an action; stubborn; persistent
☐ pertinent suitable; to the point; relevant
☐ perturb disturb greatly
♠ peruse read through with care; N. perusal
☐ pervasive spread throughout; V. pervade: (of smells, ideas, feelings) spread throughout; charge; permeate
♠ perverse purposely continuing to do something wrong; stubbornly wrongheaded; perverted; directed away from what is right; wicked and unacceptable; Ex. perverse satisfaction; Ex. Hannibal Lecter in a perverse mood; N. perversity
☐ perversion corruption; turning from right to wrong
☀ pervert corrupt; turn from right to wrong; misuse; Ex. perverted sexual desire/scientific knowledge; N: person whose sexual behavior is not natural
☀ wrongheaded stubbornly wrong
☐ pessimism belief that life is basically bad or evil; gloominess; tendency to take the gloomiest possible view of a situation; ADJ. pessimistic
♠ pestilential(pestilent) causing plague; tending to cause death; baneful; N. pestilence: fatal epidemic disease (esp. bubonic plague)
♠ pestle tool for mashing or grinding substances in a hard bowl or mortar
☀ mortar vessel in which substances are crushed with a pestle
☀ mash crush into mash; convert into mash; N: mixture of ground grain and nutrients fed to livestock and fowl
♠ petrify turn to stone; cause to become stonelike; stun or paralyze
☐ petty trivial; unimportant; very small; small-minded; petty-minded
♠ petulant touchy; peevish; ill-tempered
因地制 phalanx formation of infantry carrying overlapping shields and long spears; group of men packed together (for attack or defense)
♠ pharisical pertaining to the Pharisees, who paid scrupulous attention to tradition; self-righteous; hypocritical
因地制 pharisee Pharisee: member of an ancient Jewish group that emphasized strict observance of the Mosaic law (considering themselves very holy); hypocritical self-righteous person
因地制 self-righteous sure of one’s own righteousness; moralistic
♠ phenomena observable facts; subjects of scientific investigation; SG. phenomenon: observable fact; very unusual person, thing, or event; marvel; wonder; CF. phenomenons; ADJ. phenomenal: very unusual; extraordinary; of a phenomenon; Ex. phenomenal strength
☐ philanderer faithless lover; flirt
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☐ philanthropist lover of mankind; doer of good; N. philanthropy
♠ philatelist stamp-collector; N. philately: stamp collecting
♠ philistine narrow-minded person, uncultured and exclusively interested in material gain; uncultured person who is indifferent to artistic and cultural values; member of an ancient people in Palestine; OP. aesthete
♠ philology study of language or words
♠ phlegmatic calm and unexcitable; not easily disturbed; CF. phlegm: sticky mucus produced in the respiratory tract
☐ phobia morbid fear
☐ phoenix symbol of immortality or rebirth; Ex. phoenix rising from its ashes
♠ phylum major classification, second to kingdom, of plants and animals; category ranking below a kingdom and above a class; division
♠ physiognomy face (as showing the character and the mind); art of judging human character from facial features
♠ physiological pertaining to the science of the function of living organisms; N. physiology
♠ piebald of different colors; mottled; spotted in different colors (esp. in black and white); Ex. piebald horse; CF. pie+bald
♠ piecemeal one part at a time; gradually; in stages; Ex. read a novel piecemeal
♠ pied piebald; variegated(many-colored); multicolored
☐ piety devoutness; reverence for God; ADJ. pious
♠ pigment coloring matter (usually powder to be mixed with water or oil)
☐ pillage plunder
pillory  punish by placing in a wooden frame or pillory; subject or expose to criticism and ridicule; N.

pine  long for; yearn; languish from longing or grief; decline

pinion  restrain or immobilize by binding the wings or legs; N: bird’s wing

pinnacle  peak; highest point; acme; Ex. pinnacle of fame

placate  pacify; bring peace to; conciliate; appease

placid  peaceful; calm; Ex. placid child/lake

plagiarize  steal another’s ideas or writings and pass them off as one’s own; Ex. ideas plagiarized from my article; N. plagiarism; CF. kidnap

plaintive  expressing sorrow; mournful; Ex. plaintive song

plait  braid; intertwine; interweave strands or lengths of; make by weaving strands together; Ex. plaited hair; N: braided length as of hair o fabric; CF. pigtail, ponytail

plasticity  ability to be molded; ADJ. plastic: capable of being shaped or molded; Ex. plastic material such as clay

platitude  trite remark; commonplace statement; ADJ. platitudinous

plauditory  praise; enthusiastic approval; round(succession or series) of applause; ADJ. plauditory; CF. applaud

plausible  conceivably true; having a show of truth but open to doubt; specious

plebeian  common; vulgar; pertaining to the common people; N: common people in ancient Rome; CF. patrician

plebiscite  direct vote by the entire electorate (on an important issue)

referendum  direct vote by all the people

plenary  (of power) complete; full; fully attended by all qualified members; Ex. plenary power

plenitude  abundance; plenty; great amount; completeness; CF. plenary, plenty

plethora  excess; overabundance; Ex. a plethora of excuses

pliable  flexible; easily influenced; yielding; adaptable

pliant  flexible; easily influenced

plight  difficult condition; condition or state (esp. a bad state or condition); predicament

pluck  courage; V: pull off or out; pull out the hair or feathers of; ADJ. plucky: courageous; brave

plume  feather, esp. large or showy one; something that rises into the air (like the shape of a feather); Ex. plume of smoke: 비늘 구름

plumb  exactly vertical; N: weight on the end of a line; V: examine very carefully or critically in order to understand; measure depth (by sounding); Ex. plumb the depth of

plumber  one who installs and repairs pipes and plumbing(pipes)

plummet  fall sharply; fall straight down; Ex. Stock prices plummeted.

plutocracy  society ruled by the wealthy

podiatrist  doctor who treats ailments of the feet; chiropodist; N. podiatrics

plodder  one who installs and repairs pipes and plumbing(pipes)

polemical  aggressive in verbal attack; disputatious (rather than simply expressing opinions)
□ politic prudent; judicious; well judged; expedient; well advised
□ polity (particular form of) political organization; form of government of nation or state; Ex. student polity
□ polygamist one who has more than one spouse at a time; CF. bigamy; CF. polyandry
□ polyglot speaking several languages; multilingual; Ex. polyglot person/society; N.
□ pomposity self-important behavior; acting like a stuffed shirt(pompous person); ADJ. pompous: self-important
♠ ponderous having great weight; weighty; unwieldy; lacking lightness; dull; Ex. ponderous body/style of writing
♠ pontifical pertaining to a bishop or pope; pompous or pretentious; CF. pontiff: pope; bishop
♠ pore study industriously; ponder; scrutinize; Ex. pore over the book; N.
□ porous full of pores; like a sieve
♥ interstice narrow space between things
□ portend foretell; presage; be a sign or warning of; N. portent: sign; omen; forewarning
♥ soothsayer one who foretells the future
♠ portly stout; corpulent
♥ stout rather fat; strong in body; sturdy; resolute; determined; strong in determination; Ex. stout stick/supporter

♠ poseur person who pretends to be sophisticated, elegant, etc., to impress others; person who poses; CF. pose
♥ pose assume a particular posture; put forward; present; affect a particular attitude (to impress others); Ex. pose a threat; N.
♠ posterity descendants; future generations; Ex. go down to posterity; CF. posterior, anterior
♠ posthumous after death (as of child born after father’s death or book published after author’s death); coming or occurring after one’s death; Ex. posthumous fame/novel
♥ postmortem autopsy; ADJ: occurring after death; of a postmortem
♠ postulate self-evident truth; something assumed without proof; V: assume the truth of (as a basis of an argument)
♠ posture assume an affected pose; act artificially; N: pose; attitude
♠ potable suitable for drinking; drinkable
□ potent powerful; convincing; persuasivae; greatly influential
♠ potentate monarch; sovereign
□ potential expressing possibility; latent; N: capacity for growth
□ potion dose (of liquids); liquid dose
♠ potpourri heterogeneous mixture; medley; mixture of dried flower petals a pot (to give a pleasant smell to a room)
♠ poutlicc soothing application applied to sore and inflamed portions of the body
□ practicable feasible
□ practical based on experience; of or acquired through practice (rather than theory); useful; Ex. practical man
□ pragmatic practical (as opposed to idealistic); concerned with practical worth or impact of something; Ex. pragmatic test of the skill
□ pragmatist practical person; N. pragmatism: pragmatic way of dealing with things
♥ prance move about in a spirited manner (proudly and confidently)
♠ prate talk idly; speak foolishly; boast idly
♠ prattle talk idly; babble; N. CF. prate
♥ idle not working; not employed or busy; lazy; without purpose; useless; lacking substance; baseless; not based on truth; Ex. idle worker; Ex. talk idly; V.
□ preamble introductory statement
♠ precarious unsafe; lacking in stability; uncertain; risky; Ex. precarious living
□ precedent something preceding in time which may be used as an authority or guide for future action; V. precede; CF. unprecedented
□ precedent preceding (in time, rank, etc.)

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□ precept practical rule guiding conduct; Ex. mother’s precept
□ precipice cliff; dangerous position; Ex. on the edge of the precipice
♥ brink edge (at the top of a cliff); Ex. on the brink of the Grand Canyon
□ precipitant something that causes a substance in a chemical solution to separate out in solid form; OP . solvent
□ precipitate hurl downward; throw headlong; hasten; cause to happen sooner; condense and fall as rain or snow; cause (a solid substance) to be separated from a solution; ADJ. hasty; rash; premature; sudden
□ precipitous steep; overhasty; precipitate
♠ précis abstract; concise summing up of main points; concise summary of a text
□ precise exact
□ preclude make impossible; prevent; exclude; eliminate
□ precocious advanced in development; N. precocity
□ precursor forerunner; predecessor
□ predator predatory animal or bird; predatory person; creature that seizes and devours another animal; person who robs or exploits others; ADJ. predatory: living by preying on other organisms; plundering; N. predation
□ predecessor former occupant of a post
predicate determine in advance; predestine; settle or decide beforehand; influence markedly

predication difficult situation; tricky or dangerous situation; dilemma

predilection preference; partiality

predispose give an inclination toward (in advance); make susceptible to; Ex. predispose people to certain cancer; N. predisposition

preeminent outstanding; superior

preempt prevent in advance; head off (forestall); forestall by acting first; appropriate for oneself before others; supplant; take the place of; displace; Ex. preempt any attempts; ADJ. preemptive

preen make oneself tidy in appearance; feel self-satisfaction or pride; (of a bird) smooth or clean (feathers) with the beak; Ex. preen oneself on; CF. prune

prefatory introductory; of a preface

prehensile capable of grasping or holding (esp. by wrapping around); Ex. prehensile tails

prelate church dignitary; priest of high position in the church (esp. bishop)

prelude introduction; introductory performance or event; forerunner

premeditate plan in advance; Ex. premeditated murder

premise assumption; postulate; proposition upon which an argument is based

premonition forewarning; presentiment; foreboding

premonitory serving to warn

preponderance superiority of power, quantity, etc.; V. preponderate: be greater in power, weight, or importance; ADJ. preponderant

preposterous absurd; completely unreasonable; ridiculous

prerogative privilege; unquestionable right; CF. ask before

presage foretell; be a warning or sign of; N: presentiment; foreboding; omen

prescience ability to foretell the future; knowledge of actions before they occur; ADJ. prescient

presentiment foremonition; foreboding; feeling something will happen; anticipatory fear

prestige respect or admiration; impression produced by achievements or reputation; ADJ: causing admiration; ADJ: prestigious: having prestige

presumptuous going beyond what is right; excessively forward; arrogant; taking liberties

pretentious ostentatious; showy; pompous; making unjustified claims; overambitious; Ex. pretentious films that claim to be art

pretend feign; pretend to: claim to possess; make pretensions to; Ex. I don’t pretend to much expertise; N. pretense

pretension pretentiousness; claim (without foundation); Ex. I make no pretensions to skill as an artist.

