

| Word        | Definition  | Example Sentence  |
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| Abate       | v. to become less active, less intense, or less in amount   | As I began my speech, my feelings of nervousness quickly <b>abated</b> .  |
| Abstract    | <i>adj.</i> existing purely in the mind; not representing actual reality  | Julie had trouble understanding the appeal of the <b>abstract</b> painting.   |
| Abysmal     | <i>adj.</i> extremely bad   | I got an <b>abysmal</b> grade on my research paper!   |
| Accordingly | <i>adv.</i> in accordance with  | All students must behave <b>accordingly</b> .   |
| Acquisition | <i>n.</i> the act of gaining a skill or possession of something   | Language <b>acquisition</b> is easier for kids than it is for adults.   |
| Adapt       | v. to make suit a new purpose<br>v. to accommodate oneself to a new condition, setting, or situation                            | The US has <b>adapted</b> many foreign foods to better suit the tastes of Americans.<br>Dogs are known for their ability to quickly <b>adapt</b> to their environments. |
| Adept       | <i>adj.</i> having knowledge or skill (usu. in a particular area)   | Beth loves playing the piano, but she's especially <b>adept</b> at the violin.  |
| Adequate    | <i>adj.</i> having sufficient qualifications to meet a specific task or purpose   | Though his resume was <b>adequate</b> , the company doubted whether he'd be a good fit.   |
| Advent      | <i>n.</i> the arrival or creation of something (usu. historic)  | The world has never been the same since the <b>advent</b> of the light bulb.  |
| Adversarial | <i>adj.</i> relating to hostile opposition  | An <b>adversarial</b> attitude will make you many enemies in life.  |
| Advocate    | <i>n.</i> someone who promotes or defends something<br>v. to defend or promote something (usu. a belief, theory, opinion, etc.) | I am an <b>advocate</b> for free higher education.<br>Environmental protesters often <b>advocate</b> for cleaner energy practices.                                      |
| Aesthetic   | <i>adj.</i> relating to beauty or refined taste   | The <b>aesthetic</b> decorations at the wedding reception made you feel as if you were a character in   |

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|              |  | a fairy tale.  |
| Afford       | v. to be able to buy<br>v. to be able to spare                       | He's saving money so he can <b>afford</b> to buy a new car.<br>I can't <b>afford</b> to lose any more pencils! |
| Agitate      | v. to promote something (usu. a cause)                               | They're <b>agitating</b> for better health care.   |
| Allow        | v. to permit or consent to   | US law <b>allows</b> citizens to speak freely.   |
| Allude       | v. to make a secretive mention of something                          | She <b>alluded</b> to the problem at hand but didn't say anything more about it.                               |
| Altercation  | n. a noisy argument or confrontation                                 | Greg got into an <b>altercation</b> with a stranger at the bar.  |
| Ambiguous    | adj. unclear or vague in meaning                                     | Her <b>ambiguous</b> statement made me question whether she could be trusted.                                  |
| Ambitious    | adj. having a powerful desire for success or achievement             | Penny is so <b>ambitious</b> , she wants to be president someday.  |
| Ambivalence  | n. the state of being uncertain or stuck between two or more options | His <b>ambivalence</b> prevented him from immediately signing the contract.                                    |
| Analogous    | adj. similar but not identical                                       | Green onions are considered <b>analogous</b> to spring onions.   |
| Annihilate   | v. to destroy or cause devastating destruction                       | The dictator sent orders to <b>annihilate</b> the group of rebels.   |
| Anomaly      | n. something different from the norm                                 | This result is an <b>anomaly</b> and very rarely happens.  |
| Anticipate   | v. assume to be likely to happen                                     | The party was just as fun as I had <b>anticipated</b> it would be.   |
| Antipathy    | n. a strong feeling of dislike                                       | Her <b>antipathy</b> toward the professor was obvious: she rolled her eyes whenever he entered the classroom.  |
| Apex         | n. the highest point of something                                    | The spring play was the <b>apex</b> of our school year.  |
| Apprehension | n. fearful expectation of something                                  | Her <b>apprehension</b> to leave her house resulted in her missing   |

