

abate: (of something unpleasant or severe) become less intense or widespread

Ex: the storm abated

abscond: to depart in a sudden or secret manner esp to avoid capture and legal prosecution

Ex: the cashier absconded with the money

adulation: excessive admiration or praise

Ex: he found it difficult to cope with the adulation of the fans

alacrity: cheerful readiness, promptness or willingness

Ex: we accepted the invitation with alacrity

approbation: an expression of approval or praise

Ex: a term of approbation

axiomatic: taken as given; possessing self evident truth

Ex: after vietnam, it was axiomatic that the press would approach those in power with a skepticism verging on cynicism

cacophony: discordant sound; harsh jarring

Ex: a cacophony of deafening alarm bells

canonical: pertaining to accepted traditions or standards or canons

Ex: the canonical rites of roman church

caustic: 1. (adj) burning or stinging; causing corrosion;

2. (adj) sarcastic in a scathing and bitter way

Ex: 1. a caustic cleaner;

2. the players were making caustic comments about the refereeing

chary: wary; cautiously or suspiciously reluctant to do something

Ex: she had been chary of telling the whole truth

chicanery: the use of deception or trickery or subterfuge to achieve one's purpose

Ex: storylines packed with political chicanery

complaisance: the willingness to comply with the wishes of others

Ex: there are too many complaisant doctors signing sick notes

connoisseur: an informed and astute judge in matters of taste; expert

Ex: a connoisseur of music

contentious: causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial

Ex: a contentious issue

disabuse: to undeceive or to set right

Ex: he quickly disabused me of my fanciful notions"

discordant: conflicting or dissonant or harsh in sound

Ex: the operative principle of democracy is a balance of discordant qualities

discretion: the quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offence or revealing confidential information

Ex: she knew she could rely on his discretion

ebullience: the quality of lively or enthusiastic expression of thoughts and feelings

Ex: the ebullience of happy children

effrontery: extreme boldness or presumptuousness

Ex: one juror had the effrontery to challenge the coroner's decision

elegy: (in modern literature) a poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead'

Ex: the song passed gradually into an elegy, plaintive and full of pain.

emollient: 1. (adj) attempting to avoid confrontation or anger; calming or conciliatory;  
2. (adj) having the quality of softening or soothing the skin  
Ex: 1. the president's emollient approach to the differences;  
2. a rich emollient shampoo

empirical: based on observation or experiments  
Ex: they provided considerable empirical evidence to support their argument

enigmatic: difficult to interpret or understand; mysterious  
Ex: he took the money with an enigmatic smile

ennui: a feeling of listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from a lack of occupation or excitement  
Ex: he succumbed to ennui and despair

eulogy: a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly, especially a tribute to someone who has just died  
Ex: a eulogy to the queen mother

exculpate: exonerate  
Ex: the article exculpated the mayor

exigent: urgent; pressing; demanding  
Ex: the exigent demand of her contemporaries' music took a toll on her voice

extemporaneous: spoken or done without preparation  
Ex: an extemporaneous speech

fallacy: an invalid or incorrect notion; a mistaken belief  
Ex: the notion that the camera never lies is a fallacy

filibuster: an action such as prolonged speaking which obstructs progress in a legislative assembly in a way that does not technically contravene the required procedures  
Ex: paul has altered the national conversation once before, with his filibuster on drones.

fulminate: express vehement protest or loudly attack or denounce  
Ex: all fulminated against the new curriculum

hyperbole: exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally  
Ex: he vowed revenge with oaths and hyperboles

impecunious: lacking funds; without money  
Ex: a titled but impecunious family

incipient: beginning to happen or develop  
Ex: he could feel incipient anger building up

inert: unmoving; lethargic; sluggish  
Ex: she lay inert in her bed

inured: accustom(someone) to something esp. something unpleasant  
Ex: these children have been inured to violence

inveigle: persuade someone to do something by means of deception and flattery  
Ex: we cannot inveigle him into putting pen to paper

nascent: coming into being or in early development stages  
Ex: the nascent space industry

nebulous: vague; cloudy; lacking clearly defined form  
Ex: nebulous concepts like quality of life

neologism: a new word, expression, or usage

Ex: captology is a neologism coined by bj fogg, director of the very soviet-sounding stanford persuasive technology lab.

noxious: harmful, injurious

Ex: they were overcome by noxious fumes

obtuse: lacking sharpness of intellect; not clear or precise in thought or expression

Ex: he wondered if the doctor was being deliberately obtuse

odious: evoking intense aversion or dislike

Ex: a pretty odious character

onerous: (of a task or responsibility) involving a great deal of effort, trouble, or difficulty

Ex: he found his duties increasingly onerous

paeon: a song of praise or triumph

Ex: a paean of praise for the great poets'

penurious: 1. (adj) unwilling to spend money

2. (adj) extremely poor

Ex: 1. a tight-fisted, penurious boss whose wage scale is well below other bandleaders;

2. a penurious old tramp

perfunctory: (of an action) done without real interest feeling or effort

Ex: he gave a perfunctory nod

perspicacious: acutely perceptive; having a keen discernment

Ex: to exhibit perspicacious judgement

pious: extremely reverent or devout

Ex: a deeply pious woman

prattle: to babble meaninglessly

Ex: she began to prattle on about her visit to the dentist

precursor: one that precedes and indicates or announces another

Ex: a three-stringed precursor of the violin

preen: devote effort to making oneself look attractive and then admire one's appearance

Ex: adolescents preening in their bedroom mirrors

putrefy: (of a body or other organic matter) decay or rot and produce a fetid smell

Ex: the body was beginning to putrefy

quaff: drink (something, especially an alcoholic drink) heartily

Ex: he quaffed pint after pint of good berkshire ale

quiescence: stillness; motionlessness; inactivity; dormancy

Ex: this method has been shown to induce sleep-like quiescence in adult animals

recant: to retract esp a previously held belief

Ex: heretics were burned if they would not recant

redoubtable: (of a person) formidable, especially as an opponent

Ex: he was a redoubtable debater

solicitous: characterised by showing interest or concern

Ex: she was always solicitous about the welfare of the students

squalid: (of a place) extremely dirty and unpleasant, especially as a result of poverty or neglect

Ex: the squalid, overcrowded prison

stoic: a person who can endure pain or hardship without showing their feelings or complaining

Ex: we knew she must be in pain, despite her stoic attitude

stupefy: 1. (verb) to stun baffle or amaze;

2. (verb) to put into a state of little or no sensibility; benumb; put into a stupor

Ex: 1. the amount they spend on clothes would appal their parents and stupefy their grandparents;

2. the offence of administering drugs to a woman with intent to stupefy her

torpid: mentally or physically inactive; lethargic

Ex: we sat around in a torpid state

truculent: eager or quick to argue or fight; aggressively defiant

Ex: the truculent attitude of farmers to cheaper imports

ubiquitous: present, appearing, or found everywhere; widespread

Ex: his ubiquitous influence was felt by all the family

virulent: 1. (adj) bitterly hostile;

2. (adj) extremely harmful or poisonous(disease/poison)

Ex: 1. a virulent attack on liberalism;

2. a virulent strain of influenza