preternatural beyond what is normal in nature; supernatural; Ex. preternatural strength/forces

pretext excuse

prevail be widespread; triumph over; gain victory; prevail on: persuade; induce; Ex. Justice has prevailed; Ex. prevail on someone to do something

prevalent widespread; generally accepted

prevaricate lie; hide the truth (by equivocating)

prey target of a hunt; victim; V: hunt and eat as prey; victimize; Ex. Cats prey on mice.

prim proper to the point of affection; very precise and formal; exceedingly proper

primogeniture seniority by birth; state of being the first-born child; right of the eldest child (to inherit the entire property of one or both parents)

primordial existing at the beginning (of time); rudimentary

primp groom oneself with care; adorn oneself

pristine unspoiled; remaining in a pure state; characteristic of earlier times; primitive; Ex. an old book in pristine condition

privation lack of the basic necessities or comforts of life; hardship; want; CF. deprive

privacy secret; hidden; not public; made a participant in something secret; Ex. privy chamber government; Ex. be privy to a discussion; CF. private

probe explore with a probe or tools; investigate; N: slender instrument used to explore a wound or body cavity; device designed to investigate an unknown region; thorough investigation; Ex. space probe

probity uprightness; honesty; incorruptibility

defalcate embezzle

problematic causing a problem; open to doubt; doubtful; unsettled; questionable; Ex. Whether the arena will ever be completed is problematic.

proclivity inclination; natural tendency (esp. towards something bad)

procrastinate postpone; delay or put off

procurement obtaining; V. procure: obtain by effort; obtain (a prostitute) for another

prod poke (with a pointed object); stir up; urge; goad to action; N: pointed object used to prod; prodding

prodigal wasteful; reckless with money; profuse; Ex. a mind prodigal of ideas; N. prodigality

prodigious enormous; marvelous; extraordinary; Ex. prodigious amount/memory
**prodigy** highly gifted child; person with exceptional talents; marvel; wonder

**profane** violate; desecrate (something holy); treat unworthily; be profane for; ADJ: secular; nonreligious; irreverent for holy things

♠ **profligate** wasteful (of money); dissipated; wildly immoral; dissolve; N: profigate person; N: profigliety

**profound** deep; not superficial; complete; Ex. profound thinker/remark/silence/deafness; N: profundity

**profusion** great amount; plenty; overabundance; excess; lavish expenditure; Ex. profusion of choices; ADJ: profuse: plentiful; copious; giving or given abundantly; extravagant

**progenitor** ancestor

♠ **progeny** children; offspring; descendants

**prognosis** forecasted course of a disease; prediction; CF. prognostic

**prognosticate** predict (according to present indications)

**prohibitive** so high as to prohibit purchase or use; tending to prevent the purchase or use of something; prohibiting; inclined to prevent or forbid; Ex. prohibitive tax

**projectile** missile; fired or thrown object (such as stone or bullet)

**proletarian** member of the working class; blue collar guy; N. proletariat: working class (who have to work for wages)

**proliferate** grow rapidly (in numbers); spread; multiply; N: proliferation

**prolific** producing offspring or fruit in abundance; fertile; fecund; abundantly fruitful; producing abundant works; Ex. prolific writer

♠ **prolixity** tedious wordiness; verbosity; ADJ: prolix: wordy; verbose; diffuse

**prologue** introduction (to a poem or play)

♥ **feud** bitter prolonged quarrel (usually between two peoples or families); V. CF. Romeo and Juliet; CF: feudal, feudality

**prolong** lengthen; extend; draw out

**prominent** protruding(sticking out); conspicuous; notable; eminent

♠ **promiscuous** mixed indiscriminately; indiscriminate; not choosing carefully; indiscriminate in the choice of sexual partners; irregular, particularly sexually; Ex. promiscuous life/girl; N. promiscuity

**promontory** headland

♠ **promote** advance in rank; advance; help to flourish; advocate; help actively in forming; publicize or popularize; Ex. Milk promotes health; Ex. promote a match/bill; Ex. promote a new product

♠ **prompt** cause; urge; provoke; provide a cue (for an actor); ADJ: done without delay; done at the right time; punctual; on time; N: reminder or cue

♥ **cue** word or signal (as in a play to prompt another actor’s speech or entrance); reminder or hint; V: give a cue to

♠ **promulgate** announce; proclaim a doctrine or law; make known by official publication

**prone** inclined to; likely to (suffer); prostrate; lying with the front downward; Ex. prone to disease/make mistakes; Ex. accident-prone

**propagate** increase in number by producing young; multiply; spread; Ex. Most plants propagate by seed; Ex. newspaper propagating their ideas

**propellant(propellant)** substance which propels or drives forward (such as an explosive charge or a rocket fuel)

**propensity** natural inclination

**prophetic** of a prophet or prophecy; having to do with predicting the future; N. prophecy; V. prophesy; N. prophet

**prophylactic** used to prevent disease; N: something prophylactic; condom; N: prophylaxis: prevention of disease

♠ **propinquity** nearness (in space or relationship); proximity; kinship

♠ **propitiate** appease; conciliate; make peaceful; ADJ. propitiatory

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♠ **propitious** favorable; auspicious; advantageous; fortunate; Ex. propitious day/sign

♥ **horoscope** diagram of the positions of stars at a given moment (eg. of a person’s birth) used by astrologers

**proponent** supporter; backer; opposite of opponent

**propound** put forth for consideration or analysis; set forth; Ex. propound a problem/theory

**propriety** fitness; quality of being proper; correct conduct; conformity to prevailing customs and usages; CF: propriety, proprietary

♥ **usage** act or manner of using; accepted practice; way in which words are actually used

**propulsive** driving forward; N. propulsion

♠ **prosaic** lacking in imagination; dull and unimaginative; matter-of-fact(concerned with facts, not imagination or feelings); factual; CF: prose

♠ **proscenium** part of stage in front of curtain; front arch of a stage

**proscribe** prohibit; ostracize; banish; outlaw

♥ **outlaw** fugitive from the law (excluded from legal protection); V. declare (someone) to be an outlaw; deprive of the protection of the law; declare illegal; Ex. Drinking has been outlawed.

♠ **proselytize** (induce someone to) convert to a religion or belief; N. proselyte: new convert to a doctrine or religion

♠ **prosody** art of versification; study of the metrical structure of verse
metrical metric; written in the form of poetry; Ex. metrical translation of Homer

meter arrangement of words in the form of poetry (by accentual rhythm)

prosperity good fortune and financial success; physical well-being

prosper become successful (esp. financially); thrive; grow well; Ex. children prospering under his care

prosperous successful; rich; affluent; well-to-do; well-off

protrude stick out; jut; project; Ex. protruding teeth

protuberance protrusion; swelling; bulge

provenance place of origin; origin or source of something; Ex. Gunpowder is of Chinese provenance; CF. come

provender dry food for livestock; fodder

provident providing for future needs; displaying foresight; thrifty; preparing for emergencies; OP. improvident

providence quality of being provident; divine care; god’s care; Providence: god; Ex. It seemed like providence that the doctor happened to be there; ADJ. providential: of divine providence; fortunate

provincial pertaining to a province; limited in outlook; narrow; unsophisticated

provisional tentative; temporary

proviso stipulation; condition in an agreement; provision

provision act of providing; something provided; preparatory measure; provisions: necessary supplies (esp. food); stipulation; condition in an agreement; Ex. According to the provisions of the agreement

provocative arousing anger or sexual interest; annoying; Ex. provocative in tight jeans; V. provoke: incite to anger; cause (an unpleasant action or feeling); N. provocation

prowess extraordinary ability; military bravery; Ex. prowess in battle

proximity nearness; ADJ. proximate

proxy authorized agent; authority to act for another

prude excessively modest or proper person (who is easily shocked by improper things, esp. of a sexual nature); N. prudery; ADJ. prudish: excessively concerned with propriety

prudent cautious; careful; prudential

prune cut away; trim

prurient having or causing lustful desires and thoughts; arousing immoderate sexual desire

pry inquire impertinently (someone else’s private affairs); use leverage to raise or open something; prize; N. pries: tool for prying

prize pry; move with a lever; value highly; esteem; Ex. his most prized possession; N: something captured during war-time (esp. an enemy ship)

pseudonym pen name; fictitious name assumed by an author; ADJ. pseudonymous

psyche soul; mind

psychiatrist doctor who treats mental diseases

psychic of psyche; mental; of or possessing extraordinary mental powers

psychopathic pertaining to mental derangement; N. psychopath: person with an antisocial personality disorder

psychosis mental disorder; ADJ. N. psychotic

psychosomatic of the influence of the mind on the body (esp. with respect to disease)

pterodactyl extinct flying reptile; CF. wing+finger

puerile childish; immature; CF. puer: boy

pugilist boxer; CF. pugilism: boxing

pugnacity combative ness; disposition to fight; ADJ. pugnacious: (of people) belligerent; combative in nature

puissant powerful; strong; potent; N. puissance: power

pulchritude beauty; comeliness; ADJ. pulchritudinous

pulmonary pertaining to the lungs

pulsate throb; beat regularly; vibrate regularly

pulse rhythmical throbbing of arteries; brief sudden change in a normally constant quantity; V: pulsate

pummel pommel; beat or pound with fists

punctilious minutely attentive (perhaps too much so) to fine points; stressing niceties of conduct or form; N. punctilio, punctiliousness: careful attention payed to every small exact detail

pundit authority on a subject; expert; learned person

pungent stinging; acrid; sharp in taste or smell; (of speech or writing) caustic; N. pungency

punitive punishing; Ex. punitive measures

puny tiny; weak; insignificant

purchase secure grasp or hold; firm grasp or footing

purgatory place of spiritual expiation; temporary state or place in which the souls must expiate their sins
purge  remove or get rid of something or someone unwanted; eliminate; free from blame or guilt; cleanse or purify (esp. of sin, guilt, or defilement); N.

purport  intention; purpose; meaning; V: claim; profess; Ex. order which purports to be signed by the general

purported  alleged; claimed; reputed or rumored; Ex. purported Satanists

rooster  cock; adult male chicken

rabbie  mob; noisy crowd

purse  pucker; contract (lips) into wrinkles; N: wallet

purveyor  furnisher of foodstuffs; caterer; V. purvey: supply (eg. food); furnish; CF. provide

pusillanimous  cowardly; lacking courage; fainthearted

putative  supposed; reputed; generally regarded as such; Ex. putative father of the child

putrid  decayed and foul-smelling; foul; rotten; decayed; N. putrefaction

putrefy  make or become putrid; N. putrefaction

putrescent  becoming putrid; putrefying

gangrene  decay of body tissue caused by insufficient blood supply (usually following injury); ADJ. gangrenous

pyromaniac  person with an insane desire to set things on fire

quack  charlatan; impostor

quadruped  four-footed animal; ADJ. CF. biped

quaff  drink with zest; drink with relish(zest; hearty enjoyment); CF. sip

quagmire  bog; marsh; soft, wet, boggy land; predicament; complex or dangerous situation from which it is difficult to free oneself

bog  soft wet land; V: hinder or be hindered; Ex. bogged down in the mud

quail  cower; shrink back in fear; lose heart

quaint  odd in an old-fashioned way; odd; old-fashioned; picturesque

qualified  limited; restricted; V. qualify: limit the meaning of; modify

qualms  uneasy feelings; misgivings; uneasy fears especially about matters of conscience; Ex. I have no qualms about giving this assignment to Helen.

quandary  dilemma; state of uncertainty; Ex. She is in a quandary about whether to go.

