

# 1001

# words for Success

A dictionary for success: The ultimate word collection for speaking, writing, and reading—helping you reach new levels

**A**

**abate**, *v.* To lessen, reduce.  
**abdicate**, *v.* To formally give up power or position.  
**aberrant**, *adj.* Turning away from normal; atypical.  
**abhorrent**, *adj.* Extremely disgusting or repugnant.  
**abject**, *adj.* Being in an extremely miserable state.  
**abjure**, *v.* To reject solemnly or by a formal process.  
**abrogate**, *v.* To formally eliminate or abolish something.  
**abscess**, *n.* An area of inflamed and pus-filled tissue.  
**abscond**, *v.* To secretly and quickly leave and hide.  
**abstemious**, *adj.* Restrained in consumption, especially of food and drink.  
**abstinent**, *n.* The act of voluntarily giving something up; one who gives something up.  
**abysmal**, *adj.* Being unfathomable; extremely bad.  
**acclimate**, *v.* To adapt to something, especially a new environment.  
**accretion**, *n.* Growth through a slow buildup.  
**acerbic**, *adj.* Tasting bitter; having a biting expression.  
**acidulous**, *adj.* Slightly sour; having a harsh tone or manner.  
**acme**, *n.* The highest point of something.  
**acquiesce**, *v.* To agree reluctantly but with no protest.  
**acrid**, *adj.* Tasting or smelling bitter.  
**acrimonious**, *adj.* Resentful or bitter attitude or language.  
**actuate**, *v.* To start a machine; to encourage motion.  
**ad nauseam**, *adv.* To the point of nausea.  
**adamant**, *adj.* Determined to keep a mind-set; inflexible.  
**adjudicate**, *v.* To decide in court.  
**admonition**, *n.* Mild, kind criticism.  
**Adonis**, *n.* A young man who is exceptionally handsome.  
**adroit**, *adj.* Skillful, showing deftness.  
**adverse**, *adj.* Acting in opposition; unfavorable or harmful.  
**advocate**, *v.* To argue in favor of another.  
**aesthetic**, *n.* A philosophy of beauty and art.

**affectation**, *n.* A pretense or display for appearances' sake.  
**affinity**, *n.* A positive emotional bonding with someone or something.  
**affirmation**, *n.* The state or act of confirming or approving of something.  
**aggrandize**, *v.* To enlarge, make greater; to exaggerate.  
**aggregate**, *v.* To gather like things into a mass.  
**agnate**, *adj.* Descended from or related to the male side.  
**agnostic**, *n.* One who won't decide whether God exists.  
**agog**, *adj.* Very eager, excited, or curious.  
**alacrity**, *n.* Cheerful willingness; a speedy response.  
**alfresco**, *adj. or adv.* Taking place outside.  
**allegation**, *n.* A statement or claim without proof.  
**allude**, *v.* To say something indirectly.  
**altruistic**, *adj.* Unselfishly acting or feeling for others.  
**amalgam**, *n.* A mixture of varying things.  
**ameliorate**, *v.* To improve.  
**amenable**, *adj.* Willing to go along with something.  
**amorphous**, *adj.* Shapeless, formless.  
**analogous**, *adj.* Similar enough to draw an analogy.  
**anathema**, *n.* One who is loathed, cursed, or shunned.  
**animosity**, *n.* Bitter hatred.  
**anomaly**, *n.* Something that is different from the norm.  
**antediluvian**, *adj.* Exceptionally old or old-fashioned.  
**anteroom**, *n.* An outer room, such as a waiting room.  
**antipathy**, *n.* A strong feeling of dislike or hostility.  
**antithesis**, *n.* Opposition; the exact contrast.  
**antsy**, *adj.* Fidgety, impatient; nervous.  
**apartheid**, *n.* A practice of segregating people by race.  
**apathetic**, *adj.* Lacking interest or emotion.  
**aphorism**, *n.* A concise, wise statement.  
**aplomb**, *n.* Self-confidence under pressure.  
**apocryphal**, *adj.* Of questionable authenticity, dubious.  
**apoplectic**, *adj.* Furious to the point of being beyond words; of or relating to a stroke (apoplexy).

**appease**, *v.* To calm; to relieve; to pacify.  
**appraise**, *v.* To judge something's quality or value.  
**approbation**, *n.* Official recognition; praise or approval.  
**apropos**, *adj.* Relevant and timely.  
**arable**, *adj.* Suitable for farming.  
**arcane**, *adj.* Mysterious, secret, and obscure.  
**archetype**, *n.* The original model of something, a prototype.  
**ardent**, *adj.* Enthusiastic, passionate.  
**arrant**, *adj.* Complete, absolute.  
**ascetic**, *n.* One who lives minimally, without material luxuries.  
**ascribe**, *v.* To assign to a particular cause or origin.  
**askance**, *adv.* With a sideways look; with disapproval.  
**asperity**, *n.* Severity or rigor, especially in tone or manner.  
**aspersion**, *n.* A remark that is damaging to one's character.  
**assiduous**, *adj.* Paying diligent attention to detail; persistent.  
**assuage**, *v.* To soothe; to make something less painful.  
**asynchronous**, *adj.* Not happening at the same time.  
**atavistic**, *adj.* Relating to something from an ancient time.  
**atheist**, *n.* Someone who doesn't believe in any god.  
**atypical**, *adj.* Not usual or regular.  
**audacity**, *n.* Boldness or fearless daring.  
**augury**, *n.* An omen; the practice of reading omens.  
**auspicious**, *adj.* Indicating future success or good fortune.  
**austere**, *adj.* Severe or strict in manner; plainly dressed.  
**avant-garde**, *n.* An innovative, creative group, especially in the arts.  
**avarice**, *n.* Greed.  
**avatar**, *n.* Something representing a person online or in games.  
**averse**, *adj.* Having a strong feeling of distaste or unwillingness.  
**avid**, *adj.* Having strong enthusiasm or keen interest.

**B**

**bacchanalia**, *n.* A wild, drunken party; a revel.  
**bagatelle**, *n.* Something that is unimportant or of little value.  
**bailiwick**, *n.* A person's expertise or area of interest.  
**baleful**, *adj.* Harmful, evil; showing intention to harm.  
**ballyhoo**, *n.* Loud, exaggerated fuss over nothing.  
**banal**, *adj.* So ordinary that it's boring; trite.  
**bandy**, *v.* To toss back and forth; to exchange ideas argumentatively.  
**bastion**, *n.* A fortified place or position.  
**bedlam**, *n.* A place of chaos, confusion, and noise.  
**behest**, *n.* An order with authority.  
**bellicose**, *adj.* Inclined to arguing or fighting.  
**belligerent**, *adj.* Hostile, ready or eager to fight.  
**bellwether**, *n.* Something that indicates future trends.  
**bemoan**, *v.* To grieve deeply; to disapprove of.  
**bemuse**, *v.* To be confused; to be preoccupied.  
**beneficent**, *adj.* Beneficial; doing charitable acts.  
**benevolence**, *n.* An inclination to kindness; an act of kindness.  
**benighted**, *adj.* Lacking understanding or knowledge; surrounded by darkness.  
**benign**, *adj.* Not harmful; kind and gentle.  
**berate**, *v.* To scold strongly and at length.  
**bereft**, *adj.* Lacking or missing something needed or wanted.  
**berserk**, *adj.* Uncontrollably violent, crazed.  
**beseech**, *v.* To ask urgently or desperately.  
**besmirch**, *v.* To dirty or tarnish something, especially a reputation.  
**besot**, *v.* To be muddled with, as with liquor.  
**bestow**, *v.* To give as a present or an award.  
**bevy**, *n.* A group of birds; a large collection of something.

