

# Advanced Words 1



**apogee**

*noun*

the highest point in the development of something



**apostate**

*noun*

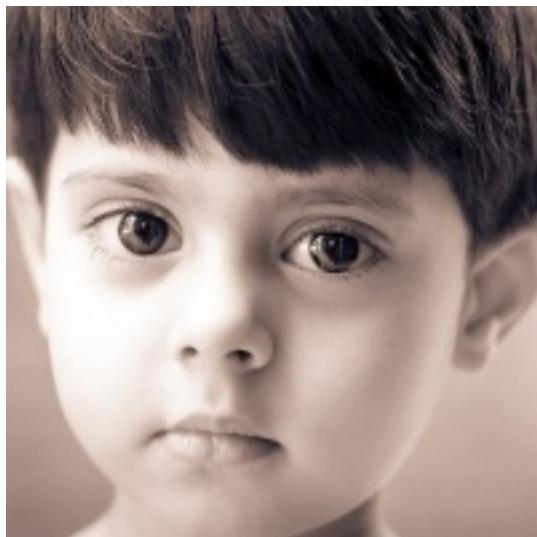
a person who abandons a religious belief or principle



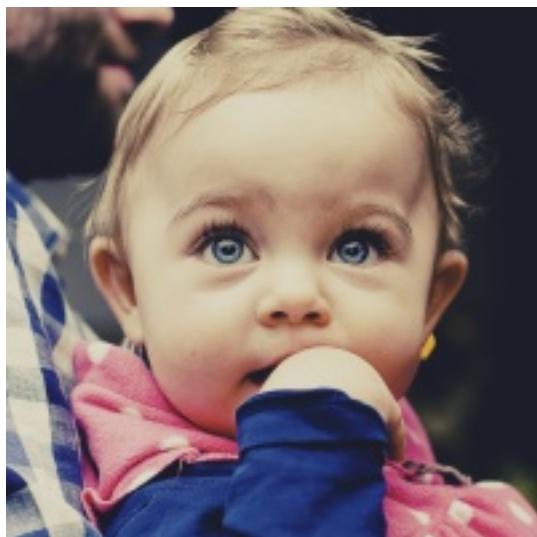
**arrant**

*adjective*

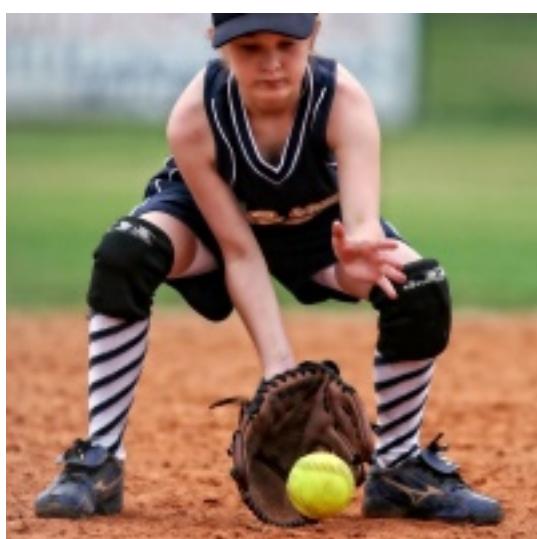
being notoriously bad



**artless**  
*adjective*  
without guile or deception



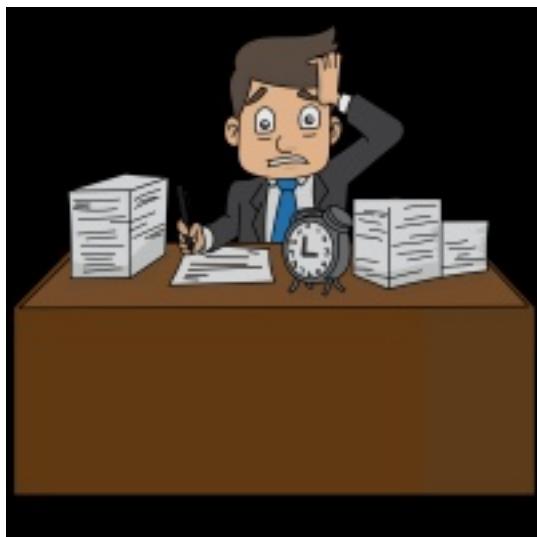
**artlessness**  
*noun*  
the quality of being free from guile or deception



**attenuate**  
*verb*  
reduce the force, effect, or value of



**base**  
*adjective*  
without moral principles



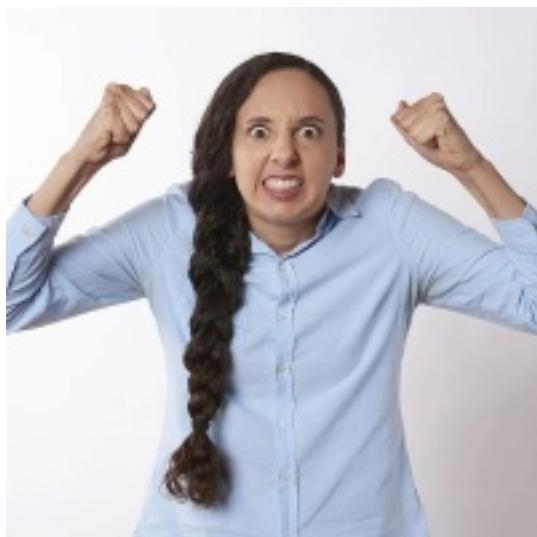
**byzantine**  
*adjective*  
complex or intricate, typically involving a great deal of administrative detail



**catholic**  
*adjective*  
including a wide variety of things; all-embracing



**chary**  
*adjective*  
cautiously or suspiciously reluctant to do something



**choleric**  
*adjective*  
bad-tempered or irritable



**churlish**  
*adjective*  
rude and difficult to work with



**conciliate**

*verb*

stop (someone) being angry or discontented; to make compatible



**contentious**

*adjective*

causing or likely to cause an argument



**cow**

*verb*

cause (someone) to submit to one's wishes by intimidation

**defray***verb*

provide money to pay (a cost or expense), especially by an organization

**diatribe***noun*

a forceful and bitter verbal attack against someone or something

**equivocate***verb*

use ambiguous language so as to conceal the truth



**exegesis**

*noun*

critical explanation or interpretation of a text,  
especially of scripture



**expansive**

*adjective*

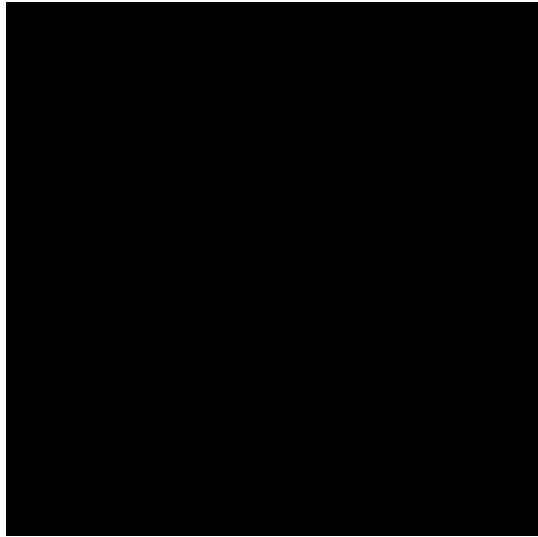
(of a person or their manner) relaxed and genially  
frank



**expunge**

*verb*

remove completely (something unwanted or  
unpleasant)



**factional**

*adjective*

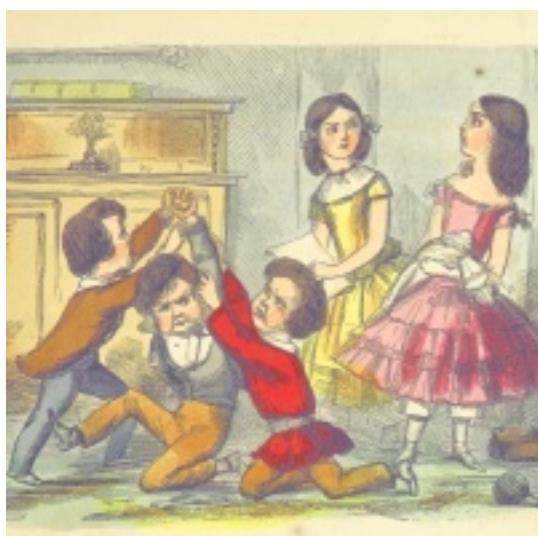
relating or inclined to dissension, likely to argue or disagree



**feckless**

*adjective*

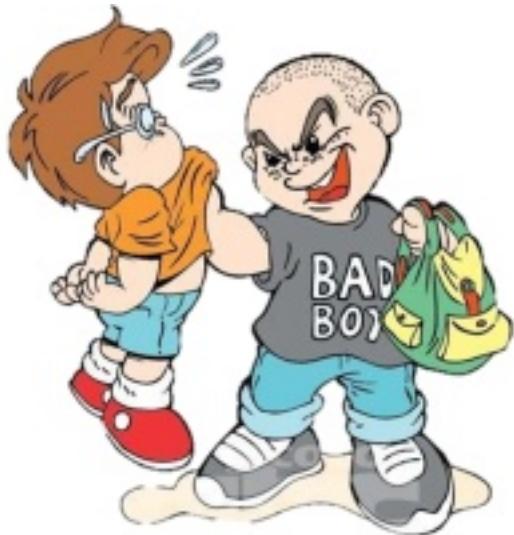
lacking initiative or strength of character



**fractious**

*adjective*

(typically of children) irritable and quarrelsome



**hector**

*verb*

talk to (someone) in a bullying way



**imbibe**

*verb*

to drink, especially alcohol

*verb*

absorb or assimilate (ideas or knowledge)



**indigent**

*adjective*

poor enough to need help from others

*noun*

a poor or needy person



**insufferable**  
*adjective*  
too extreme to bear



**kowtow**  
*verb*  
to act in an obsequious manner, try to gain favour  
by flattery



**lascivious**  
*adjective*  
feeling or revealing an overt sexual desire



**malfeasance**

*noun*

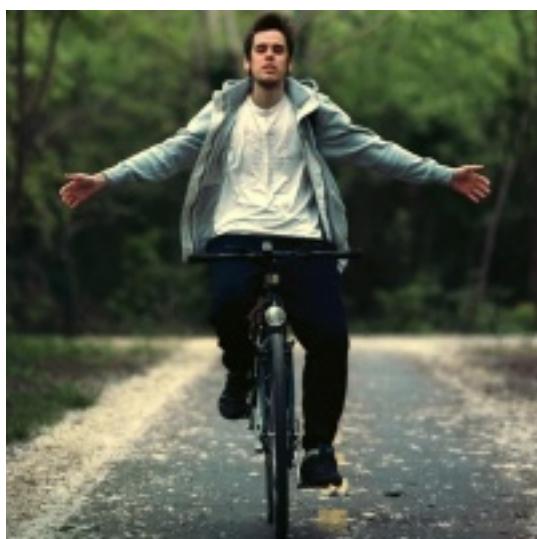
wrongdoing, especially by a public official



**nadir**

*noun*

the lowest or most unsuccessful point in a situation



**overweening**

*adjective*

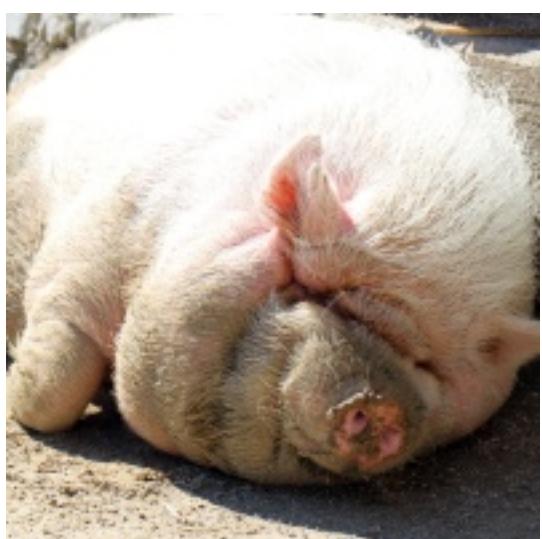
showing excessive confidence or pride



**pariah**  
*noun*  
one that is despised or rejected



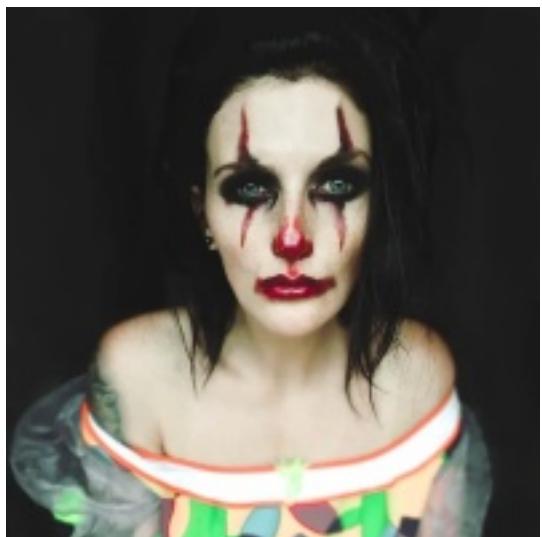
**penurious**  
*adjective*  
extremely poor



**ponderous**  
*adjective*  
slow and clumsy because of great weight



**prosaic**  
*adjective*  
lacking imagination or originality



**saturnine**  
*adjective*  
gloomy and unfriendly



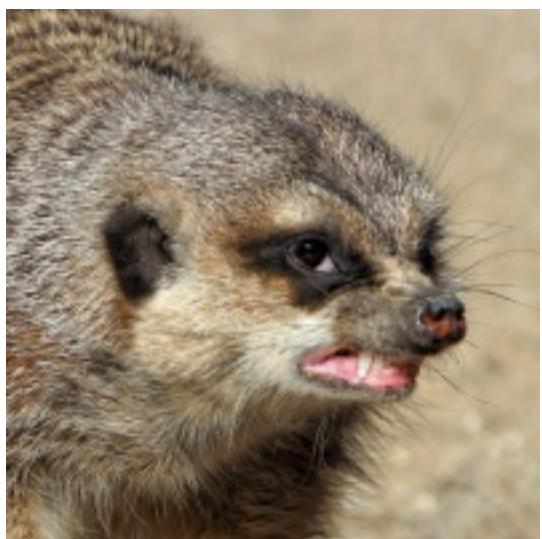
**sedulous**  
*adjective*  
(of a person or action) showing dedication and diligence



**supercilious**

*adjective*

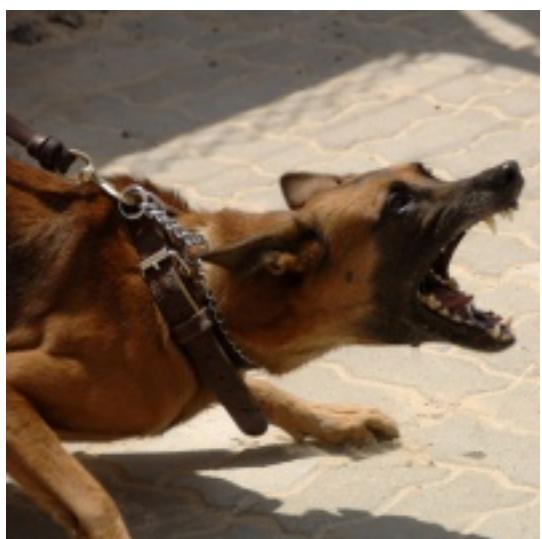
behaving as if superior to others



**truculence**

*noun*

defiant aggressiveness



**truculent**

*adjective*

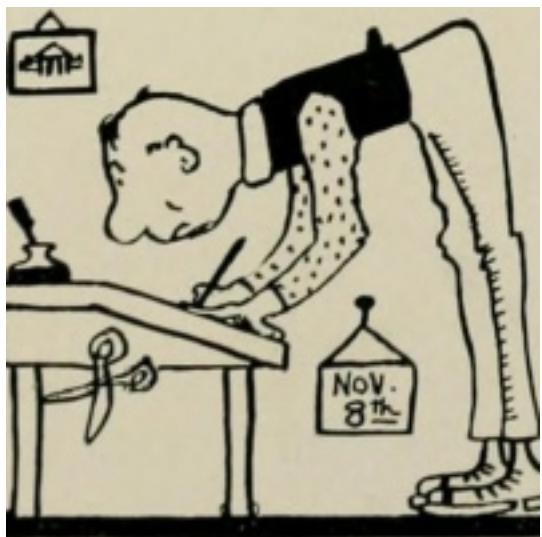
eager or quick to argue or fight



**turpitude**

*noun*

wicked behaviour or character



**untoward**

*adjective*

unexpected and not favourable; inconvenient



**vicissitude**

*noun*

a change of circumstances or fortune, typically one that is unpleasant

**are fired!**



**zeitgeist**

*noun*

the defining spirit of a particular period of history  
as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time

**notes:**

Fashion in the 70s.

# Advanced Words 2



**arch**

*adjective*

deliberately playful and teasing



**arriviste**

*noun*

an ambitious or ruthlessly self-seeking person who has risen to a higher class, especially by dubious means



**benighted**

*adjective*

without knowledge or morals, state of ignorance



**bilious**

*adjective*

bad-tempered, always in a bad mood



**blinkered**

*adjective*

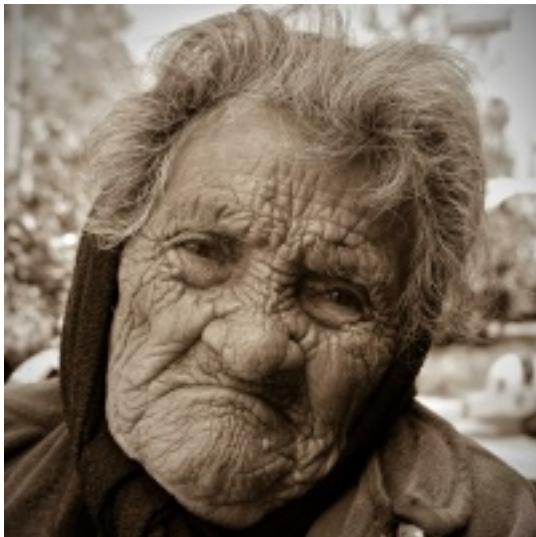
having a narrow or limited outlook



**cupidity**

*noun*

greed for money or possessions



## curmudgeon

*noun*

a bad-tempered person, especially an old one



## disabuse

*verb*

persuade (someone) that an idea or belief is mistaken



## excoriate

*verb*

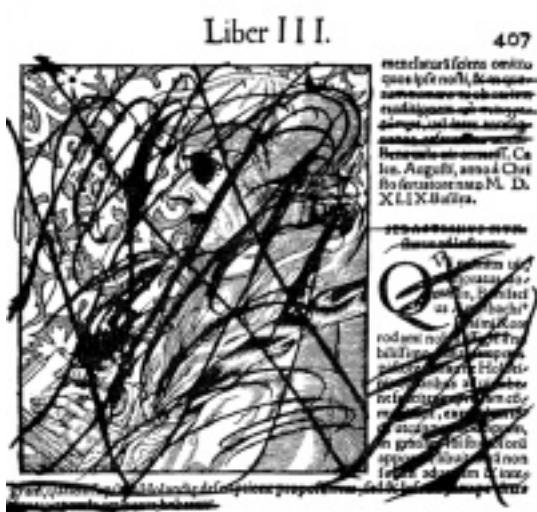
criticize (someone) severely



**execrate**

*verb*

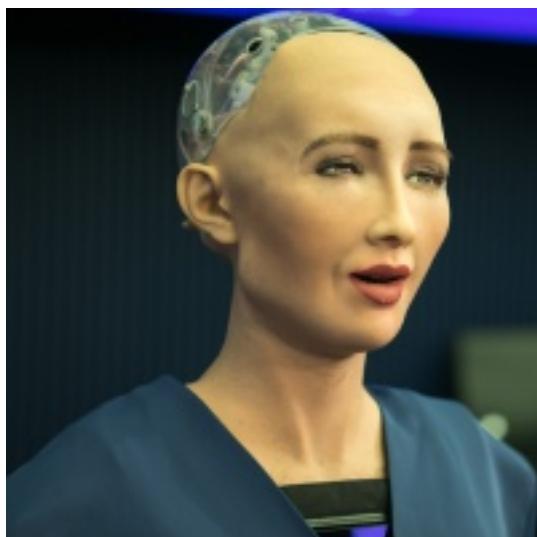
feel or express great loathing for, to utter curses



**expurgate**

*verb*

remove matter thought to be objectionable or unsuitable



**factitious**

*adjective*

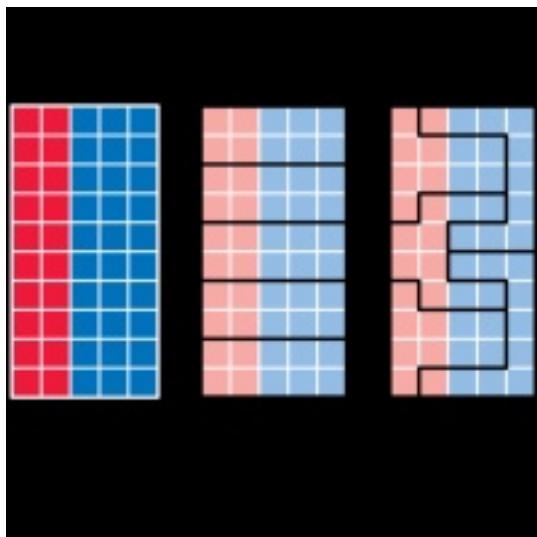
artificially created or developed

**notes:**

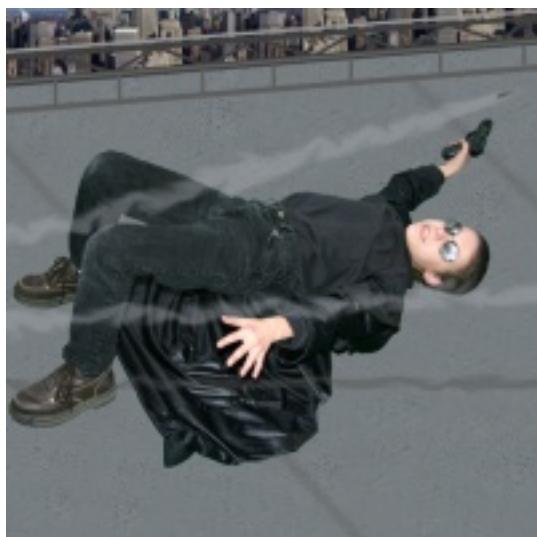
Sophia, a social humanoid robot developed by Hong Kong-based company Hanson Robotics.