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|              |  | the train.  |
| Articulate   | <i>v.</i> to clearly express in words  | She <b>articulated</b> her opinion on the price of the house.   |
| Artificial   | <i>adj.</i> something made; not occurring naturally  | Many candies use <b>artificial</b> flavors to make them taste fruity.   |
| Assertion    | <i>n.</i> a strong declaration   | His <b>assertion</b> that sharks are mammals made everyone laugh.   |
| Austere      | <i>adj.</i> extremely plain<br><i>adj.</i> stern and forbidding<br><i>adj.</i> relating to self-denial                       | He lived in a small, <b>austere</b> cabin in the middle of the woods.<br>My boss had an <b>austere</b> expression on her face.<br>An <b>austere</b> lifestyle, like that of monks, isn't for everybody.               |
| Authenticity | <i>n.</i> the quality of being real and true instead of fake and contrived   | The police officer doubted the <b>authenticity</b> of the suspect's story.  |
| Avenue       | <i>n.</i> an intangible path or approach to something  | The company has decided to pursue other <b>avenues</b> .  |
| Avid         | <i>adj.</i> actively interested in or enthusiastic about something   | Gerald is an <b>avid</b> soccer fan.  |
| Basic        | <i>adj.</i> relating to the foundation or basis of something   | You have to start with <b>basic</b> Russian before you can move on to the advanced level.   |
| Bear         | <i>v.</i> to have as a characteristic<br><i>v.</i> to have (a child)<br><i>v.</i> to bring forth<br><i>v.</i> to put up with | She <b>bears</b> a strong resemblance to your mother.<br>Judy will <b>bear</b> her first child last year.<br>My garden is going to <b>bear</b> pumpkins this year.<br>I can't <b>bear</b> her complaining any longer! |
| Benevolent   | <i>adj.</i> kind, generous   | Many cultures believe in <b>benevolent</b> spirits.   |
| Bias         | <i>n.</i> a preconception that prevents objectivity  | It's important to avoid <b>bias</b> when investigating a crime.   |
| Bittersweet  | <i>adj.</i> tinged with a feeling of sadness   | The ending of the romance movie was <b>bittersweet</b> .  |
| Bolster      | <i>v.</i> to support, strengthen, or fortify   | If we work together, we should be able to lift and  |

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|            |   | then <b>bolster</b> the couch.   |
| Boost      | <i>n.</i> an increase or growth<br><i>v.</i> to increase or make grow   | The <b>boost</b> in profits was a welcome change.<br>In order to <b>boost</b> profits, you need to cater to your customers.  |
| Brawl      | <i>n.</i> an intense, loud fight<br><i>v.</i> to fight loudly and disruptively  | A <b>brawl</b> broke out at school today after one student accused another of cheating.<br>The two students <b>brawled</b> for an hour.  |
| Brevity    | <i>n.</i> the quality of being brief or terse   | The <b>brevity</b> of their time together made it all the more romantic.   |
| Candid     | <i>adj.</i> direct, blunt   | Josh is <b>candid</b> about his desire to become an actor.   |
| Candor     | <i>n.</i> the trait of being honest and frank   | I admire her <b>candor</b> , especially when nobody else bothers to speak up.  |
| Capitalize | <i>v.</i> to use to your advantage  | I'd like to <b>capitalize</b> on your math skills by having your work the cash register.   |
| Capture    | <i>v.</i> to trap or take possession of<br><i>v.</i> to successfully represent or imitate<br><i>v.</i> to captivate, mesmerize<br><i>v.</i> to catch or seize | The spy was <b>captured</b> by the enemy.<br>Your painting beautifully <b>captures</b> the ephemerality of life.<br>I was <b>captured</b> by her beauty.<br>The cops <b>captured</b> the criminal three days after the incident. |
| Civic      | <i>adj.</i> relating to the city or citizens  | Voting is a <b>civic</b> duty.   |
| Clinical   | <i>adj.</i> emotionally unattached (usu. used in medical or scientific setting)   | Her <b>clinical</b> approach to situations allows her to handle them more effectively.   |
| Clout      | <i>n.</i> special advantage or power  | Children of rich and famous people often believe they have a lot of <b>clout</b> .   |
| Coarse     | <i>adj.</i> indicating a rough texture<br><i>adj.</i> lacking refinement or sophistication  | The horse's mane was <b>coarse</b> , as if it had never been washed.<br>The queen's <b>coarse</b> way of speaking surprised the other members of royalty.  |

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| Coincide   | v. to happen at the same time   | It wasn't until after I booked my ticket that I realized the concert <b>coincided</b> with my finals.                   |
| Commission | n. the use of payment to request something (e.g., a service or product) | This painting was <b>commissioned</b> by a rich merchant in 1589.   |
| Comparable | adj. able to be compared  | This novel is <b>comparable</b> to <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> .  |
| Competent  | adj. sufficiently qualified   | We need to hire a <b>competent</b> web developer to create a good website for our company.                              |
| Complacent | adj. satisfied, with no desire to change or improve                     | Though he had never won any awards or even been published, he was <b>complacent</b> with his life as a poet.            |
| Complement | v. to make perfect or complete  | This wine perfectly <b>complements</b> this platter of gourmet cheese.  |
| Concede    | v. to be forced to agree or surrender<br>v. to admit to a transgression | With no chance of winning the battle, the army at last <b>conceded</b> .<br>Dan <b>conceded</b> to pranking his sister. |
| Conceive   | v. to imagine or come up with   | The plan to build the city was originally <b>conceived</b> in the early 1900s.  |
| Condone    | v. to overlook, approve, or allow                                       | She couldn't <b>condone</b> her daughter's rebellious behavior.   |
| Conducive  | adj. able to bring about or be suitable for                             | The noisy students hardly made the campus library <b>conducive</b> to studying.   |
| Conduct    | v. to control or manage<br>v. to behave a certain way                   | The group <b>conducted</b> their research abroad last year.<br>Be sure to <b>conduct</b> yourself accordingly.          |
| Confide    | v. to share something secretive with someone                            | She <b>confided</b> all of her biggest secrets in her best friend.  |
| Confine    | v. to put limits on; to restrict  | We are going to <b>confine</b> the use of this drinking fountain.   |
| Consensus  | n. overall agreement  | After weeks of debating, the  |