quarantine  isolation of a person, place, or ship to prevent spread of infection; V: isolate in quarantine

quarry  person or animal of pursuit; victim; object of a hunt; prey

quarry  dig into (to get stone); N: mine; 체석장

bank  heap; piled-up mass; embankment; lateral tilting (as of an aircraft in turning); V: pile up; protect with a bank; tilt in turning

quash  crush; suppress; squash; subdue; annul; Ex. quash a rebellion/the decision of the low court

quay  dock; wharf; pier; landing place (for boats)

quay  dock; wharf; pier; landing place (for boats)

quass  experiencing nausea; nauseated; easily nauseated; squeamish; Ex. feel a little queasy

quell  suppress; put an end to; put down forcibly; extinguish; quiet; Ex. “Army Quells Rebellion” in newspaper; CF. kill

quench  assure or satisfy (thrust); slake; douse or extinguish; put out; suppress

squelch  produce a splashing sound (when stepping through mud); crush; squash; CF. 진흙을 위에서 밟을 때

querulous  given to complaining; complaining; fretful; whining

whine  complain (in a sad voice); make a high sad sound (as in pain or supplication)

query  inquiry; question; V.

queue  line (of waiting people or vehicles)

quibble  minor objection or complaint; V: raise minor objections; carp; cavil

quiescent  dormant; temporarily inactive; at rest; N. quiescence

quietude  tranquillity; calmness

quintessence  purest and highest embodiment; perfect example; apotheosis; most essential element; Ex. quintessence of wit; ADJ. quintessential; CF. fifth essence

quip  taunt; clever sarcastic remark; V.

taunt  deride or provoke; challenge in derision; N.

quirk  sudden sharp turn or twist; startling twist; caprice; idiosyncrasy; peculiarity of behavior; Ex. by a quirk of fate

quisling  traitor who aids invaders; CF. Vidkun Quisling

quiver  case for arrows

quiver  tremble; shake; N.

leash  restraining rope fastened to the collar of an animal (to control it); Ex. a dog on a leash

quixotic  idealistic but impractical; CF. Don Quixote

quizzical  curious; suggesting puzzlement (without saying); questioning; teasing; mocking; bantering; Ex. quizzical glance

quorum  minimal number of members necessary to conduct a meeting

quotidian  daily; commonplace; customary; Ex. quotidian routine

rabid  of or suffering rabies; like a fanatic; extremely zealous; furious; CF. rabies; hydrophobia

raconteur  story-teller; one who tells stories with wit and skill
raiment clothing; garments; Ex. I have no raiment fit to wear.

rail complain bitterly; scold; rant; Ex. the weaker railing against injustices

raiment clothing; garments; Ex. I have no raiment fit to wear.

rakish jaunty; stylish; sporty; morally corrupt; dissolute; Ex. He wore his hat at a rakish jaunty angle.

rake angle of a slope; V: slant from the perpendicular

rake immoral or dissolute person

rally come or bring together; call up or summon (forces, vital powers, etc.); revive or recuperate (after illness or difficulty); N: act of rallying; mass gathering

ramble wander aimlessly (physically or mentally); digress

ramification branching out; subdivision; one branch of a system; one of the results following from an action or decision; Ex. ramifications of a business/the decision

ramify branch out; divide into branches or subdivisions

ramp slope; inclined plane or roadway (connecting two levels)

rampant growing or spreading uncontrollably; growing in profusion; unrestrained; Ex. rampant lawlessness/weed

rampart defensive mound of earth

ramshackle (of a building or vehicle) poorly constructed; rickety; falling apart

rickety (of buildings) likely to break or fall apart; of rickets; CF. rickets; CF. vitamin D

ransack search thoroughly; pillage (going through a place); Ex. Enemy soldiers ransacked the town.

rancid having the odor of stale or decomposing fat; rank

rank offensive in odor or flavor

rancor long-lasting hatred; bitterness; Ex. negotiation without rancor; ADJ. rancorous

random without definite purpose, plan, or aim; haphazard; Ex. random shots; Ex. chosen at random

lot object used in making a determination at random; fate; piece of land

draw choosing of a lot or card

lottery contest in which winners are selected in a drawing of lots

raffle lottery; V: award as a prize in a raffle; Ex. raffle off a new car

rankle irritate; fester; annoy

rant speak violently or excitedly; rave; talk excitedly showing anger; scold; make a grandiloquent speech; Ex. The priest ranted about the devil.

rapacious voracious; ravenous; taking everything one can; excessively grasping; plundering; subsisting on live prey; Ex. rapacious birds

rapport close relationship; emotional closeness; harmony

rapt engrossed; absorbed; enchanted; Ex. rapt listener

rarefied made less dense (of a gas); V. rarefy: make less dense; N. rarefaction

rare (of air) thin in density; rarefied; Ex. rare air of the mountains

raspy making a harsh noise; grating; harsh

rasp (of a sound) grate on (eg. nerves); make a harsh noise; have an unpleasant effect; rub with something rough; Ex. The cat’s tongue rasped my hand.

ratify approve formally; confirm; verify

ratiocination reasoning; act of drawing conclusions from premises; V. ratiocinate: reason logically

rational fundamental reason or principle (on which a system or principle is based); fundamental reason or justification; grounds for an action

rationalize make rational; devise false reasons for (one’s behavior); offer an excuse; give a plausible reason for an action in place of a true, less admirable ones; N. rationalization

rational (of a person) having reason; (of ideas) based on reason; logical

ration fixed portion; V: distribute as rations

raucous (of voice) harsh and unpleasant; (of people) disorderly and boisterous; Ex. raucous shouts

ravage devastate; plunder; despoil; Ex. crops ravaged by storms

raud move in search of plunder; Ex. marauding army

rave overwhelmingly favorable review; V: talk wildly as if mad; Ex. raving lunatic

ravel fall apart into tangles; entangle; unravel or untwist

ravenous extremely hungry; voracious

ravine narrow valley with steep sides; gorge; CF. gully, canyon

raze destroy completely; Ex. raze the city to the ground

reactionary strongly opposed to social or political change; opposing progress; politically ultraconservative; N. OP. radical

reinstate restore to a previous condition or position

realm kingdom; field or sphere; Ex. not within the realms of possibility

reaper one who harvests grain; Ex. the Grim Reaper; V. reap: cut and gather (crop); harvest a crop

rebate return of part of a payment; discount; V.

rebuff reject bluntly; snub; beat back; Ex. She rebuffed his invitation; N.

snub ignore or behavecoldly toward; Ex. I made a suggestion but she snubbed me; N.

rebuke scold harshly; criticize severely
recount narration or tell (a story); count over again

recalcitrant disobedient or resisting authority even after being punished; obstinately stubborn; determined to resist authority; unruly; Ex. recalitrant child

rebuttal refutation; response with contrary evidence; V. rebut: refute; disprove

recurrence resuming; resuming again; V.: recur

reciprocate do or give something in return; repay in kind; give or take mutually; interchange; move backwards and forwards; Ex. reciprocate his invitation by inviting him; N. reciprocity: reciprocal relationship; mutual interchange of advantages between two groups; Ex. reciprocity in trading rights

recipient receiver

reciprocate do or give something in return; repay in kind; give or take mutually; interchange; move backwards and forwards; Ex. reciprocate his invitation by inviting him; N. reciprocity: reciprocal relationship; mutual interchange of advantages between two groups; Ex. reciprocity in trading rights

refractory horse

refraction bending of a ray of light

refractory unmanageable; disobedient and stubborn; Ex. refractory horse

refrain abstain from; resist; forbear; N: chorus

refrain from abstain from; resist; forbear; N: chorus

refusal disloyal; cowardly; N: disloyal and cowardly person

recrimination countercharges; V. recriminate

rectify set right; correct; CF. rect-: right

rectitude moral correctness; moral uprightness; moral virtue; correctness of judgment

recess pause; temporary cessation; alcove; secret inner place; Ex. parliament in recess; V. CF. recessive

recidivism habitual return to crime (even after being punished); N. recidivist

redument society

redolent odorous; fragrant; suggestive (of an odor); Ex. redolent of onions/mystery

redolent of onions/mystery

redoutable formidable; causing fear

redress remedy; compensation; Ex. seek redress for the damage to your car; V. put right; remedy or rectify (a wrong); make amends for

redundant superfluous; more than is necessary; verbose; excessively wordy; repetitious

reek emit (an unpleasant odor or smoke); give off an unpleasant odor; give out smoke; Ex. reeking chimney; N: unpleasant odor; stench

stench strong foul odor; reek; stink

stink stench; V: emit a strong foul odor

refectory dining hall; room where meals are served (in a school)

refraction bending of a ray of light

refractory unmanageable; disobedient and stubborn; Ex. refractory horse

refrain abstain from; resist; forbear; N: chorus

chorus phrase repeated throughout a song or poem

refulgent effulgent; brilliant; brightly shining; gleaming; Ex. refulgent moon

gleam brief flash of light; glow; V.

regatta boat or yacht race

regeneration spiritual rebirth; Ex. regeneration of the prisoners; V. regenerate: give or obtain new life; reform spiritually

penology study of prison management and criminal rehabilitation

regicide murder of a king or queen

regime method of system or government

regiment prescribed course of diet or exercise; prescribed diet and habits; Ex. daily regimen of a dancer

regimental military unit; V: subject to strict order; Ex. regimented society
- **reprise** musical repetition; repeating of a piece of music; repeat performance; recurrent action; Ex. reprise in the finale; Ex. constant reprises

- **reproach** blame (not angrily but sadly); express disapproval or disappointment; N. ADJ. reproachful

- **reprobate** morally disapproved person; person hardened in sin, devoid of a sense of decency; CF. disapproved by God?

- **reprobation** severe disapproval; CF. approbation

- **reprove** censure; rebuke; N. reproof

- **repudiate** disown; disavow; deny

- **repugnance** disgust; strong dislike; loathing; ADJ. repugnant: arousing disgust; repulsive

- **repulsion** distaste; disgust; act of driving back; ADJ. repulsive: causing disgust; tending to drive away; V. repel (not ‘repulse’)

- **repulse** reject with rudeness or coldness (an offer or friendship); drive back (an enemy attack); CF. repulse ≠ cause repulsion

- **reputable** respectable; having a good reputation

- **reputed** supposed; Ex. reputed father of the child; V. repute: consider; N. repute: reputation; esteem

- **requiem** mass for the dead; dirge

- **resonance** Christian religious ceremony; CF. Mass: ceremony of the Eucharist

- **requisite** necessary requirement; something required; ADJ. required; necessary

- **requisition** formal demand or request; Ex. requisition for more computing equipment; V.

- **requisite** make return for; repay; reciprocate; revenge; N. requittal

- **resect** repeal; annul; cancel (a law, decision, or agreement)

- **resentment** indignation; bitterness; displeasure; V. resent: feel anger about

- **reserve** self-control; self-restraint; formal but distant manner; reticence; Ex. without reserve: freely and openly; ADJ. reserved: shy and uncommunicative

- **residue** remainder; balance

- **residual** remaining; left over; of a residue; N: residue

- **resignation** patiently submissiveness; statement that one is quitting a job; ADJ. resigned: acquiescent

- **resign** give up (a position, right, or claim); submit (oneself) passively

- **resilient** elastic; having the power of springing back; able to recover quickly (as from misfortune)

- **elastic** able to spring back into shape; quick to recover (as from disappointment); able to adapt to change; Ex. elastic plans; N: elastic material

- **resolution** determination; resoluteness; ADJ. resolute: firm or determined in purpose

- **resolve** determination; resolution; firmness of purpose

- **resolve** decide; settle; solve; separate; make a determined decision; N. resolution

- **resonant** (of a sound) echoing; resounding(sounding loudly); deep and full in sound; producing resonance; Ex. resonant voice; N. resonance

- **resound** (of a place) be filled with sound; (of a sound) sound loudly; sound back; echo; Ex. hall resounded with laughter

- **respiration** breathing; exhalation; ADJ. respiratory

- **respite** time for rest; interval of relief; delay in punishment; reprieve

- **resplendent** brilliant; splendid in appearance; dazzling; glorious

- **responsiveness** state of reacting readily to appeals, orders, etc.; ADJ. responsive: readily reacting; Ex. responsive to treatment

- **resurrection** returning something (lost or stolen) to the rightful owner; reparation; indemnification; compensation for loss, damage, or injury

- **retive** impatiently restless (induced by external coercion or restriction); restlessly impatient; obstinately resisting control; Ex. restive horses because of wolves; CF. not a general synonym for ‘restless’

- **restraint** moderation or self-control; controlling force; restriction

- **resumption** taking up again; recommencement; V. resume: begin or take up again; take or occupy again; Ex. Kindly resume your seats.