**bildungsroman**, *n.* A novel about a character's personal growth or spiritual education.  
**bilious**, *adj.* Of or relating to bile; irritable.  
**billet-doux**, *n.* A love letter.  
**billow**, *v.* To swell, as with a wave or cloud.  
**bivouac**, *n.* A temporary camp, especially a military one.  
**blatant**, *adj.* Glaringly or disgustingly conspicuous.  
**blazon**, *v.* To proclaim; to decorate in a showy manner.  
**blithe**, *adj.* Happy and unconcerned.  
**blitzkrieg**, *n.* A fast, sudden attack, especially a military one.  
**bloviate**, *v.* To talk at great length in a boastful way.  
**bludgeon**, *v.* To beat with a heavy club.  
**bohémian**, *n.* An artistic person unconcerned with conventions.  
**bombast**, *n.* Language that is boastful and empty.  
**bona fides**, *n.* Good faith; proof of good faith.  
**boondoggle**, *n.* A wasteful, unnecessary activity or event.  
**bowdlerize**, *v.* To edit a work of art prudishly.  
**brackish**, *adj.* Being slightly salty; distasteful.  
**braggadocio**, *n.* Someone who brags about untrue things.  
**bravado**, *n.* A false display of bravery.  
**bromide**, *n.* A trite remark meant to console.  
**brouhaha**, *n.* A noisy overreaction to something slight, an uproar.  
**browbeat**, *v.* To bully.  
**bucolic**, *adj.* Of or relating to rural life.  
**bugbear**, *n.* Something that causes fear, anxiety, or irritation.  
**burgeon**, *v.* To grow with great success; to flourish.  
**byzantine**, *adj.* Characterized by deviousness or complexities.

**C**

**cachet**, *n.* A quality of distinction, prestige.  
**cacophony**, *n.* Loud, harsh sounds.  
**cadre**, *n.* A core group of specially trained people.  
**callous**, *adj.* Showing or having a lack of emotion.  
**calumny**, *n.* A false, malicious statement.  
**capacious**, *adj.* Spacious, roomy.  
**capitulate**, *v.* To surrender.  
**caprice**, *n.* An impulsive thought or action.  
**capsize**, *v.* To accidentally overturn or cause to overturn in water.  
**careen**, *v.* To lurch wildly; to rush forward heedlessly.  
**carouse**, *n.* A party that is drunken and wild.  
**catharsis**, *n.* Relief through purging, as with emotions.  
**caustic**, *adj.* Corrosive; biting.  
**chafe**, *v.* To rub raw; to irritate.  
**chaff**, *n.* Something considered useless and thrown away.  
**chagrin**, *n.* Sharp feeling of embarrassment because of a failure.  
**charisma**, *n.* Intense charm that arouses devotion in others.  
**charlatan**, *n.* Someone who deceives with elaborate falsehoods.  
**chasm**, *n.* A deep crack in the earth, a canyon.  
**chasten**, *v.* To correct someone through shame and punishment.  
**chicanery**, *n.* Clever or artful trickery.  
**chimera**, *n.* An illusion; a monster made up of incompatible parts.  
**chockablock**, *adj.* Extremely full; crowded or jammed.  
**churlish**, *adj.* Vulgar or rude.  
**chutzpah**, *n.* Shameless self-confidence, gall.  
**cipher**, *n.* A system for writing secret messages.  
**circumnavigate**, *v.* To go completely around; to bypass.  
**circumscribe**, *v.* To limit something, such as rights.  
**cleave**, *v.* To cut apart; to cling to.  
**climatic**, *adj.* Of or relating to weather conditions.  
**cloying**, *adj.* Excessive to the point of being disgusting.  
**coagulate**, *v.* To thicken or clot.  
**coercive**, *adj.* Intended to compel or pressure someone.  
**cogitate**, *v.* To think about carefully; to ponder.  
**cognizant**, *adj.* Fully aware, conscious.  
**collate**, *v.* To organize in a specific order.  
**collegiate**, *adj.* Of or relating to a college.  
**colloquial**, *adj.* Of or relating to conversation.

**comatose**, *adj.* Unconscious; lethargic or extremely tired.  
**comestible**, *adj.* Edible.  
**commingle**, *v.* To mix or blend together.  
**compendium**, *n.* A summary of a long work, an abstract.  
**complacent**, *adj.* Self-satisfied and unconcerned to a fault.  
**conceited**, *adj.* Being full of oneself; vain.  
**concomitant**, *adj.* Happening or existing at the same time as something else.  
**concurrent**, *adj.* Occurring at the same time.  
**condescend**, *v.* To treat someone as inferior to oneself.  
**conflate**, *v.* To fuse or combine two or more things.  
**confluence**, *n.* A flowing together of things or ideas.  
**congenial**, *adj.* Having compatible tastes.  
**conjugal**, *adj.* Of or relating to marriage.

**connoisseur**, *n.* Someone with expert knowledge, especially in food or wine.  
**connote**, *v.* To have a nonliteral meaning.  
**connubial**, *adj.* Of or relating to marriage.  
**consanguine**, *adj.* Related by birth.  
**construe**, *v.* To interpret the meaning of.  
**contemptible**, *adj.* Deserving of disrespect and dishonor.  
**contingency**, *n.* An event that may happen but is unlikely to.  
**contretemps**, *n.* An embarrassing situation; an unimportant argument.  
**conundrum**, *n.* A riddle whose answer is a pun; a dilemma.  
**convalesce**, *v.* To rest after a serious illness; to recuperate.  
**convulse**, *v.* To spasm violently; to shake with laughter.

**copacetic**, *adj.* Excellent, very fine.  
**copse**, *n.* A dense growth of small trees.  
**coquette**, *n.* A woman who insincerely seeks a man's attention.  
**cornucopia**, *n.* An abundance and variety of something good.  
**coruscate**, *v.* To sparkle or glitter.  
**crass**, *adj.* Crude, unrefined.  
**credible**, *adj.* Having a reputation for being trustworthy, believable.  
**crevasse**, *n.* A deep break in rock or ice, a chasm.  
**crux**, *n.* The critical or central point of something.  
**culminate**, *v.* To reach the highest point.  
**culpable**, *adj.* Responsible for doing something bad, blameworthy.  
**cursor**, *adj.* Quick, with little attention to details.

**dawdle**, *v.* To move or act slowly or idly.  
**de facto**, *adv.* In reality.  
**de rigueur**, *adj.* Demanded by fashion, custom, or etiquette.  
**dearth**, *n.* Scarcity or lack of something.  
**debark**, *v.* To leave an airplane or a ship.  
**debilitate**, *v.* To weaken something, as with disease.  
**decimate**, *v.* To kill a large number; to destroy a large amount of something.  
**decorous**, *adj.* Having good taste and manners.  
**decrepit**, *adj.* Weakened or worn out; broken down.  
**defamation**, *n.* The act of giving a false, malicious statement.  
**deference**, *n.* Respectful submission to another's opinion.  
**degrade**, *v.* To demote; to humiliate; to corrupt.  
**deign**, *v.* To stoop beneath one's dignity.  
**dejected**, *adj.* Feeling hopeless, depressed.  
**delimiter**, *n.* A character that signals the beginning or end of a data set.  
**delineate**, *v.* To outline or sketch in detail.  
**demagogue**, *n.* A leader who attracts followers by appealing to prejudices.  
**demarcate**, *v.* To set the limits of something.  
**demur**, *v.* To oppose; to object.  
**denote**, *v.* To indicate or represent something.  
**denouement**, *n.* The resolution of a series of events.  
**deprave**, *v.* To corrupt.  
**deprecate**, *v.* To disapprove of verbally.  
**deprivation**, *n.* The state of having something taken away.  
**desiccate**, *v.* To remove all moisture from.  
**desolate**, *adj.* Empty of everything; bleak.  
**despondent**, *adj.* Hopeless, depressed.  
**desultory**, *adj.* Aimless; lacking a defined plan.  
**devolve**, *v.* To break down; to pass power down.  
**dexterity**, *n.* Skill or grace in using one's body or mind.  
**diabolical**, *adj.* Of or relating to the devil; evil.  
**dichotomy**, *n.* A division into two contradictory pieces.  
**diffident**, *adj.* Having a reserved manner, shy.  
**digress**, *v.* To get off topic in speaking or writing.  
**dilatory**, *adj.* Causing delay.  
**dilettante**, *n.* Someone who dabbles in art; an amateur.  
**dilute**, *v.* To water down; to weaken.  
**diluvial**, *adj.* Of or relating to a flood.  
**disaffected**, *adj.* Rebellious against authority.  
**discombobulate**, *v.* To confuse.  
**disconcertingly**, *adv.* In a confusing or troubling manner.  
**disconsolate**, *adj.* Depressed, unhappy beyond comforting.  
**discourse**, *n.* A conversation; a formal discussion of a topic.  
**disdainful**, *adj.* Full of scorn and contempt.  
**disestablish**, *v.* To take away an organization's status.  
**disgruntle**, *v.* To make someone discontented.  
**disharmonious**, *adj.* Lacking in harmony.  
**disheveled**, *adj.* In disorder; messy and jumbled.  
**dismal**, *adj.* Depressing; dreary; very bad.  
**disparage**, *v.* To belittle; to speak disrespectfully of.  
**disparate**, *adj.* Fundamentally different.  
**dispersion**, *n.* The act of spreading out or breaking up.  
**disport**, *v.* To enjoy oneself in a lively way.  
**disseminate**, *v.* To distribute or broadcast, especially information.  
**dissimilar**, *adj.* Unlike, different.  
**distributive**, *adj.* Of or relating to dispensing or dividing.  
**docile**, *adj.* Easy to control; easily taught.  
**dogma**, *n.* A set of beliefs established by an authority.  
**doldrums**, *n.* A state of depression or listlessness.  
**doppelganger**, *n.* Someone who looks like someone else; a double.  
**draconian**, *adj.* Excessively severe or cruel.  
**dross**, *n.* Something that is worthless; waste material.  
**druthers**, *n.* Personal preferences.  
**dysphoria**, *n.* An extreme feeling of anxiety, depression, and unease.