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|                   |  | panel finally came to a <b>consensus</b> .  |
| Constitute        | v. to form or compose (part of) something                      | The desire for equality <b>constituted</b> the civil rights movement.   |
| Contemplate       | v. to think deeply about                                       | She <b>contemplated</b> telling her teacher about the cheating student.   |
| Contend           | v. to maintain or assert (an opinion)                          | The president <b>contends</b> that the US government will not negotiate with terrorists.  |
| Contradict        | v. to be in contrast with                                      | The camera footage <b>contradicts</b> his alibi.  |
| Controversial     | adj. highly debatable and causing contention                   | Millions of viewers watched the <b>controversial</b> debate take place.   |
| Conventional      | adj. abiding by accepted standards                             | She lives a <b>conventional</b> life in the suburbs.  |
| Convey            | v. to pass on or transfer (information)                        | I have trouble <b>conveying</b> my thoughts in French.  |
| Conviction        | n. a firm belief in something                                  | Her religious <b>convictions</b> prevent her from eating meat.  |
| Corroborate       | v. to provide evidence for; to back up (a claim)               | The note signed by her father <b>corroborates</b> her claim that she was absent from class that day.                                |
| Counteract        | v. to work in opposition to                                    | This ingredient seems to <b>counteract</b> the other ones.  |
| Counterargument   | n. an argument used to criticize or dismantle another argument | Make sure to include a <b>counterargument</b> in your essay so that you can show you've considered the topic from all perspectives. |
| Counterproductive | adj. hindering the achievement of a goal                       | Bill's idea to take a shortcut was ultimately <b>counterproductive</b> : it took us twice as long to get to the train station.      |
| Culmination       | n. the final act or climax                                     | The <b>culmination</b> of the performance was unforgettable.  |
| Cultivate         | v. to foster the growth of                                     | Teachers don't just pass on new information to students—they <b>cultivate</b> their academic potential.                             |

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| Decree      | v. to declare formally and with authority                                    | The president <b>decreed</b> that Halloween would henceforth be a national holiday.  |
| Deference   | <i>n.</i> respect; regard  | Her <b>deference</b> to the elderly makes her the perfect candidate for an internship at the retirement center.  |
| Deficient   | <i>adj.</i> not enough in degree or amount                                   | I feel as though the sources for my paper are <b>deficient</b> .   |
| Demonstrate | v. to do as an example<br>v. gives evidence for                              | Could you <b>demonstrate</b> the dance move for me?<br>This book's use of words such as "grim" and "bleak" <b>demonstrates</b> the author's mournful tone. |
| Demur       | v. to object to  | She <b>demurred</b> at my request to transfer to a different department.   |
| Deplete     | v. to (over)use over time (usu. resources)                                   | The lost campers quickly <b>depleted</b> their supply of food.   |
| Desolate    | <i>adj.</i> bare, barren, empty  | The moon is one giant, <b>desolate</b> landscape.  |
| Devise      | v. to come up with (a plan)  | Lana <b>devised</b> a plan to make herself famous.   |
| Dilemma     | <i>n.</i> a problem, usually requiring a choice between two options          | The main <b>dilemma</b> is whether to pay for a commercial or not.   |
| Diligence   | <i>n.</i> conscientiousness; the quality of being committed to a task        | <b>Diligence</b> and confidence will get you far in life.  |
| Diminish    | v. to become smaller in scope or degree                                      | The itchiness of mosquito bites usually starts to <b>diminish</b> after a few days.  |
| Dire        | <i>adj.</i> hopeless and dangerous or fearful                                | When the police didn't explain what was happening right away, Jane knew that the situation must be <b>dire</b> .   |
| Discord     | <i>n.</i> disagreement   | Disputes over money caused intense <b>discord</b> in the family.   |
| Disdain     | <i>n.</i> a lack of respect and strong dislike (toward something or someone) | He looked at me with such <b>disdain</b> that I immediately knew the job wouldn't work out.  |
| Dismay      | <i>n.</i> hopelessness, stress,  | To Nick's <b>dismay</b> , he got an F on   |