- **resurgent** rise again; flow to and fro; N. resurgence; ADJ. resurgent: (of ideas or beliefs) experiencing revival; surging again

- **resurrect** revive

- **resuscitate** revive; bring back to life or consciousness; Ex. resuscitate the drowned child

- **retain** keep; maintain possession of; employ (esp. a lawyer or advisor); N. retainer: servant; fee paid to retain an advisor

- **retaliate** repay in kind (usually for bad treatment); V. retaliate

- **retentive** holding; able to retain things (esp. facts in the mind); having a good memory

- **reticent** inclined to silence; uncommunicative; reserved; Ex. He was reticent about the reasons; N. reticence

- **retain** following; attendants

- **retiring** shy and reserved (of a person); modest; Ex. her retiring personality

- **retort** quick sharp reply; V.

- **retract** withdraw; take back; draw back; Ex. retract a statement/an offer/claws; N. retraction; CF. retractile
**retrench**  cut down; cut down expenses; economize

**retribution** deserved punishment for wrongdoing; punishment for offenses; compensation; vengeance; CF. pay back

☐ **retrieve** recover; put right; find and bring in; regain; Ex. retrieve the situation

♠ **retroactive** taking effect before its enactment (as a law) or imposition (as a tax); (of a law) having effect on the past as well as the future

♥ **enact** make (a bill) into law

♠ **retrograde** go backwards; recede; degenerate; deteriorate; ADJ.

☐ **retrospective** looking back on the past; N. retrospection; V. retrospect

♠ **revelry** boisterous merrymaking; V. revel: engage boisterous festivities; enjoy greatly; N: boisterous festivity or celebration

♠ **reverberate** echo repeatedly; resound; Ex. The thunder reverberated across the valley.

☐ **reverent** respectful; worshipful; V. revere: regard with reverence; N. reverence: profound respect

♥ **reverend** deserving reverence; N: priest

♠ **reverie** daydream; abstracted musing

☐ **revert** relapse; backslide; turn back to; return to the former owner; N. reversion

♥ **relapse** return to a former state (esp. after improvement); N.

♥ **backslide** revert (to bad habits); N. reverter

♠ **revile** attack with abusive language; vilifier(slander)

☐ **revoke** cancel; retract; CF. irrevocable

♠ **revulsion** sudden strong feeling of disgust; sudden violent change of feeling; negative reaction; Ex. revulsion from the scenes of torture

♠ **rhapsodize** speak or write in an exaggeratedly enthusiastic manner; Ex. rhapsodize over the beauty of the scenery

♥ **rhapsody** excessively enthusiastic expression of feeling; musical composition of irregular form (as if made up as one plays it)

♠ **rhetoric** art of effective communication; art of using language effectively and persuasively; style of speaking or writing; grandiloquent language; Ex. political rhetoric; ADJ. rhetorical; CF. rhetorical question: question to which no answer is expected as "Who knows it?"

♠ **ribald** marked by vulgar lewd humor; wanton; profane; N. ribaldry: ribald language or joke

♠ **riddle** pierce with holes; permeate or spread throughout; Ex. The gunman riddled the car with bullets; Ex. The whole report is riddled with errors; N. large sieve (separating earth from stone)

♠ **rider** amendment or clause added to a legislative bill

♠ **rife** (of something bad) widespread; abundant; current

♠ **rift** narrow opening in a large mass; break in a friendly relation; Ex. through a rift in the clouds; OP. reconciliation

♠ **rig** fix or manipulate; manipulate dishonestly for personal gain; Ex. rig the election

♥ **rig** arrangement of masts and sails; V. equip (a ship) with rigging; ADJ. rigging: ropes that hold up a ship’s sails

☐ **rigid** hard and unbending; stiff and unyielding; fixed in behavior or views; strict; rigorous; Ex. rigid rule

☐ **rigor** severity; Ex. rigors of the Russian winter

♠ **rine** irritate; vex; muddy

♠ **riveting** holding one’s attention; absorbing; engrossing

♥ **rivet** metal pin used for fastening metal plates together; V: fasten with a rivet; engross

♠ **rivulet** small stream; CF. rill ¡ rivulet ¡ river

☐ **robust** strong; vigorous

☐ **rococo** ornate; highly decorated; N. CF. 18th century

♠ **roil** make liquids murky by stirring up sediment; disturb

♠ **roseate** rosy; optimistic; Ex. roseate views

♠ **roster** list (of names)

♥ **rostrum** raised platform for speech-making; pulpit

♥ **pulpit** raised platform used in preaching (in a church)

♠ **rote** repetition; memorization through repetition without understanding; Ex. learn poetry by rote

♠ **rotunda** circular building or hall covered with a dome

♠ **rotundity** roundness; sonorosity of speech

♥ **rotund** (of a person) fat and round

♠ **rousing** lively; inducing excitement; stirring; V. rouse: awaken; arouse from sleep or depression; excite; stir up

☐ **rout** put to rout; stampede; drive out; N: complete defeat and disorderly retreat

♥ **stampede** sudden frenzied rush (of panic-stricken animals or people); V: participate in or cause stampede; Ex. stampede before the price rises

☐ **rubble** fragments (esp. from a destroyed building)

♥ **mason** one who builds or works with stone or brick; N. masonry: work of a mason; stonework or brickwork

♠ **rubric** title or heading (in red print); directions for religious ceremony; protocol

♠ **ruddy** reddish; (of the face) reddish and healthy-looking

☐ **rudimentary** elementary; not developed; crude; N. rudiment: fundamental element or principle; Ex. rudiments of the language

♠ **rue** regret; lament; mourn; Ex. He will rue the day; N. ADJ. rueful

♠ **ruffian** violent scoundrel; bully

♠ **ruminate** chew over and over (mentally or, like cows, physically); mull (ponder)

♥ **ruminant** animal that ruminates; ADJ.
saboteur one who commits sabotage; destroyer of property; N. sabotage: destruction of property (usually carried out secretly)

ruthless pitiless; merciless; cruel

rusticate banish to the country; dwell in the country

rural pertaining to country people; unsophisticated; simple; crude; uncouth; (of furniture) rough with the bark left on; N. rural person; rustic person

rustic pertaining to country people; unsophisticated; simple; crude; uncouth; (of furniture) rough with the bark left on; N. rural person; rustic person

sagacious wise; perceptive; shrewd; having insight; N. sagacity

sage person celebrated for wisdom; wise person; ADJ: wise

salacious lascivious; lustful; Ex. salacious monk

salient prominent; projecting beyond a line; conspicuous; Ex. salient features

saline salty

sallow (of the skin) yellowish and unhealthy-looking; sickly in color; Ex. sallow complexion due to jaundice

salubrious healthful; conducive to health or well-being; socially desirable; Ex. salubrious area; CF. health

salutary tending to improve; beneficial; wholesome; Ex. The punishment had a salutary effect on the boy; CF. health

salvage rescue (goods or property) from loss; N: saving; property saved

sanctimonious displaying ostentatious or hypocritical devotness; N. sanctimony: hypocritical piety

sanction approve; ratify; N: permission; penalty intended to enforce compliance

sanctuary place of refuge; shelter; shrine; holy place; Ex. The outlaw was granted sanctuary in the church.

sanguinary bloody; with much bloodshed

sanguine optimistic; cheerful; hopeful; of the color of blood; red

sap diminish; weaken; undermine the foundations of (a fortification); Ex. The element kryptonite sapped his strength.

sardonic scornfully mocking; disdainful; sarcastic; cynical; Ex. sardonic smile

sartorial pertaining to tailors or tailoring; Ex. a man of great sartorial elegance; CF. sartor: tailor

sacred inviolably sacred; most sacred; inviolable

saturate soak thoroughly; imbue; impregnate; charge; fill to capacity

schematic of a schema or scheme; relating to an outline or diagram; using a system of symbols; N. schema: diagrammatic representation; outline

scenario plot outline; screenplay(script for a movie); opera libretto; outline of possible future events

sacrum sacrum: posterior part of the pelvic girdle

scurvy scurvy: a disease of the skin and the mucous membranes, caused by a deficiency of vitamin C

sagacity

sage person celebrated for wisdom; wise person; ADJ: wise

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sagacity
scheme systematic plan; plot; clever dishonest plan; orderly arrangement of elements; Ex. health insurance scheme; Ex. a scheme to escape taxes; Ex. a color scheme; Ex. a story with no scheme; V. contrive a scheme

schism division into factions (esp. within a religious body); split

scintilla trace; minute amount; shred; least bit; Ex. There is not a scintilla of truth; CF. spark

scintillate sparkle; flash; be animated; be full of life; Ex. scintillating conversation

scuff laugh at; mock; ridicule; Ex. scoff at their threats

scotch stamp out(put an end to); thwart; hinder; Ex. scotch the rumor; Cf. cut; CF. 활동을 중단하는 의미

score number of points; written form of a musical composition; reason; group of 20; notch or incision; Ex. full/vocal score; Ex. Don’t worry on that score; V. mark with lines or notches; Ex. score the paper to make it easy to fold

stamp step on heavily (so as to crush or extinguish); put an end to; imprint or impress with a mark, design, or seal; shape with a die; characterize; Ex. machine stamping out car bodies; Ex. newspaper stamping him as a liar; N. stamping; implement used to stamp; impression stamped; mark; Ex. Her remarks bear the stamp of truth.

scourge lash; whip (formerly used for punishment); source of severe punishment; V. whip; afflict

scourge abusive; obscene; indecent; Ex. scurrilous remark

scorched burn the surface of; char or burn; brand; parch; cause (a plant) to wither

char make or become black by burning; reduce or be reduced to carbon or charcoal (black substance made by burning wood) by incomplete combustion

scorch sear; N.

brand trademark; mark burned on the hide of an animal; mark burned into the flesh of criminals; mark of disgrace; V. make with a brand; give a lasting bad name; stigmatize; Ex. The press branded him a liar.

hide skin of an animal

seasoned experienced

season enhance the flavor of by adding a spice, etc.; inure; harden; N. seasoning; something used in seasoning

seasonal of a particular season; Ex. seasonal rise in employment

seasonable occurring at the proper time or season; opportunity; Ex. seasonal intervention in the dispute

secession withdrawal; V. secede: withdraw formally from membership

seclusion isolation; solitude; V. seclude: set apart from others; isolate

secrete conceal; hide away or cache; produce and release a substance into an organism; CF. secretive

sect separate religious body; faction; group of people with common beliefs within a larger group

sectarian of a sect; narrow-minded; parochial; N: member of a sect; narrow-minded person

denomination religious group; unit in a system; name or designation; CF. denominator: common trait or characteristic

secular worldly; not pertaining to church matters or religion; temporal

sedate composed (with no excitement); grave; V: administer a sedative to; CF. sedative

sedentary requiring sitting; done while sitting; not moving from one place to another; settled; Ex. sedentary job/population

dition conduct or language inciting rebellion; rebellion; resistance to authority; insubordination; ADJ. seditious

sedulous diligent; assiduous; paying attention; ADJ. sedulity

seedy run-down; decrepit; disreputable; having many seeds; Ex. seedy downtown hotel

run-down (of a place) dilapidated; in a bad condition; (of a person) weak or exhausted

seemly (of behavior) proper; appropriate

seep pass slowly through small openings; ooze; trickle; N. seepage

seethe be violently disturbed; boil; (of a liquid) move about wildly as if boiling; Ex. The nation was seething with discontent.