**eccentric**, *adj.* Deviating from a usual pattern, unconventional.  
**éclat**, *n.* Showy success; stylish performance.  
**effete**, *adj.* Lacking energy and vitality; lacking moral character, self-indulgent.  
**efficacy**, *n.* The ability to produce a desired outcome.  
**effrontery**, *n.* Rude and brazen behavior.  
**effusive**, *adj.* Excessively emotional; overflowing, as with praise.  
**egalitarian**, *adj.* Supporting the belief in equality for all people.  
**egocentric**, *adj.* Concerned only with oneself.  
**egregious**, *adj.* Extraordinarily bad.  
**eldritch**, *adj.* Spooky, eerie, or weird.  
**elegiac**, *adj.* Sorrowful, mournful; relating to an elegy.  
**elucidate**, *v.* To clarify or make clear.  
**elude**, *v.* To avoid with skill or cunning.  
**emblazon**, *v.* To decorate a surface colorfully and with lots of details.  
**emollient**, *adj.* Soothing and softening; calming.  
**emote**, *v.* To show emotion, especially in acting.  
**emulate**, *v.* To imitate in order to equal or excel.  
**enatic**, *adj.* Related on the mother's side.  
**endemic**, *adj.* Specific to a particular region or people.  
**enervate**, *v.* To exhaust someone physically or mentally.  
**engender**, *v.* To cause something to exist.  
**enlightenment**, *n.* The state of being given insight.  
**enmity**, *n.* Intense, mutual hatred.  
**ennui**, *n.* A state of boredom and lack of interest.  
**ensconce**, *v.* To position oneself comfortably or safely.  
**entropy**, *n.* An organic tendency toward randomness.  
**enumerate**, *v.* To count or list, one by one.  
**ephemeral**, *adj.* Short-lived.  
**epidemic**, *n.* A disease outbreak that spreads quickly.

**epigram**, *n.* A short poem of one thought expressed cleverly.  
**epigraph**, *n.* A statement inscribed on something; a statement used to introduce a theme.  
**epoch**, *n.* A period of time marked by specific characteristics.  
**eponym**, *n.* Someone who something is named after.  
**equivocal**, *adj.* Having more than one meaning, usually to mislead.  
**ersatz**, *adj.* Used as an inferior substitute.  
**erudite**, *adj.* Having a lot of knowledge; learned.  
**eschew**, *v.* To deliberately avoid or shun.  
**esoteric**, *adj.* Understandable to only a restricted group.  
**espouse**, *v.* To loyally support something or someone.  
**euphemism**, *n.* A word or phrase used to replace an offensive word.  
**eviscerate**, *v.* To remove an essential part.  
**evoke**, *v.* To conjure; to bring to mind.  
**exacerbate**, *v.* To make more severe or worse.  
**exasperate**, *v.* To irritate, annoy, or anger.  
**excrecence**, *n.* An unusual growth, such as a tumor.  
**exemplar**, *n.* Someone or something worthy of being an example.  
**exhort**, *v.* To persuade or urge someone using strong measures.  
**exigency**, *n.* A pressing urgency; an urgent situation.  
**expedite**, *v.* To accelerate the process of.  
**expiate**, *v.* To atone or make amends.  
**expunge**, *v.* To delete or eliminate.  
**extempore**, *adj. or adv.* Impromptu; offhand.  
**extol**, *v.* To glorify; to praise highly.  
**extramarital**, *adj.* Outside of marriage vows, adulterous.  
**extraneous**, *adj.* Irrelevant; nonessential.  
**extrovert**, *n.* A person who is outgoing and adventurous.  
**exuberance**, *n.* Happy, energetic enthusiasm.

**facade**, *n.* A false outward appearance made to others.  
**facetious**, *adj.* Funny or sarcastic.  
**facile**, *adj.* Easy to do or obtain.  
**factitious**, *adj.* Fictional, artificial; fake.  
**fallible**, *adj.* Able to make a mistake or error.  
**fascicle**, *n.* A portion of a book published separately.  
**fastidious**, *adj.* Exacting attention to detail, meticulous.  
**fatuous**, *adj.* Complacently foolish.  
**faux pas**, *n.* A mistake of manners or behavior.  
**fawn**, *v.* To flatter excessively to win favor.  
**feckless**, *adj.* Lacking purpose or drive; weak and ineffective; irresponsible.  
**fecund**, *adj.* Prolific; markedly intellectually productive.  
**feign**, *v.* To pretend in order to deceive.  
**feint**, *n.* A false attack to distract from a real attack.  
**felonious**, *adj.* Of or relating to a felony.  
**fervent**, *adj.* Having intense feelings, zealous.  
**fervid**, *adj.* Burning; impassioned.  
**fetish**, *n.* Something a person becomes compulsive about; a fixation.

**fey**, *adj.* Being otherworldly or magical; eccentric.  
**fiasco**, *n.* An absolute failure.  
**fiat**, *n.* A decree made by an authority, often arbitrary.  
**filibuster**, *v.* To delay a legislative vote by making a long speech.  
**finagle**, *v.* To obtain by deception.  
**finicky**, *adj.* Liking things in a precise, specific way, fussy.  
**flabbergast**, *v.* To cause to be amazed, astounded, or overcome.  
**flagrant**, *adj.* Obviously offensive.  
**flaunt**, *v.* To display shamelessly or offensively.  
**flotsam**, *n.* Wreckage from a ship; litter.  
**flounce**, *v.* To move or walk impatiently or clumsily.  
**flout**, *v.* To show scorn or hatred for.  
**fluctuation**, *n.* Irregular movements in number or amount.  
**foist**, *v.* To force something unwanted on someone.  
**forfeend**, *v.* To protect; to prevent.  
**fortuitous**, *adj.* Happening by chance or luck—good or bad.



## QuickStudy

**fractious**, *adj.* Being stubborn and argumentative; peevish or cranky.  
**frangible**, *adj.* Easily breakable.  
**frenetic**, *adj.* Characterized by frantic, hurried actions.  
**fritter**, *v.* To waste little by little.  
**fulsome**, *adj.* Excessively flattering; offensive.  
**funereal**, *adj.* Of or relating to a funeral.  
**furtive**, *adj.* Done secretly or sneakily.  
**fusty**, *adj.* Moldy; smelling of mildew.