**fell**  
*adjective*  
of terrible evil



**gerrymander**  
*verb*  
divide unfairly and to one's advantage; of voting districts



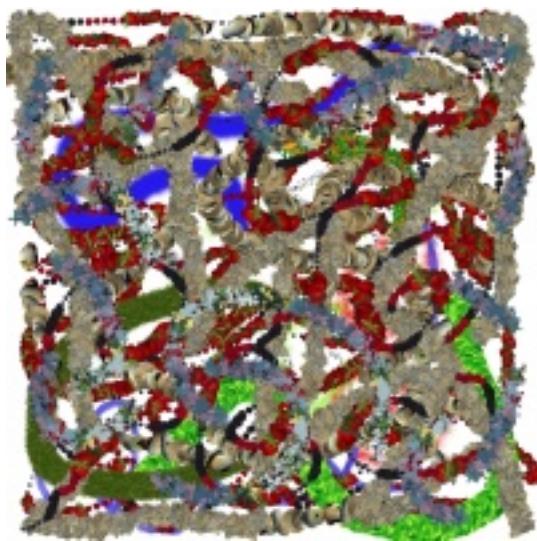
**hedge**  
*verb*  
limit or qualify (something) by conditions or exceptions; to avoid a rigid commitment so as to permit withdrawal



**histrionic**

*adjective*

excessively theatrical or dramatic in character or style



**imbroglio**

*noun*

an extremely confused, complicated, or embarrassing situation



**invective**

*noun*

insulting, abusive, or highly critical language



**jaundice**

*noun*

to be biased against or have distorted judgement, as by envy or resentment



**jejune**

*adjective*

naive, simplistic, and childish

*adjective*

dry and uninteresting



**juggernaut**

*noun*

a huge, powerful, and overwhelming force



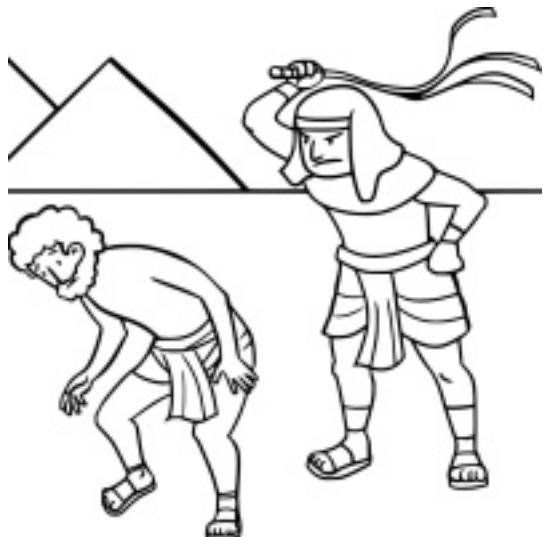
### **malapropism**

*noun*

the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar-sounding one, often with an amusing effect

**notes:**

Do you mean wait instead of bait?



### **martinet**

*noun*

a person who demands complete obedience; a strict disciplinarian



### **maudlin**

*adjective*

self-pityingly or tearfully sentimental



**mellifluous**

*adjective*

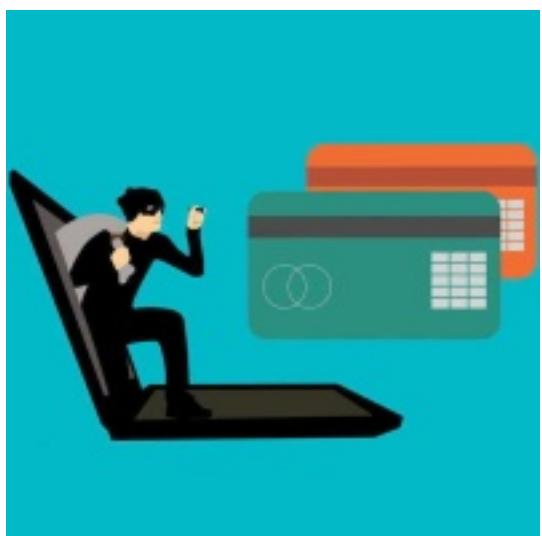
(of a sound) pleasingly smooth and musical to hear



**mettlesome**

*adjective*

(of a person or animal) full of spirit and courage



**mulct**

*verb*

take money or possessions from (someone) by fraudulent means

*verb*

extract money from (someone) by fine or taxation



**palimpsest**

*noun*

something reused or altered but still bearing visible traces of its earlier form



**parvenu**

*noun*

a person of humble origin who has gained wealth, influence, or celebrity



**peremptory**

*adjective*

insisting on immediate attention or obedience



**phantasmagoria**

*noun*

a sequence of real or imaginary images like that seen in a dream



**picayune**

*adjective*

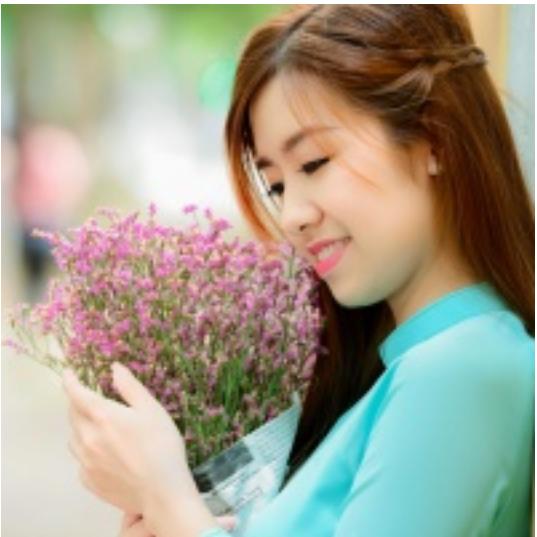
of little value or significance



**Pollyanna**

*noun*

an excessively cheerful or optimistic person

**propitiate***verb*

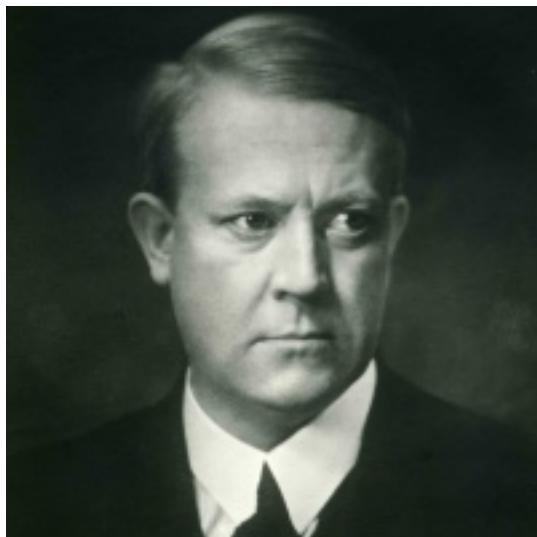
win or regain the favour of (a god or person) by doing something that pleases them

**protean***adjective*

tending or able to change frequently easily; able to do many different things

**pyrrhic***adjective*

a victory or goal achieved at too great a cost to have been worthwhile

**quisling***noun*

a traitor who collaborates with an enemy

**notes:**

Vidkun Quisling, a Norwegian military officer who collaborated with the Nazis during World War II.

**quixotic***adjective*

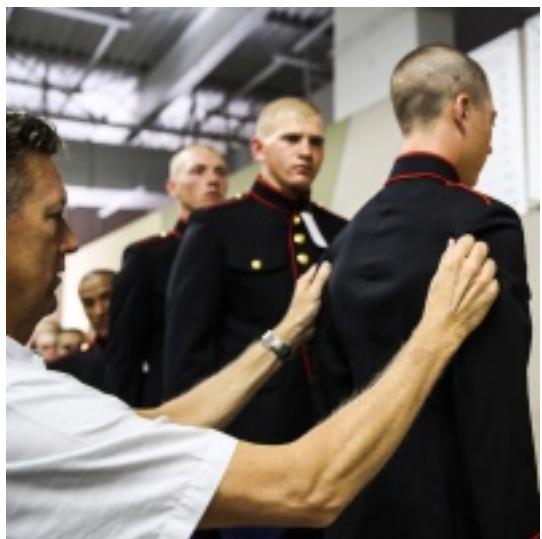
extremely idealistic; unrealistic and impractical

**remonstrate***verb*

to present reasons in complaint; plead in protest

**sangfroid***noun*

composure or coolness shown in danger or under strain

**sartorial***adjective*

relating to tailoring, clothes, or style of dress

**schadenfreude***noun*

satisfaction or pleasure felt at someone else's misfortune



**sententious**  
*adjective*  
given to excessive moralizing



**sybarite**  
*noun*  
a person who is self-indulgent in their fondness of sensuous luxury



**tendentious**  
*adjective*  
expressing a point of view or promoting a particular cause, especially a controversial one



**venial**

*adjective*

(of a fault or offence) slight and pardonable



**vituperate**

*verb*

blame or insult (someone) in strong or violent language

# Advanced Words 3



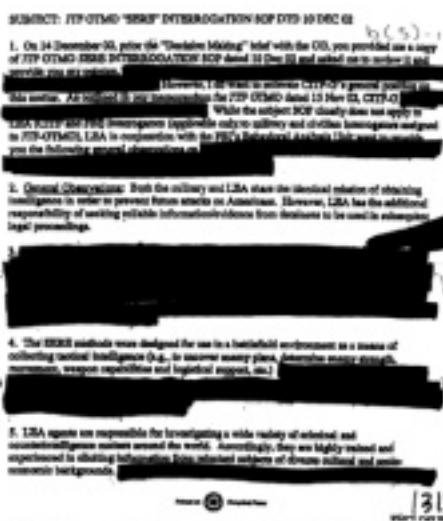
## anodyne

*adjective*

not likely to cause offence or disagreement and somewhat dull

*noun*

a painkilling drug or medicine



## bowdlerize

*verb*

remove material that is considered improper or offensive



## cede

*verb*

give up (power or territory)

**charlatan***noun*

a person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill

**derelict***adjective*

in a very poor condition as a result of disuse and neglect

*adjective*

shamefully negligent of one's duties or obligations

**effrontery***noun*

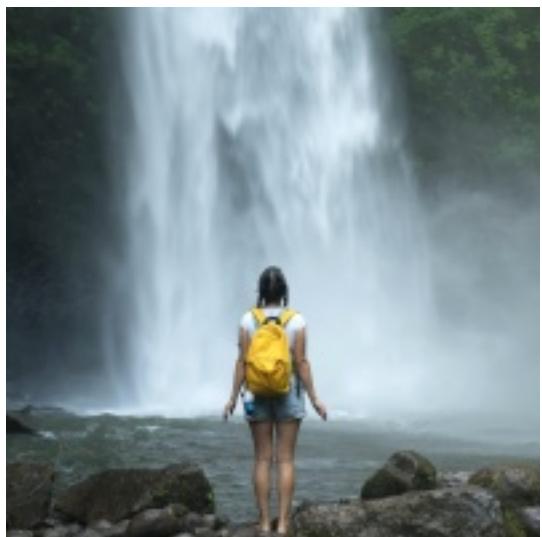
audacious (even arrogant) behaviour that you have no right to

**notes:**

Throwing trash off the bridge.

**enjoin***verb*

instruct or urge (someone) to do something with authority

**enthral***verb*

capture the fascinated attention of

**epiphany***noun*

a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization



**flummox**

*verb*

perplex (someone) greatly; be a mystery to



**gaffe**

*noun*

an unintentional act or remark causing embarrassment to its originator



**grandiloquent**

*adjective*

extravagant in language, style, or manner, especially in a way that is intended to impress



**hagiographic**

*adjective*

excessively flattering and idolizing a person, especially a person who is a saint



**hail**

*verb*

praise (someone or something) enthusiastically



**illustrious**

*adjective*

well known, respected, and admired for past achievements

**importune***verb*

harass (someone) persistently for or to do something

**impute***verb*

to lay the responsibility or blame for (something, especially something undesirable) to a person or a cause

**insouciance***noun*

casual lack of concern

# ASSASSIN'S GRILL



## lampoon

*verb*

publicly criticize (someone or something) by using ridicule, irony, or sarcasm



## litany

*noun*

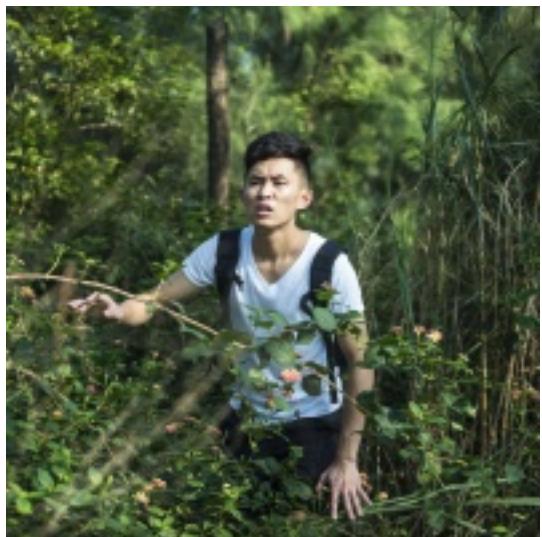
a prolonged or tedious account or a repetitive series



## lugubrious

*adjective*

looking or sounding sad and gloomy, especially in an exaggerated manner

**maunder***verb*

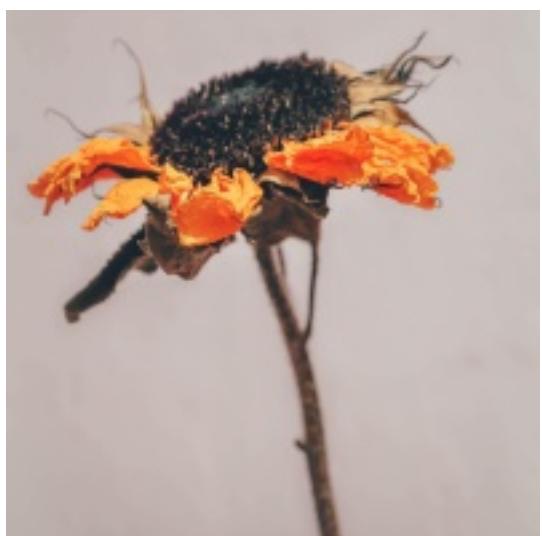
to move or act in an aimless, confused manner

*verb*

to talk (about unimportant matters) in a rambling, foolish, or meaningless way

**mordant***adjective*

having a sharp or critical quality, especially of humour

**moribund***adjective*

on the verge of extinction or termination, lacking vitality or vigour



**pecuniary**  
*adjective*  
relating to or consisting of money



**perspicacious**  
*adjective*  
having keen mental perception and understanding of things



**plucky**  
*adjective*  
having or showing determined courage in the face of difficulties



**portentous**  
*adjective*  
ominously significant or momentous



**primacy**  
*noun*  
the state of being first in order, rank, or importance



**probity**  
*noun*  
the quality of having strong moral principles; honesty and decency



### **prognostication**

*noun*

the action of prophesying future events



### **prolix**

*adjective*

(of speech or writing) using too many words; tediously lengthy



### **provident**

*adjective*

making or indicative of timely preparation for the future, especially by saving money



**punctilious**

*adjective*

showing great attention to detail or correct behaviour

**notes:**

Fruit art, carving on vegetables



**quail**

*verb*

feel or show fear or apprehension



**raconteur**

*noun*

a person who tells anecdotes in a skillful and amusing way



**recapitulation**

*noun*

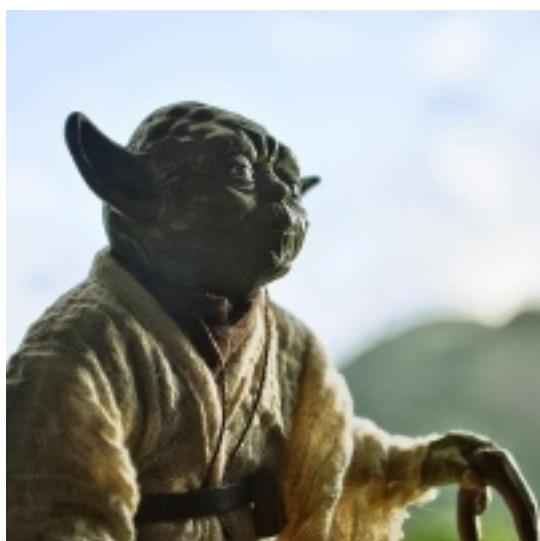
an act or instance of summarizing and restating the main points of something



**redoubtable**

*adjective*

causing fear or alarm, especially as an opponent



**sagacious**

*adjective*

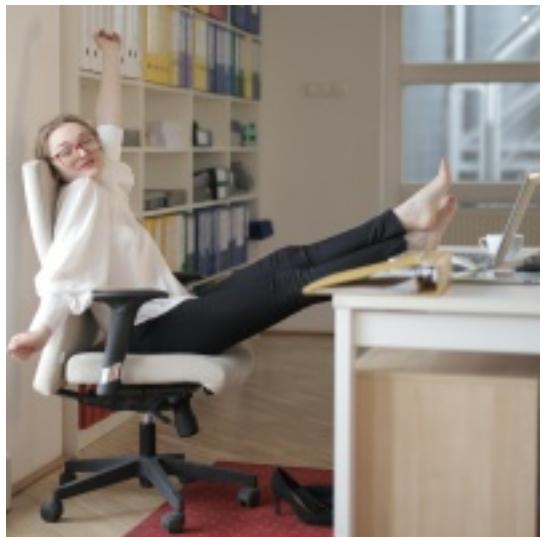
having or showing keen insight and good judgement

**notes:**

Yoda, a Star Wars Character who is small in size but wise and powerful.

