

MARIN COUNTY

2019-2020

SPELLING BEE PROGRAM

Junior High Spelling Word List

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



Reprinted and Distributed by
MARIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

MARY JANE BURKE
Marin County Superintendent of Schools

Building the Future... One Student at a Time

LEVEL I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEVEL II

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LEVEL III

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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