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|                 | or consternation<br>v. to fill with woe or apprehension                         | the test.<br>Many were <b>dismayed</b> by the town's implementation of metered parking.                          |
| Disparage       | v. to belittle or speak down to   | A good boss is stern but never <b>disparages</b> his or her employees.   |
| Dispatch        | v. to send off a message or messenger   | The mother <b>dispatched</b> her daughter to their neighbor's house.   |
| Diversification | n. the act of becoming diverse  | Lately, there's been noticeable <b>diversification</b> of students at higher institutions.                       |
| Doctrine        | n. a principle, theory, or position, usu. advocated by a religion or gov't      | Devoutly religious people often live their lives according to their <b>doctrines</b> .                           |
| Dominion        | n. power and authority (usu. over a territory)<br>n. a legal territory          | The country claimed to have <b>dominion</b> over parts of Russia.<br>Puerto Rico is a <b>dominion</b> of the US. |
| Dreary          | adj. sad, gloomy, dull  | The gray clouds in the sky made the day feel <b>dreary</b> .   |
| Dubious         | adj. doubtful, questionable   | The man's claims to the throne were <b>dubious</b> since nobody knew where he'd come from.                       |
| Eccentric       | adj. peculiar or odd; deviating from the norm                                   | She's a little <b>eccentric</b> but still fun to be around.  |
| Egregious       | adj. extremely bad  | After cheating on the exam, Emily began to feel as though she'd made an <b>egregious</b> mistake.                |
| Eloquent        | adj. having refined or expressive communication skills (in speaking or writing) | His speech was not only <b>eloquent</b> but also extremely compelling.   |
| Eminent         | adj. superior or distinguished; high in position or status                      | Our town made news when the <b>eminent</b> magician came to perform at our local theater.                        |
| Emit            | v. to discharge, give forth, or release   | Plants consume carbon dioxide and <b>emit</b> oxygen.  |
| Emphatic        | adj. very expressive;   | Her <b>emphatic</b> smile told me she  |



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|              | using emphasis   | was excited to ride the roller coaster.   |
| Empirical    | <i>adj.</i> derived from experience, observation, or an experiment         | You need <b>empirical</b> evidence to support your claim.   |
| Endow        | <i>v.</i> to equip or bestow (usu. a quality or ability)                   | According to the myth, the gods <b>endowed</b> him with the gift of healing.  |
| Endure       | <i>v.</i> to withstand, sustain, or hold out against                       | I can't <b>endure</b> this wait any longer. Will Stanford accept or reject me?  |
| Entail       | <i>v.</i> to involve or include  | A doctoral program <b>entails</b> long nights and a heavy workload.   |
| Entrenched   | <i>adj.</i> firmly established   | Her face will forever be <b>entrenched</b> in my memory.  |
| Enumerate    | <i>v.</i> to specify or count  | I can't <b>enumerate</b> how many times I've had to remind my students when their papers are due.   |
| Envy         | <i>n.</i> excessive jealousy<br><i>v.</i> to admire and be jealous of      | His <b>envy</b> of her is quite obvious. She <b>envies</b> her coworker's social skills.  |
| Erratic      | <i>adj.</i> having no fixed course; deviating from the norm                | The car became <b>erratic</b> after slipping on ice.  |
| Establish    | <i>v.</i> to enact<br><i>v.</i> to found (a business, group, school, etc.) | They <b>established</b> a law that made it illegal to drive after drinking any amount of alcohol. Our group <b>established</b> a new branch in Chicago. |
| Evoke        | <i>v.</i> to draw forth or call up   | Horror movies are great at <b>evoking</b> fear.   |
| Exacerbate   | <i>v.</i> to make worse or increase the severity of                        | The doctor told me not to run as it can <b>exacerbate</b> my knee injury.   |
| Excel        | <i>v.</i> to do something extremely well or to be superior in              | She was a well-rounded student but <b>excelled</b> especially in science.   |
| Exert        | <i>v.</i> to put into use (usu. as effort)                                 | Don't <b>exert</b> all of your energy at once.  |
| Exhilarating | <i>adj.</i> invigorating, stimulating, or exciting                         | The music playing at the club was catchy and <b>exhilarating</b> .  |
| Expend       | <i>v.</i> to use up (as in   | Be careful not to <b>expend</b> all your  |

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|              | energy or money)                                | energy in the first half of a marathon.   |
| Exploit      | v. to use selfishly or for profit               | The shoddy company <b>exploited</b> its workers by paying them extremely low wages.   |
| Facilitate   | v. to aid the progress of                       | In grad school, advisors <b>facilitate</b> students' research and offer constructive criticism.                                       |
| Feasibility  | n. the practicality or possibility of something | The <b>feasibility</b> of her project was doubtful; she'd have to go all the way to Antarctica and back before the school year ended. |
| Ferocity     | n. viciousness, violence                        | The lion is just one wild animal known for its <b>ferocity</b> .  |
| Fiscal       | adj. related to (government) money              | <b>Fiscal</b> policy is how the government uses money to influence the economy.   |
| Flourish     | v. to prosper, grow, or make fast progress      | After one year, the tiny plants had <b>flourished</b> into a breathtaking garden.   |
| Fluctuate    | v. to be unstable; to rise and fall             | Stocks can <b>fluctuate</b> on a daily basis, making it difficult to determine when to buy or sell one.                               |
| Foment       | v. to stir up                                   | The civilians accused their leader of <b>fomenting</b> political unrest.  |
| Foreseeable  | adj. capable of being predicted or anticipated  | I can't imagine aliens visiting us in the <b>foreseeable</b> future.  |
| Frankly      | adv. directly, clearly                          | I <b>frankly</b> don't see the point in learning to drive.  |
| Freewheeling | adj. carefree                                   | His <b>freewheeling</b> attitude often got him in trouble at work.  |
| Fundamental  | adj. the most essential or most basic part      | A thesis is arguably the most <b>fundamental</b> part of an essay.  |
| Galvanizing  | adj. thrilling, exciting, stimulating           | The <b>galvanizing</b> performance left everyone spellbound.  |
| Geriatric    | adj. relating to old age                        | I became interested in <b>geriatric</b> medicine shortly after my grandfather passed away from cancer.                                |

