

### 1. Expedite

To make something happen more quickly:

Something needs to be done to expedite the process.

Thesaurus: synonyms, antonyms, and examples

To get faster

Speed up: The car sped up to 100 mph.

Pick up speed: The hurricane is picking up speed as it approaches the coast.

Gain speed: Accidents often happen when a driver gains speed going downhill.

Gather speed: The economic recovery was starting to gather speed.

Accelerate: The vehicle accelerated around the turn.

See more results »

To cause something to be done or progress more quickly:

We've got to expedite this order because they need it by tomorrow.

To cause something to be done more quickly:

We're trying to expedite the process of reviewing applications.

You pay more for expedited delivery.

### 2. Diligent

Careful and using a lot of effort:

A diligent student

Leo is very diligent in/about his work.

Their lawyer was extremely diligent in preparing their case.

Done in a careful and detailed way:

The discovery was made after years of diligent research.

Thesaurus: synonyms, antonyms, and examples

Paying close attention to detail

Careful: After careful consideration, we are unable to accept your proposal.

Thorough: He seems like he's not paying attention, but don't be fooled - he's very thorough.

Meticulous: This book is the result of years of meticulous research.

Methodical: I appreciated his methodical approach to the work.

See more results »

Careful and serious in your work, or done in a careful and determined way:

A diligent worker

They made diligent efforts to carry out their programs.

### 3. Slur

To pronounce the sounds of a word in a way that is wrong or not clear:

Her speech was slurred but she still denied she was drunk.

To sing or play notes in a smooth and connected manner

To harm someone's reputation by criticizing them:

The report slurs both the teachers and students.

[ C ]

A remark that criticizes someone and is likely to have a harmful effect on their reputation:

Her letter contained several outrageous slurs against/on her former colleagues.

His comments cast a slur on the integrity of his employees.

[ S ]

A way of pronouncing the sounds of a word that is unclear, uncontrolled, or wrong:

The drug affected her vision and made her speak with a slur.

[ C ]

A curved line written over or under musical notes to show that they must be played in a smooth and connected manner

To pronounce words in a way that is not clear:

[ T ] How can you possibly understand someone who slurs his speech?

Words intended to insult someone or injure someone's reputation:

He apologized for shouting an ethnic slur at a fan.

The act of pronouncing words in a way that is not clear:

The injury made her speak with a slur.

#### 4. Orchestration

[ C or U ]

An arrangement of a piece of music to be played by an orchestra:

The song features classical piano and lush orchestration.

I love the richly textured orchestrations on the album.

More examples

Her voice seemed to cut right through any orchestration.

He learned counterpoint, composition and orchestration by breaking down symphonic music.

He has done orchestrations and adaptations of music by Frank Zappa, The Beatles, and Jimi Hendrix.

[ U ]

A careful arrangement of something to achieve a particular result, often in a way that is unfair or wrong:

His victory followed the orchestration of a vicious smear campaign against his opponent.

More examples

#### 5. Dossiers

A set of papers containing information about a person, often a criminal, or on any subject:

The secret service probably has a dossier on all of us.

A collection of documents that contains information relating to a person or subject:

Customs & Excise has given the committee a six-page dossier on the activities of the company.

Prepare/compile/keep a dossier

She presented a dossier of customer complaints to the bank.

#### 6. Hostile

C1

Unfriendly and not liking something:

A hostile crowd

The president had a hostile reception in Ohio this morning.

Thesaurus: synonyms, antonyms, and examples

Not liking or being pleasant towards others

Unfriendly: The crowd was unfriendly and dangerous.

Cool: She was very cool towards his new wife.

Cold: She's a cold, heartless woman.

Icy: He gave me an icy stare.

Glacial: Her reception of him was glacial.

See more results »

More examples

C1

Not agreeing with something:

I'm not hostile to (= against) the idea of change as such.

C1

Difficult or not suitable for living or growing:

Hostile weather conditions

A hostile climate/environment

[ before noun ]

Connected with the enemy in a war:

Hostile aircraft/forces

Relating to situations in which one company wants to buy another company whose owners do not want to sell it:

The company convinced investors to reject a hostile bid from Enterprise Oil Plc worth £1.5 billion.