**semblance***noun*

the outward appearance or apparent form of something, especially when the reality is different

**sinecure***noun*

a position requiring little or no work but giving the holder status or financial benefit

**temerity***noun*

excessive confidence or boldness



**umbrage**

*noun*

a feeling of anger caused by being offended



**unforthcoming**

*adjective*

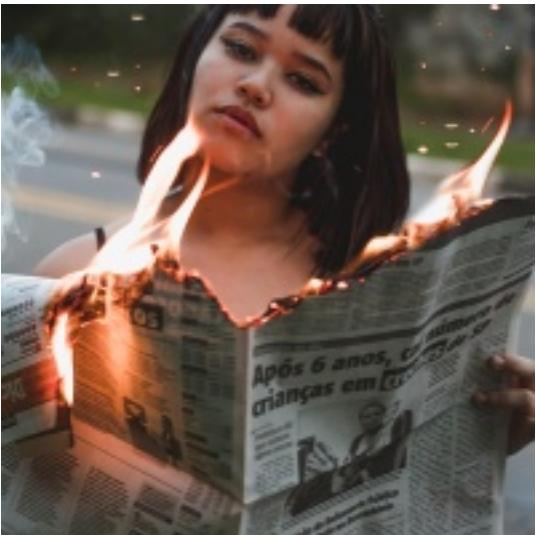
(of a person) not willing to divulge information



**vitriol**

*noun*

bitter criticism or malice



**vitriolic**  
*adjective*  
filled with bitter criticism or malice

# Advanced Words 4



**asperity**

*noun*

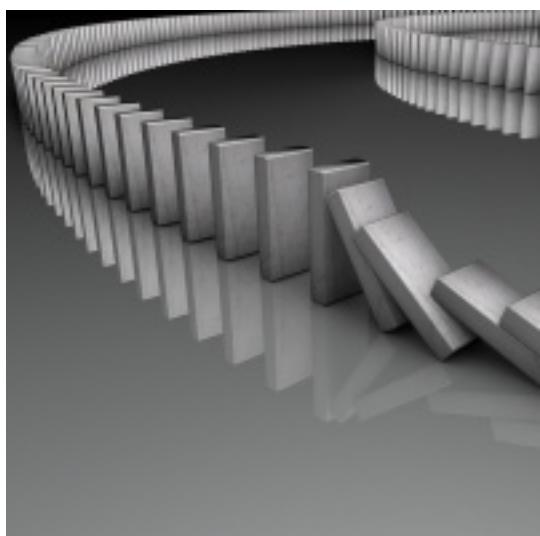
harshness of tone or manner



**celerity**

*noun*

rapidity of motion or action



**corollary**

*noun*

a natural consequence or result



**cosset**

*verb*

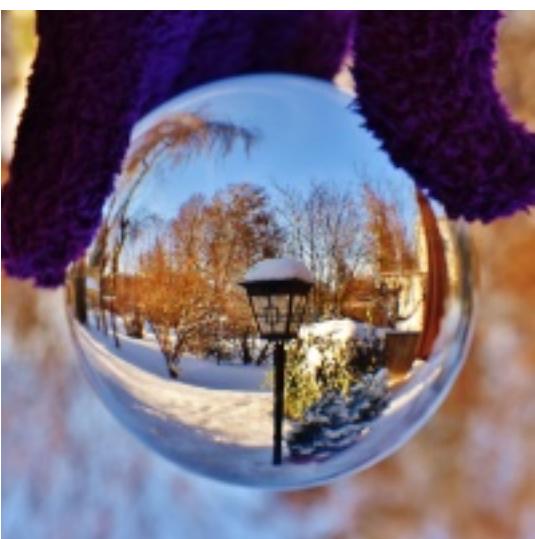
care for and protect in an overindulgent way



**crestfallen**

*adjective*

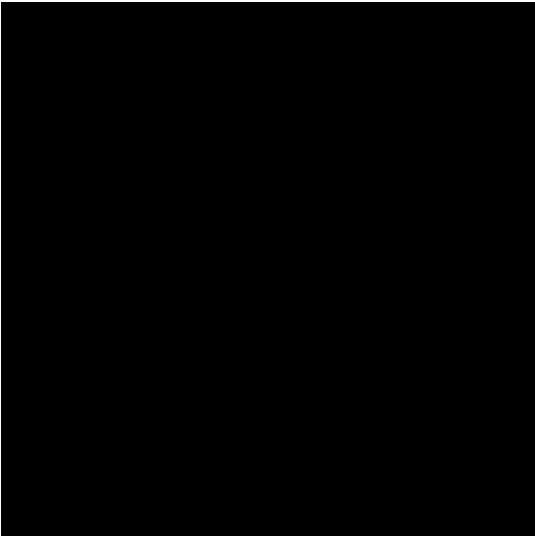
sad and disappointed



**crystallize**

*verb*

make or become definite and clear

**decry***verb*

to express strong disapproval of

**denouement***noun*

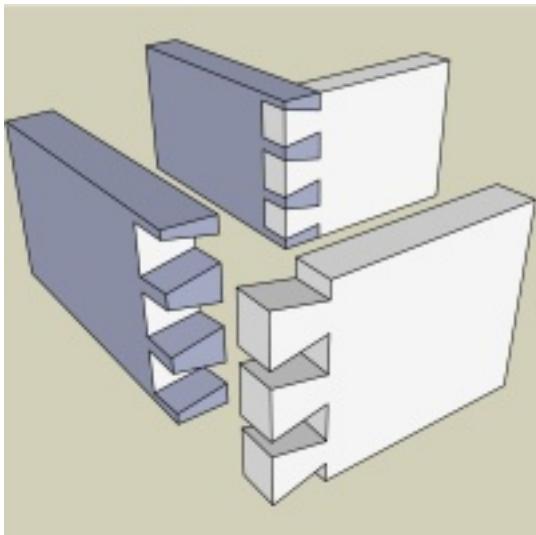
the final resolution of the intricacies of a plot; the outcome of a complex sequence of events

**notes:**

Connect the dots

**dispensation***noun*

exemption from a rule or usual requirement



**dovetail**

*verb*

fit together easily and conveniently



**encumber**

*verb*

to burden or weigh down



**equitable**

*adjective*

characterized by fairness; just and right



**firebrand**

*noun*

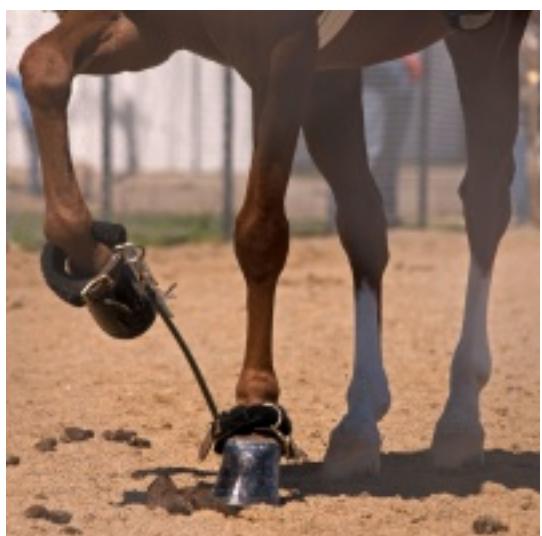
someone who deliberately foments trouble



**flippant**

*adjective*

not showing a serious or respectful attitude



**hobble**

*verb*

to cause to limp, hamper the action or progress of



**hubris**

*noun*

excessive pride or self-confidence

**notes:**

Johnny Bravo cosplay



**immure**

*verb*

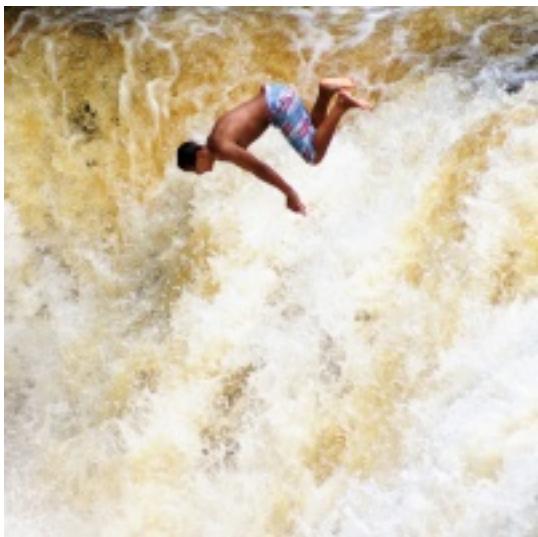
enclose or confine (someone) against their will



**imperious**

*adjective*

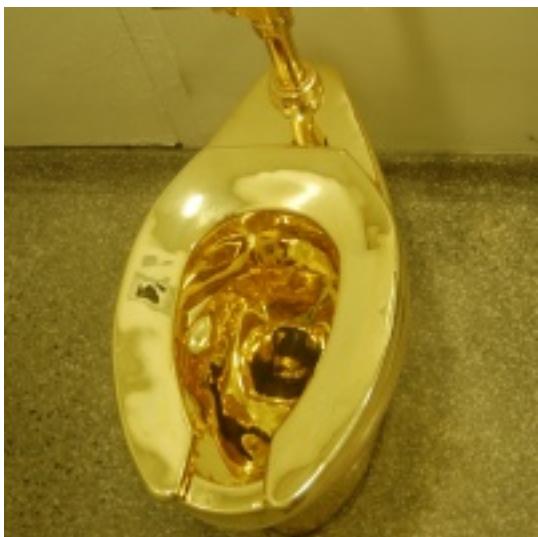
marked by arrogant superiority



**impetuous**

*adjective*

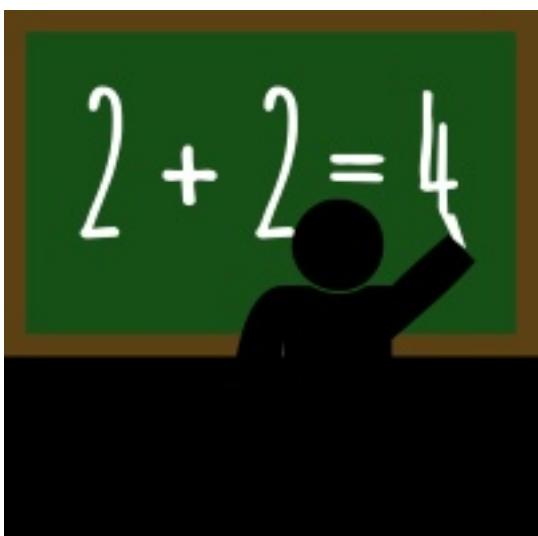
acting or done quickly and without thought or care



**improvident**

*adjective*

not given careful consideration; not providing for the future



**incontrovertible**

*adjective*

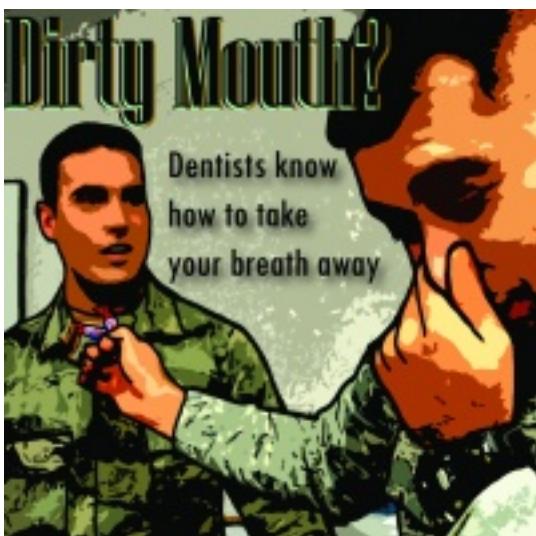
not able to be denied or disputed



**inimitable**

*adjective*

so good or unusual as to be impossible to copy



**intimation**

*an indication or an indirect suggestion*



**inure**

*verb*

accustom (someone) to something, especially something unpleasant



**invidious**  
*adjective*  
likely to arouse or incur resentment; unfairly discriminating



**inviolate**  
*adjective*  
free or safe from injury or violation



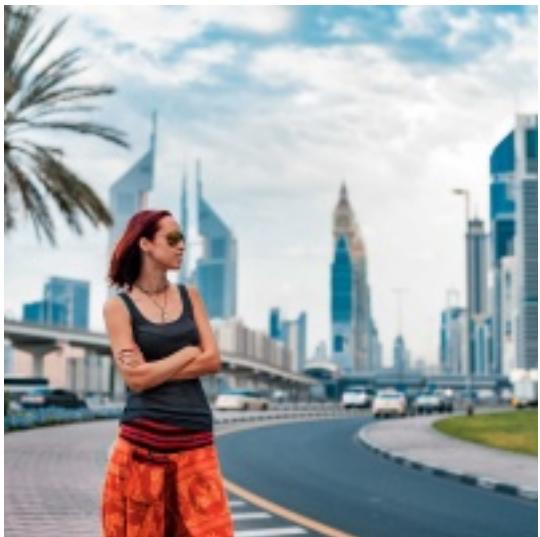
**machinate**  
*verb*  
engage in plots



**magisterial**

*adjective*

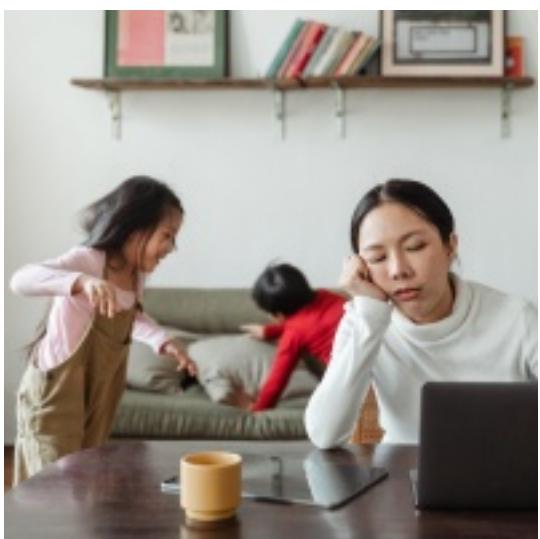
having or showing great authority



**nonchalant**

*adjective*

coolly unconcerned or indifferent



**obstreperous**

*adjective*

noisy and difficult to control



**ossify**

*verb*

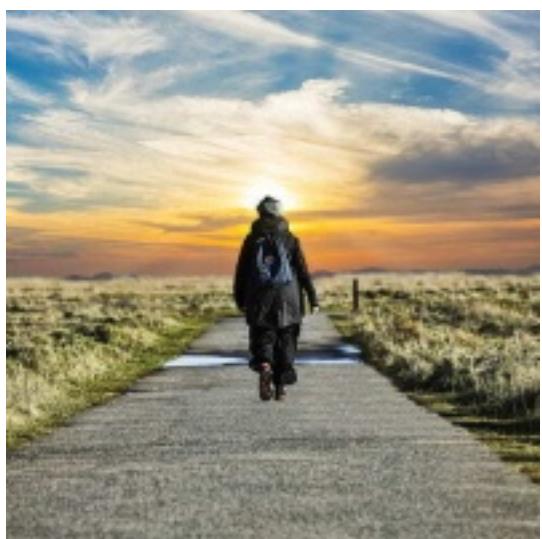
to become rigid or inflexible in habits, attitudes, or opinions



**patent**

*adjective*

easily recognizable or obvious



**peripatetic**

*adjective*

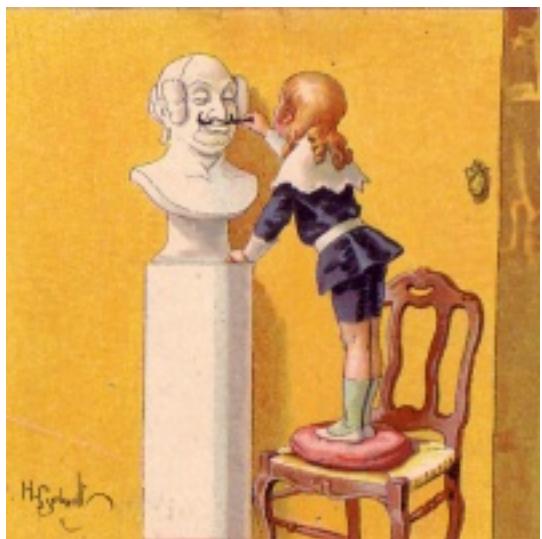
walking or travelling from place to place, in particular working or based in various places for relatively short periods



**presentiment**

*noun*

a feeling or impression that something is about to happen, especially something evil



**puerile**

*adjective*

childishly silly and immature



**puissant**

*adjective*

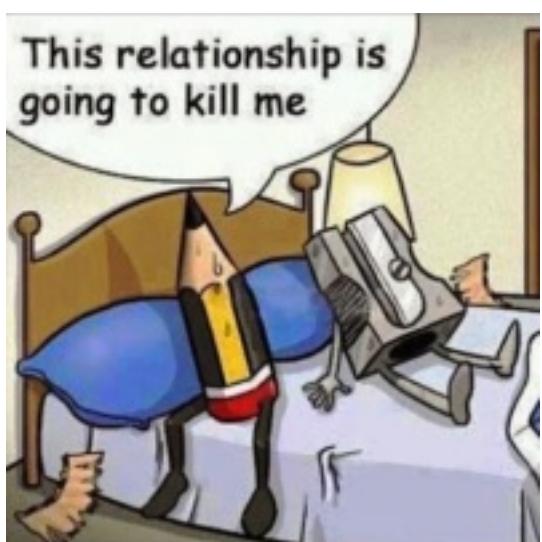
having great power or influence



**rarefied**  
*adjective*  
distant from the lives and concerns of ordinary people



**recrimination**  
*noun*  
mutual accusation



**ribald**  
*adjective*  
referring to sexual matters in an amusingly coarse way; humorously vulgar



**spartan**  
*adjective*  
characterized by a lack of comfort or luxury



**stalwart**  
*adjective*  
loyal, reliable, and hard-working



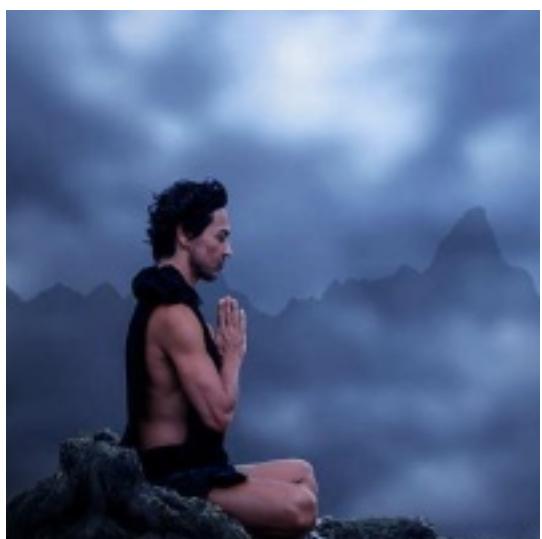
**subterfuge**  
*noun*  
deceit used in order to achieve one's goal

**surreptitious***adjective*

done in a stealthy or secretive way, especially because it would not be approved of

**tempestuous***adjective*

characterized by strong and turbulent or conflicting emotion

**unflappable***adjective*

having or showing calmness in a crisis



**untenable**

*adjective*

(especially of a position or view) not able to be defended against attack or objection

**notes:**

Logo of the Flat Earth Society

# Advanced Words 5



**anachronism**

*noun*

a thing that is not in its correct chronological time, especially a thing that belongs to an earlier time