**G** **gadabout**, *n.* Someone who hangs about, searching for fun in social activities.  
**gainsay**, *v.* To contradict or dispute what is said.  
**gallivant**, *v.* To wander, searching for entertainment.  
**galvanize**, *v.* To rouse or motivate to action; to stimulate with electricity.  
**gamut**, *n.* The full range or scale.  
**garrulous**, *adj.* Excessively talkative, often annoyingly so.  
**gauche**, *adj.* Lacking style or social graces.  
**gaudy**, *adj.* Showy; ornate in a cheap way.  
**genial**, *adj.* Friendly; pleasingly mild.  
**germane**, *adj.* Relevant and appropriate to the current discussion.  
**gerrymander**, *v.* To divide a voting district to an unfair advantage.  
**gestalt**, *n.* Elements so intertwined they are viewed as one unit.  
**gesticulate**, *v.* To gesture while speaking, especially when excited.  
**glib**, *adj.* Speaking or performing offhandedly, casually.  
**globule**, *n.* A tiny ball of liquid.  
**glom**, *v.* To steal something; to grab something.  
**glossolalia**, *n.* Speech that is repetitive and nonsensical; the gift of tongues.  
**glutinous**, *adj.* Sticky, glue-like.  
**gobbledygook**, *n.* Jargon that is wordy and mostly incomprehensible.  
**gossamer**, *n.* Something delicate, light, or flimsy.  
**gradient**, *n.* A slope; the measure of a slope.  
**gratuitous**, *adj.* Unnecessary or uncalled for; given freely.  
**gravid**, *adj.* Pregnant; carrying eggs.  
**gravitas**, *n.* Serious manner or behavior.  
**gregarious**, *adj.* Enjoying the company of others, social.  
**grievous**, *adj.* Causing grief; grave or serious.  
**grouse**, *v.* To complain, especially about minor things.  
**guile**, *n.* Skillful trickery or deceit.

**H** **halcyon**, *adj.* Happy, peaceful; prosperous.  
**harangue**, *v.* To make a long, pompous, and disapproving speech.  
**harbinger**, *n.* An indicator of the future.  
**hardscrabble**, *adj.* Being or relating to soil that is too poor to farm.  
**hearsay**, *n.* A rumor or gossip.  
**hegemony**, *n.* Political or social control or influence over others.  
**heretic**, *n.* Someone who dissents from a given religious belief system.  
**hiatus**, *n.* An interruption of an undetermined length.  
**histrionics**, *n.* Emotional behavior exaggerated for purpose or effect.  
**hoary**, *adj.* Gray or white because of age.  
**hobnob**, *v.* To closely associate oneself with one's superiors.  
**hoi polloi**, *n.* Commoners, the masses.  
**homogeneous**, *adj.* Being similar in nature or structure.  
**hubris**, *n.* Overconfidence, arrogance, too much pride.  
**hydrate**, *v.* To supply with water.

**L** **lackadaisical**, *adj.* Displaying a lack of energy, life, or spirit.  
**laconic**, *adj.* Using few words; brief, concise.  
**laggard**, *n.* Someone who is slow or falls behind.  
**lagniappe**, *n.* An unexpected extra given for free.  
**laissez-faire**, *n.* A policy or philosophy of noninterference.  
**lambaste**, *v.* To physically beat someone; to soundly criticize.  
**lambent**, *adj.* Glowing softly; twinkling; brilliant, as with wit.  
**languid**, *adj.* Slow and relaxed; with little energy.  
**languor**, *n.* A feeling of sluggishness or weakness.  
**largesse**, *n.* Exceptional generosity, especially to an inferior.  
**lascivious**, *adj.* Lustful, lewd.  
**latent**, *adj.* Potentially existing but not fully developed.  
**lecher**, *n.* A person engaged in obscene, lustful conduct.

**I** **icon**, *n.* A person who is idolized; a religious or important symbol.  
**iconoclastic**, *adj.* Relating to the challenge of accepted beliefs.  
**idiosyncrasy**, *n.* A characteristic specific to a person or group.  
**illicit**, *adj.* Illegal or immoral.  
**imminent**, *adj.* Just about to happen, especially something threatening.  
**imp**, *n.* A small demon; a troublemaking child.  
**impeccable**, *adj.* Without fault, perfect.  
**impediment**, *n.* An obstacle to an action.  
**imperceptible**, *adj.* So subtle as to be almost unnoticeable.  
**impertinence**, *n.* The act of being uncivil or rude.  
**importune**, *v.* To repeatedly and forcefully request something.  
**impudent**, *adj.* Disrespectful; rude in a bold manner.  
**impunity**, *n.* Exemption from consequences or punishment.  
**impute**, *v.* To attribute blame or fault.  
**in situ**, *adj. or adv.* In the original place.  
**inadvertent**, *adj.* Unintentionally careless, accidental.  
**inane**, *adj.* Irrelevant; silly or stupid.  
**inanimate**, *adj.* Not alive; not organic or living.  
**inanity**, *n.* Shallowness, superficiality; silliness.  
**incendiary**, *adj.* Causing fire or anger; inflammatory.  
**inchoate**, *adj.* Starting to form or exist.  
**incipient**, *adj.* Beginning to develop or appear.  
**inclement**, *adj.* Stormy; unmerciful.  
**incognito**, *adj. or adv.* Having one's identity hidden.  
**incoherent**, *adj.* Unclear; unable to make oneself understood.  
**incongruous**, *adj.* Not fitting together right; inconsistent or inappropriate.  
**incorrigible**, *adj.* Uncorrectable or unreformable.  
**indefatigable**, *adj.* Incapable of becoming fatigued; untiring.  
**indefeasible**, *adj.* Unable to void or be undone.  
**indolence**, *n.* Laziness, especially by force of habit.  
**induce**, *v.* To cause an action; to persuade.  
**ineffable**, *adj.* Indescribable or unutterable.  
**ineluctable**, *adj.* Unavoidable, inescapable.  
**inexorable**, *adj.* Not able to be persuaded or stopped.  
**infelicitous**, *adj.* Not appropriate or not fortunate; badly timed.

**J** **jackanapes**, *n.* Someone who is arrogant and rude.  
**jaundiced**, *adj.* Being envious, bitter, or hostile.  
**jejune**, *adj.* Dull or uninteresting; childish or immature.  
**jetsam**, *n.* Cargo discarded overboard to lighten a ship.  
**jettison**, *v.* To discard overboard; to throw away.  
**jocose**, *adj.* Joking, humorous, merry.  
**jocular**, *adj.* Funny; playful.  
**juggernaut**, *n.* A powerful, destructive force or institution.  
**junket**, *n.* A trip paid for by the public or a patron.  
**jurisprudence**, *n.* The study of law.  
**jury-rig**, *v.* To set something up for temporary use.  
**juxtapose**, *v.* To put things next to each other for comparison.

**K** **legerdmain**, *n.* An illusion or trick, especially one meant to deceive.  
**leitmotif**, *n.* A theme that reoccurs and dominates a work.  
**lenient**, *adj.* Merciful; indulgent; tolerant.  
**lethargy**, *n.* A state of laziness, little energy, or indifference.  
**lewd**, *adj.* Obscene; vulgar.  
**lexicon**, *n.* All the words in a language or subject.  
**liaison**, *n.* Someone who acts as a go-between for two parties.  
**libation**, *n.* An alcoholic drink.  
**libertine**, *n.* Someone who behaves immorally.  
**lien**, *n.* A right to someone's property until a debt is repaid.  
**lilliputian**, *adj.* Very small; petty or trivial.  
**lionize**, *v.* To treat someone as very important or as a celebrity.  
**liquidity**, *n.* The ability to pay a debt; cash.  
**lissome**, *adj.* Flexible and limber.