seine seine net; net for catching fish

seismic pertaining to earthquakes
septic

lookout

sentinel

seminary school for training future ministers; secondary school, especially for young women

senility old age; feeblemindedness of old age; ADJ. senile: resulting from old age; showing the weakness of body or mind from old age; Ex. senile dementia

• feebleminded deficient in intelligence; very stupid

• sensitization process of being made sensitive or acutely responsive to an external agent or substance; V. sensitize: make or become sensitive

• sensual devoted to the pleasures of the sense; carnal; voluptuous; Ex. sensual world/curves/lips

• voluptuous sensual; of or giving sensual pleasure; indulging in sensual pleasures; Ex. voluptuous lines; Ex. voluptuous life of the Romans; N. voluptuary: voluptuous person

• sensuous giving pleasure to the senses; pertaining to the physical senses; operating through the senses; sensuous feeling of soft velvet on the skin

• sententious pithy; terse; concise; aphoristic

• sentient capable of sensation and conscious; aware; sensitive; Ex. sentient creature; N. sentience

• sentinel sentry; lookout

• lookout act of keeping watch; high place commanding a wide view; person who keeps watch

• septic of or causing sepsis; putrid; producing putrefaction; N. sepsis: poisoning of part of the body (producing pus)

• sepulcher tomb; V. place in a sepulcher; ADJ. sepulchral

• sequester isolate; segregate; seclude; retire from public life

• sere sear; parched; dry

• serendipity gift for finding valuable things by accident; accidental good fortune or luck; CF. The Three Princes of Serendip

• serenely calmness; placidity; ADJ. serene

• serpentine winding; twisting; of or like a serpent; Ex. serpentine course of the river; N. serpent: snake

• serrated having a sawtoothed edge; Ex. serrated leaf

• servile slavish; cringing; N. servility

• servitude slavery; compulsory labor imposed as a punishment

• sever separate; cut off (a part) from a whole; break up (a relationship); N. severance; CF. severance pay: extra pay given an employee upon leaving a position

• severity harshness; intensity; sternness; austerity; ADJ. severe: harsh; strict; extremely violent or intense

• sextant navigation tool used to determine a ship’s latitude and longitude (by measuring the altitudes of stars)

• shackle chain; fetter; confine with shackles; N.

• sham pretend; feign; ADJ. not genuine; fake; Ex. sham jewelry; N. something that is not what it appears; impostor; pretense; Ex. The agreement was a sham.

• shambles (place or scene of) complete disorder or ruin; wreck; mess; Ex. After the hurricane, the coast was a shambles.

• shard fragment generally of broken pottery (glass, clay bowl, or cup)

• plane carpenter’s tool for smoothing and leveling wood; V. CF. flat

• sheaf bundle of stalks of grain; any bundle of things tied together

• sheathe place into a case; insert into or provide with a sheath; Ex. He sheathed his dagger; N. sheath: case for a blade

• sherbet flavored dessert ice

• shimmer shine with a flickering light; glimmer intermittently; Ex. The moonlight shimmered on the water; N.

• shirk avoid (responsibility, work, etc.); malinger

• shoddy made of inferior material; sham; not genuine; inferior; dishonest; Ex. shoddy goods/trick

• shrew scolding woman; very small mouselike animal

• shrewd clever; astute

• shun keep away from; avoid deliberately; Ex. She has been shunned by her neighbors.

• shunt move (a railway train) from one track to another; turn aside; divert; sidetrack; Ex. shunt traffic around an accident; N.

• sidetrack switch (a railroad car) to a siding; divert from a main issue; N. CF. siding: short section of railroad track connected by switches with a main track

• shyster lawyer using questionable methods; unscrupulous practitioner

• sibling brother or sister

• sibylline prophetic; oracular; N. sibyl: woman prophet (in the ancient world)

• sidereal relating to stars; Ex. sidereal day

• silt sediment deposited by running water (at the entrance to a harbor or by a bend in a river)

• simian monkeylike; N: ape or monkey

• simile comparison of one thing with another, using the word like or as

• simper smirk; smile in a silly way; smile affectedly

• simplistic oversimplified

• simulate feign; imitate
skulduggery (skullduggery) dishonest behavior or action; skullduggery in the election

frisk ♥ ♠ move about playfully; froric; ADJ. frisky: playful

sinewy (of meat) tough; strong and firm; muscular; N. sinew: tendon; strong cord connecting a muscle to a bone

sinewy being only one; individual; unique; extraordinary; odd; Ex. singular beauty/behavior

sinister evil; ominous

sinuous twisting; winding; bending in and out; not morally honest

skeptic sceptic; doubter; person who suspends judgment until he has examined the evidence supporting a point of view; ADJ. skeptical; N. skepticism; scepticism

skiff small light sailboat or rowboat

skim provide or use scantily; live very economically; Ex. skim on necessities; ADJ. skimpy: inadequate in amount; scanty; stingy; niggardly

skim on necessities; ADJ. skimpy: inadequate in amount; Ex. scantly

skinflint miser; stingy person

skittish inconstant; capricious; frivolous; not serious; Ex. skittish woman

skirmish □♠ inconstant; capricious; frivolous; not serious; Ex. skittish woman

slag glassy residue from smelting metal; dross; waste matter

slake satisfy (thirst); quench; sate

slacker defamatory; utterance of false and malicious statements; V. ADJ. slandering

slapdash hasty and careless; haphazard; sloppy(carelessly done)

slavishly shabby and dirty; flimsy; insubstantial; Ex. slavishly back-street hotel/fabric

slippery one that achieves unexpected success; something originally of little value or importance that in time becomes very valuable

sleight dexterity; CF. sleight of hand: legerdemain; quickness of the hands in doing tricks

slew large quantity or number; Ex. slew of errands left

slight insult to one’s dignity; snub; V: treat as if of small importance; insult; snub; ADJ. small in size; of small importance

slipshod slovenly; careless; sloppy; untidy; shabby; Ex. slipshod work

slither slip or slide

sloth slow moving tree-dwelling mammal; laziness; ADJ. slothful: lazy; indolent

slough (of a snake) shed or cast off (dead outer skin); N: outer layer that is shed

slovenly untidy; careless in work habits; slipshod; N. sloven: one who is habitually untidy or careless

sledge large sled drawn by work animals

sleigh large vehicle drawn by a horse over snow or ice

sluggard lazy person

sluggish lazy; slow; inactive; lethargic; CF. slug: nail with no head

sluice artificial channel for directing or controlling the flow of water (with a gate to regulate the flow)

slur slander; insult to one’s character or reputation; V. slur pronounce indistinctly; speak indistinctly; mumble

smattering slight knowledge; small scattered number or amount; Ex. smattering of German

smelt melt (ore) for separating and removing the metal; melt or blend ores changing their chemical composition

smirk conceited smile; offensively self-satisfied smile (often at someone else’s misfortune); V.

smother smother; burn slowly without flame; be liable to break out at any moment; exist in a suppressed state; Ex. smoldering anger

snicker half-stifled(suppressed) laugh; V.

snivel complain or whine tearfully; run at the nose; snuffle; Ex. Don’t come back sniveling to me.

snuffle sniffle; sniff repeatedly (in order to keep liquid from running out of the nose)

solute comfort in sorrow or trouble; consolation; V: comfort or console in time of sorrow or trouble

solder repair or make whole by using a metal alloy; N: metal alloy (usually tin and lead) used in the molten state to join metallic parts

solecism nonstandard grammatical construction; construction that is flagrantly incorrect grammatically; violation of social etiquette

solemnity seriousness; gravity

solicit entreat; request earnestly; seek to obtain; Ex. solicit votes; CF. solicitor: one who solicits; chief law officer

soliloquy talking to oneself (esp. in a play); CF. monologue: soliloquy; long speech by one person (often monopolizing a conversation)
solitude  state of being alone; seclusion; ADJ. solitary: existing or living alone (esp. by choice); remote or secluded; single; sole; Ex. solitary life/inn; Ex. no solitary piece of proof
solstice  point or time at which the sun is farthest from the equator
soluble  able to be dissolved in a liquid; able to be worked out or solved
solvent  able to pay all depths; N. solvency
solvent  substance that dissolves another; ADJ: capable of dissolving another substance
somatic  pertaining to the body; bodily; physical

sonorous  resonant; producing a full deep sound; producing sound
sonnet  14-line poetic verse form with a fixed rhyme pattern

spatula  broad-bladed instrument used for spreading or mixing
spawn  lay eggs (in large numbers); produce offspring (in large numbers); N: eggs of aquatic animals

spat  squabbles; minor dispute; minor quarrel
spate  sudden flood or rush; Ex. spate of accidents
spatial  relating to space
specious  seemingly reasonable but incorrect; misleading (often intentionally)
spectral  ghostly; N. specter: spectre; ghost; phantom
spectrum  colored band produced when a beam of light passes through a prism; broad and continuous range; Ex. whole spectrum of modern thoughts
spendthrift  someone who wastes money; CF. thrift: accumulated wealth
sphinx-like  enigmatic; mysterious
splice  join together end to end to make one continuous length; fasten together; unite; Ex. splice two strips of tape; N.
spontaneity  lack of premeditation; naturalness; freedom from constraint; ADJ. spontaneous: self-generated; unpremeditated; happening without being planned
spoonerism  accidental transposition of sounds in successive words; Ex. “Let me sew you to your sheet” for “Let me show you to your seat”; CF. William Spooner
spousal  reverse the order or position of
sporadic  occurring irregularly; intermittent
sportive  playful; frolicsome; merry; CF. sport: play or frolic; CF. sportsmanlike
spruce  neat and trim in appearance; smart; Ex. Be spruce for your job interview; V.
spurn  reject disdainfully; scorn; Ex. She spurned all offers of help.
spurious  false; counterfeit; forged; illogical; Ex. spurious arguments
squalor  condition of being squalid; filth; degradation; dirty neglected state; ADJ. squalid: dirty; sordid; morally repulsive; Ex. squalid story
squander  waste; spend foolishly
squall  short and thick; stocky; Ex. ugly squat tower; V. N.
staccato  played in an abrupt manner; marked by abrupt sharp sound; Ex. staccato applause
stagnant  (of water) not flowing (often bad-smelling); motionless; stale; not developing; inactive; dull; Ex. stagnant industrial output
staid  serious and sedate; sober; Ex. staid during the funeral ceremony
stalemate  deadlock; situation in which further action is blocked
stalwart  physically strong; brawny; steadfast; strong in mind or determination; Ex. stalwart supporter; N: stalwart follower
stamina  power of endurance; strength; staying power

stanch  stop or check flow of blood; Ex. stanch the gushing wound

stanzas  division of a poem (composed of two or more lines)

static  having no motion; unchanging; lacking development; N. stasis: stable state

statute  law enacted by the legislature

statutory  created by statute or legislative action; regulated by statute; Ex. statutory age limit

steadfast  steadily loyal; unswerving; steady

stereotype  one regarded as embodying a set image or type; Ex. a stereotype of a happy slave; V: make a stereotype of; represent by a stereotype; Ex. It is wrong to stereotype people; Ex. stereotyped answer

stickler  perfectionist; person who insists things be exactly right

stifle  suppress; extinguish; inhibit; smother or suffocate

suffocate  die or kill from lack of air; suppress; cover thickly; Ex. smothered in little stickers

suffocate  die or kill from lack of air; suppress

stigma  token of disgrace; brand; V: stigmatize: mark with a stigma; characterize as disgraceful

stilted  bombastic; stiffly pompous; Ex. stilted rhetoric; CF. stiff: formal

stint  set limits in amount or number; be thrifty; ADJ. stinting, unstinting; CF. stint/savings