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| Hostile          | <i>adj.</i> harmful, dangerous                                | The voices around the corner sounded angry, <b>hostile</b> even.                            |
| Hypothetical     | <i>adj.</i> supposed; related to a hypothesis                 | For my physics homework, I must come up with a <b>hypothetical</b> situation.               |
| Ignominious      | <i>adj.</i> publicly shameful or humiliating                  | The politician's expensive campaign ultimately ended in <b>ignominious</b> defeat.          |
| Impart           | <i>v.</i> to transmit, bestow, or disclose                    | Parents must <b>impart</b> common sense to their children.                                  |
| Impartiality     | <i>n.</i> the equal and objective treatment of opposing views | To ensure <b>impartiality</b> , we require everyone to follow these general guidelines.     |
| Imposing         | <i>adj.</i> impressive (esp. in size or appearance)           | The old mansion was <b>imposing</b> in its huge size and gothic architecture.               |
| Imposition       | <i>n.</i> an unnecessary burden                               | If it's not too much of an <b>imposition</b> , could you proofread my paper?                |
| Imprudent        | <i>adj.</i> not cautious or prudent; rash                     | Backpacking abroad can be fun, but don't be <b>imprudent</b> about money.                   |
| Incite           | <i>v.</i> to encourage or stir up                             | Her hateful words <b>incited</b> anger in the crowd.  |
| Indifference     | <i>n.</i> apathy, emotional detachment                        | The girl's <b>indifference</b> toward her brother upset their parents.                      |
| Indiscriminately | <i>adv.</i> randomly; with little or no distinction           | Lottery winners are chosen <b>indiscriminately</b> .  |
| Indulge          | <i>v.</i> to give into; to satisfy or gratify                 | My friend loves to <b>indulge</b> in cheesy romance movies.                                 |
| Infer            | <i>v.</i> to guess, conclude, or derive by reasoning          | You can <b>infer</b> from this quotation that the writer didn't care for "pretty" language. |
| Innovative       | <i>adj.</i> novel or new (esp. as an idea or invention)       | Her invention was incredibly <b>innovative</b> and won her multiple awards.                 |
| Insatiable       | <i>adj.</i> can't be satisfied                                | A vampire's thirst for blood is said to be <b>insatiable</b> .                              |
| Inversion        | <i>n.</i> a reversal  | The culture's norms were an <b>inversion</b> of our own.                                    |
| Invoke           | <i>v.</i> to call on; to appeal to (e.g., a higher power)     | The shaman attempted to <b>invoke</b> a demon.  |
| Irreconcilable   | <i>adj.</i> incapable of being in harmony or agreed           | The couple's differences were ultimately <b>irreconcilable</b> , giving                     |

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|               | upon   | them no choice but to break up.  |
| Lament        | <i>v.</i> to feel sorrow for; to mourn                                   | Susan <b>lamented</b> her missed chance at going to Europe with her high school class.   |
| Locomotion    | <i>n.</i> movement   | Physics involves the study of <b>locomotion</b> .  |
| Lucrative     | <i>adj.</i> capable of making a lot of money; profitable                 | Writing books isn't a particularly <b>lucrative</b> career, unless you're J.K. Rowling.  |
| Malicious     | <i>adj.</i> harmful, spiteful  | The <b>malicious</b> spirit drove out the inhabitants from their home.   |
| Malleable     | <i>adj.</i> capable of being molded or changed                           | Children's minds are <b>malleable</b> but only for so long.  |
| Materialistic | <i>adj.</i> superficial; focus on material possessions                   | Many people accuse Americans of being <b>materialistic</b> .   |
| Melodramatic  | <i>adj.</i> extravagant or exaggerated (as of a melodrama)               | The <b>melodramatic</b> play was well liked by the audience.   |
| Modest        | <i>adj.</i> simple and humble<br><i>adj.</i> small in size or amount     | They moved into a <b>modest</b> house in the countryside.<br>I received a <b>modest</b> sum of money for my help at the company event. |
| Modify        | <i>v.</i> to change, alter, or tweak                                     | Dr. Nguyen <b>modified</b> the gene so that it wouldn't carry the disease.   |
| Momentous     | <i>adj.</i> historically significant                                     | Her win in the election was <b>momentous</b> .   |
| Novel         | <i>adj.</i> new, innovative  | We are looking for <b>novel</b> ways to approach the project.  |
| Nuance        | <i>n.</i> a subtle difference in meaning                                 | Body-language experts even understand the <b>nuances</b> of facial expressions.  |
| Null          | <i>adj.</i> legally void and ineffective                                 | The government declared their marriage <b>null</b> .   |
| Objectivity   | <i>n.</i> judgment based on observations instead of emotions or opinions | In scientific research, <b>objectivity</b> is of utmost importance.  |
| Obsolete      | <i>adj.</i> no longer used; rare or uncommon                             | Historians assumed record players would be <b>obsolete</b> by now, but in fact they're making a huge comeback.                         |