**infidel**, *n.* Someone who opposes a religion.  
**infuriate**, *v.* To anger someone greatly.  
**ingenious**, *adj.* Skillful and clever; inventive.  
**ingenuous**, *adj.* Naive and trusting; candid.  
**ingratiating**, *v.* To deliberately gain favor with someone.  
**inherent**, *adj.* Being part of something's basic makeup.  
**inhibited**, *adj.* Constrained to the point of inaction.  
**inimical**, *adj.* Harmful or destructive; unfriendly or hostile.  
**innervate**, *v.* To stimulate or excite; to supply with nerves.  
**innocuous**, *adj.* Harmless; inoffensive.  
**insensible**, *adj.* So small as to be unnoticeable; unconscious.  
**insidious**, *adj.* Enticing but harmful.  
**insipid**, *adj.* Dull or flat; flavorless.  
**insolent**, *adj.* Disrespectful or arrogant.  
**insouciance**, *n.* A feeling of being carefree; lightheartedness.  
**insularity**, *adj.* Being isolated from others; being interested only in one's own country or culture.  
**intelligentsia**, *n.* A society's intelligent elite.  
**interlocutor**, *n.* Someone who takes part in a conversation, often as a go-between.  
**interloper**, *n.* One who intrudes, usually to cause problems.  
**intermittent**, *adj.* Happening off and on, periodic.  
**interstice**, *n.* A gap or crevice.  
**intractable**, *adj.* Hard to control; hard to solve; hard to cure.  
**intrepid**, *adj.* Being unafraid to take an action, fearless.  
**intrinsic**, *adj.* Related to something's essential nature; fundamental.  
**introvert**, *n.* Someone who is focused inward.  
**inure**, *v.* To become accustomed to something unpleasant by repeated exposure.  
**inviolable**, *adj.* Unable to be violated or destroyed; sacred.  
**invoke**, *v.* To appeal for help from a higher authority.  
**irascible**, *adj.* Angered easily.  
**irate**, *adj.* Extremely angry.  
**irradiate**, *v.* To shine a light, figuratively or literally.  
**irrefutable**, *adj.* Unable to be disputed.  
**irrevocable**, *adj.* Impossible to be undone or changed.  
**iterate**, *v.* To repeat.

**K** **kerfuffle**, *n.* A disruption or confusion.  
**kibitz**, *v.* To offer advice that is unwanted.  
**kinetic**, *adj.* Relating to or of movement; active.  
**kismet**, *n.* Destiny, fate.  
**kitsch**, *n.* Something, especially art, that is showy and in bad taste.  
**knavish**, *adj.* Cunning in a tricky, dishonest way.  
**knell**, *n.* The slow ringing of a bell.  
**kowtow**, *v.* To show obedience and homage to another, to fawn.

**L** **litany**, *n.* A list, especially of prayer petitions or repeated items.  
**literati**, *n.* The intellectual elite of the literary world.  
**litigious**, *adj.* Of or relating to lawsuits.  
**locus**, *n.* The center of something, such as energy or power.  
**loll**, *v.* To droop uncontrollably; to lounge around.  
**lollygag**, *v.* To lag behind because of fooling around.  
**loquacious**, *adj.* Overly talkative, chatty.  
**lucid**, *adj.* Mentally clear; understood easily.  
**Luddite**, *n.* Someone who opposes technology and its changes.  
**lugubrious**, *adj.* Exaggeratingly dismal or mournful.  
**luminary**, *n.* Someone well known who inspires others; something that gives off light, such as a star.  
**luxuriant**, *adj.* Lush; having thick, healthy growth.  
**lyceum**, *n.* A place for lectures, entertainment, or education.

**M** **macabre**, *adj.* Gruesome and disturbing, particularly relating to death.

**maelstrom**, *n.* A violent, destructive situation; a whirlpool.

**magnanimous**, *adj.* Kind and generously forgiving.

**magnate**, *n.* Someone who is very powerful or influential.

**malapert**, *n.* Someone who is disrespectful and rude.

**malapropism**, *n.* Misuse of a word when another is meant, often with humorous results.

**malefactor**, *n.* Someone who does something wrong or evil.

**malfeasance**, *n.* Illegal acts done by a public official.

**malign**, *v.* To say or write damaging things about someone.

**malleable**, *adj.* Flexible or adaptable; persuadable or impressionable.

**manifest**, *v.* To make clear; to display or exhibit.

**marginalize**, *v.* To push to the outer edge, as of a society.

**maudlin**, *adj.* Ridiculously sentimental, especially when drunk.

**maw**, *n.* The mouth or throat of a ravenous animal.

**meandering**, *adj.* Moving about aimlessly; wandering.

**mediate**, *v.* To help resolve issues between two parties.

**megalomania**, *n.* An obsession for power or control; a psychological disorder in which the person believes he or she is very important.