stint  supply; allotted amount of work; assigned portion of work; limitation; Ex. two-year stint in the army; Ex. without stint

stipend  pay for services

stipple  paint or draw with dots or short strokes

stipulate  state as a necessary condition (of an agreement); make express conditions; specify; Ex. He stipulated payment in advance

stock  standard; kept regularly in stock or supply; typical; routine; common; Ex. stock sizes of paper; Ex. stock excuse/character; N: goods for sale in a shop; OP. unique

stockade  wooden enclosure or pen; fixed line of posts used as defensive barrier

pen  fenced enclosure for animals; confining space; Ex. sheep pen; V: confine in a pen; enclose

stodgy  dull; stuffy; boringly conservative; Ex. stodgy book

stout  solid; impassive; showing little emotion when strong feelings are expected

stoic  stoical: impassive; unmoved by joy or grief; N. CF. stoicism

stoke  stir up a fire or furnace; feed plentifully

solid  solid; impassive; showing little emotion when strong feelings are expected

stratagem  deceptive scheme; clever trick

stratified  divided into classes; arranged into strata; V: stratify

stratum  layer of earth's surface; layer of society; PL. strata

strew  spread randomly; sprinkle; scatter; Ex. flower girl strewing rose petals

striated  marked with parallel bands; striped; grooved; Ex. striated rocks; V. striate; N. stria: thin groove or line

strident  loud and harsh; insistent; N. stridency

stringent  (of rules) binding; rigid; marked by scarcity of money; Ex. stringent economic conditions

strut  pompous walk; V: walk in a self-important manner

strut  supporting bar; CF. airplane wing, building 등을 support

studied  carefully contrived; calculated; unspontaneous; deliberate; thoughtful; Ex. studied remark

stultify  make stupid in mind; cause to appear or become stupid or inconsistent; suppress; frustrate or hinder; Ex. stultifying effect of uninteresting work; Ex. stultify free expression

stupefy  stun; make numb (as with a drug); amaze

stupor  state of being stupefied; state of apathy; daze; lack of awareness

stun  make unconscious or numb as by a blow; amaze

stunted  grow less intense; quieter; Ex. stunted lighting; Ex. stunted plant growth

stumptown  stump; cf. stump

stygian  unpleasantly dark; gloomy; hellish; deathly; CF. Styx: the chief river in the subterranean land of the dead

stymie  thwart; present an obstacle; stump

stump  base of a tree trunk left after the rest has been cut down; V: walk in a heavy manner; baffle; puzzle

suavity  urbanity; polish; ADJ. suave: smooth and courteous

subaltern  subordinate

subdue  less intense; quieter; Ex. subdued lighting; Ex. subdue: conquer; make less intense; quiet; Ex. subdue one's anger
subjective influenced by personal feelings; occurring or taking place within the mind; unreal; Ex. subjective sensation of the ghostly presence

subjugate conquer; bring under control

sublimate refine; purify; replace (natural urges) with socially acceptable activities; change between a solid state and a gaseous state

sublime causing deep feelings of wonder, joy, respect, etc.; exalted; noble and uplifting; utter

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subliminal below the threshold of conscious perception; Ex. subliminal advertisement

submissive willing to obey orders; yielding; timid

subordinate occupying a lower rank; inferior; submissive; N. V: put in a lower rank or class

suborn persuade to act unlawfully (especially to commit perjury); N. subornation

subpoena writ (written command issued by a court) summoning a witness to appear in court; V: summon with a subpoena

subsequent following in time or order; later

subservient behaving like a slave; servile; obsequious; subordinate; N. subservience

subsidesink to a lower level; settle down; sink to the bottom (as a sediment); descend; grow quiet; become less; moderate; abate

subsidiary serving to assist; subordinate; secondary; of a subsidy; N.

subsidy direct financial aid by government, etc.; V. subsidize: assist with a subsidy

subsistence existence; means of subsisting; means of support; livelihood; V. subsist: exist; maintain life (at a meager level)

substantial of substance; material; solid; essential or fundamental; ample; considerable; well-to-do; wealthy

substantiate support (a claim) with evidence; establish with evidence; verify

substantive substantial; essential; pertaining to the substance; substantial; considerable; Ex. substantive issues

subsume include (as a member of a group); encompass

subterfuge stratagem (deceptive scheme); pretense; evasion; Ex. resort to a harmless subterfuge

subtlety perceptiveness; ingenuity; delicacy; ADJ. subtle: delicate; so slight as to be difficult to detect; able to make fine distinctions; clever; Ex. subtle mind/differences in meaning

subversive tending to overthrow or ruin; V. subvert: overthrow completely (an established system); destroy completely; CF. undermine

succor assist (someone in difficulty); aid; comfort; N.

succulent juicy; full of juice or sap; full of richness; N: succulent plant such as a cactus

succumb yield (to something overwhelming); give in; die; Ex. succumb to the illness

suffragist advocate of the extension of voting rights (for women); CF. suffrage

suffuse spread through or over (with a color or liquid); charge; Ex. A blush suffused her cheeks.

sully defile; soil; tarnish; Ex. sully one’s hands in menial labor

tarnish make or become dull or discolored; N.

sultry (of weather) hot; sweltering; sensual; voluptuous

summation act of finding the total; summing-up; summary (esp. one given by the judge at the end of a trial)

sumptuous grand suggesting great expense; lavish; rich; Ex. sumptuous feast

sunrise separate; part; CF. asunder

sundry miscellaneous; various; several; N. sundries: small miscellaneous items

superannuated retired or disqualified because of age; outmoded; obsolete

supercilious haughty; arrogant; condescending; patronizing; CF. eyebrow, cilium

supererogatory superfluous; more than needed or demanded

superficial of the surface; not deep; shallow; not thorough; trivial; Ex. superficial analysis/knowledge

superfluous excessive; overabundant; unnecessary; N. superfluity

superimpose place over something else

supernumerary person or thing excess of what is necessary; extra; ADJ: additional to the usual or necessary number

supersede replace; cause to be set aside; make obsolete; N. supersession

supine lying on back; passive; inactive; Ex. The defeated pugilist lay supine; Ex. supine acceptance of the decision

supplant take the place of unfairly; usurp; replace

supple flexible; limber; pliant

suppliant entreating; beseeching; N.

supplicate petition humbly; pray to grant a favor

supplicant one who supplicates; ADJ.

supposition assumption; hypothesis; surmise; V. suppose

supposititious assumed; counterfeit; hypothetical

suppress put an end to forcibly; subdue; stifle; overwhelm; inhibit the expression of; check; prevent from being published or made public; Ex. suppress a smile; Ex. suppress the magazine/truth

surfeit satiate; feed or supply to excess; stuff; indulge to excess in anything; N: surfeiting; excessive amount; Ex. surfeit of food
syllogism

cross

surmise

surmount

surpass

surreptitious

surrogate

surveillance

susceptible

sustain

surveillance

tautological

talismen

taint

talent

tatter

tautological

tardy

tan

tantrum

synoptic

synthesis

synthetic

tacit

tact

tactful

tactile

tactful

talons

tapers

tempted

tantalize

tan

tanner

tangible

talion

talons

tactful

talen

tame

tanton

tantes

taper

tentative

syllogism

symmetry

sylph

tau

tautological

tawdry

taxonomist

tedium

tetotalism

ardy

tall

tamper

taunt
temerity  boldness; nerve; rashness; Ex. temerity to ask for a pay increase after only three day’s work

temper  moderate; make less severe; tone down or restrain; toughen (steel) as by alternate heating and cooling

temperament  characteristic frame of mind; disposition; emotional excess; ADJ. temperamental: of temperament; having frequent changes of temper; Ex. temperamental dislike of sports; Ex. temperamental actress

temperate  moderate; restrained; self-controlled; moderate in respect to temperature; CF. temperance: moderation and self-restraint; abstinence of alcoholic drinks; Ex. temperance society

tempestuous  stormy; violent; impassioned; N. tempest: violent storm

tempo  speed of music

temporal  of time; not lasting forever; limited by time; temporary; secular; worldly

temporize  gain time as by postponing an action; avoid committing oneself

tenacious  holding fast (as to a belief); persistent

tenacity  firmness; persistence

tendentious  promoting a particular point of view; biased; having an aim; designed to further a cause; Ex. tendentious rather than truth-seeking; CF. tend: move in a certain direction

tender  offer formally; extend; Ex. tender one’s resignation/the exact fare; N: formal offer; money; Ex. legal tender; ADJ: young and vulnerable; sensitive to the touch; sore; soft; delicate; Ex. child of tender years; Ex. tender wound

tenet  doctrine; dogma

tensile  capable of being stretched; of tension; Ex. tensile rubber

tension  stretching; condition of being stretched; mental strain; strained relationship between groups or people

tentative  not fully worked out or developed; provisional; experimental; uncertain; hesitant; not definite or positive; Ex. tentative agreement/reply

tenuous  thin; slim; rare

tenure  holding of an office or real estate; time during which such an office is held

tepid  lukewarm; slightly warm; 미들한; half-hearted; not eager; Ex. tepid reaction to the new film; Ex. tepid supporter

termination  end; V. terminate

terminology  terms used in a science or art; study of nomenclature

terminus  last stop of railroad; end

terminal  part that forms the end; railroad or bus station; ADJ. forming an end; ending in death; fatal; Ex. terminal cancer

terrestrial  on or relating to the earth

terse  concise; abrupt; pithy

tertiary  third in order or rank

tessellated  mosaic; inlaid; Ex. tessellated pattern

testator  maker of a will; CF. testatrix

testy  irritable; impatient and bad-tempered; short- tempered; N. testiness

tether  tie (an animal) with a rope or tether; N: rope or chain to which an animal is tied; limit of one’s endurance; Ex. the end of one’s tether

thematic  of a theme; relating to a unifying motif or idea

theocracy  government run by religious leaders

theoretical  based on theory; not practical or applied; hypothetical

therapeutic  curative; N. therapy

thermal  pertaining to heat; producing heat; warm; Ex. thermal bath; N: rising current of warm air

thespian  pertaining to drama; N: actor or actress

drama  prose or verse composition to be performed by actors; play; exciting and unusual situation

thrall  slave; bondage; slavery; Ex. Her beauty held him in thrall; CF. enthral

threadbare  worn through till the threads show; shabby and poor; hackneyed; Ex. threadbare excuses

thrift  careful about money; economical; N. thrift

thrive  prosper; flourish

thros  violent anguish

throng  crowd (of people or things); V.

throttle  strangle; regulate the speed of with a throttle; N: valve that regulates the flow; CF. throat

strangle  kill by choking or suffocating; suppress

thwart  block or hinder; baffle; frustrate

tightwad  miser; excessively frugal person

tiller  handle used to move boat’s rudder (to steer)

timbre  quality of a musical tone produced by a musical instrument (which distinguishes it from others of the same pitch)

timidity  lack of self-confidence or courage

timorous  fearful; timid; demonstrating fear

tipple  drink (alcoholic beverages) frequently; N: alcoholic drink

tirade  long angry denunciatory speech; diatribe; harangue; extended scolding; denunciation

tardy  slow; sluggish; not on time; late; Ex. tardy arrival

titanic  gigantic; N. titan

tithe  tax of one-tenth (contributed to a church); V: pay a tithe

titillate  tickle; excite pleasantly; Ex. not to titillate the audience but to enlighten it
titter  touch (the body) lightly so as to cause laughter; please

- title  name (of a book, film, etc.); mark of rank; formal ap-pellation as of rank or office (such as Lord or General); right or claim to possession; championship; Ex. title as head of the family; Ex. title to the estate

- titular  nervous giggle; nervous laugh; V.

- toady  servile flatterer; yes man; sycophant; V: be a toady to; fawn

- toga  Roman outer robe

- tome  large volume; book

- handsome  large in quantity; generous; Ex. handsome reward

- tensure  shaving of the head especially by person entering religious orders; V.