**antic**

*adjective*

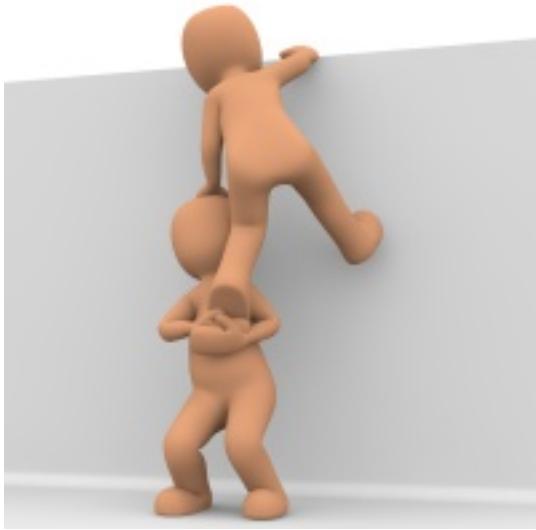
characterized by clownish absurdity



**apothegm**

*noun*

a short, pithy, and instructive saying

**appurtenant***adjective*

furnishing added support by belonging

**arrogate***verb*

take or claim (something) without justification

**artifice***noun*

a clever trick or something intended to deceive

notes:

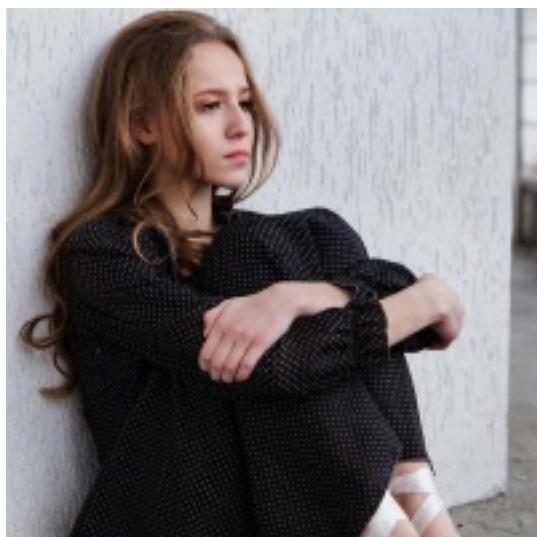
Double Slate Switch

**atavism***noun*

a tendency to revert to something ancient or ancestral

**baleful***adjective*

threatening harm or evil

**bemoan***verb*

express discontent or sorrow over (something)



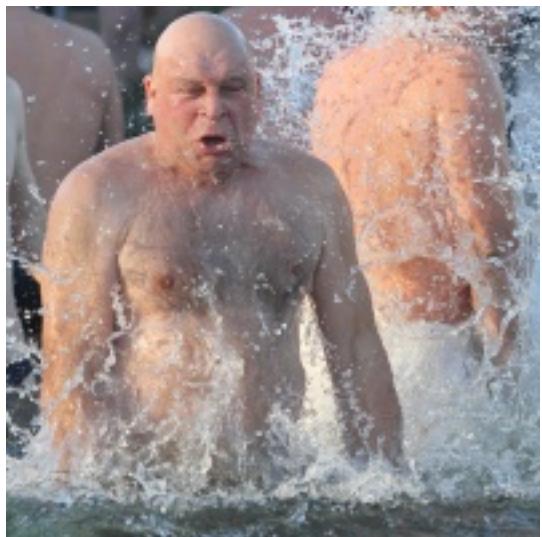
**besotted**  
*adjective*  
strongly infatuated  
*adjective*  
drunk



**bristle**  
*verb*  
(of a person) react angrily or defensively



**broadside**  
*noun*  
a fierce verbal attack

**brook***verb*

tolerate or allow something, especially a difference of opinion

**browbeat***verb*

intimidate (someone), typically into doing something, with stern or abusive words

**chimera***noun*

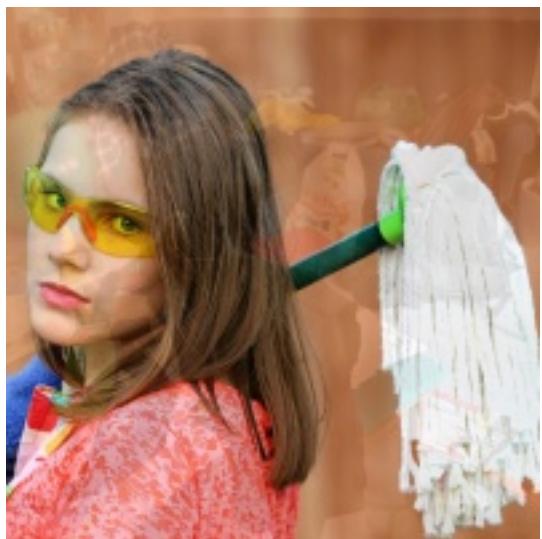
a thing which is hoped but is illusory or impossible to achieve



**debonair**

*adjective*

(especially of men) confident, stylish, and charming



**deign**

*verb*

do something that one considers to be beneath one's dignity



**effervescent**

*adjective*

marked by high spirits or excitement

**embryonic***adjective*

in a rudimentary stage with potential for development

**notes:**

A tadpole

**empiricism***noun*

the theory that all knowledge is based on experience derived from the senses

**notes:**

The five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch.

**epigram***noun*

a pithy saying expressing an idea in a clever and amusing way



**ersatz**

*adjective*

made or used as a substitute, typically an inferior one, for something else

**notes:**

No calorie sweeteners



**exemplar**

*noun*

a person or thing serving as a typical example or appropriate model

**notes:**

The Monobloc chair is the world's most common plastic chair.



**gambit**

*noun*

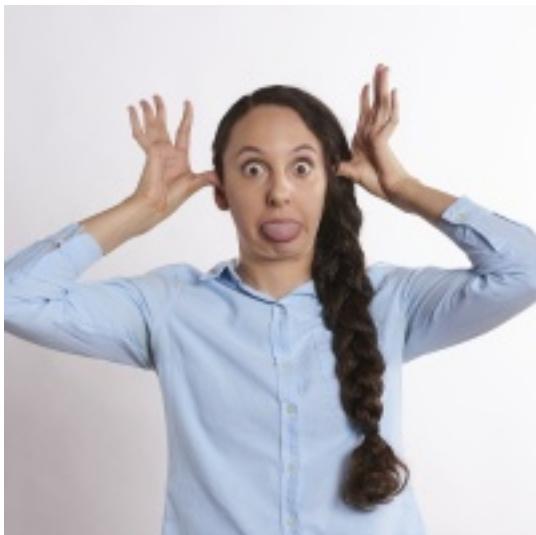
a strategic maneuver that is calculated to gain an advantage, usually involves taking a risk

**hoary***adjective*

showing characteristics of age, especially having grey or white hair

*adjective*

overused and unoriginal

**inanity***noun*

lack of sense, significance, or ideas

**inchoate***adjective*

just begun and so not fully formed or developed

**notes:**

A butterfly chrysalis or a pupa

**ineffable***adjective*

too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words

**languish***verb*

lose or lack vitality; grow weak

**meteoric***adjective*

resembling a meteor in transient brilliance, suddenness of appearance, or swiftness



**nettlesome**  
*adjective*  
causing annoyance or difficulty



**objurgate**  
*verb*  
express strong disapproval of; rebuke severely



**paragon**  
*noun*  
a person or thing regarded as a model of excellence or a perfect example



**percipient**

*adjective*

having good insight or understanding

**notes:**

Sherlock Holmes



**philistine**

*adjective*

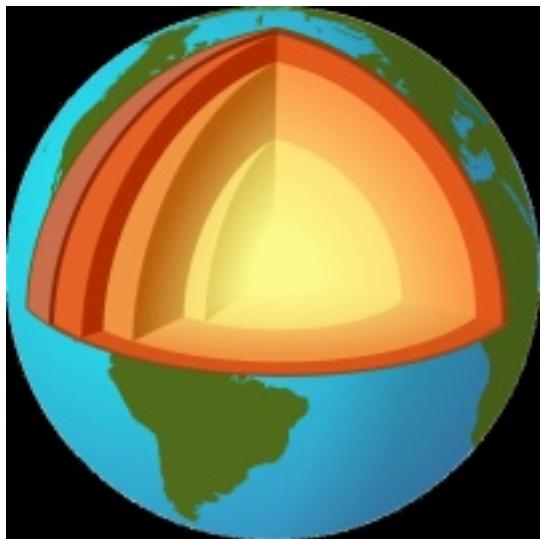
hostile or indifferent to culture and the arts



**phlegmatic**

*adjective*

(of a person) having an unemotional and calm disposition



**pith**  
*noun*  
the essence of something



**rapprochement**  
*noun*  
an establishment of cordial relations, especially in international affairs



**recrudesce**  
*verb*  
to break out or become active again



**reprisal**

*noun*

an act of retaliation against an enemy, by the infliction of equal or greater injuries



**solicitous**

*adjective*

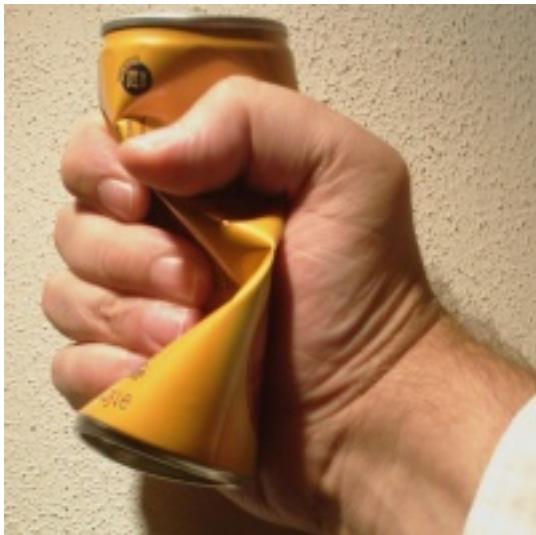
full of anxiety and concern



**solicitude**

*noun*

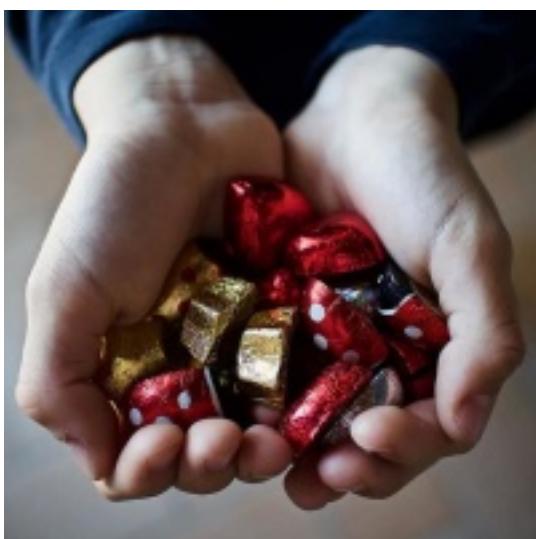
a feeling of excessive concern



**squelch**  
*verb*  
forcefully silence or suppress



**unprepossessing**  
*adjective*  
not attractive or appealing to the eye



**unstinting**  
*adjective*  
given or giving without restraint



**untrammeled**  
*adjective*  
not confined or limited

# Basic Words 1



**acme**

*noun*

the point at which something is at its best or most highly developed



**affable**

*adjective*

friendly, good-natured, or easy to talk to



**bleak**

*adjective*

little or no hope for the future

**candid**  
*adjective*  
truthful and straightforward



# HONEST



**censor**  
*verb*  
examine officially and suppress unacceptable parts of it



**demean**  
*verb*  
cause a severe loss in dignity and respect for (someone or something)



**demure**  
*adjective*  
reserved, modest, and shy



**diabolical**  
*adjective*  
characteristic of the devil



**dog**  
*verb*  
to follow or track especially with hostile intent



**dupe**

*noun*

a person who is easily deceived or fooled

*verb*

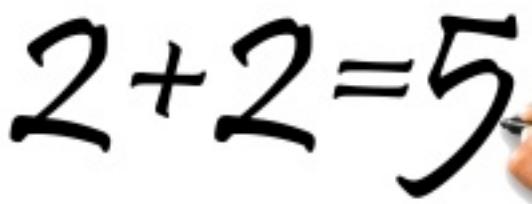
to deceive or cheat easily



**embroil**

*verb*

involve (someone) deeply in an argument, conflict, or difficult situation



**err**

*verb*

make a mistake



**erratic**

*adjective*

not even or regular in pattern or movement



**hound**

*verb*

harass, persecute, or pursue relentlessly



**indict**

*verb*

formally accuse of or charge with a crime



**indigenous**

*adjective*

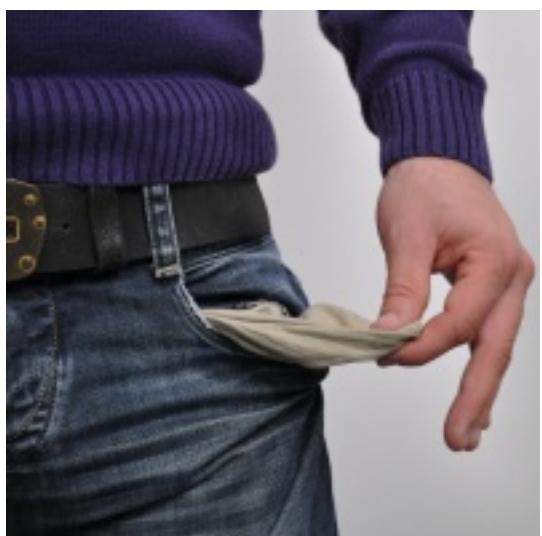
originating naturally in a particular place



**indignant**

*adjective*

feeling or showing anger because of something unjust or unworthy



**insolvent**

*adjective*

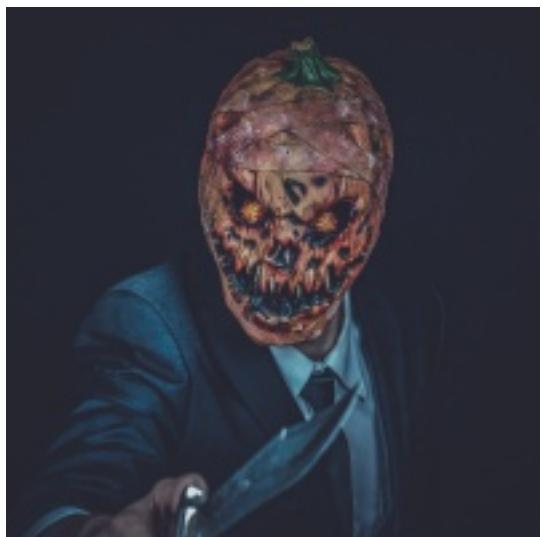
unable to pay debts owed



**inundate**

*verb*

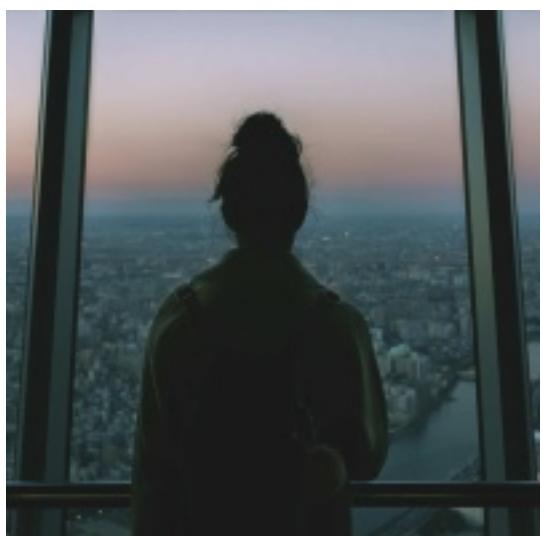
overwhelm (someone) with things or people to be dealt with



**macabre**

*adjective*

disturbing because concerned with or causing a fear of death



**mesmerize**

*verb*

capture the complete attention of (someone)



**peruse**

*verb*

read (something), typically in a thorough or careful way



**pine**

*verb*

to yearn intensely and persistently especially for something unattainable

**notes:**

An event to honor the lives of those who committed suicide in Biloxi, September 29, 2017.



**pinnacle**

*noun*

the highest point of development or achievement



**profuse**

*adjective*

produced or given in large amounts

**notes:**

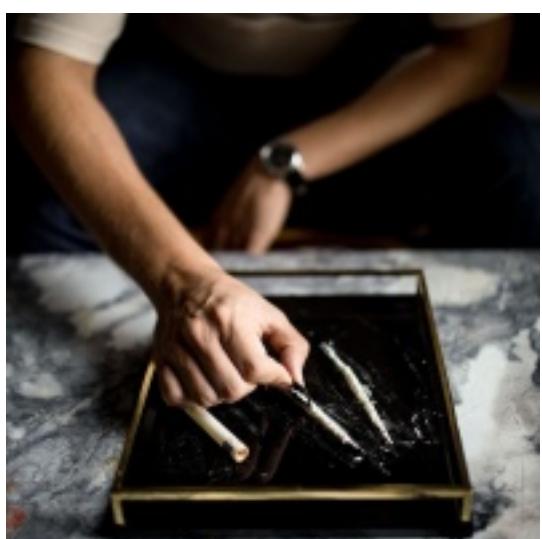
Gold ceiling lighting.



