1. **anomaly** – *noun* – something that is unusual or unexpected
   * The student’s poor performance on the latest test was an **anomaly** since she had previously earned excellent grades.
2. **equivocal** – *adj.* – not easily understood or explained
   * Politicians have been known to provide **equivocal** answers to reporters’ questions.
3. **lucid** – adj. – very clear and easy to understand
   * The lecture was **lucid** and straightforward, allowing the students to fully grasp the concepts presented.
4. **precipitate** – *verb* – to cause (something) to happen quickly or suddenly
   * Unforeseen costs can **precipitate** a budget crisis.
5. **assuage** – *verb* – to make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense
   * A massage can **assuage** the soreness in your muscles.
6. **erudite** – *adj.* – having or showing great knowledge
   * High school students often struggle with novels that are more **erudite** than they are entertaining.
7. **opaque** – *adj.* –  not able to be seen through; not easily understood
   * Medical jargon includes many **opaque** terms like macrosomic, which describes a newborn who weighs more than 4,000 grams.
8. **prodigal** – *adj.* – wastefully extravagant
   * The **prodigal** prince bought lavish gifts and planned expensive events.
9. **enigma** – *noun* – a person or thing that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand
   * Scientists continue to research cancer to solve the **enigma** of its primary cause, which will hopefully lead to a cure.
10. **fervid** – *adj.* – intensely enthusiastic or passionate
    * The child showed a **fervid** fascination for superheroes, pouring over comic books for hours.
11. **placate** – *verb* – to make (someone) less angry or hostile
    * A parent may decide to **placate** a baby with a pacifier.
12. **zeal** – *noun* – a strong feel of interest and enthusiasm that makes someone very eager or determined to do something
    * The great emperor’s crusading **zeal** led him to conquer many lands.
13. **abstain** – *verb* – to restrain oneself for doing or enjoying something
    * Doctors encourage their patients to **abstain** from smoking cigarettes.
14. **audacious** – *adj.* – a willingness to take bold risks / adj. –  showing a lack of respect
    * The new CEO pursued **audacious** initiatives to save the company from bankruptcy. / The student’s **audacious** remark earned her a seat in afternoon detention.
15. **desiccate** – *verb* – remove the moisture from (something)
    * The heat and energy from the sun can **desiccate** even the most hearty plants.
16. **gullible** – *adj.* – easily persuaded to believe something
    * The **gullible** little boy gave his older sister all of his allowance because she told him she would buy a pony for him.
17. **laudable** – *adj.* – deserving praise and commendation
    * Providing affordable healthcare for all citizens is a **laudable** goal.
18. **pedant** – *noun* – a person who makes an excessive display of learning
    * Professor Blackwell, a well-known **pedant**, required his pre-med students to speak in Latin throughout the entire semester.
19. **vacillate** – *verb* – to waver between different opinions or actions
    * Undergraduate students often **vacillate** among various majors before deciding which degree to pursue.
20. **adulterate** – *verb* – to make (something) impure or weaker by adding something of inferior quality
    * Many chefs use fresh produce and refuse to **adulterate** their dishes with canned ingredients.
21. **capricious** – *adj.* – given to sudden changes of mood or behavior
    * The **capricious** supervisor would hand out raises one day and fire his entire staff the next.
22. **engender** – *verb* – to produce, cause, or give rise to (something)
    * Political debates can **engender** controversy regarding the subjects discussed.
23. **homogenous** – *adj.* – of the same or similar kind
    * There are very few truly **homogenous** cultures since social diversity is increasingly widespread.
24. **loquacious** – *adj.* – tending to talk a great deal
    * The **loquacious** professor was known for his five-hour lectures.
25. **pragmatic** – *adj.* – dealing with the problems that exist in a reasonable and logical way instead of depending on theories
    * A **pragmatic** approach to legislation can be difficult given the complexities of politics.