A hostile merger

Showing strong dislike; unfriendly:

Her parents were openly hostile to me.

Difficult or not suitable for living or growing:

The Nevada desert is one of the most hostile regions in America.

[ not gradable ]

Connected with an enemy or an act of war:

The enemy was preparing to take hostile action.

Relating to a situation in which one company wants to buy another company whose owners do not want to sell it:

The company convinced investors to reject a hostile bid from Enterprise Oil Plc worth £1.59 billion.

Almost a year after it sparked the banking sector's biggest hostile merger, the bank has itself become the subject of takeover speculation.

What started out as a hostile takeover attempt became a friendly agreement.

A hostile acquisition/approach/deal

A hostile acquirer/bidder

go/turn hostile

FINANCE

To force the sale of a company whose owners do not want to sell it:

The chief executive said he was still ready to go hostile for one of the two companies.

7. Pursuant

According to:

The fact that a person acted pursuant to an order of his government does not relieve him from responsibility under international law.

According to something:

Pursuant to sth The committee will issue a decision within 15 days pursuant to rule 182.

8. Shrines

A place for worship that is holy because of a connection with a holy person or object:

Islam's most sacred shrine is at Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

A special place in which you remember and praise someone who has died, especially someone famous:

She's turned her bedroom into a shrine to the dead pop star and covered the walls with pictures of him.

A place where people come to worship, usually because of a connection with a holy person or a mysterious religious event or object

A shrine can also be a place that is honored because of some connection with a famous person or event.

9. Skimming

Present participle of skim UK US

IT

The practice of stealing someone's credit card details using electronic equipment, in order to use their account illegally:

Cash machines at several garages throughout London were fitted with skimming devices.

FINANCE, TAX

The practice of stealing money from an account, budget, etc. over a period of time in amounts that cannot be easily noticed:

The director's skimming of the charity's profits landed him in jail for a decade.

MARKETING

(also market-skimming pricing)

The practice of charging a high price for a new product in order to make as much profit as possible before other similar products become available and prices fall:

A slow skimming policy is where the product carries a high price with a low level of promotion.

#### 10. Vigilance

More careful attention, especially in order to notice possible danger:

The police said that it was thanks to the vigilance of a neighbour that the fire was discovered before it could spread.

#### 11. Intelligible

(of speech and writing) clear enough to be understood:

She was so upset when she spoke that she was hardly intelligible.

Opposite

Unintelligible

(of speech and writing) clear enough to be understood:

It was a poor telephone connection, and only some of his words were intelligible.

#### 12. Retribution

Deserved and severe punishment:

They fled because they feared retribution for the genocide.

She was asked whether a civilian government should seek retribution against military officers involved in human rights abuses.

Many saw her death as divine retribution (= punishment by God) for her crimes.

Deserved punishment:

He was seeking retribution for the crime committed against him.

#### 13. Retaliate

To hurt someone or do something harmful to someone because they have done or said something harmful to you:

If someone insults you, don't retaliate as it only makes the situation worse.

The demonstrators threw rocks at the police, who retaliated by firing blanks into the crowd.

The terrorists retaliated against the government with a bomb attack.

Synonyms

Fight back

Hit back

Compare

Avenge formal

Revenge verb

To hurt someone or do something harmful to someone because that person has done or said something harmful to you:

His first instinct was to retaliate against the attacks.

#### 14. Abetting

To help or encourage someone to do something wrong or illegal:

His accountant had aided and abetted him in the fraud.

To help or encourage a person or thing to do something, esp. something wrong or illegal:

Shady lawyers abetted the company's officers in stealing the funds.

#### 15. Recrimination

Arguments between people who are blaming each other:

The peace talks broke down and ended in bitter mutual recrimination(s).

Argument between people who are blaming each other, or the particular way they blame each other:

[ U ] Western leaders, instead of presenting a coherent policy, have repeatedly lapsed into finger-pointing and recrimination.