**remiss**

*adjective*

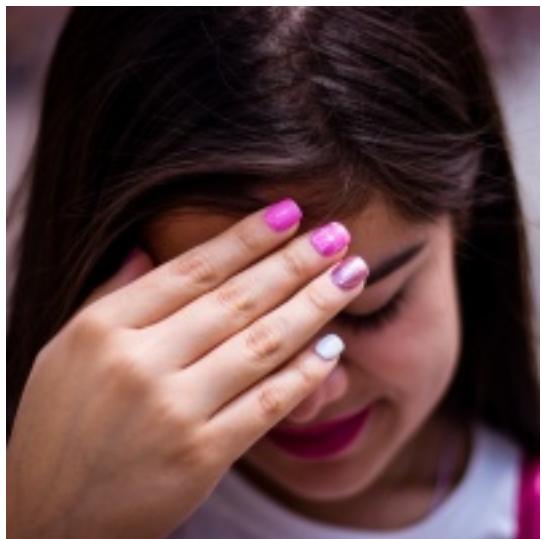
lacking care or attention to duty



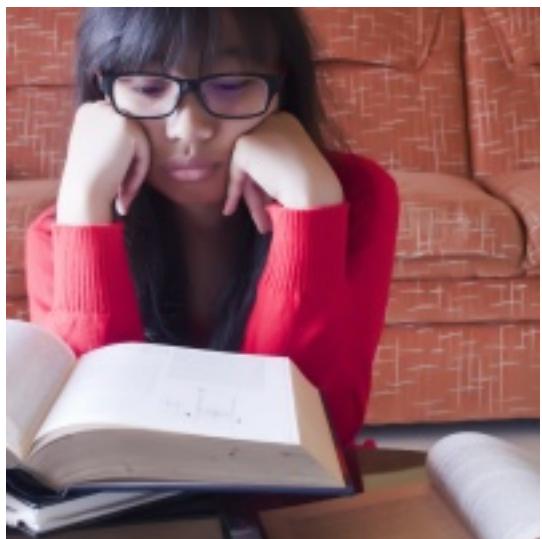
**reprobate**

*noun*

a person of bad character and habits



**retiring**  
*adjective*  
shy and fond of being on one's own



**screed**  
*noun*  
a long speech or piece of writing, typically one regarded as tedious



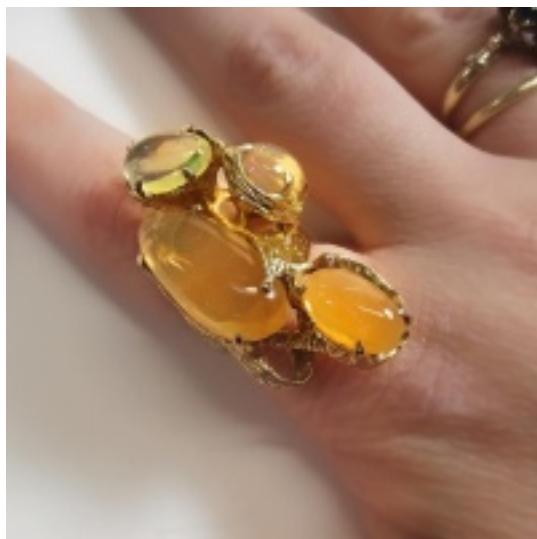
**serendipity**  
*noun*  
the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way



**slapdash**

*adjective*

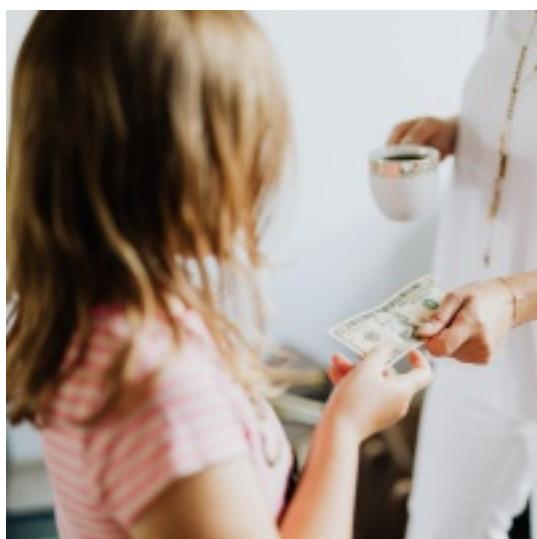
done too hurriedly and carelessly



**spendthrift**

*noun*

a person who spends money in an extravagant, irresponsible way



**stipend**

*noun*

a periodic payment, especially a scholarship or allowance granted to a student



**summit**

*noun*

the highest point of a hill or mountain

*noun*

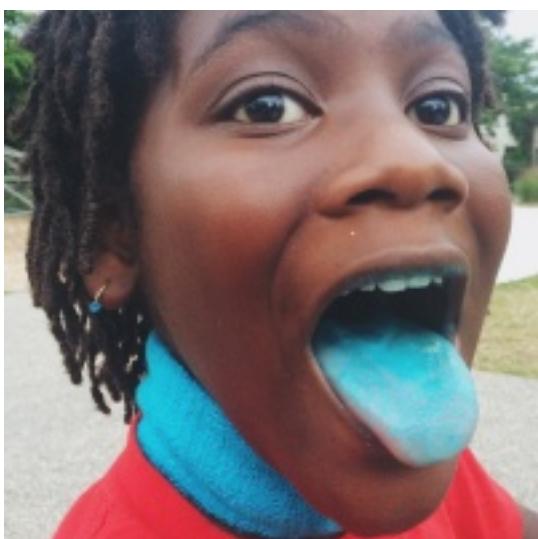
a meeting between heads of government



**telling**

*adjective*

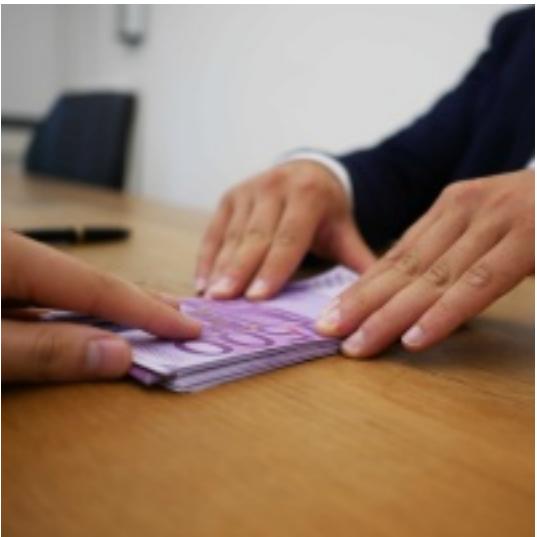
having a striking or revealing affect



**telltale**

*adjective*

revealing, indicating, or betraying something



**tender**

*verb*

offer or present (something) formally



**thoroughgoing**

*adjective*

involving or attending to every detail or aspect of something



**thrifty**

*adjective*

using money and other resources carefully and not wastefully



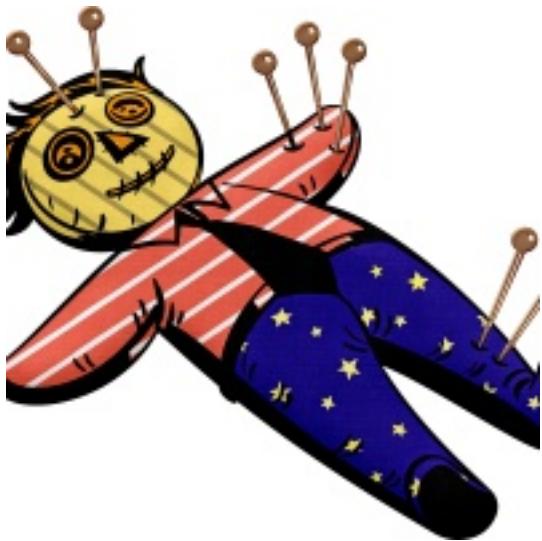
**underwrite**  
*verb*  
to provide financial support



**unnerve**  
*verb*  
make (someone) lose courage or confidence



**variance**  
*noun*  
the fact or quality of being different, divergent, or inconsistent



**vindictive**

*adjective*

showing a strong or unreasoning desire for revenge



**voracious**

*adjective*

very eager for something, especially a lot of food

# Basic Words 2



**aboveboard**

*adjective*

legitimate, honest, and open



**animosity**

*noun*

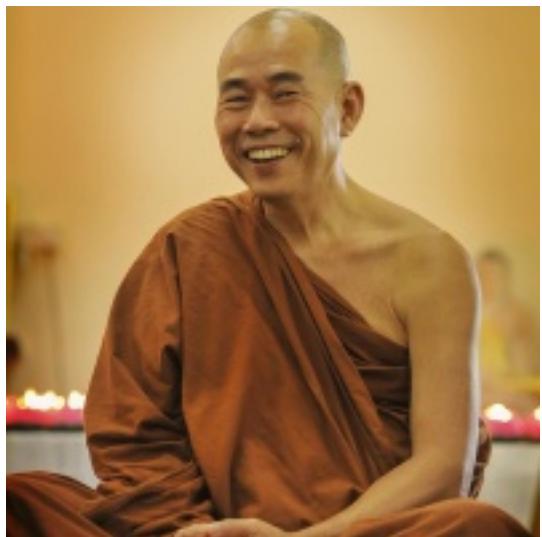
a strong feeling of dislike or hatred



**avarice**

*noun*

extreme greed for wealth or material gain



**beatific**

*adjective*

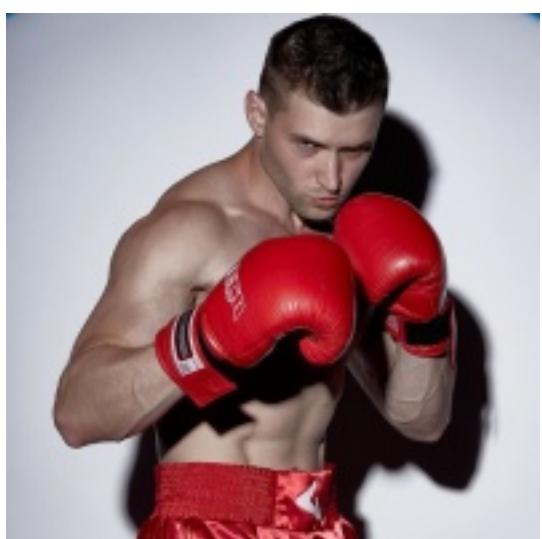
feeling or expressing blissful happiness, especially in a holy way



**becoming**

*adjective*

attractively suitable or appropriate



**bellicose**

*adjective*

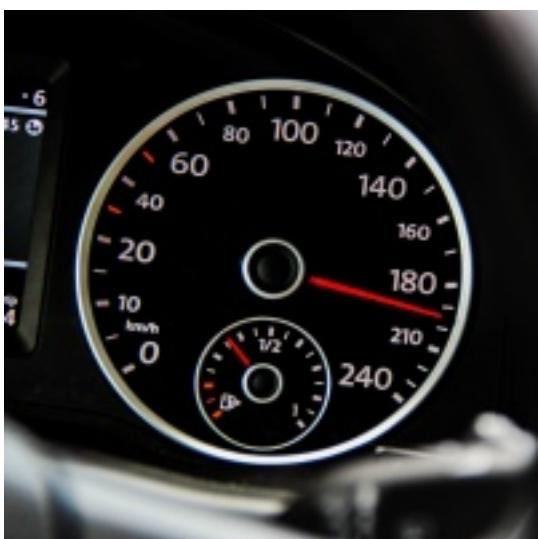
demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight



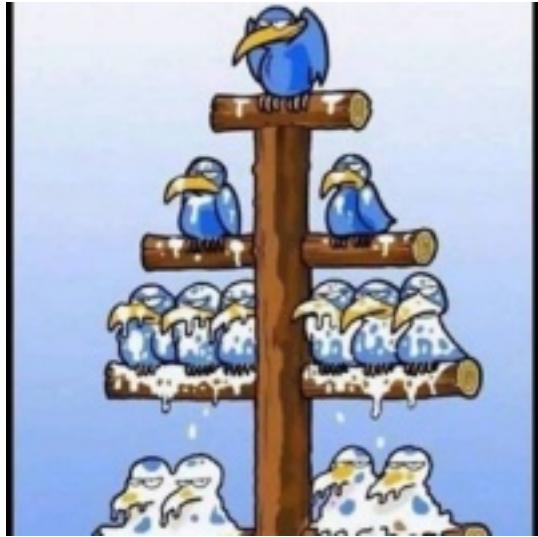
**cadaverous**  
*adjective*  
very pale, thin, or bony



**cardinal**  
*adjective*  
of the greatest importance



**catalyst**  
*noun*  
a person or thing that precipitates an event



**chauvinist**

*adjective*

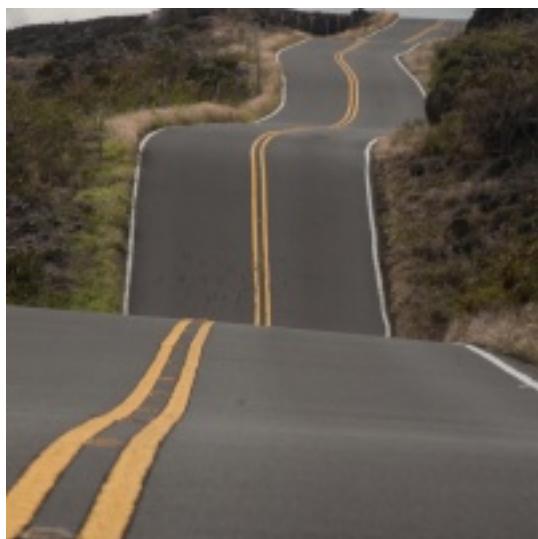
a person who believes in the superiority of his cause or people



**check**

*verb*

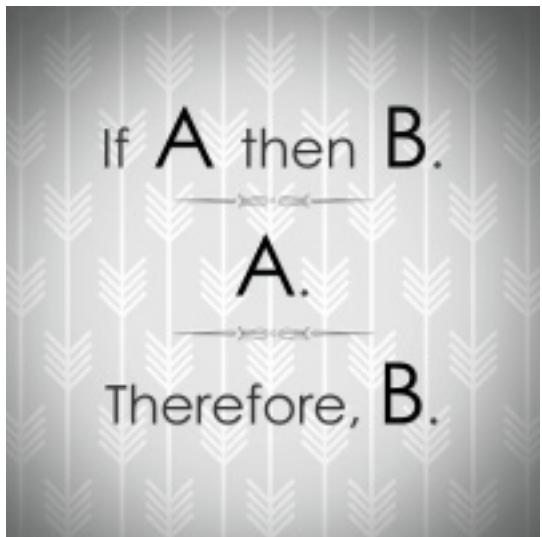
stop or slow the progress of (something, typically something undesirable)



**chequered**

*adjective*

having had both successful and unsuccessful periods in your past



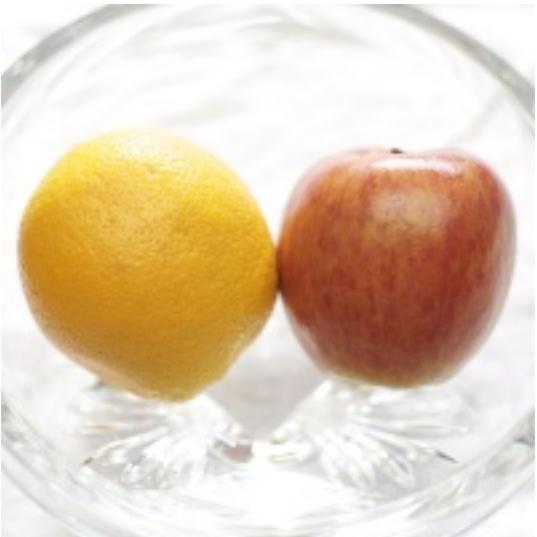
**cogent**  
*adjective*  
(of an argument or case) clear, logical, and convincing



**corroborate**  
*verb*  
to support (a statement, theory, or idea) by providing information or evidence



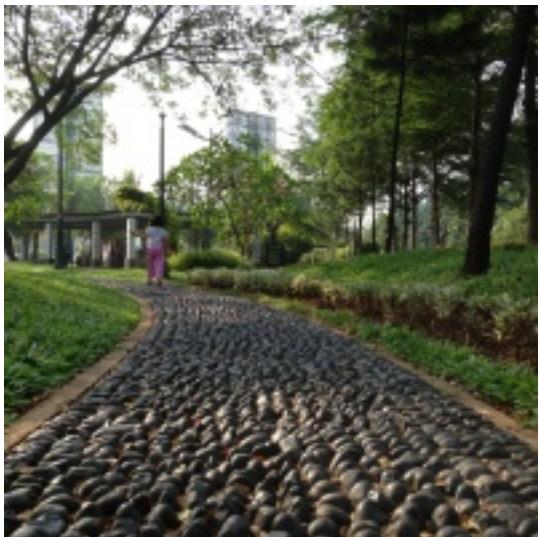
**desecrate**  
*verb*  
treat (a sacred place or thing) with violent disrespect  
**notes:**  
Destroyed nandi idol.



**disparate**

*adjective*

essentially different in kind, not able to be compared



**errant**

*adjective*

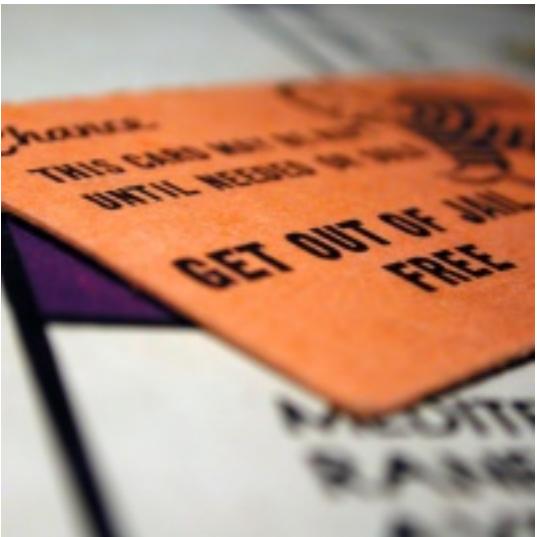
deviating from the regular or proper course



**exhort**

*verb*

strongly encourage or urge (someone) to do something



**extenuating**

*adjective*

(of a factor or situation) serving to lessen the seriousness of an offense



**ferret**

*verb*

rummage about in a place or container in search of something



**fleece**

*verb*

obtain a great deal of money from (someone), typically by overcharging or swindling them



**flush**

*adjective*

having plenty of something, especially money



**heyday**

*noun*

the period of one's greatest success or popularity



**hodgepodge**

*noun*

a confused mixture of different things



**immaterial**  
*adjective*  
unimportant under the circumstances



**imponderable**  
*adjective*  
impossible to estimate or assess



**junta**  
*noun*  
a military or political group that rules a country after taking power by force



**melee**

*noun*

a confused fight or struggle



**misanthrope**

*noun*

a person who dislikes humankind and avoids human society



**moment**

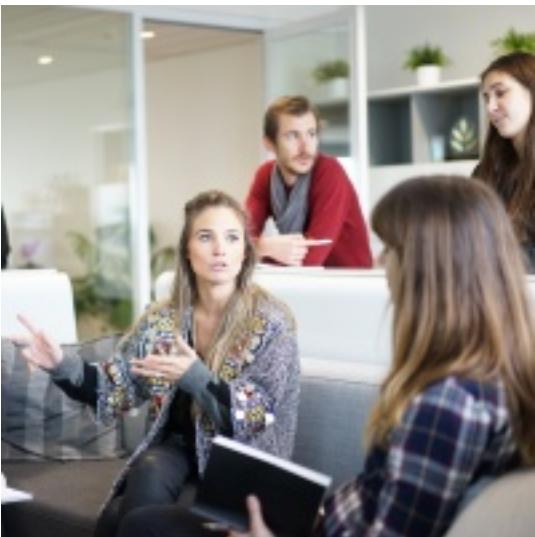
*importance in influence or effect*



**pittance**

*noun*

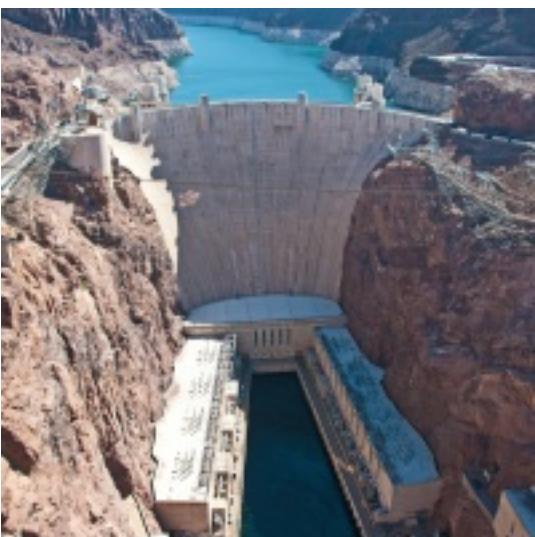
a very small or inadequate amount of money



**powwow**

*noun*

an informal meeting for discussion, especially among friends or colleagues



**preemptive**

*adjective*

taken as a measure against something possible, anticipated, or feared



**pugnacious**

*adjective*

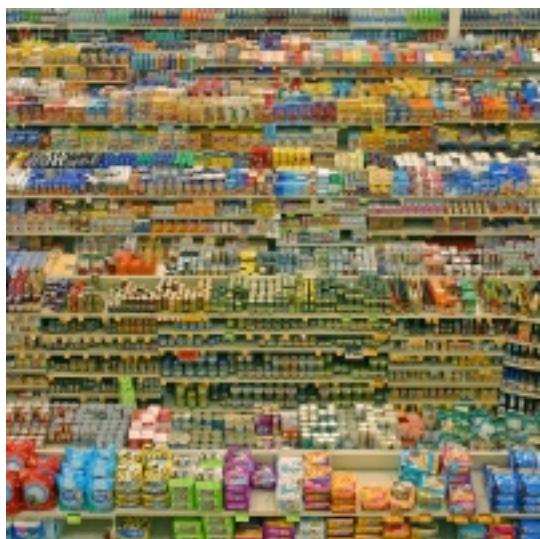
eager or quick to argue, quarrel, or fight



**raft**

*noun*

a large amount of something



**replete**

*adjective*

filled or well-supplied with something



**sanctimonious**

*adjective*

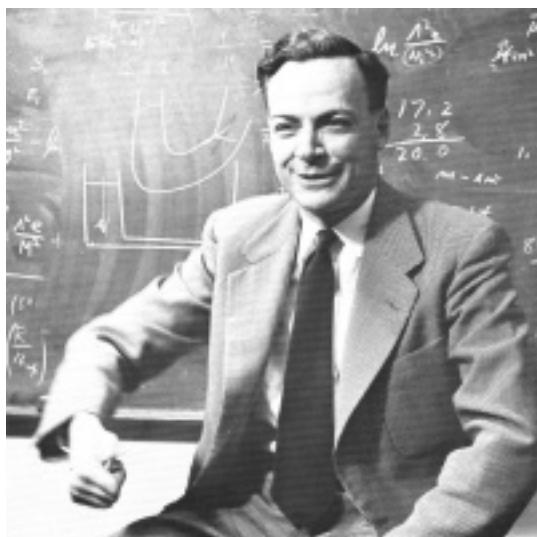
making a show of being morally superior to other people



**sanguine**

*adjective*

optimistic or positive, especially in an apparently bad or difficult situation



**scintillating**

*adjective*

brilliantly and excitingly clever or skillful

**notes:**

Richard Feynman, a brilliant teacher. His lectures were both exciting and engaging.