- topography  physical features of a region (such as the shape and height); CF. topo-: place

- torpedo  underwater explosive apparatus; V.

- torpor  lethargy; sluggishness; dormancy; ADJ. torpid: lethargic; lazy; inactive; (of an animal) dormant; hibernating

- torque  twisting force; force producing rotation

- torrent  rushing stream; flood; Ex. The rain fell in torrents.

- torrid  (of weather) hot or scorching; passionate; Ex. torrid love affairs

- torso  trunk of statue with head and limbs missing; human trunk

- trunk  main wooden stem of a tree; human body excluding the head and limbs; torso; prehensile nose of an elephant

- tortuous  winding; full of curves; Ex. tortuous mountain road

- totter  shake or move unsteadily; sway as if about to fall

- touchstone  stone used to test the fineness of gold alloys; criterion; standard

- touchy  oversensitive; easily offended; irasible; delicate; needing delicate handling; Ex. touchy situation

- tout  promote or publicize (one’s goods or service); praise excessively (as a form of advertisement); CF. advertise

- toxic  poisonous; N. toxicity

- tract  propaganda pamphlet (esp. by a religious or political group); expanse of land; region of indefinite size; system of related organs; Ex. digestive tract

- tractable  docile; easily managed; (of something) easily changed or molded; N. tractability

- traduce  expose to slander

- trajectory  path taken by a projectile; Ex. trajectory of a bullet

- elevation  elevated position; altitude; height; flat upright side of a building; angle made by pointing a gun; Ex. The elevation of her style is much admired; Ex. front elevation of the house

- transcendent  exceeding ordinary limits; superior; surpassing; V. transcend: go beyond; exceed; surpass; N. transcendency

- transcendental  going beyond common thought or ideas; impossible to understand by practical experiences or practices; known only by studying thoughts or intuition; OP. empirical; CF. transcendentalism

- transcribe  copy; write a copy of; N. transcription

- transgression  violation of a law; sin; V. transgress: go beyond (a limit); violate; do wrong

- transient  staying for a short time; momentary; temporary; N: one that is transient

- transition  going from one state of action to another

- transitory  transient; impermanent; fleeting; N. transitoriness

- translucent  partly transparent

- transmute  transform; change; convert to something different

- transparent  permitting light to pass through freely; easily detected; obvious; clear; Ex. transparent lie

- transpire  (of a fact) become known; be revealed; happen; give off (watery waste matter) through pores

- transport  strong emotion; rapture; Ex. in a transport/transport of; V: move to strong emotion; enrapture

- trappings  outward decorations; ornaments (as an outward sign of rank)

- traumatic  (of an experience) deeply shocking; pertaining to an injury caused by violence; N. trauma: serious wound; emotional shock that causes lasting psychological damage

- travail  strenuous work; toil; painful labor; labor of childbirth

- traverse  go through or across

- travesty  copy or example of something that completely misrepresents the true nature of the real thing; comical parody or imitation; treatment aimed at making something appear ridiculous; Ex. travesty of justice; OP. paragon

- treatise  article treating a subject systematically and thoroughly

- trek  travel; journey; V: make a long difficult journey

- tremor  trembling; slight quiver (as of the earth or from nervous agitation)

- tremulous  trembling; wavering

- trenchant  cutting; incisive; keen
furrow - long shallow trench made by a plow; deep wrinkle in the skin; V.

trepidation - fear; nervous apprehension

tribulation - suffering; ordeal; distress; trial

tribunal - court of justice

tribune - official of ancient Rome elected by the plebians to protect their rights; protector of the people

tribute - tax levied by a ruler; payment made by one nation to another in acknowledgment of submission; mark of respect (such as praise or gift); Ex. pay tribute to

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trident - three-pronged spear

trig - pointed projecting part

trivial - trivial; unimportant

trifle - something of little importance or value; small amount; Ex. a trifle; V: treat without seriousness; flirt

trigger - set off; start

trilogy - group of three related works (connected by a shared subject but each complete in itself)

trinket - knickknack; bauble; cheap jewelry

trite - hackneyed; commonplace

trivial - trivial; unimportant

troth - pledge of good faith especially in betrothal; betrothal; Ex. by my troth

trough - long narrow container for feeding farm animals; lowest point (of a wave, business cycle, etc.); long narrow depression as between waves

truculence - aggressiveness; ferocity; ADJ. truculent: aggressive; pugnacious; fierce

triumph - self-evident truth

truncate - cut the top off; shorten

tryst - meeting arranged by lovers; arrangement between lovers to meet

tumid - (of a part of the body) swollen; distended; bombastic; pompous

tumult - commotion of a great crowd; riot; noise; uproar; ADJ. tumultuous: noisy and disorderly

tundra - rolling treeless plain in Siberia and arctic North America

rolling - (of land) rising and falling in long gentle slopes; happening continuously by stages; Ex. rolling devolution of power to local governments

turbid - (of a liquid) having the sediment disturbed; muddy; thick

turbulence - state of violent agitation; ADJ. turbulent: violently agitated or disturbed

tureen - deep dish for serving soup

turgid - swollen; distended (as from liquid)

turmoil - extreme confusion; great commotion and confusion; Ex. throw the country into turmoil

turncoat - traitor

turpitude - depravity; baseness; Ex. moral turpitude

tutelage - guardianship; training; function of a tutor; instruction

tutelary - protective; pertaining to a guardianship; Ex. tutelary deities

tycoon - wealthy and powerful businessperson; wealthy leader; magnate; Ex. business tycoon

typhoon - tropical hurricane or cyclone

tyrrannical - oppression; cruel government; ADJ. tyrannical: of a tyrant or tyranny; despotic; V. tyrannize: treat tyrannically; oppress

tyro - beginner; novice

ubiquitous - being everywhere; omnipresent; N. ubiquity

ulterior - intentionally hidden; beyond what is evident; situated beyond; unstated and often questionable; Ex. ulterior motive

ultimate - final; not susceptible to further analysis; fundamental; Ex. The sun is the ultimate source of energy

eventual - happening at last as a result; Ex. eventual victory

ultimatum - last demand; last warning; last statement of conditions that must be met; Ex. They have ignored our ultimatum.

umbrage - resentment; anger; sense of injury or insult; Ex. take umbrage at his rudeness

unaccountable - unexplicable; impossible to account for; unreasonable or mysterious

unanimity - complete agreement; ADJ. unanimous

unassailable - not open to attack; impregnable; not subject to question

unassuaged - unsatisfied; not soothed

unassuming - modest; Ex. the champion’s unassuming manner

unbridled - violent; uncontrolled; Ex. unbridled rage/greed

bridle - harness fitted about a horse’s head (used to restrain); curb; check; V: put a bridle on; control or restrain; show anger

uncanny - strange; mysterious; Ex. uncanny knack

knack - special talent; art

unscrupulous - unscrupulous; not guided by conscience; excessive; beyond reason; Ex. unscrupulous demand

uncouth - boorish; clumsy in speech or behavior; outlandish

unction - the act of anointing with oil; Ex. extreme unction

unctuous - oily; bland; insincerely suave
△ utopia  ideal place, state, or society; ADJ. utopian

♥ Shangri-la  imaginary remote paradise on earth; CF. Lost Horizon

♠ uxorious  excessively submissive or devoted to one’s wife; CF. uxor: wife

♠ vacillate  waver (in opinion); fluctuate; sway to and fro; N. vacillation

♠ vacuous  empty; lacking in ideas; inane; stupid; Ex. vacuous expression; N. vacuity

□ vagabond  wanderer (without a permanent home); tramp

♥ tramp  walk with a heavy step; travel on foot; N: vagrant; one who travels aimlessly about; long walk; sound of heavy walking

♥ trample  step heavily with the feet; crush under the feet

♥ tread  walk; trample; N: grooved face of a tire; horizontal part of a step

♠ vagary  capricious happening; caprice; whim; CF. wanderer

□ vagrant  wandering from place to place; roving; stray; moving in a random fashion; Ex. vagrant thoughts; N. vagrancy

□ vagrant  homeless wanderer

♠ vainglorious  boastful; excessively conceited; N. vainglory: great vanity

□ valedictory  pertaining to farewell; N: farewell address (esp. at graduation exercises)

♥ valediction  saying farewell; expression of leave-taking

♥ leave-taking  farewell or departure

□ valid  logically convincing; sound; legally acceptable; effective; Ex. valid reasoning/passport

♥ sound  in good condition; showing good judgment or good sense; thorough; complete; Ex. sound mind/investment/training

□ validate  make valid; confirm; ratify

□ valor  bravery; ADJ. valiant: possessing valor; brave

□ vampire  ghostly being that sucks the blood of the living

♠ vanguard  forerunners; foremost position of an army; advance forces; foremost position in a trend or movement; CF. rearguard

♥ avantgarde  group of artists whose work is based on the newest ideas and methods; CF. vanguard

□ vantage  position giving an advantage (such as a strategic point); CF. vantagepoint

♠ vapid  lacking liveliness; dull and unimaginative; insipid and flavorless; Ex. vapid lecture

□ vaporize  turn into vapor (steam, gas, fog, etc.)

♠ variegated  (esp. of a flower or leaf) many-colored

♥ varigate  change the appearance of (by marking with different colors)

♠ vassal  in feudalism, one who held land of a superior lord; subordinate or dependent

♠ vaunted  boasted; bragged; highly publicized; V. vaunt: boast; brag

♠ veer  change in direction; swerve

♠ vegetate  live in a monotonous way (without interests or activity); CF. vegetation: plants of an area; CF. vegetarian; CF. vegan

□ vehement  forceful; intensely emotional; with marked vigor; strong; N. vehement

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□ velocity  speed

♠ venal  capable of being bribed; corrupt; CF. vernal

♠ vendetta  blood feud (esp. between two families); CF. Nina Williams

□ vendor  seller

♠ veneer  thin surface layer (of good quality wood, glued to a base of inferior material); cover; surface show; façade; V.

♠ venerable  deserving high respect; commanding respect; CF. command: deserve and get

♠ venerate  revere; treat with great respect

♠ venial  (of a fault or sin) forgivable; trivial

♠ venison  meat of a deer; CF. cow: beef; CF. pig: pork, ham, bacon; CF. calf: veal; CF. sheep: mutton; CF. lamb: lamb

♠ venom  poison (of an animal); hatred; Ex. remarks full of venom; ADJ. venomous

♠ vent  small opening; outlet (as of fumes or a gas); Ex. He gave vent to his anger by kicking the chair.

♠ vent  release or discharge through a vent; express (esp. unfairly); utter; Ex. He vented his wrath on his family.

♥ ventilate  admit fresh air into to replace stale air

♠ ventral  abdominal

□ ventriloquist  someone who can make his or her voice seem to come from another person or thing (without moving lips or jaws); N. ventriloquism, ventriloquy

□ venture  risk; expose to risk; dare; undertake a risk; N.