**melee**, *n.* A violent free-for-all fight, a brawl.

**mellifluous**, *adj.* Sweet and pleasing, honey-like.

**mendacity**, *n.* The habit of lying or the tendency to lie.

**mercurial**, *adj.* Volatile or fickle.

**meretricious**, *adj.* Pretty on the surface but worthless, gaudy.

**meritocracy**, *n.* A system that chooses leaders based on their merits.

**mesmerize**, *v.* To hypnotize someone.

**meticulous**, *adj.* Having excessive concern with details.

**métier**, *n.* A skill or subject one is particularly good at.

**mettle**, *n.* Internal strength, spirit, or courage.

**miasma**, *n.* A poisonous or foul smell or atmosphere.

**milieu**, *n.* A setting or environment.

**militant**, *adj.* Fighting; eager to fight; aggressive or combative.

**milquetoast**, *n.* Someone who is unassertive or mild.

**misanthrope**, *n.* Someone who hates or mistrusts humanity.

**miscreant**, *n.* Someone who does evil things; a criminal.

**misnomer**, *n.* A name that is unsuitable or wrong.

**misogynist**, *n.* Someone who hates women.

**mnemonic**, *adj.* Aiding in memorization.

**modality**, *n.* A state of being in a particular form.

**monotonous**, *adj.* Repetitious and boring, unvarying.

**moot**, *adj.* Arguable or debatable; unimportant.

**morass**, *n.* A swamp; a situation that is difficult, confusing, and overwhelming.

**mores**, *n.* A group's accepted customs and norms; morals.

**moribund**, *adj.* About to die or become obsolete.

**morose**, *adj.* Sullen or gloomy.

**mot juste**, *n.* A word that is perfectly suited for a situation.

**motif**, *n.* A central theme; a design with repeated elements.

**mountebank**, *n.* Someone who fools people into buying fake products.

**muckraker**, *n.* Someone who exposes corruption of public figures.

**muddle**, *v.* To make muddy; to confuse.

**multifarious**, *adj.* Having many, varied parts; diverse.

**multilateral**, *adj.* Having many sides; involving more than two nations.

**mutable**, *adj.* Capable of mutating or being altered; prone to change.

**myopia**, *n.* Nearsightedness; the lack of ability to see future results or consequences; shortsightedness.

**myriad**, *adj.* Concerning a large, uncountable number.

## QuickStudy

**N** **narcissism**, *n.* Excessive love for oneself.

**nascent**, *adj.* Starting to develop; emerging.

**natter**, *v.* To talk a lot without saying much.

**nebulous**, *adj.* Vague, unclear, or hazy.

**nefarious**, *adj.* Evil, wicked.

**neologism**, *n.* A new word or phrase.

**nepotism**, *n.* Favoritism toward relatives, as in business.

**nether**, *adj.* Situated beneath or below.

**nettle**, *v.* To sting; to irritate someone.

**nexus**, *n.* A connection between places or things; a hub.

**niggling**, *adj.* Petty and annoying, often persistent.

**nihilism**, *n.* A belief that existence is senseless and useless; a view that denies any moral reasoning.

**noblesse oblige**, *n.* The aristocracy's obligation to be generous and honorable.

**noisome**, *adj.* Foul smelling or disgusting; harmful.

**nomenclature**, *n.* A system of rules for naming things.

**nominal**, *adj.* In name only; relating to an insignificant amount.

**non sequitur**, *n.* A statement unrelated to previous statements.

**nonchalance**, *n.* The quality of being casually unconcerned or indifferent.

**nondescript**, *adj.* Having no distinctive features; bland or drab.

**nonentity**, *n.* Someone who is considered unimportant, a nobody.

**nonplussed**, *adj.* Confused into speechlessness, bewildered, puzzled.

**noxious**, *adj.* Physically harmful to life; morally harmful.

**nullify**, *v.* To void or cancel.

**O** **obdurate**, *adj.* Without feeling; stubborn.

**obfuscate**, *v.* To cloud something or make less clear.

**objurgate**, *v.* To sharply rebuke or criticize.

**oblique**, *adj.* Slanting or inclined; obscure or misleading.

**oblivious**, *adj.* Unaware; unmindful.

**obsequious**, *adj.* Overly compliant in order to gain favor.

**obstinate**, *adj.* Unreasonably stubborn.

**obtuse**, *adj.* Dumb, not quick-witted; blunt or rounded.

**obverse**, *adj.* Opposite; facing the opponent.

**obviate**, *v.* To render useless or unnecessary; to prevent.

**odious**, *adj.* Creating hatred or strong disgust.

**oeuvre**, *n.* A body of work by one artist.

**offal**, *n.* Animal entrails or wasted parts; garbage.

**oligarchy**, *n.* A government run by only a few people.

**ominous**, *adj.* Foretelling that something bad will happen; threatening.

**omniscient**, *adj.* Being in possession of all knowledge, all-knowing.

**onerous**, *adj.* Difficult or burdensome.

**onus**, *n.* Burden or responsibility; blame.

**opaque**, *adj.* Unclear; impossible to see through.

**opine**, *v.* To state an opinion.

**opulent**, *adj.* Having or displaying riches or wealth.

**opus**, *n.* A work, especially a musical composition.

**opuscule**, *n.* A minor work of art.

**oscillate**, *v.* To change one's mind back and forth.

**osmosis**, *n.* A gradual, unconscious process of assimilation or absorption.

**ostensibly**, *adv.* Apparently true but doubtful; seemingly.

**ostentation**, *n.* A display or act that is showy.

**ostracize**, *v.* To exclude someone from a group.

**ouroboros**, *n.* An ancient symbol depicting a snake eating its tail.

**overtly**, *adv.* Openly; in plain view.

**overture**, *n.* An opening move; an introductory part.

**overwrought**, *adj.* Extremely nervous or upset; excessively decorated.

**P** **paean**, *n.* A song of rejoicing; a hymn of thanksgiving.

**palaver**, *n.* Lengthy, idle talk.

**palpative**, *n.* A remedy that relieves but doesn't cure.

**pallid**, *adj.* Sickly pale; lacking energy or brightness.

**palpable**, *adj.* Obvious; tangible.

**panacea**, *n.* A cure for all ailments or diseases.

**panache**, *n.* A sense of style backed by self-confidence.

**pandemonium**, *n.* Noisy chaos and confusion.

**pander**, *v.* To satisfy others' base desires for personal gain.

**parabolic**, *adj.* Of or relating to a parable.

**paradox**, *n.* A statement or fact that seems contradictory but is true.

**parameter**, *n.* A guideline or boundary.

**pariah**, *n.* Someone who is rejected by society.

**parity**, *n.* Equality, especially regarding money or status.

**partisan**, *n.* One who aggressively follows a group or person.

**patois**, *n.* A regional variation of a language, especially a substandard one.

**patrician**, *n.* A member of the aristocracy.

**patronize**, *v.* To treat someone as less than oneself; to sponsor.

**paucity**, *n.* Fewness in number or amount.

**pearlescent**, *adj.* Having a mother-of-pearl luster.

**peculiarity**, *n.* The quality of being strange; an oddity.

**pecuniary**, *adj.* Relating to money.

**pedagogue**, *n.* A teacher, especially an old-fashioned one.

**pedantry**, *n.* The act of following petty rules precisely.

**pejorative**, *adj.* Belittling; possessing a negative effect.

**pell-mell**, *adv.* In a frantic, confused manner.

**pellucid**, *adj.* Transparent; easily understood.

**penchant**, *n.* A strong liking or tendency toward something.

**pendulous**, *adj.* Hanging down; swinging freely.

**penitential**, *adj.* Of or relating to compensation for an offense.

**penultimate**, *adj.* Second to last.

**penury**, *n.* Extreme poverty.

**per capita**, *adj. or adv.* Per individual unit of population measurement.

**perambulate**, *v.* To stroll around.

**perdition**, *n.* Eternal punishment; damnation.

**perennial**, *adj.* Regularly recurrent, continual.

**perfunctory**, *adj.* Being routine or superficial.

**peripatetic**, *adj.* Travelling from place to place by walking.

**permutation**, *n.* Transformation; one way to group various things.

**pernicious**, *adj.* Being destructive, harmful, even fateful.

**perspicacious**, *adj.* Being clear-sighted; keen.

**pertain**, *v.* To be a part of; to relate to something.

**pertinent**, *adj.* Relevant to something.

**peruse**, *v.* To read closely and carefully.

**pervasive**, *adj.* Spreading throughout something.

**petulant**, *adj.* Childishly irritable; peevish or sulky.

**philander**, *v.* To have an affair outside of marriage.

**philistine**, *n.* Someone who is indifferent or critical of art or culture.

**phlegmatic**, *adj.* Having a calm, even-tempered disposition.

**picayune**, *adj.* Petty; mean.

**pillory**, *v.* To expose to public mockery or abuse.

**pique**, *v.* To irritate or provoke; to pride oneself.

**pithy**, *adj.* Short, insightful, and forceful.

**pixilated**, *adj.* Eccentric; mischievous.

**placate**, *v.* To appease someone.

**placebo**, *n.* Something without any real effect used to soothe.

**plaintively**, *adv.* In a melancholy or pitiful manner.

**platitude**, *n.* A meaningless saying; a cliché.

**plebeian**, *adj.* Of or relating to commonness or vulgarity.

**plethora**, *n.* An overabundance of something.



**poignant, *adj.*** Sharply painful in a physical or emotional manner.  
**polemic, *n.*** A ferocious attack on a belief or opinion.  
**populism, *n.*** A political movement that supports the general population.  
**portend, *v.*** To be an omen; to foretell.  
**postulate, *v.*** To claim or assume something is true.  
**potentate, *n.*** A powerful leader who doesn't need to follow the rules as a result of his or her power.  
**prattle, *v.*** To chatter meaninglessly, babble.  
**precarious, *adj.*** Unsecure, dangerous; unstable.  
**precipitate, *v.*** To make happen prematurely or sooner than expected.  
**preclude, *v.*** To prevent from happening; to exclude.  
**predilection, *n.*** An inclination or preference.  
**presage, *v.*** To predict the future; to foreshadow.  
**prescience, *n.*** Foresight of something.  
**presumptuous, *adj.*** Overconfident, bold, or forward without just cause.

**presuppose, *v.*** To presume; to suppose something before it happens.  
**preternatural, *adj.*** Unusual, extraordinary, or supernatural.  
**prevalent, *adj.*** Commonly accepted; widespread.  
**prevaricate, *v.*** To avoid the truth by misdirection or ambiguity.  
**probity, *n.*** Proven integrity and honesty.  
**procrastinate, *v.*** To delay, especially from laziness.  
**profane, *adj.*** Disrespectful of God or faith; vulgar.  
**profligate, *adj.*** Wastefully extravagant; immoral.  
**projectile, *n.*** A missile that is self-propelled.  
**promulgate, *v.*** To announce publicly, especially a law.  
**propagate, *v.*** To reproduce; to spread out or transmit.  
**propensity, *n.*** A natural tendency or a preference.  
**propitiate, *v.*** To appease or make peace with someone.  
**propitious, *adj.*** Being a good omen; advantageous.  
**protract, *v.*** To prolong or extend something.  
**protrusion, *n.*** Something that bulges or sticks out.

**provocateur, *n.*** Someone who encourages dissent or trouble.  
**prudence, *n.*** Wisdom and restraint in practical matters.  
**puerile, *adj.*** Childish or juvenile; silly.  
**pugnacious, *adj.*** Aggressive and argumentative.  
**punctilious, *adj.*** Paying close attention to the smallest details.  
**pundit, *n.*** Someone who is an authority on a specific subject.  
**pungent, *adj.*** Having a strong, biting smell or taste; penetrating, as with remarks.  
**puritanical, *adj.*** Restrictive and rigid in religion or morality.  
**purloin, *v.*** To steal by betraying a trust.  
**purveyor, *n.*** Someone who provides necessities, especially food.  
**pusillanimous, *adj.*** Timid and cowardly to the point of contempt.  
**putrescent, *adj.*** Becoming rotten, decomposing.