**start**

*verb*

jerk or give a small jump from surprise or alarm



**stem**

*verb*

stop or restrict (the flow of something)



**unconscionable**

*adjective*

shockingly unfair or unjust



**vicarious**

*adjective*

experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another person



**virago**

*noun*

a violent or bad-tempered woman



**wax**

*verb*

to increase in size, strength, or intensity

# Basic Words 3



**appreciable**

*adjective*

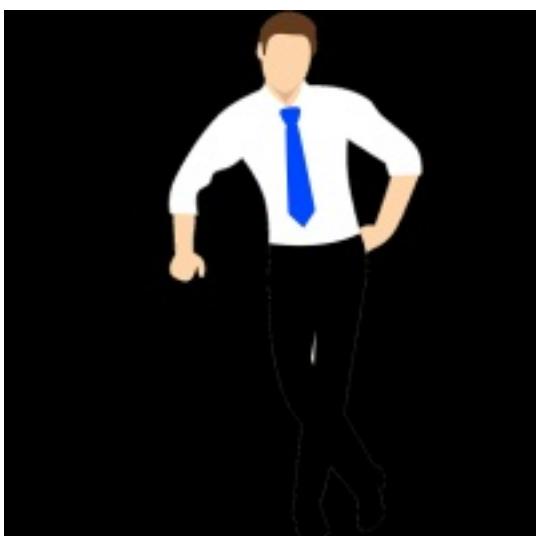
large or important enough to be noticed



**apprehension**

*noun*

fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen



**ascendancy**

*noun*

a position of dominant power or influence



**avid**

*adjective*

showing a keen interest in or enthusiasm for something



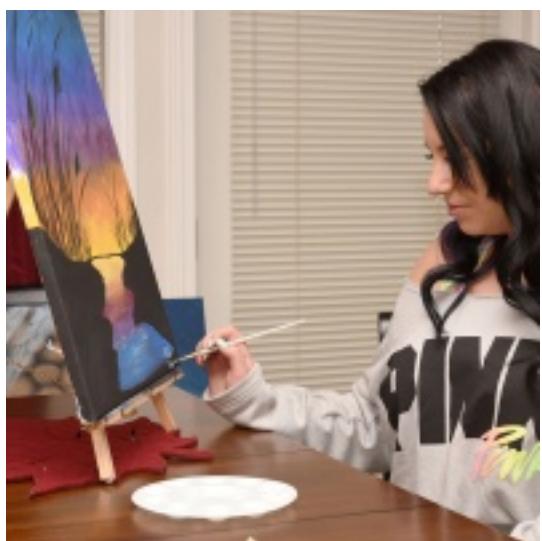
**boon**

*noun*

a thing that is helpful or beneficial

*adjective*

very close and convivial



**consummate**

*adjective*

showing great skill and flair

*verb*

to make something complete or perfect



**convivial**

*adjective*

friendly and making you feel happy and welcome



**dearth**

*noun*

a scarcity or lack of something



**deter**

*verb*

prevent the occurrence of

**disenfranchise***verb*

deprive (someone) of the right to vote

**disheartened***adjective*

having lost determination or confidence

**elusive***adjective*

difficult to find, catch, achieve, or remember

notes:

Stylurus notatus, the elusive clubtail is a species in the family of dragonflies.



**endemic**

*adjective*

belonging or native to a particular place or country



**entice**

*verb*

attract or tempt by offering pleasure or advantage



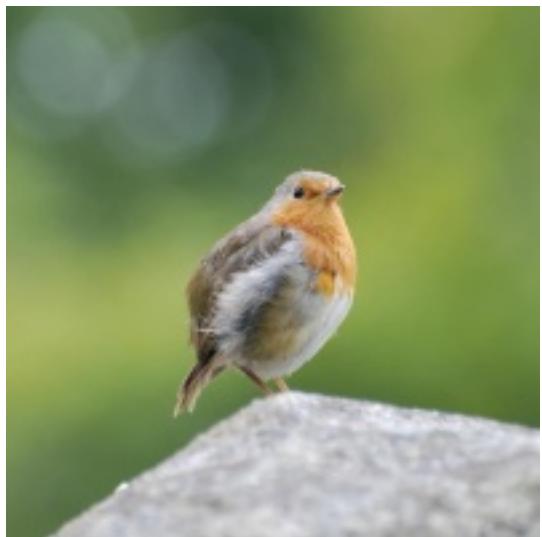
**fete**

*verb*

honour or entertain (someone) lavishly

**notes:**

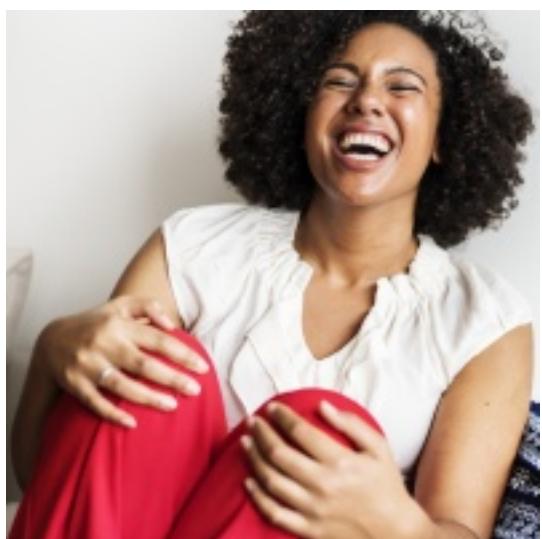
Miss Universe 2008, Dayana Mendoza.

**fledgling***adjective*

young, inexperienced, or underdeveloped

**flounder***verb*

to struggle clumsily or helplessly

**guffaw***verb*

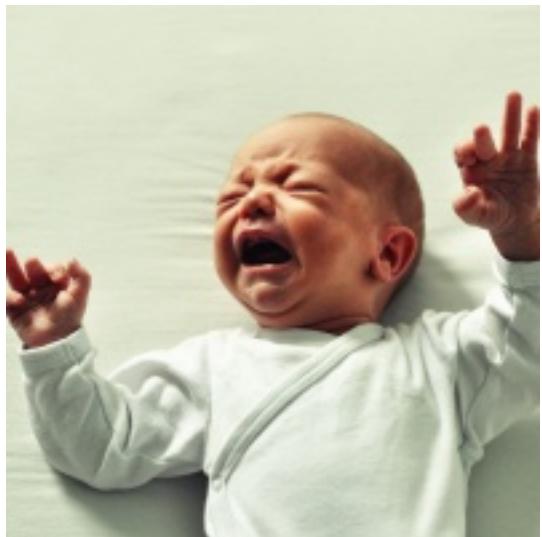
laugh loudly and heartily



**impermeable**

*adjective*

not allowing fluid to pass through



**incessant**

*adjective*

(of something regarded as unpleasant) continuing without pause or interruption



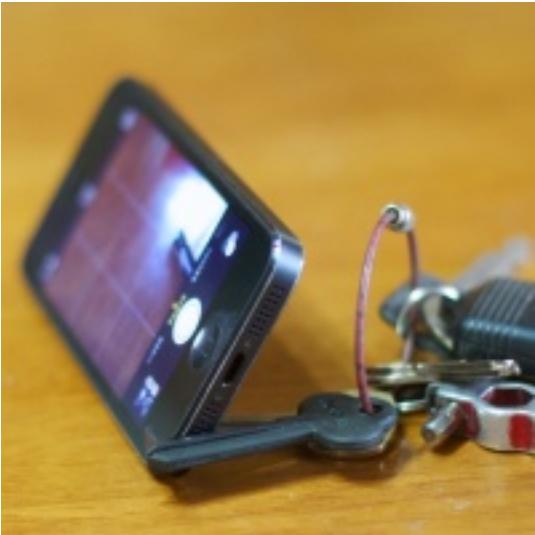
**inclement**

*adjective*

(of the weather) unpleasantly cold or wet

*adjective*

severe in temper or action



**ingenuity**

*noun*

the quality of being clever, original, and inventive



**jocular**

*adjective*

fond of or characterized by joking

**notes:**

Dave Chappelle, a comedian.



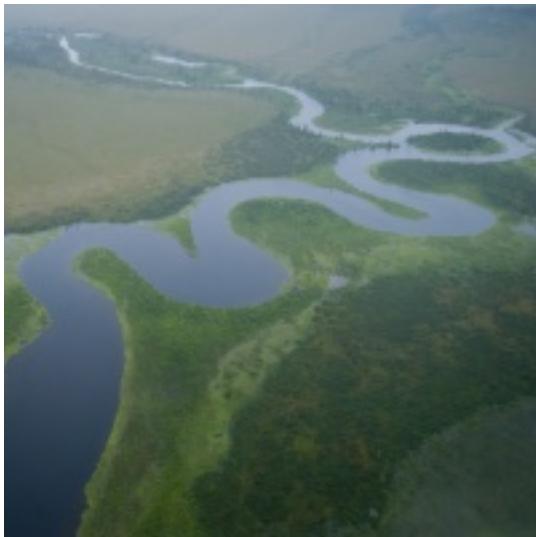
**malleable**

*adjective*

(of a material) able to be hammered or pressed into shape

*adjective*

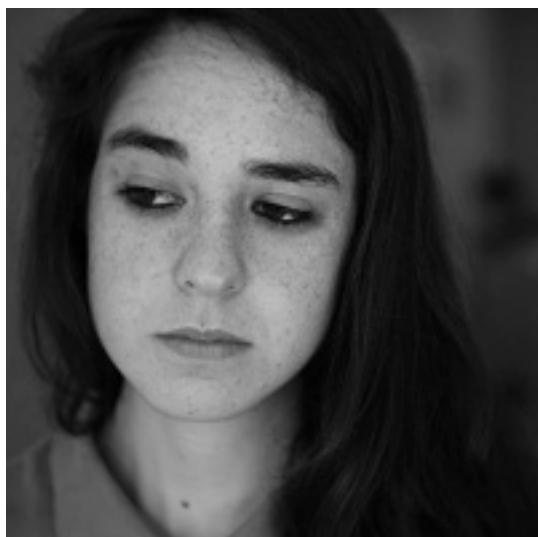
easily influenced



**meander**  
*verb*  
to wander aimlessly



**moot**  
*adjective*  
subject to debate, dispute, or uncertainty



**morose**  
*adjective*  
unhappy, annoyed, and unwilling to speak or smile



**muted**

*adjective*

of low intensity and reduced volume



**obdurate**

*adjective*

stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action



**ornate**

*adjective*

elaborately or highly decorated



**pithy**

*adjective*

(of speech or writing) expressing an idea cleverly in a few words



**plodding**

*adjective*

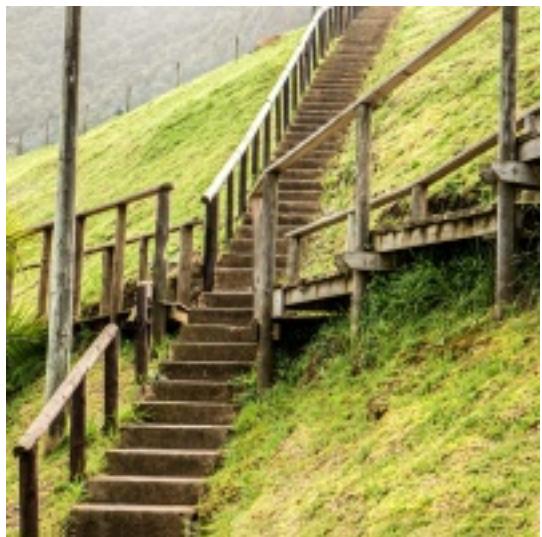
slow, continuous, and not exciting



**proponent**

*noun*

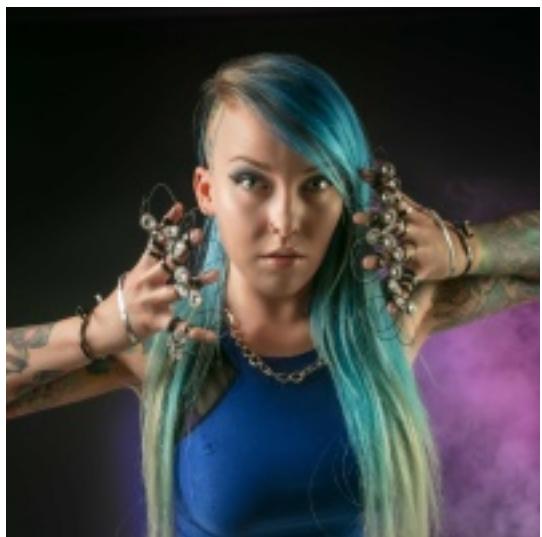
a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea



**quandary**

*noun*

a state of perplexity or uncertainty over what to do in a difficult situation



**raffish**

*adjective*

unconventional and slightly disreputable, especially in an attractive way



**renege**

*verb*

go back on a promise, undertaking, or contract



**resolve**

*verb*

decide firmly on a course of action



**respite**

*noun*

a short period of rest from something difficult or unpleasant



**robust**

*adjective*

strong and healthy

*adjective*

(of wine or food) marked by richness and fullness of flavor



**snide**

*adjective*

derogatory or mocking in an indirect way

**notes:**

Caricature of Anthony Fauci, an American physician and immunologist.



**stolid**

*adjective*

calm, dependable, and showing little emotion or excitement



**thwart**

*verb*

prevent (someone) from accomplishing something



**transitory**  
*adjective*  
lasting a very short time

# Basic Words 4



**altruism**

*noun*

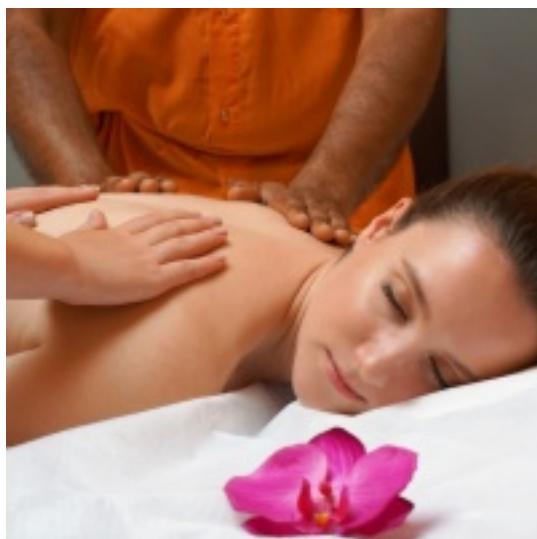
unselfish concern for the well-being of others,  
even if it may be harmful for yourself



**assail**

*verb*

to attack violently or criticize strongly



**assuage**

*verb*

make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense



**augment**

*verb*

make (something) greater by adding to it



**benign**

*adjective*

gentle and kind

*adjective*

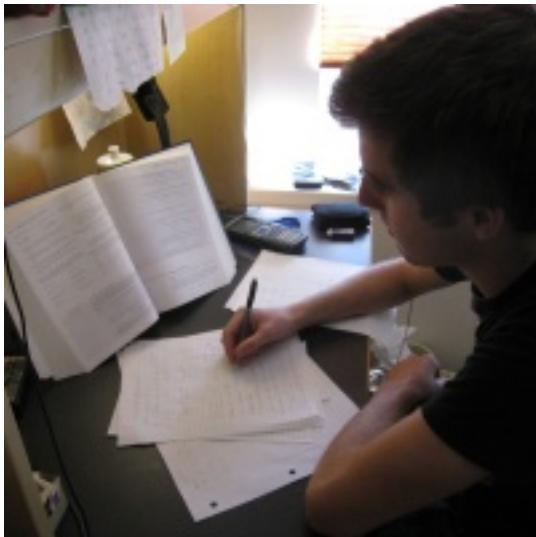
(of a disease) not harmful in effect



**commendable**

*adjective*

deserving praise



**conducive**

*adjective*

making a certain situation or outcome likely



**cornucopia**

*noun*

an abundant, overflowing supply



**credence**

*noun*

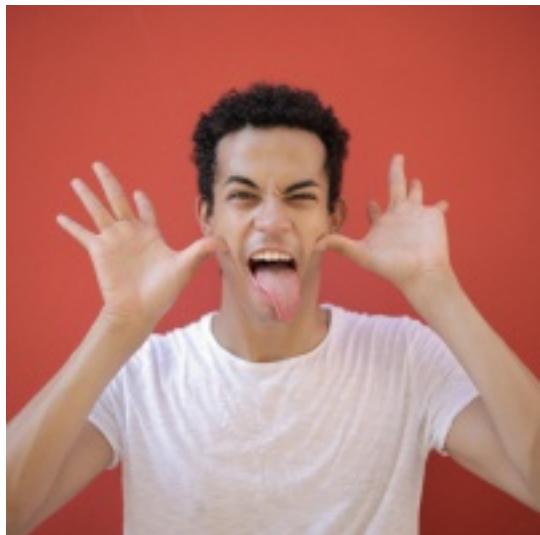
belief in or acceptance of something as true



**debase**

*verb*

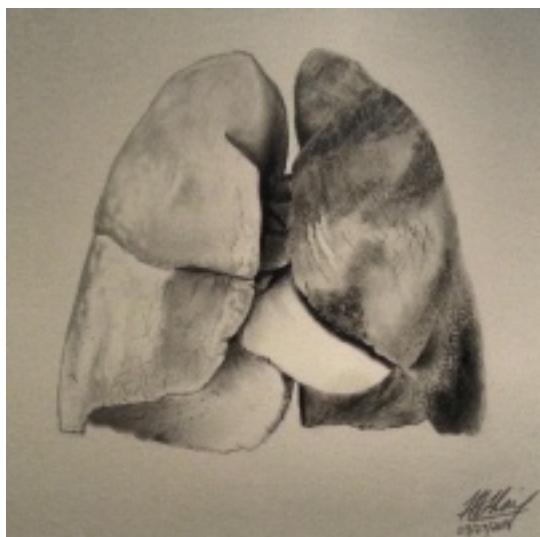
reduce (something) in quality or value



**derisive**

*adjective*

expressing contempt or ridicule



**detrimental**

*adjective*

tending to cause harm

**notes:**

Human lungs of a non-smoker (left) vs. smoker (right).

**empathetic***adjective*

showing an ability to understand and share the feelings of another

**notes:**

"I'm myself — and I want to know who they are, I want them to feel comfortable telling me their story." — Michelle Obama

**euphoria***noun*

a feeling or state of intense excitement and happiness

**facetious***adjective*

treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humour

**notes:**

Hokusai, the laughing demon.