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| Omnipotent | <i>adj.</i> almighty and all powerful  | Gods are <b>omnipotent</b> beings who can control human destiny.   |
| Onset      | <i>n.</i> the beginning or early stages  | At the <b>onset</b> of her career as a lawyer, things were looking up.   |
| Opine      | <i>v.</i> to openly express an opinion   | The new employee <b>opined</b> at the company meeting.   |
| Ornate     | <i>adj.</i> highly detailed and decorated  | That <b>ornate</b> silverware must be worth thousands of dollars!  |
| Oust       | <i>v.</i> to remove or force out of (usu. a position or office)                    | Sick and tired of putting up with his bad moods, the pirates <b>ousted</b> their captain.                      |
| Paramount  | <i>adj.</i> predominant, superior, most important                                  | Our <b>paramount</b> concern is the safety of our employees.   |
| Peculiar   | <i>adj.</i> strange, bizarre   | Upon entering the abandoned house, Kate experienced a <b>peculiar</b> feeling, as if someone was watching her. |
| Perish     | <i>v.</i> to die; to pass away   | According to the news, nobody <b>perished</b> in the fire.   |
| Persecute  | <i>v.</i> to cause suffering to  | They will <b>persecute</b> anyone who doesn't agree with their views of the world.                             |
| Petulant   | <i>adj.</i> cranky, pouty, irritable   | <b>Petulant</b> children are especially difficult to care for.   |
| Pinnacle   | <i>n.</i> highest level or degree  | Many believe that composers such as Beethoven and Mozart represent the <b>pinnacle</b> of classical music.     |
| Pitiable   | <i>adj.</i> deserving pity   | The frail-looking dog was <b>pitiable</b> , so I gave it some food and took it inside to care for it.          |
| Plausible  | <i>adj.</i> reasonable and possibly true   | Her story is <b>plausible</b> , but that doesn't mean she's telling the truth.                                 |
| Postulate  | <i>v.</i> to assert  | The literary critic <b>postulates</b> that romanticism and naturalism are actually interconnected.             |
| Potent     | <i>adj.</i> having great influence<br><i>adj.</i> having a strong, chemical effect | The bald eagle is a <b>potent</b> symbol of the US. The potion was definitely <b>potent</b> —it healed my      |

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|              |   | wounds immediately!  |
| Pragmatic    | <i>adj.</i> practical, useful   | It's not necessarily more <b>pragmatic</b> to study engineering than it is to study philosophy.  |
| Precedent    | <i>n.</i> an example or subject from earlier in time  | This change in law is without historical <b>precedent</b> .  |
| Predecessor  | <i>n.</i> someone who comes before you (usu. in position or office)   | My <b>predecessor</b> gave me many tips for running the office.  |
| Prescribe    | <i>v.</i> to command orders<br><i>v.</i> to issue authorization for medications   | The directions for our essay <b>prescribe</b> a length of at least ten pages.<br>A doctor must <b>prescribe</b> you this medication before you can begin taking it.                                      |
| Principle    | <i>n.</i> basic truth, assumption, or rule  | Remember the universal <b>principle</b> : treat others as you want them to treat you.  |
| Prohibit     | <i>v.</i> to command against, to outlaw   | Alcohol was <b>prohibited</b> in the US in the 1920s.  |
| Prompt       | <i>adj.</i> punctual, on time<br><i>n.</i> a cue to begin something; instructions<br><i>v.</i> to incite, propel, or cause to act | She is always <b>prompt</b> when it comes to turning in her homework.<br>I had to write an essay based on a <b>prompt</b> .<br>The possibility of a scholarship <b>prompted</b> him to apply to Harvard. |
| Promulgate   | <i>v.</i> to put into law or formally declare   | The ruler will at last <b>promulgate</b> an amnesty with the neighboring countries.  |
| Prosecute    | <i>v.</i> to bring criminal action against someone (in a trial)   | The suspect was <b>prosecuted</b> yesterday.   |
| Provocative  | <i>adj.</i> intending to provoke, inspire, or arouse  | Her nude paintings are considered quite <b>provocative</b> .   |
| Qualitative  | <i>adj.</i> involving qualities of something (features and content)   | I noticed a <b>qualitative</b> change in her paintings.  |
| Quantitative | <i>adj.</i> involving quantities (numbers and amounts)  | We must conduct a <b>quantitative</b> analysis.  |