**quack, *n.*** Someone untrained who pretends to be a doctor.  
**quadrant, *n.*** One fourth of an area.  
**quagmire, *n.*** Soft, muddy land; a sticky situation.  
**qualm, *n.*** A feeling of worry or doubt, often sudden.  
**quandary, *n.*** A situation of uncertainty or confusion; a dilemma.  
**quarrelsome, *adj.*** Inclined to argue.  
**quash, *v.*** To officially reject; to completely suppress.

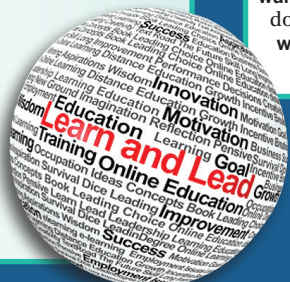
**quell, *v.*** To forcibly stop something; to quiet something.  
**querulous, *adj.*** Given to complaining; peevish.  
**quibble, *v.*** To argue over petty things.  
**quid pro quo, *n.*** An equal exchange.  
**quintessence, *n.*** The purest, most concentrated essence of something.  
**quip, *n.*** A funny remark made on the spot.  
**quixotic, *adj.*** Foolishly idealistic; impractically chivalrous.

**rabble, *n.*** A group of people considered to be the lowest class.  
**raiment, *n.*** Clothing, especially formal clothing.  
**raison d'être, *n.*** Reason for being.  
**rambunctious, *adj.*** Noisy and uncontrollably active.  
**ramification, *n.*** The consequence of something, particularly a complication.  
**rancorous, *adj.*** Being full of bitterness and resentment.  
**rankle, *v.*** To irritate; to cause continual annoyance.  
**rapine, *n.*** The taking of someone's property by force; plunder.  
**rapprochement, *n.*** A state of reconciliation, particularly between countries.  
**rebus, *n.*** A puzzle of pictures that represent words.  
**recalcitrant, *adj.*** Unreasonably defiant of authority; unruly.  
**recherché, *adj.*** Elegant and rare.  
**recidivism, *n.*** A habitual relapse to bad habits, especially criminal ones.  
**reciprocate, *v.*** To return something in equal portion.  
**recitation, *n.*** A performance of memorized written materials, such as a poem.  
**reconnoiter, *v.*** To explore for information, especially militarily.  
**rectitude, *n.*** A state of moral correctness; righteousness.  
**recursive, *adj.*** Repeatedly returning to a point made already.  
**redact, *v.*** To draft a document; to edit out objectionable material.  
**redoubt, *n.*** A temporary retreat, stronghold.  
**redoubtable, *adj.*** Inspiring fear or respect.  
**refractory, *adj.*** Hard to control or manage; hard to melt.  
**refute, *v.*** To prove something is incorrect.  
**regression, *n.*** An act of reverting to an earlier state.  
**regurgitate, *v.*** To repeat back data without understanding it; to vomit.  
**reify, *v.*** To treat an abstraction as a material thing.  
**remiss, *adj.*** Heedless of a duty.  
**remnant, *n.*** A leftover piece or part.  
**remonstrate, *v.*** To object or protest.  
**renaissance, *n.*** Revival or rebirth of something.  
**repartee, *n.*** Witty conversation; witty responses.  
**repercussion, *n.*** An unintended or unexpected consequence.  
**replete, *adj.*** Completely full; overfull.  
**reprobate, *n.*** Someone corrupt enough to be beyond redemption.  
**reprove, *v.*** To criticize or disapprove.  
**repugnant, *adj.*** Disgusting, offensive, or repulsive.  
**repulsion, *n.*** The state of being extremely disgusted.  
**resignedly, *adv.*** With submission of something as inevitable.  
**retaliate, *v.*** To take revenge; to pay back measure for measure.  
**retinue, *n.*** People who attend to a high-ranking person.  
**revelry, *n.*** Partying that is loud and wild.  
**rhapsodize, *v.*** To be overly enthusiastic; to rave.  
**rhetoric, *n.*** Language used to persuade or to create an effect; verbal communication.  
**rife, *adj.*** Abundant or plentiful, especially in a negative way.  
**rigmarole, *n.*** Talk that is meaningless or nonsense; a ritualistic procedure.  
**riposte, *n.*** A quick retort.  
**roister, *v.*** To celebrate with no constraints; to brag or boast.  
**rubric, *n.*** The category or heading of something, especially a chart.  
**rucksack, *n.*** A bag of strong material worn on the back.  
**ruddy, *adj.*** Having a rosy color indicating good health.  
**ruminate, *v.*** To think about something in detail and with care.  
**rumormonger, *n.*** Someone who spreads rumors.  
**runic, *adj.*** Of or relating to runes.

**sacrosanct, *adj.*** Very sacred, not to be violated.  
**sadistic, *adj.*** Of or relating to pleasure taken from inflicting pain on others.  
**salacious, *adj.*** Lecherous, lewd, or bawdy.  
**sangfroid, *n.*** Calmness under pressure.  
**sardonic, *adj.*** Scornfully mocking; sarcastic.  
**sartorial, *adj.*** Of or relating to how clothes are made.  
**satiate, *v.*** To satisfy completely; to oversatisfy.  
**savoir faire, *n.*** The ability to do right in a social situation.  
**scintillate, *v.*** To sparkle; to be smart and witty.  
**scofflaw, *n.*** Someone who ignores the law continually.  
**screed, *n.*** A long, boring essay or speech.  
**sedate, *adj.*** Serene and serious.  
**sedentary, *adj.*** Tending to sit most of the time.  
**sedition, *n.*** Rebellion, especially against a government's authority.  
**sentient, *adj.*** Being aware; conscious.  
**sequester, *v.*** To segregate or seclude.  
**serendipity, *n.*** Luck that results in a positive discovery.  
**servile, *adj.*** Being like a slave through obedience and submissiveness.  
**shibboleth, *n.*** A word that only insiders know.  
**simulacrum, *n.*** A likeness or representation.  
**sinecure, *n.*** A paid position that requires no work.  
**skulk, *v.*** To sneak around or hide oneself.  
**sloth, *n.*** Lack of effort in an activity; laziness.  
**smarmy, *adj.*** Earnest in an insincere or oily way.  
**sobriquet, *n.*** A nickname, especially a humorous one.  
**solace, *n.*** Comfort in a time of distress or sadness.  
**solecism, *n.*** A breach in etiquette or grammar.  
**solemnity, *n.*** The quality of being serious and sober.  
**solidarity, *n.*** Unity within a group on ideas or goals.  
**somber, *adj.*** Grave; sad; dull in color.  
**somnolent, *adj.*** Sleepy or drowsy.  
**soporific, *n.*** A substance to make one sleepy.  
**soupçon, *n.*** A tiny amount, a bit.  
**spangle, *n.*** A small, shiny metal piece sewn onto clothing.  
**Spartan, *adj.*** Having strict self-discipline; being frugal.  
**specious, *adj.*** Appearing true but actually false.  
**sprat, *n.*** Someone who is small, young, or otherwise insignificant.  
**spurious, *adj.*** Inauthentic; fake.  
**staid, *adj.*** Reserved, solemn, and proper in manner; fixed.  
**stalwart, *n.*** Someone who is morally strong and loyal.  
**staunch, *adj.*** Faithful, loyal; well made.  
**stoic, *adj.*** Emotionally indifferent; calm or detached.  
**stolid, *adj.*** Unemotional or impassive.  
**stonewall, *v.*** To delay or stall; to refuse to cooperate.  
**stratify, *v.*** To divide into layers or groups.  
**stupefy, *v.*** To amaze; to daze or stun.  
**sub rosa, *adv.*** Secretly or privately.  
**subcutaneous, *adj.*** Placed or positioned beneath the skin.  
**substantiate, *v.*** To provide evidence of; to authenticate.  
**subversive, *adj.*** Planning to undermine or overthrow, especially a government.