**fickle**

*adjective*

changing frequently, especially as regards one's loyalties or affections



**genial**

*adjective*

friendly and cheerful



**genteel**

*adjective*

being very polite, gentle, or graceful, typical of a high social class



**glib***adjective*

(of words or a speaker) fluent but insincere and shallow

**notes:**

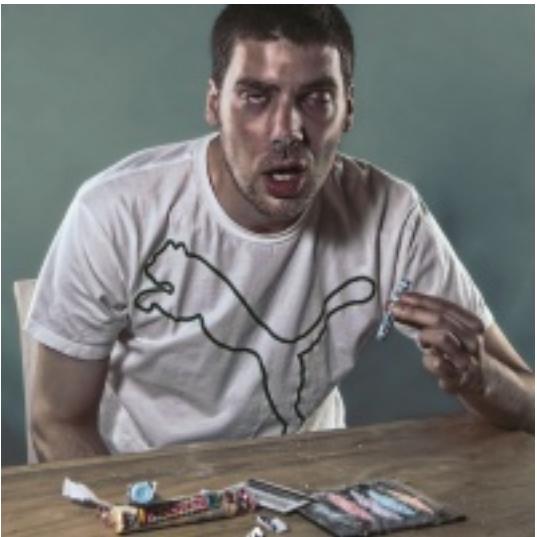
Brian Baumgartner from the American sitcom television, the Office.

**grovel***verb*

show submission or fear

**hamstrung***verb*

to render powerless or useless



**illicit**

*adjective*

contrary to or forbidden by law



**impeccable**

*adjective*

in accordance with the highest standards



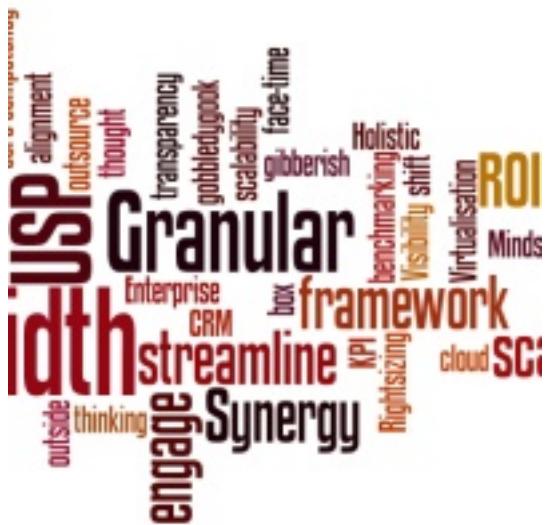
**impede**

*verb*

to slow the progress by means of obstacles or hindrances



**irresolute**  
*adjective*  
showing or feeling hesitancy



**jargon**  
*noun*  
special words and phrases used by particular groups of people, especially in their work



**lucid**  
*adjective*  
expressed clearly; easy to understand



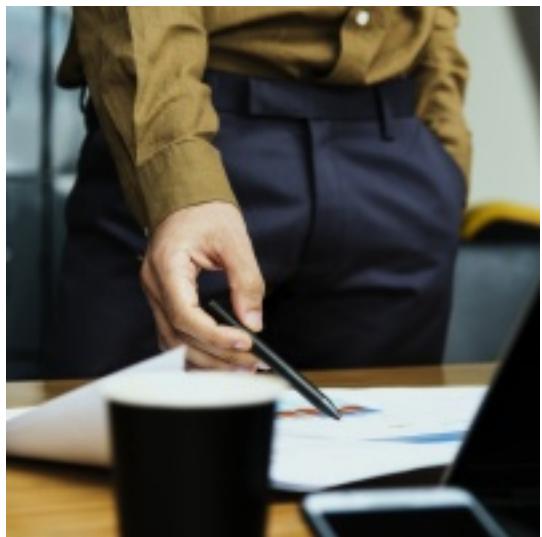
**martial**  
*adjective*  
relating to fighting or war



**perennial**  
*adjective*  
lasting an indefinitely long time; suggesting self-renewal



**perpetuate**  
*verb*  
make (something) continue indefinitely  
**notes:**  
Perpetual motion wheels as designed by Leonardo da Vinci.



**pertinent**

*adjective*

relevant or applicable to a particular matter



**precedent**

*noun*

an example that is used to justify similar occurrences at a later time

**notes:**

Women wearing surgical masks during the influenza epidemic, Brisbane (1919).



**pristine**

*adjective*

clean and fresh as if new

*adjective*

having its original purity

**rankle***verb*

to cause anger, irritation, or deep bitterness, especially one that lasts a long time

**sentimental***adjective*

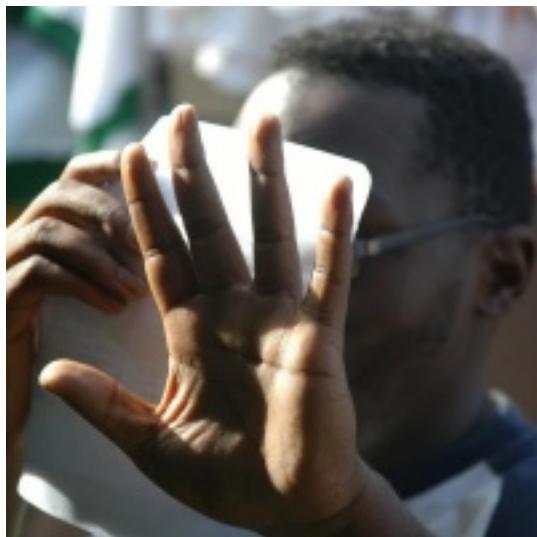
of or prompted by feelings of tenderness, sadness, or nostalgia

**smattering***noun*

a slight superficial knowledge of a language or subject

*noun*

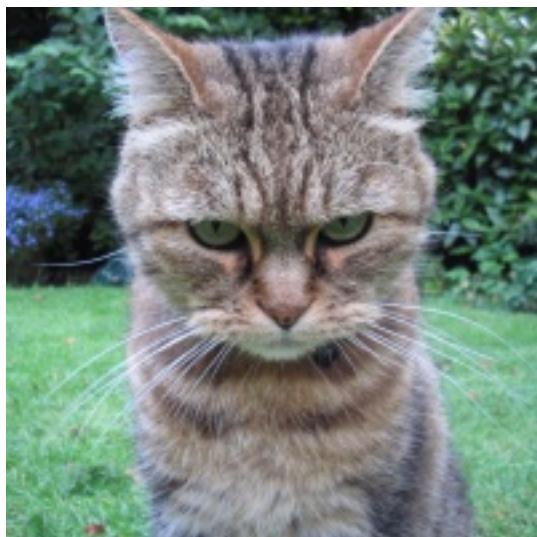
a small amount of something



**spurn**

*verb*

reject with disdain or contempt



**surly**

*adjective*

bad-tempered and unfriendly



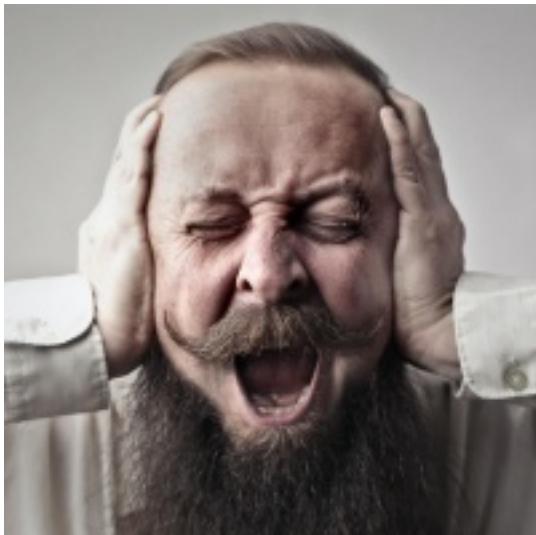
**tumult**

*noun*

a loud, confused noise, especially one caused by a large mass of people

**notes:**

Tens of thousands participating in a protest on 22 February 2011 in Manama, Bahrain.



**uncompromising**

*adjective*

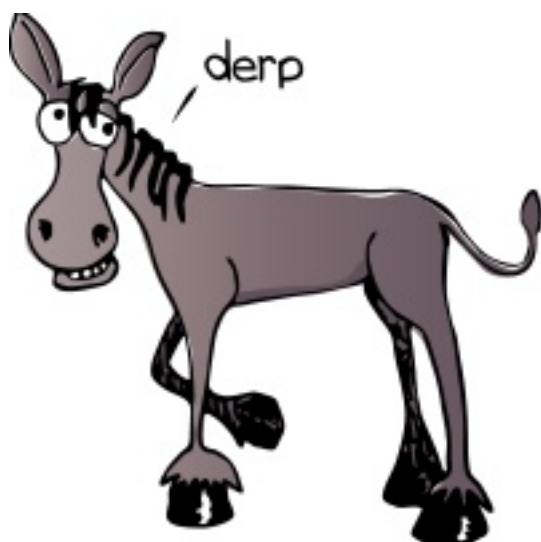
showing an unwillingness to make concessions to others, especially by changing one's ways or opinions



**unruly**

*adjective*

not readily ruled, disciplined, or managed



**vacuous**

*adjective*

lacking in ideas or intelligence

# Basic Words 5



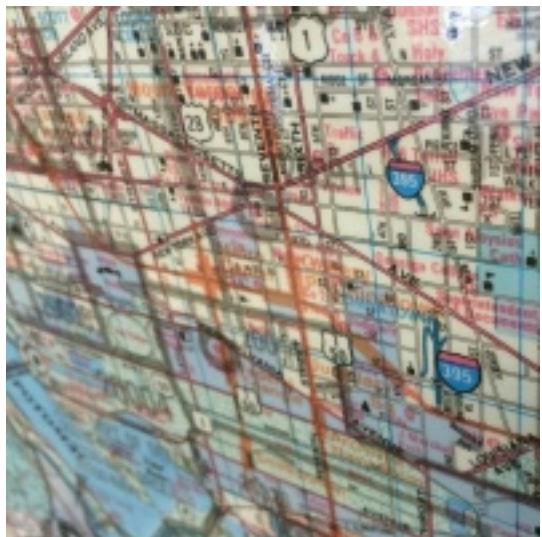
**brusquely**  
*adverb*  
in a blunt direct manner



**collusion**  
*noun*  
secret or illegal cooperation in order to deceive others



**complacent**  
*adjective*  
uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements



**convoluted**

*adjective*

extremely complex and difficult to follow



**credulity**

*noun*

a tendency to be too ready to believe that something is real or true



**destitute**

*adjective*

extremely poor and lacking the means to provide for oneself

*adjective*

lacking possessions and resources

**devolve***verb*

transfer (power) to a lower level

*verb*

pass into (a different state, especially a worse one)

**diligent***adjective*

showing care and earnest effort in one's work or duties

**discord***noun*

disagreement between people



**eke**

*verb*

to get just enough money or food to be able to continue to exist



**elude**

*verb*

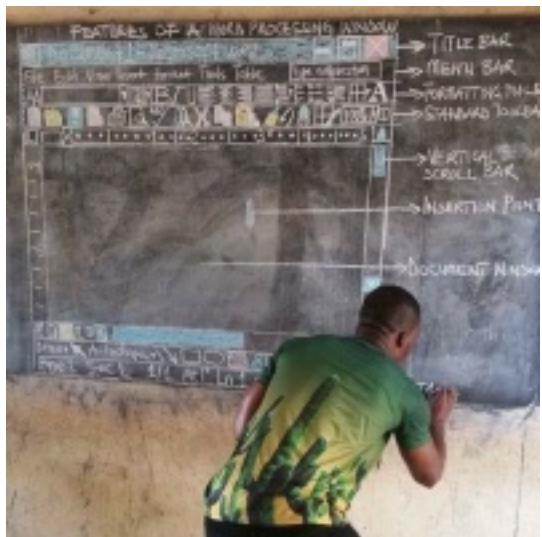
escape from or avoid (a danger, enemy, or pursuer), typically in a skillful or cunning way



**enmity**

*noun*

a state or feeling of hate or hostility



**exemplify**

*verb*

be a typical example of

*verb*

illustrate or clarify by giving an example

**notes:**

Ghanaian teacher draws Microsoft Word on a blackboard.



**foible**

*noun*

a minor weakness or peculiarity in someone's character



**goad**

*verb*

provoke or annoy (someone) so as to simulate an action



**impending**

*adjective*

about to happen, usually something unpleasant



**impregnable**

*adjective*

immune to attack; not to be taken by force

**notes:**

Windsor Castle, a royal residence in the English county of Berkshire.



**irk**

*verb*

to annoy someone



**leery**  
*adjective*  
cautious or wary due to realistic suspicions



**malevolent**  
*adjective*  
having or showing a wish to do evil to others



**maxim**  
*noun*  
a short, pithy statement expressing a general truth or rule of conduct



**obstinate**

*adjective*

stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or chosen course of action in spite of reason or persuasion



**pastoral**

*adjective*

having the simplicity, charm, or other characteristics of country life



**peevish**

*adjective*

easily irritated or annoyed



**perturb**

*verb*

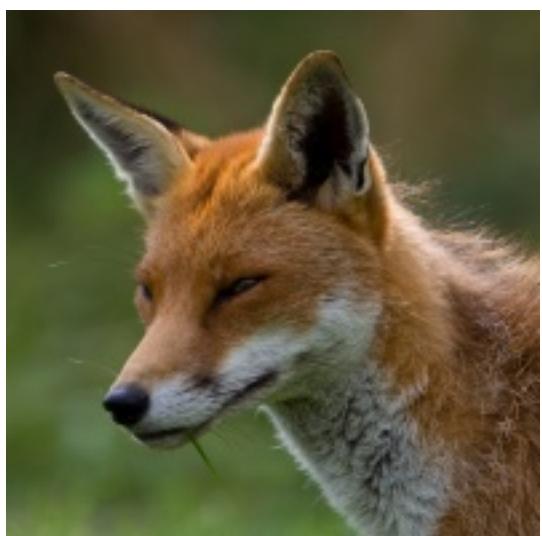
make (someone) anxious or unsettled



**placid**

*adjective*

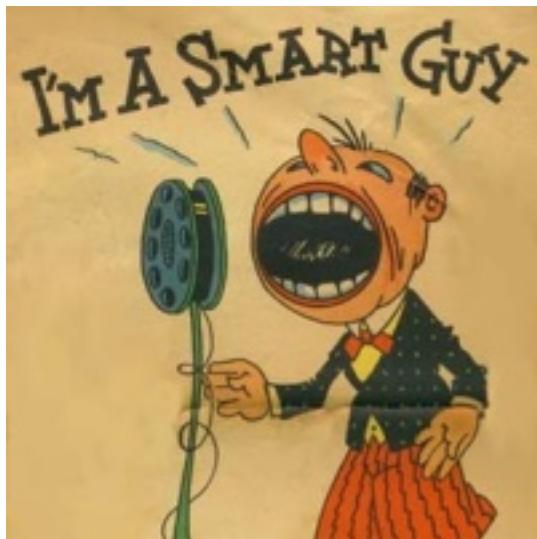
not easily upset or excited



**ploy**

*noun*

a cunning plan or action designed to turn a situation to one's own advantage



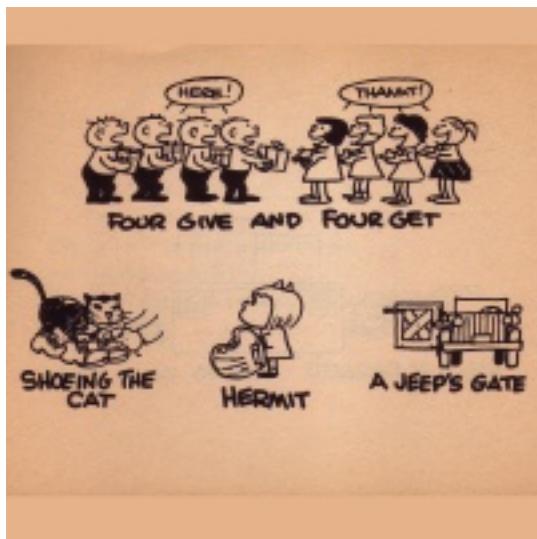
**presumption**

*noun*

the act of believing something is true without having any proof

*noun*

behaviour perceived as arrogant, disrespectful, or rude



**quip**

*noun*

a witty remark



**rash**

*adjective*

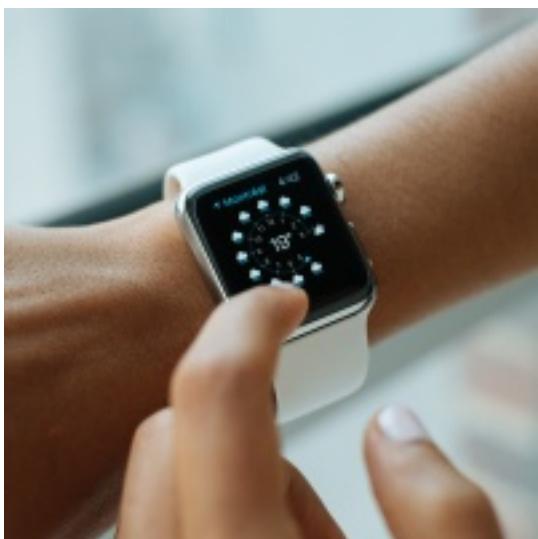
acting or done without careful consideration of the possible consequences

**reservation***noun*

an expression of doubt qualifying overall approval of a plan or statement

**retract***verb*

to draw or pull back

**savvy***noun*

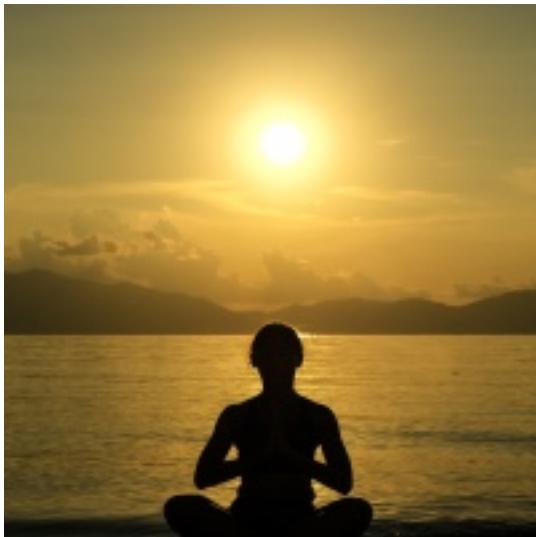
shrewdness and practical knowledge; the ability to make good judgements

*adjective*

shrewd and knowledgeable; having common sense and good judgement

*verb*

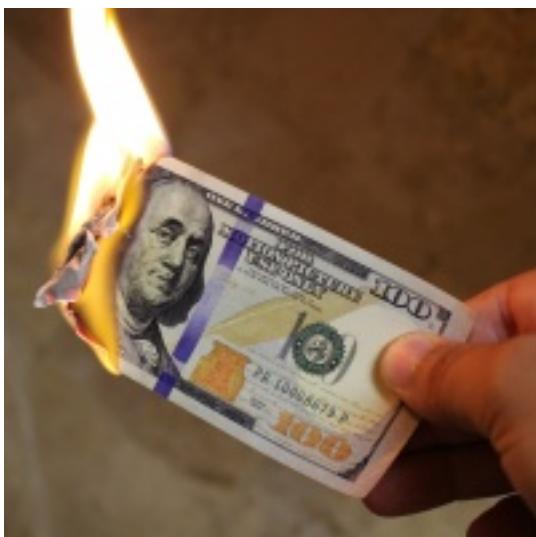
know or understand



**serene**  
*adjective*  
calm, peaceful, and untroubled



**smug**  
*adjective*  
having or showing an excessive pride in oneself or one's achievements

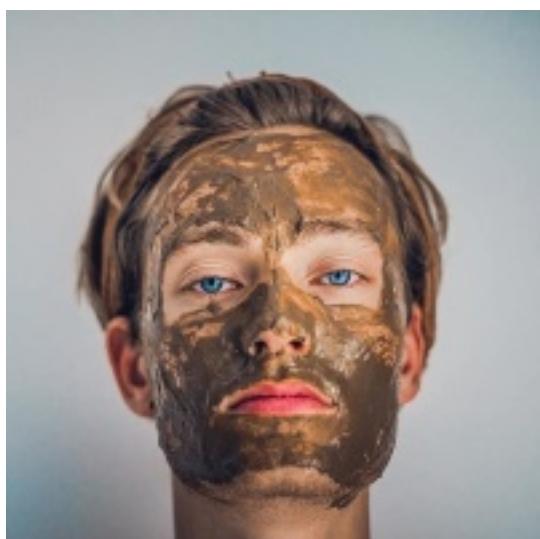


**squander**  
*verb*  
waste (something, especially money or time) in a reckless and foolish manner

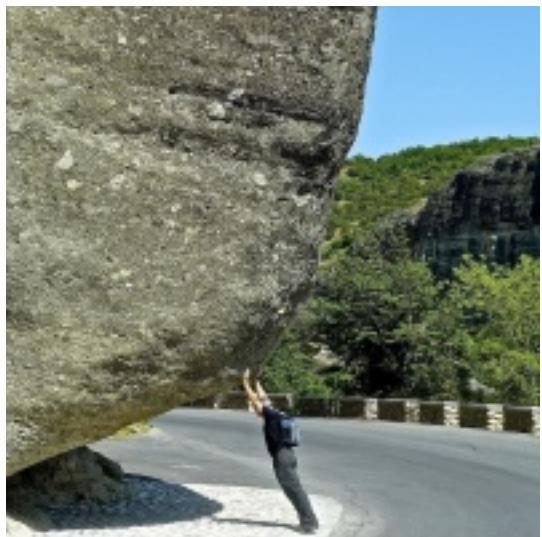
**steadfast**  
*adjective*  
firm in belief, determination, or resolution



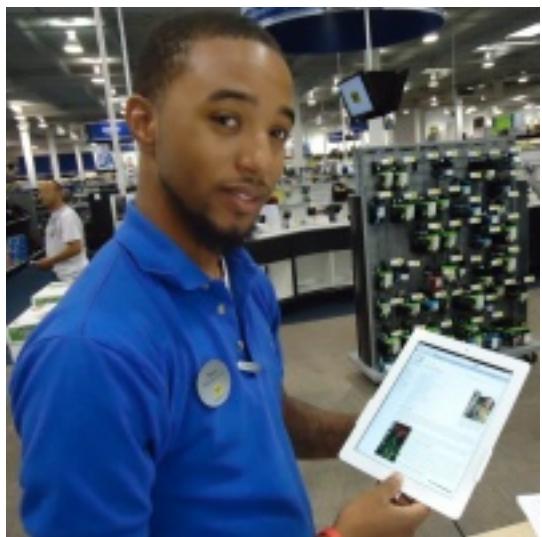
**tact**  
*noun*  
skill and sensitivity in dealing with others and avoiding giving offense



**tarnish**  
*verb*  
make or become less valuable or respected



**taxing**  
*adjective*  
physically or mentally demanding



**tout**  
*verb*  
attempt to sell (something), typically by a direct or persistent approach



**travail**  
*noun*  
painful or laborious effort



**unprecedented**

*adjective*

never done or known before

**notes:**

Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the Moon.