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| Quirk           | <i>n.</i> a strange habit   | His biggest <b>quirk</b> is his love of old marbles.  |
| Ramify          | <i>v.</i> to split into two or more branches                                      | Cars <b>ramified</b> throughout the world in the twentieth century.   |
| Rash            | <i>adj.</i> without attention to danger or risk                                   | Her <b>rash</b> decision to pass the car nearly resulted in a crash.  |
| Raw             | <i>adj.</i> unrefined<br><i>adj.</i> not processed; uncooked (as in food)         | He's got <b>raw</b> talent as a singer, but he needs to work on his performance skills.<br>In some countries, such as Japan, it is normal to eat <b>raw</b> fish. |
| Readily         | <i>adv.</i> right away and without difficulty                                     | Water was <b>readily</b> available at different points in the race.   |
| Reconsideration | <i>n.</i> thinking again about a previously made choice                           | The judges' <b>reconsideration</b> of her performance resulted in her victory.  |
| Reform          | <i>n.</i> a change for the better; improvement<br><i>v.</i> to improve via change | The <b>reform</b> made it so that only those 18 and older can legally drive.<br>The government <b>reformed</b> its vague policies on marijuana use.               |
| Refute          | <i>v.</i> to prove to be untrue, unfounded, or incorrect                          | The student <b>refuted</b> the professor's claim in class.  |
| Reinforce       | <i>v.</i> to strengthen or add support to   | We can use these pipes to <b>reinforce</b> the structure.   |
| Reluctantly     | <i>adv.</i> somewhat unwillingly  | Max <b>reluctantly</b> agreed to see the horror movie with his friends.   |
| Renounce        | <i>v.</i> to give up (usu. power or a position)<br><i>v.</i> to cast off          | Our CEO <b>renounced</b> her position yesterday.<br>He <b>renounced</b> his friend after he caught her stealing money from him.                                   |
| Reproach        | <i>v.</i> to criticize  | The mother <b>reproached</b> her daughter's school for making students come in during a blizzard.   |
| Repudiate       | <i>v.</i> to refuse to recognize as true<br><i>v.</i> to cast off                 | The father <b>repudiated</b> his son's marriage.<br>She <b>repudiated</b> her son once she found out he'd married someone without telling her.                    |
| Retention       | <i>n.</i> the act of keeping  | Water <b>retention</b> can make you   |

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|            | something   | weigh more on certain days.  |
| Satiated   | <i>adj.</i> satisfied (usu. in hunger)                                  | I felt <b>satiated</b> after eating a snack.   |
| Savvy      | <i>adj.</i> having practical intelligence or knowledge                  | My brother is not very <b>savvy</b> when it comes to using public transportation.  |
| Scandalous | <i>adj.</i> morally offensive, often causing damage to one's reputation | The <b>scandalous</b> politician decided it was best to resign from office.  |
| Scorn      | <i>v.</i> to look down on with disdain                                  | It's difficult for me not to <b>scorn</b> those who use improper grammar.  |
| Scrupulous | <i>adj.</i> paying great attention to detail                            | I am a <b>scrupulous</b> proofreader and never miss an error.  |
| Scrutinize | <i>v.</i> to examine carefully and critically                           | The teacher <b>scrutinized</b> her students' essays.   |
| Secrete    | <i>v.</i> to produce or release (a substance)                           | Trees <b>secrete</b> a sticky substance called sap.  |
| Sentiment  | <i>n.</i> opinion<br><i>n.</i> a tender or moving gesture               | I am of the <b>sentiment</b> that you should never give out your passwords to anyone. Even though I'm not a big fan of porcelain dolls, I appreciated the <b>sentiment</b> . |
| Sheer      | <i>adj.</i> so thin that light can shine through                        | The curtains on the window were so <b>sheer</b> you could clearly see inside the house.  |
| Simple     | <i>adj.</i> easy; not complex<br><i>adj.</i> undecorated                | This math problem is so <b>simple</b> even a first grader can solve it.<br>The <b>simple</b> beauty of the ocean is what makes it memorable.                                 |
| Sinister   | <i>adj.</i> ominous, evil   | Medieval peasants believed <b>sinister</b> demons could harm humans.   |
| Solidarity | <i>n.</i> the joining of commonalities or common purposes among a group | I stood in <b>solidarity</b> with other female students by refusing to wear the school's sexist uniform.   |
| Sparingly  | <i>adv.</i> insufficiently, meagerly, or in a restricted manner         | Due to my condition, I must eat salt <b>sparingly</b> .  |
| Spawn      | <i>v.</i> to release eggs<br><i>v.</i> to call forth or                 | Frogs typically <b>spawn</b> in ponds. The topic <b>spawned</b> an ongoing   |