#### 16. Stewards

A person whose job it is to organize a particular event, or to provide services to particular people, or to take care of a particular place:

Stewards will be inspecting the race track at 9.00.

If you need help at any time during the conference, one of the stewards will be pleased to help you.

(female stewardess)

A person who serves passengers on a ship or aircraft

Barry Winiker/Photolibrary/Getty: Images

UK

A person who organizes the supply and serving of food at a club:

He's the steward of the City of Wakefield's Working Men's Club.

A person who is responsible for an event or for the management of a place:

A race steward

He has been a careful steward of our parks.

A steward is also a person who is responsible for food or drink at a restaurant.

A steward ( (female stewardess)) on an aircraft, ship, or train is someone who helps and serves passengers.

A person whose job it is to help people at a particular place or event:

If you need help finding a room at the conference, one of the stewards will be pleased to assist you.

TRANSPORT

→ flight attendant

TRANSPORT

A man who takes care of passengers on a ship or train:

Will you have the steward deliver this message to his cabin, please?

UK

A person who organizes the supply and serving of food at a club:

He's the steward of Wakefield's Working Men's Club.

17. Conceal

C2

To prevent something from being seen or known about:

The listening device was concealed in a pen.

I tried to conceal my surprise when she told me her age.

It was said that the police concealed vital evidence.

Is there something you're concealing from me?

Synonym

Hide

More examples

To conceal his identity, the man's voice has been dubbed over .

Her brave smile concealed a deep hurt.

Her saintly manner concealed a devious mind.

He had a microphone concealed in his pocket.

The sewage tank was concealed behind a line of bushes.

To prevent something from being seen or known about; to hide something:

He made no attempt to conceal his satisfaction.

To not tell somebody about something that they have the right to know about:

Do not conceal health problems from a prospective insurer.

18. Tan

B2 [ C ]

(also suntan)

Brown skin caused by being in the sun:

She came back from Spain with a deep tan.

Annabelle was flaunting her tan in a little white dress.

[ U ]

A pale yellowish-brown colour:

The couch comes in tan and green.

The spider varies in colour from light tan to dark brown.

More examples

I've been back from holiday a week and my tan is fading.

He was lying in the sun working on his tan.

Even a slight tan is a sign of skin damage.

Why this obsession with getting a tan?

The tights come in black, dark brown, or tan.

Pale yellowish-brown in colour:

He was wearing a tan sports jacket.

The nurse's uniform is finished off with thick tan tights.

[ I or T ]

To become brown, or to make someone's body or skin, etc. brown, from being in the sun:

Her skin tans very quickly in the summer.

I need to tan my legs before the holiday.

More examples

[ T ]

To change animal skin into leather using special chemicals such as tannin:

Tanning animal hides is one of the dirtiest jobs.

The old saddler used to prepare and tan the leather himself.

Written abbreviation for tangent specialized

(of) a light brown or yellow-brown color:

A tan jacket

The darker skin that white people often get from being in the sun:

Ann's sundress shows off her tan.

[ T ]

To change an animal skin into leather by wetting it with special chemicals

[ I ]

To become darker from being in the sun:

Judy tans easily.

Abbreviation for tax anticipation note

19. Perpetrator

Someone who has committed a crime or a violent or harmful act:

The perpetrators of the massacre must be brought to justice as war criminals.

20. Embezzlement

The crime of secretly taking money that is in your care or that belongs to an organization or business you work for:

They were arrested for embezzlement of company funds.

He's accused of tax evasion, embezzlement, and fraud.

See

Embezzle

More examples

Her lawyer declined to comment about the embezzlement charge she faces.

The embezzlement scandal involves a local school district.

He discovered he was the victim of embezzlement.

21. Deemed

Past simple and past participle of deem

C2

To consider or judge something in a particular way:

[ + obj + noun/adj ] The area has now been deemed safe.

[ + noun/adj ] We will provide help whenever you deem it appropriate.

[ + obj + to infinitive ] Anyone not paying the registration fee by 31 March will be deemed to have withdrawn from the offer.