**succinct**, *adj.* Clear and concise.  
**sully**, *v.* To soil or taint.  
**supercilious**, *adj.* Of or relating to an arrogant or disdainful manner.  
**supine**, *adj.* Lying face up; lethargic.  
**surly**, *adj.* Ill-tempered; gruff.  
**surreal**, *adj.* Having an irrational, dreamlike quality.  
**surreptitious**, *adj.* Secret, sneaky, hidden.  
**susurrus**, *n.* A soft sound, like whispering or murmuring.  
**sward**, *n.* A grassy area.  
**sycophant**, *n.* Someone who praises insincerely to gain favor.  
**symbiosis**, *n.* A close relationship of mutual gain.  
**synchronous**, *adj.* Happening at the same time.  
**synergy**, *n.* Combined efforts that yield more than the sum of their parts.  
**synthesis**, *n.* The combination of different things into a whole.

**T** **tabula rasa**, *n.* An unformed mind; a blank slate.  
**tactile**, *adj.* Of or relating to touch.  
**tangent**, *n.* Something that digresses from the original point.  
**tautology**, *n.* Unnecessary repeating of an idea in different words.  
**tawdry**, *adj.* Ornate in a cheap way; immoral.  
**taxonomy**, *n.* A system for classifying and structuring information.  
**tchotchke**, *n.* A trinket, especially one that is cheap and showy.  
**tedious**, *adj.* Boring because of repetition or length, dull.  
**temblor**, *n.* An earthquake.  
**temerity**, *n.* Confident and foolish disregard for danger.  
**tempestuous**, *adj.* Of or relating to a violent storm; stormy.  
**temporal**, *adj.* Of or relating to time; limited by time.  
**temporize**, *v.* To delay an action to gain time.  
**tenacious**, *adj.* Holding on persistently; stubborn.  
**tenet**, *n.* A statement held to be true, especially by a group.  
**tenuous**, *adj.* Weak or flimsy; likely to break.  
**tepid**, *adj.* Lukewarm; having mild or cool enthusiasm or feelings.  
**thespian**, *n.* An actor or actress.  
**thrifty**, *adj.* Cautious with monetary spending, economical.  
**thwart**, *v.* To prevent or oppose something.  
**titillate**, *v.* To please or excite someone; to stimulate.  
**titular**, *adj.* Of or relating to a title.  
**toady**, *n.* One who flatters another for personal gain.  
**torpor**, *n.* Dormancy; lethargy.  
**torrid**, *adj.* Very hot; passionate.  
**transcend**, *v.* To move beyond a boundary or limit.  
**transfigure**, *v.* To transform on the outside for the better.  
**transgress**, *v.* To overstep a boundary or limit.  
**transmogrify**, *v.* To change shape, especially to a grotesque one.  
**travail**, *n.* Work that is hard and painful.  
**tremulous**, *adj.* Trembling or shaky; anxious or fearful.  
**trifecta**, *n.* A bet on the first-, second-, and third-place winners.  
**trifle**, *v.* To treat something as if it had little value.  
**truculent**, *adj.* Belligerent; aggressively angry.  
**trudge**, *v.* To walk heavily and with difficulty.  
**truss**, *v.* To tie tightly.



## QuickStudy

**U** **ubiquitous**, *adj.* Being everywhere at once; seeming to be everywhere at once.  
**ulterior**, *adj.* Beyond the boundary or current interest.  
**umbrage**, *n.* A feeling of resentment; an offense.  
**unadorned**, *adj.* Plain; without decoration.  
**unambiguous**, *adj.* Clear; having only one meaning.  
**unctuous**, *adj.* Oily or greasy; insincerely flattering.  
**undulate**, *v.* To move like a small wave, fluctuate.  
**unequivocal**, *adj.* Without misunderstanding; clear.  
**ungainly**, *adj.* Clumsy or unwieldy.

**V** **vacate**, *v.* To legally cancel; to leave.  
**vacillate**, *v.* To move from side to side; to hesitate in a decision.  
**vacuous**, *adj.* Empty; silly or stupid.  
**vagary**, *n.* Something that is erratic, extravagant, or unpredictable.  
**vainglorious**, *adj.* Full of boast and vanity.  
**vanguard**, *n.* Troops at the head of an army; a forefront position.  
**vapid**, *adj.* Devoid of liveliness or spirit; uninteresting.  
**variant**, *n.* Something that is slightly different.  
**vehemently**, *adv.* In a manner of forcefulness or strong emotions.  
**venerate**, *v.* To greatly respect, honor, or worship.  
**verbose**, *adj.* Concerning a great number of words; wordy.  
**verboden**, *adj.* Not allowed, prohibited.  
**verdant**, *adj.* Green; naive.  
**verisimilitude**, *n.* An appearance of reality or truth.  
**veritable**, *adj.* Genuine or real.  
**vernal**, *adj.* Of or relating to the spring season.  
**Vesuvian**, *adj.* Volcanic; prone to sudden outbursts.  
**vicarious**, *adj.* Substituting for another; experiencing another's feelings.

**W** **waft**, *v.* To move gently and softly, as if floating on air.  
**waggish**, *adj.* Witty or playful.  
**waif**, *n.* A person who is homeless, especially a child.  
**wanderlust**, *n.* A strong desire to travel aimlessly.  
**wane**, *v.* To shrink in size, intensity, or power.  
**wangle**, *v.* To get something by manipulating or persuading.  
**wanton**, *adj.* Lewd; immoral.  
**warble**, *v.* To sing with embellishments, as a bird does.  
**watershed**, *n.* Land that empties into a body of water.

**Y** **yen**, *n.* A strong craving.

**unilateral**, *adj.* Done by one side.  
**unkempt**, *adj.* Messy, disorganized.  
**unmitigated**, *adj.* Not being lessened, eased, or relieved; absolute.  
**unsavory**, *adj.* Disagreeable or distasteful.  
**untenable**, *adj.* Impossible to be defended.  
**untoward**, *adj.* Being improper or unfavorable.  
**upbraid**, *v.* To scold strongly.  
**urbane**, *adj.* Having a polished manner; sophisticated.  
**usurper**, *n.* Someone who takes the power of another without authority.  
**uxorious**, *adj.* Submissive or overly devoted to one's wife.

**vicissitude**, *n.* A state of being alterable; a change.  
**vie**, *v.* To compete.  
**vilify**, *v.* To make negative statements about someone or something.  
**vindicate**, *v.* To clear someone of accusations of wrongdoing.  
**vindictive**, *adj.* Wanting revenge; spiteful.  
**virtuoso**, *n.* Someone with a masterful talent in a fine art.  
**virulent**, *adj.* Quick and hostile, as with the spread of a disease.  
**visage**, *n.* A person's face or facial expression.  
**visceral**, *adj.* Of or relating to the intestines; of or relating to instinct, felt internally.  
**viscous**, *adj.* Having a sticky consistency.  
**vitiate**, *v.* To impair or make defective.  
**vitreous**, *adj.* Having a glassy nature.  
**vitriol**, *n.* Biting criticism; harsh language.  
**vociferous**, *adj.* Speaking loudly and strongly to get attention.  
**voracious**, *adj.* Having a large or urgent appetite, especially for food.  
**vouchsafe**, *v.* To grant a favor with an air of superiority.  
**vox populi**, *n.* The people's voice; a popular belief.

**wend**, *v.* To travel along one's way, especially by an indirect route.  
**wherewithal**, *n.* The necessary resources, especially monetary.  
**widdershins**, *adv.* In a left-handed direction; counterclockwise.  
**wily**, *adj.* Clever and tricky.  
**winnow**, *v.* To separate the good from the worthless.  
**wizened**, *adj.* Dried out and wrinkled; withered.  
**wont**, *n.* A custom or habit.  
**woolgathering**, *n.* A state of being lost in thought or daydreaming.  
**wrangle**, *v.* To argue in an angry manner.

**Z** **zealot**, *n.* Someone who is fanatical about something.  
**Zeitgeist**, *n.* A generation's spirit and philosophy.  
**zenith**, *n.* The high point.  
**zephyr**, *n.* A gentle breeze.

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