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|              | generate  | debate among his family members.   |
| Spur         | <i>v.</i> to stimulate or incite  | Her bravery <b>spurred</b> others to act.  |
| Squalid      | <i>adj.</i> run-down, sordid, or sleazy   | The <b>squalid</b> cabin needed a new roof and an exterminator.  |
| Stark        | <i>adj.</i> very plain; devoid of any details or features   | Looking out at the <b>stark</b> landscape, I felt a keen sense of isolation.   |
| Static       | <i>adj.</i> motionless<br><i>adj.</i> changeless  | The ball is <b>static</b> .<br>Her life has been <b>static</b> for the past three years.   |
| Subordinate  | <i>adj.</i> lower in rank<br><i>n.</i> someone lower in rank<br><i>v.</i> to make dependent on or put at a lower rank | The <b>subordinate</b> officers work every day.<br>My <b>subordinate</b> will check you in.<br>You aren't my boss—you can't <b>subordinate</b> me to the role of receptionist! |
| Subsequently | <i>adv.</i> happening later or after something  | I <b>subsequently</b> went home.   |
| Substantial  | <i>adj.</i> very large in amount or degree  | I was shocked to find a <b>substantial</b> amount of money beneath the park bench.   |
| Substantiate | <i>v.</i> to strengthen with new evidence or facts  | It is important for scientists to <b>substantiate</b> their theories whenever possible.  |
| Subtle       | <i>adj.</i> hard to detect or analyze   | I detected in her expression a <b>subtle</b> hint of irritation.   |
| Sufficient   | <i>adj.</i> enough; just meeting a requirement  | These boxes should be <b>sufficient</b> for our move.  |
| Surly        | <i>adj.</i> unfriendly; inclined to anger   | The bartender was a <b>surly</b> fellow who wasn't afraid to start a fight.  |
| Surmount     | <i>v.</i> to get on top of or overcome  | They managed to <b>surmount</b> the language barrier by using a translation app.   |
| Susceptible  | <i>adj.</i> to be vulnerable (to something)   | Children are more <b>susceptible</b> to certain illnesses than adults are.   |
| Tactful      | <i>adj.</i> skilled at dealing with people  | Her <b>tactful</b> attitude toward our class made her one of my favorite teachers.   |
| Taut         | <i>adj.</i> pulled tight  | The rubberband was <b>taut</b> and ready to be fired.  |

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| Teeming       | <i>adj.</i> abundantly filled<br>(usu. with living organisms)   | Doorknobs are not as clean as they look and are often <b>teeming</b> with germs.  |
| Temperament   | <i>n.</i> usual mood or feelings  | She had a hostile <b>temperament</b> , making her intimidating to most people.  |
| Tentative     | <i>adj.</i> not yet finalized   | We haven't made any official arrangements yet, but the <b>tentative</b> location for our wedding is Hawaii.                                     |
| Transparent   | <i>adj.</i> see-through; so thin that light can shine through<br><i>adj.</i> truthful or easy to perceive | Stained window glass isn't as <b>transparent</b> as regular window glass is.<br>She was <b>transparent</b> about her plans to end her marriage. |
| Treacherous   | <i>adj.</i> dangerous and unstable  | The journey was becoming <b>treacherous</b> , but they continued on regardless.   |
| Tremendous    | <i>adj.</i> very large, good, or bad in degree or size  | <b>Tremendous</b> news! You don't have to repay your loans!   |
| Ubiquitous    | <i>adj.</i> being everywhere at once  | Cell phones are <b>ubiquitous</b> these days.   |
| Unadorned     | <i>adj.</i> undecorated, plain  | Though the dress was cheap and <b>unadorned</b> , it was by far her favorite one on the rack.   |
| Undermine     | <i>v.</i> to weaken or subvert<br>(usu. gradually or secretly)  | Parents should take care not to constantly <b>undermine</b> their children.   |
| Underscore    | <i>v.</i> to emphasize or give additional weight to   | This sentence seems to <b>underscore</b> the overall meaning of the passage.  |
| Undulate      | <i>v.</i> to move as ripples or in a wavy pattern   | Belly dancers are known for their ability to skillfully <b>undulate</b> their stomachs.   |
| Unilateral    | <i>adj.</i> one-sided   | The <b>unilateral</b> decision was deemed unfair by the other party involved.   |
| Unjust        | <i>adj.</i> unfair; not justified   | The court's decision is <b>unjust</b> —he should not go free.   |
| Unmitigated   | <i>adj.</i> downright, utter, total   | My speech was an <b>unmitigated</b> disaster!   |
| Unprecedented | <i>adj.</i> completely new and never having happened  | The number of protestors was <b>unprecedented</b> .   |

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|           | before; historic   |  |
| Unveil    | v. to make visible; to reveal  | We plan to <b>unveil</b> our plans for the new company project on Sunday.  |
| Urge      | n. desire or impulse<br>v. to encourage or persuade  | He had the <b>urge</b> to tell his parents about his acceptance to Columbia but decided against it. She <b>urged</b> her sister to apply to Stanford.                                    |
| Validate  | v. to prove or declare valid   | Your selfish actions do not <b>validate</b> your feelings for me.  |
| Viability | n. ability to be done in a practical or useful way   | The <b>viability</b> of the solution is questionable.  |
| Vital     | adj. urgently necessary  | It is <b>vital</b> that you respond by the deadline.   |
| Vow       | v. to promise  | My brother quickly broke his <b>vow</b> to never eat chocolate again.  |
| Warrant   | v. to prove to be reasonable   | Wanting to look cool in front of your friends doesn't <b>warrant</b> breaking the law.   |
| Yield     | n. production of an amount<br>v. to give way to or surrender to<br>v. to produce or supply | The farmer's annual pumpkin <b>yield</b> exceeded 10,000. Cars turning right on red must <b>yield</b> to oncoming traffic. Our experiment <b>yielded</b> many unique-looking vegetables. |