♥ brave  face courageously; Ex. brave the storm

□ venturesome  (of a person) bold; adventurous; daring; (of an action) risky

♠ venue  location; place (of a crime, trial, gathering, etc.); CF. come

♠ veracious  (of a person) truthful

♠ veracity  truthfulness; adherence to the truth

□ verbalize  put into words; ADJ. verbal: of words; spoken rather than written; oral; of a verb

□ verbatim  word for word; in the same words; repeating the actual words exactly

□ verbiage  pompous array of words; too many unnecessary words; wordiness

□ verbose  wordy; N. verbosity
verdant green; covered with green plants or grass; lush in vegetation; Ex. verdant meadows

lush (of a plant or grass) growing very well

verdigris green coating or patina on copper which has been exposed to the weather

verge border; edge, rim, or margin; Ex. on the verge of: very near to; V: border on

verisimilar having the appearance of truth or reality; probable or likely to be true; plausible

verisimilitude appearance of truth; quality of appearing to be true or real; likelihood; Ex. verisimilitude of her performance as Lady Macbeth

veritable being truly so; real or genuine; actual; not false or imaginary

verity quality of being true; lasting truth or principle; Ex. the verity of his testimony; Ex. one of the eternal verities

vernacular living language (as compared to the official language); language spoken in a country or region; natural style; Ex. lapse into the vernacular

vernal pertaining to spring

versatile having many talents; capable of working in many fields; having many uses or functions; N. versatility

vertex summit; highest point; PL. vertices

vertigo severe dizziness; giddiness

verse enthusiasm (as in artistic performance or composition); liveliness; vigor

vestige trace; remains; Ex. vestiges of some ancient religion

veto vested power to reject a bill; exercise of this right; V: prevent or forbid by exercising the power of veto

vex annoy; distress

viable capable of maintaining life; feasible; practical or workable; Ex. viable scheme

viand food; CF. live

vicarious experienced as if one were taking part in the experience of another; done by a deputy for other people; acting as a substitute; Ex. vicarious thrill at the movies; Ex. the vicarious sufferings of Christ

vicar parish priest; representative

vicissitude change (esp. from good to bad); change of fortune; CF. the last emperor of China

victuals food; provisions; V. victual: provide with food

veto vesting power to reject a bill; exercise of this right; V: prevent or forbid by exercising the power of veto

vex annoy; distress

vigilant watchful; on the alert; watchfully awake; alert to spot danger; N. vigilance

vigil keeping watch (during normal sleeping hours); Ex. all-night vigil

vigilante one who without authority assumes law enforcement powers

vigor active strength; energy; enthusiasm; ADJ. vigorous

vignette small drawing placed at the beginning or end of a chapter; picture; short literary sketch; short written description of a character or scene

vilify slander; speak evil of; N. vilification

vindicate clear from blame; free from blame or accusation (with supporting proof); exonerate; substantiate; justify or support; avenge; Ex. vindicate one’s client; Ex. vindicate one’s claim; CF. vindicator

vindictive disposed to revenge; vengeful; out for revenge; spiteful; intended to cause harm; malicious; Ex. vindictive streak

vintner wine merchant; winemaker; seller of wine

viper poisonous snake

virile manly; having masculine spirit or strength; full of strength

virtual in essence; existing in essence though not in actual form; for practical purposes; Ex. virtual ruler/space

virtue goodness; moral excellence; good quality; advantage; Ex. by virtue of; Ex. make a virtue of necessity

virtuoso highly skilled artist (esp. in music); Ex. piano virtuoso

virulent (of a disease or poison) extremely harmful or poisonous; (of a feeling) hostile; bitter; N. virulence; CF. virus; CF. venom

virus disease communicator

visage face; appearance

visceral felt in one’s inner organs; N. viscera: internal body organs; CF. eviscerate

viscid adhesive; gluey

viscous (of a liquid) thick and sticky; gluey; viscid; CF. consistency

vise tool for holding work in place; clamping device

visionary produced by imagination; fanciful; mystical; showing foresight; N: one having foresight; one given to speculative impractical ideas

vision eyesight; foresight; mental image produced by the imagination; experience of seeing the supernatural

vital full of life; animated; vibrant and lively; critical; of great importance; necessary to stay alive; of life; living; breathing; N. vitality; V. vitalize

vibrant full of vigor or energy; vibrating

vitiate spoil the effect of; make inoperative; corrupt morally

vitreous of glass; pertaining to or resembling glass; V. vitrify: change into glass; CF. petrify

vitriolic causing sharp pain to the mind; caustic; corrosive; sarcastic; of vitriol; N. vitriol: sulphuric acid (which burns flesh deeply); bitterly abusive expression; caustic expression; CF. glass

vituperative abusive; scolding; V. vituperate: berate; scold; rail against abusively

vivacious lively or animated; sprightly
vivisection  act of dissecting living animals

vixen  female fox; ill-tempered woman; CF. shrew

vociferous  clamorous; noisy; V. vociferate: cry out loudly (when complaining)

vogue  popular fashion; Ex. Jeans became the vogue.

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volatile  changeable; of a quickly changing nature (as of temper); mercurial; tending to violence; evaporating rapidly; Ex. volatile character/situation in the street

volition  act of using one’s will; act of making a conscious choice; Ex. She selected this dress of her own volition.

voluble  fluent; talkative; glib; N. volubility

volley  simultaneous discharge of a number of shots; V.

voluminous  having great volume (as of a garment or container); bulky; large

bulk  size or volume (esp. when very large); main part; Ex. The bulk of the work has already been done; ADJ. bulky: having great size

voodoo  religion practiced chiefly in Haiti

voracious  ravenous; eating large quantities of food; exceedingly eager; insatiable; Ex. voracious animal/reader

vortex  whirlwind; whirlpool; center of turbulence; predication into which one is inexorably plunged

vouchsafe  grant condescendingly; guarantee; Ex. vouchsafe your fair return on your investment

vouch  give a personal guarantee; Ex. I can vouch for his integrity; N. voucher

voyeur  Peeping Tom; person who derives sexual gratification from observing the sexual acts of others

vulnerable  susceptible to wounds or attack; N. vulnerability

vulpine  like a fox; crafty

craft  skill (esp. with one’s hands); skill in deceiving people; guile; ADJ. crafty: cleverly deceitful; cunning

vulture  carrion-eating birds

vying  contending; CF. vie

waffle  speak equivocally about an issue; N.

waft  move gently (in air or in seas) by wind or waves; Ex. leaves wafting past the window

waggish  humorous; mischievous; tricky

wag  shake repeatedly from side to side; Ex. The dog wagged its tail; N. humorous person; wit

waif  homeless child or animal; Ex. waifs and strays

waive  give up temporarily; yield; N. waiver: waiving a right or claim; document that waives a right or claim

wake  trail of ship or other object through water; path of something that has gone before; Ex. hunger followed in the wake of the war

wallow  roll in mud; indulge in; (of a ship) roll in a rough sea; become helpless; Ex. wallow in the mud/luxury

wan  having a pale or sickly color; pallid

wanderlust  strong longing to travel

waned  decrease in size or strength (after being full); grow gradually to an end; Ex. The moon waxes and wanes every month; N.

wangle  achieve by cleverness or trick; wiggle out; fake; Ex. She tried to wangle an invitation to the party.

wiggle  wriggle; move from side to side with irregular twisting motions

fake  not genuine; N: one that is not genuine; impostor; sham; V: counterfeit; Ex. fake the results of the experiment/the signature

wanton  unrestrained; gratuitously cruel; willfully malicious; unchaste; sexually improper; promiscuous; Ex. wanton spending/killing; CF. having no just cause

warble  (of a bird) sing; babble; N.

warp  twist out of shape; N.

warranted  justified; authorized

warrant  justification; written order that serves as authorization (esp. a judicial writ); Ex. search/death warrant; V: justify; guarantee

warranty  guarantee; assurance by seller

warren  tunnels in which rabbits live; overcrowded living area; crowded conditions in which people live

wary  very cautious; watchful

wastrel  waster; profligate

wax  increase gradually (as the moon); grow

waylay  ambush; lie in wait for and attack

ambush  act of lying in wait to attack by surprise; sudden attack made from a concealed position; Ex. lie in ambush; V.

wean  accustom a baby not to nurse; accustom (the young of a mammal) to take nourishment other than by suckling; give up a cherished activity; cause to gradually leave (an interest or habit); Ex. wean oneself from cigarettes

weather  pass safely through (a storm or difficult period); endure the effects of weather or other forces

welt  raised mark from a beating or whipping

welter  confusion; turmoil; confused mass; bewildering jumble; Ex. welter of data

welld  wallow (as in mud or high seas); lie soaked (as in blood); Ex. The victims weltered in their blood.

wheedle  deceive, persuade, or obtain by flattery; cajole; coax; Ex. wheedle a promise out of her

whelp  young animal (esp. of the dog or cat family); young wolf, dog, tiger, etc.

whet  sharpen; stimulate; Ex. whet someone’s appetite

whiff  puff or gust (of air, scent, etc.); short-lasting smell; hint; Ex. whiff of perfume/scandal
whimsical  capricious; fanciful; amusingly strange

whim  sudden capricious idea; fancy

whimsy  whim; tendency to behave amusingly strangely; Ex. story full of whimsy

whinny  neigh like a horse; CF. neigh: make the sound which horses make

whit  small amount; smallest speck; Ex. not a whit of

whittle  pare; cut away thin bits (from wood); fashion in this way; reduce gradually; trim

dépare  cut away the outer covering or skin of (with a knife); trim; Ex. dépare apples/expenses

whorl  ring of leaves around stem; ring; circular arrangement; Ex. whorls on the fingers

willful  wilful; intentional; headstrong

wilt  lose freshness; droop

wily  crafty; cunning; artful; N. wile: deceitful stratagem

wince  move back suddenly; shrink back; flinch; Ex. She winced as she touched the cold body.

start  move suddenly or involuntarily; Ex. start at the sight of a snake

windfall  fallen fruit; unexpected lucky event

winnow  sift; separate the chaff from grain by blowing; separate good parts from bad; CF. wind

sift  put through a sieve to separate fine from coarse particles; sort or examine carefully

winsome  charming (in a childlike way); agreeable; gracious; engaging

wispy  thin; slight; barely discernible

wisp  small bunch (of hair); faint streak (of smoke)

wistful  sadly thoughtful (because of desires or memories); sadly pensive; vaguely longing

withdrawn  introverted; retiring; remote

remote  distant in manner; aloof

wither  (of a plant) dry up from loss of moisture; lose freshness; shrivel; decay

shrive  make or become shrunken and wrinkled (often by drying)

withhold  refuse to give; hold back; Ex. withholding tax

withstand  stand up against; resist successfully

witless  lacking intelligence or wit; foolish; idiotic

witticism  witty saying; wisecrack(clever joking remark)

wizardry  sorcery; magic

wizened  shriveled; withered; Ex. wizened apple/old lady

woe  great sorrow; deep inconsolable grief; affliction; suffering; Ex. financial woes

woeful  sad; (of something bad) deplorable; deplorably bad; Ex. woeful housing conditions

wont  (the stated person’s) habit or custom; habitual procedure; ADJ. wonted: customary

worldly  engrossed in matters of this earth; not spiritual; of the material world

wrangle  quarrel noisily; obtain through arguing; herd cattle; N.

herd  group of animals; crowd; one who looks after a herd; Ex. shepherd/goatherd; Ex. herd instinct; Ex. herdsman; V: come together in a herd; look after a herd; Ex. herd cattle

wrath  anger; fury

wreak  inflict; Ex. wreak one’s vengeance on

wrench  twist; pull; strain; Ex. He wrenched the gun out of her hands.

wrest  obtain by pulling violently; pull away; take by violence; Ex. wrest victory from their grasp

writ  written command issued by a court (telling someone to do or not to do something)

writhe  twist in coils; contort in pain

wry  (esp. of an expression of the face) twisted; with a humorous twist (expressing displeasure)

xenophobia  fear or hatred of foreigners; N. xenophobe

yen  strong desire; longing; urge; Ex. yen for travel

yeoman  man or farmer owning small estate; middle-class farmer

yield  amount produced; crop; income on investment; profit obtained from an investment; V: produce; give in; surrender

yoke  join together; unite; N: crossbar used to joining two draft animals

yokel  rustic; country bumpkin; 한인

yore  time long past; Ex. in the days of yore

zany  comic; crazy; N: clown; comical person (given to outlandish behavior)

zeal  eager enthusiasm (to a cause or ideal); ADJ. zealous

zealot  one who is zealous; fanatic; person who shows excessive zeal

zenith  point directly overhead in the sky; summit; acme; highest point

zephyr  gentle breeze; west wind