Synonym

Hold

More examples

The story was deemed too controversial and so they spiked it.

She is currently deemed to be the best British athlete.

This survey is deemed to be a reliable barometer of public opinion.

Safflower oil is low in the sort of fats that are deemed to be bad for people's health.

It is deemed bad manners in some cultures to speak with your mouth full of food.

## 22. Consent

C1

Permission or agreement:

They can't publish your name without your consent.

You can only come on the trip if your parents give their consent.

Thesaurus: synonyms, antonyms, and examples

The state of agreeing with someone or something

Agreement: There's widespread agreement that something must be done.

Acceptance: His views never gained acceptance among the broader community.

Concordance: The study shows strong concordance between patient health and patient happiness.

Assent: The bill received royal assent.

Consent: I give my consent to the marriage.

Sanction: She gave official state sanction to the drilling company for their proposed pipeline.

See more results »

by common consent

Most people agree:

Her latest novel, by common consent, is her best yet.

More examples

C2

To agree to do something, or to allow someone to do something:

[ + to infinitive ] Very reluctantly, I've consented to lend her my car.

My aunt never married because her father wouldn't consent to her marriage.

Thesaurus: synonyms, antonyms, and examples

Permission or agreement obtained from someone or something having authority or power:

I asked to leave the room, and the teacher gave his consent.

To give permission:

[ + to infinitive ] The director consented to change the ending of the movie.

Legal or official permission to do something:

The sale of any assets will require the consent of all the parties concerned.

With/without (sb's) consent Your terms of employment cannot be changed without your consent.

Written/prior consent For certain types of business purchase, you may require the prior consent of an industry regulator

Give/grant consent to/for sth Clients must sign financial-disclosure forms giving consent for "further verification".

Seek/apply for/obtain (sb's) consent Frequently, for smaller contracts, builders do not formally obtain consent.

Agreement between two or more people or groups:

By mutual consent In a statement, CSR said their chief executive was leaving by mutual consent.

By common consent This was, by common consent, the worst recession for decades.

To give official permission or agreement for something to happen:

Consent to sth Pressure is being put on shareholders to consent to the takeover.

### 23. Consolidated

Made stronger and more certain:

He was re-elected for another four years and with his power consolidated.

More examples

As media power becomes consolidated, the potential for abuse becomes more serious.

(of businesses) joined to make a single organization:

The controlling company and its consolidated subsidiaries.

The industry is highly consolidated and virtually void of competition.

(of financial results etc.) combined in order to create a more simple or effective whole:

Consolidated trading/accounts

Consolidated revenues increased by 64% to \$207.2 million.

See

Consolidate

### 24. Obscure

Not known to many people:

An obscure island in the Pacific

An obscure 12th-century mystic

Not clear and difficult to understand or see:

Official policy has changed, for reasons that remain obscure.

His answers were obscure and confusing.

To prevent something from being seen or heard:

Two new skyscrapers had sprung up, obscuring the view from her window.

The sun was obscured by clouds.

To make something difficult to discover and understand:

Managers deliberately obscured the real situation from federal investigators.

Not known to many people:

An obscure 18th-century painter

Unclear and difficult to understand or see:

Official policy has changed for reasons that remain obscure.

### 25. Implicate

To show that someone is involved in a crime or partly responsible for something bad that has happened:

Have they any evidence to implicate him in the robbery?

To show that someone is involved in a crime or partly responsible for something bad that has happened:

A lot of people were implicated in the scandal.

### 26. Evasion

The act of avoiding something or someone:

Her speech was full of excuses and evasions and never properly addressed the issue.

Tax evasion (= illegally not paying tax)

The act of avoiding something unpleasant or unwanted:

[ U ] tax evasion

[ C ] a political speech full of evasions

The act of intentionally avoiding doing something that you have a duty or responsibility to do:

Tax/fare/duty evasion The former accountant was charged with multiple counts of tax evasion.

Evasion of sth This was a clear evasion of responsibility on his part.

### 27. Embargoes

Plural of embargo