26. **volatile** – *adj.* – likely to change rapidly and unpredictably
    * It is possible for a country’s political climate to remain **volatile** for decades.
27. **apathy** – *noun* – lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern
    * Political parties try to engage young voters who are more prone to **apathy** than older citizens.
28. **corroborate** – *verb* – to confirm or make more certain
    * The scientist was able to **corroborate** his hypothesis with data gathered from multiple sources.
29. **ephemeral** – *adj.* – lasting for a very short time
    * An **ephemeral** moment of victory may last mere seconds, but it can remain as a triumphant memory for decades.
30. **laconic** – *adj.* – using few words
    * The student’s **laconic** response suggested  that she did not know very much about the topic the professor was discussing.
31. **mitigate** – *verb* – make less severe, serious, or painful
    * We want to **mitigate** students’ GRE stress by offering helpful study tools.
32. **propriety** – *noun* – the state or quality of being correct or proper
    * The students were instructed to behave with the utmost **propriety** while on their class field trip.
33. **advocate** – *verb* – publicly recommend or support
    * The governor chose to **advocate** for a higher minimum wage rather than a tax incentive.
34. **cacophony** – *noun* – a harsh, unpleasant mixture of sounds
    * The **cacophony** of the middle school band warming up was nearly unbearable for the audience.
35. **enervate** – *verb* – cause (someone or something) to feel drained of energy; weaken
    * The boxer used a swift left uppercut to the jaw to **enervate** his opponent.
36. **ingenuous** – *adj.* – innocent and unsuspecting
    * The scam artist preyed on **ingenuous** nursing home residents.
37. **misanthrope** – *noun* – a person who dislikes humankind
    * The neighborhood **misanthrope** surrounded his yard with barbed wire to keep people away.
38. **paradox** – *noun* – a statement that contradicts itself but might be true
    * The fact that the retired teacher claimed to hate all pets but adopted seven cats is an intriguing **paradox**.
39. **venerate** – verb – regard with great respect
    * To **venerate** the fire chief’s forty years of service, the department held a special banquet.
40. **antipathy** – *noun* – a strong feeling of dislike
    * The students voiced their **antipathy** for homework very loudly.
41. **deride** – *verb* – to express contempt for; ridicule
    * The unreasonable supervise was known to **deride** his employees on a daily basis.
42. **eulogy** – *noun* – a speech that praises someone, typically some who has recently died
    * The rabbi’s **eulogy** was both heartfelt and inspiring.
43. **lethargic** – *adj.* – lacking energy
    * It’s not uncommon to feel **lethargic** for weeks or even months after major surgery.
44. **obdurate** – *adj.* – stubbornly refusing to change one’s opinion
    * The **obdurate** three-year-old refused to eat any vegetables, no matter how they were prepared.
45. **philanthropic** – *adj.* – seeking to promote the welfare of others
    * The students were grateful to receive financial support from **philanthropic** organizations that promote education.
46. **waver** – *verb* – to go back and forth between choices or opinions
    * Some citizens vote solely along party lines and never **waver** in their political decisions.
47. **bolster** – *verb* – to support or strengthen
    * The prosecutor worked to find evidence that would **bolster** her case against the defendant.
48. **dissonance** – *noun* – a lack of harmony or agreement
    * The school board’s meeting lasted for hours due to the length debate fueled by **dissonance** among opinions.
49. **garrulous** – *adj.* – excessively talkative
    * The **garrulous** hair stylist talked to each customer for hours at a time.
50. **malleable** – *adj.* – easily influenced; pliable
    * Children’s moods are often **malleable** since children are greatly affected by their surroundings.
51. **ostentation** – *noun* – excessive display of wealth
    * Owning a mansion doesn’t imply **ostentation**, but traveling exclusively by private jet certainly can.
52. **prevaricate** – *verb* – avoid telling the truth by not directly answering a question
    * During the trial, the lead witness was willing to **prevaricate** in order to protect his friend.