**unseemly**

*adjective*

not according with established standards of good form or taste

# Basic Words 6



**antedate**

*verb*

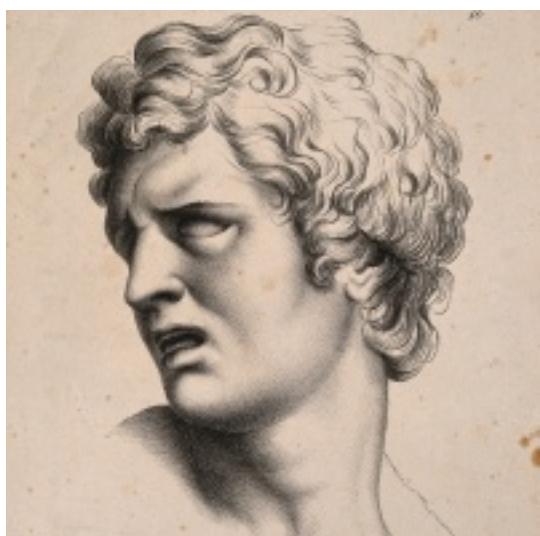
precede in time; come before (something) in date



**ascribe**

*verb*

to believe or say that something is caused by something else



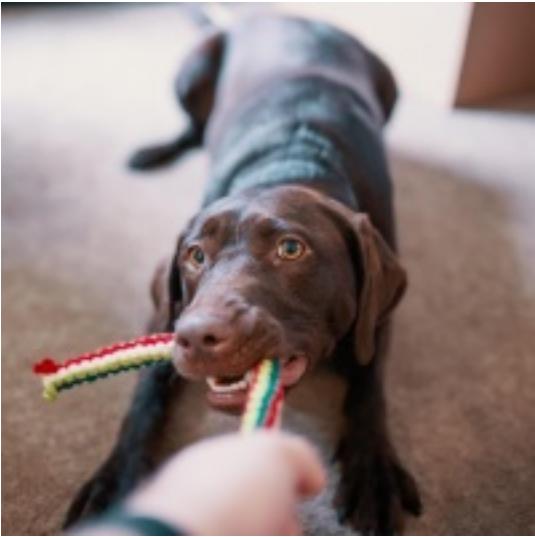
**avert**

*verb*

turn away (one's eyes or thoughts)

*verb*

prevent or ward off (an undesirable occurrence)

**begrudge***verb*

envy (someone) the possession or enjoyment of (something)

*verb*

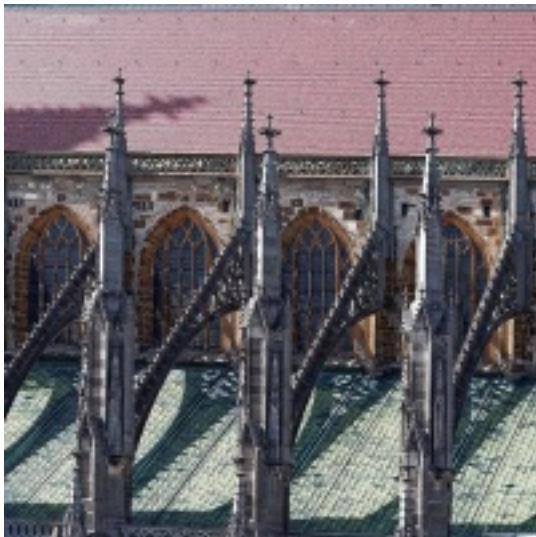
give reluctantly or resentfully

**behoве***verb*

it is a duty or responsibility for someone to do something

**besmirch***verb*

damage (someone's reputation)



**buttress**

*verb*

increase the strength of or justification for



**cavalier**

*adjective*

showing a lack of proper concern



**clemency**

*noun*

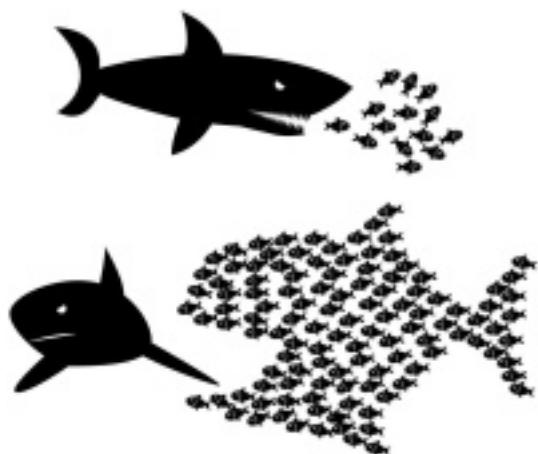
kindness when giving a punishment

**coalesce***verb*

come together to form one mass or whole

**notes:**

Rivers merging together

**cohesive***adjective*

united and working together effectively

**consecrate***verb*

make or declare (something, typically a church)

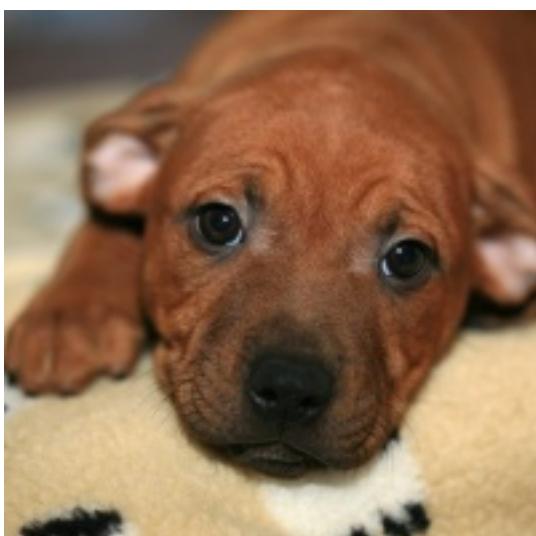
sacred; dedicated formally to a religious purpose

**conundrum***noun*

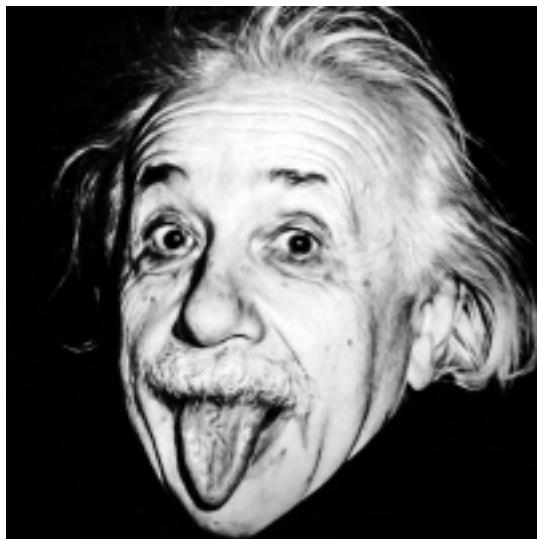
a confusing and difficult problem

**delegate***verb*

entrust (a task or responsibility) to another person, typically one who is less senior than oneself

**docile***adjective*

ready to accept control or instruction

**eccentric***adjective*

(of a person or their behaviour) unconventional and slightly strange

**emulate***verb*

match or surpass (a person or achievement), typically by imitation

**notes:**

Cow race in Vietnam

**evenhanded***adjective*

fair and impartial in treatment or judgement



**fawn**

*verb*

(of a person) show flattery or affection, typically in order to gain favour



**finagle**

*verb*

obtain by dishonest or devious means



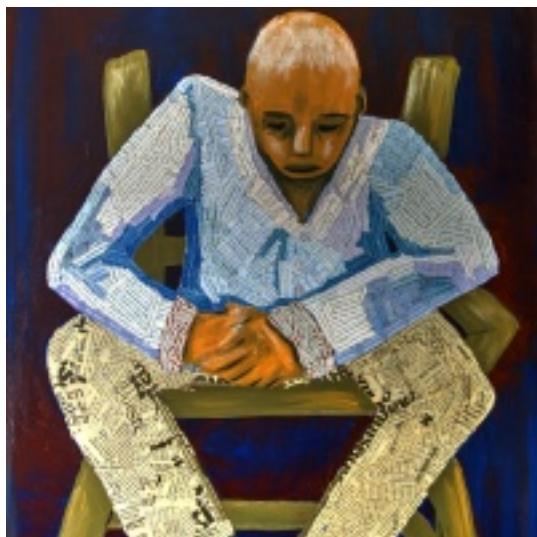
**foolhardy**

*adjective*

recklessly bold or rash; foolishly taking unnecessary risks

**forthright***adjective*

going straight to the point, free from ambiguity or evasiveness

**glean***verb*

obtain (information) from various sources, often with difficulty

**humdrum***adjective*

lacking excitement or variety; boringly monotonous

**implicate***verb*

show (someone) to be involved in a crime

*verb*

convey (a meaning) indirectly through what one says, rather than stating it explicitly

**incense***verb*

make very angry

**incumbent***adjective*

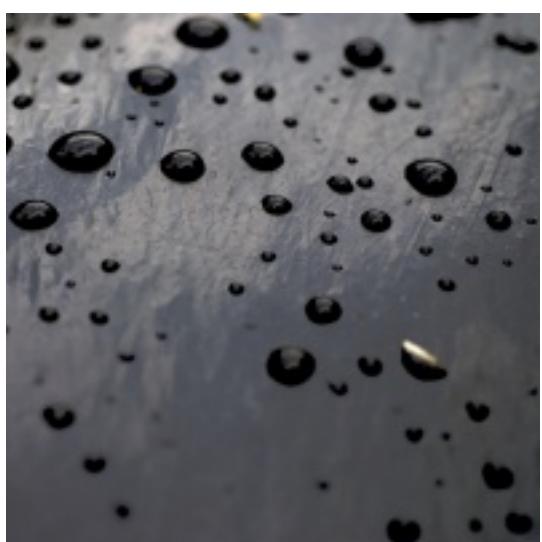
necessary for (someone) as a duty or responsibility



**industrious**  
*adjective*  
diligent and hard-working



**insipid**  
*adjective*  
lacking in qualities that interest, stimulate, or challenge



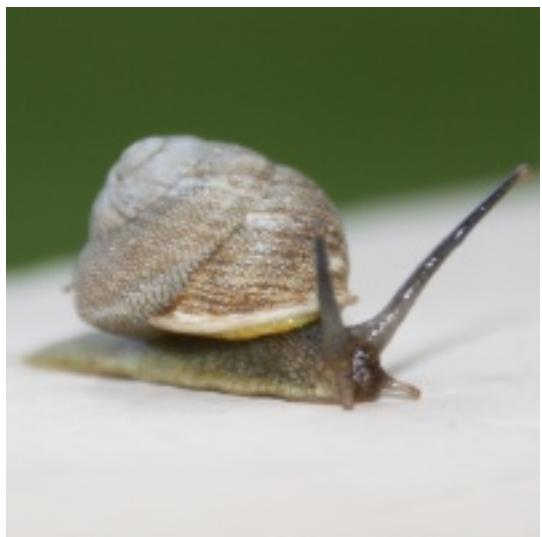
**intermittent**  
*adjective*  
occurring at irregular intervals; not continuous or steady



**irascible**

*adjective*

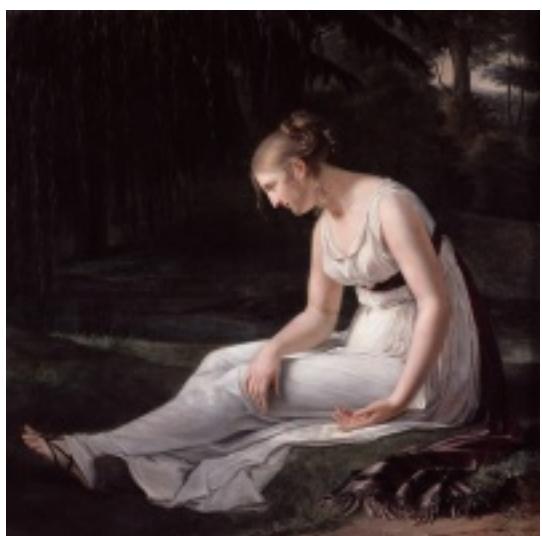
having or showing a tendency to be easily angered



**lethargic**

*adjective*

characterized by laziness or lack of energy



**melancholy**

*noun*

a feeling of deep sadness, typically with no obvious cause



**piquant**

*adjective*

having a pleasantly sharp taste or appetizing flavour



**precarious**

*adjective*

dependent on circumstances beyond one's control; dangerously likely to fall or collapse



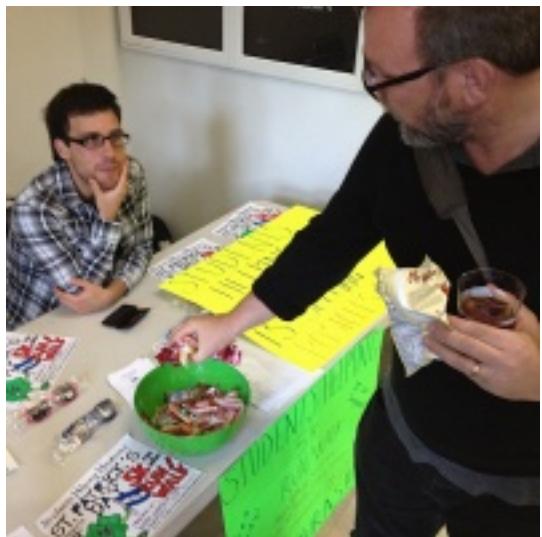
**preempt**

*verb*

to replace with something considered to be of greater value or priority

**notes:**

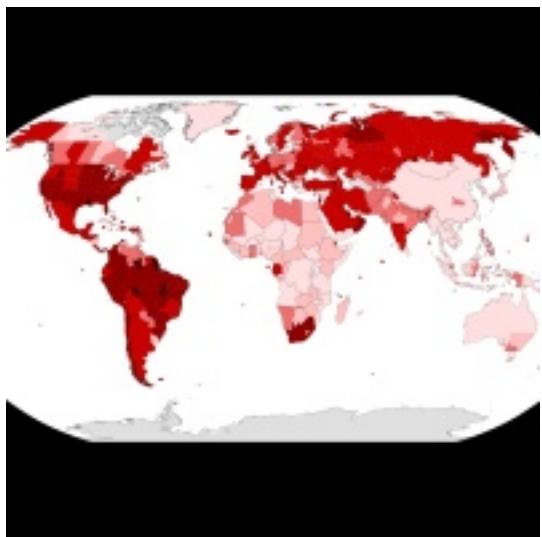
Horses have been replaced by automobiles



**presumptuous**

*adjective*

overstepping due bounds (as of propriety or courtesy)



**prevail**

*verb*

prove more powerful or superior

*verb*

to be widespread or current

**notes:**

COVID-19 outbreak on world map



**profusion**

*noun*

an abundance or large quantity of something



**rakish**

*adjective*

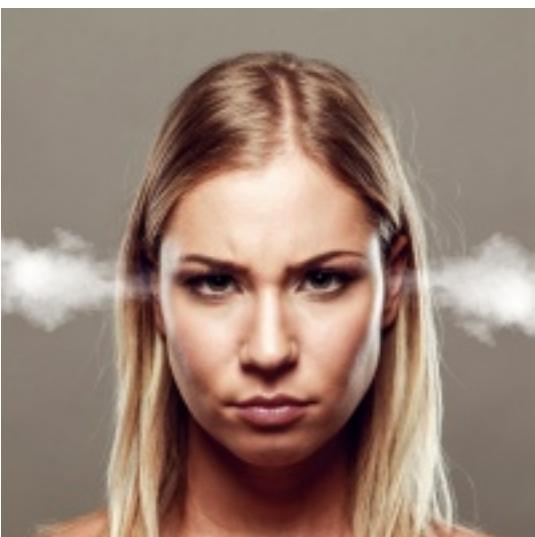
unconventional and slightly disreputable,  
especially in an attractive way



**redress**

*noun*

remedy or compensation for a wrong or  
grievance



**rile**

*verb*

make (someone) annoyed or irritated

**tribulation***noun*

a cause of great trouble or suffering

**uncanny***adjective*

strange or mysterious, especially in an unsettling way

**veneer***noun*

a thin layer of (something, generally wood) used to cover a cheaper material

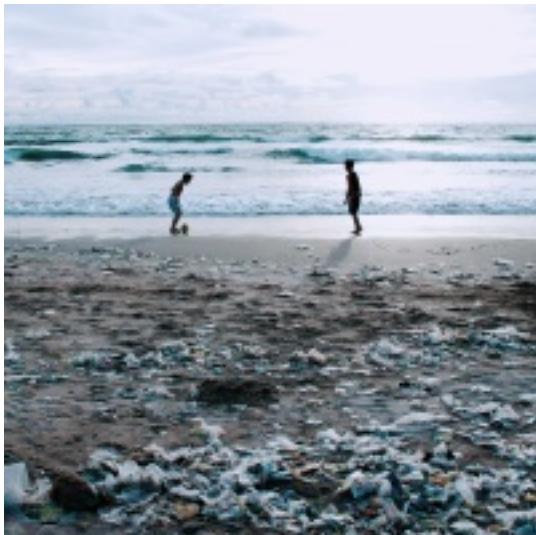


**wanton**

*adjective*

(of a cruel or violent action) deliberate and without motive or provocation

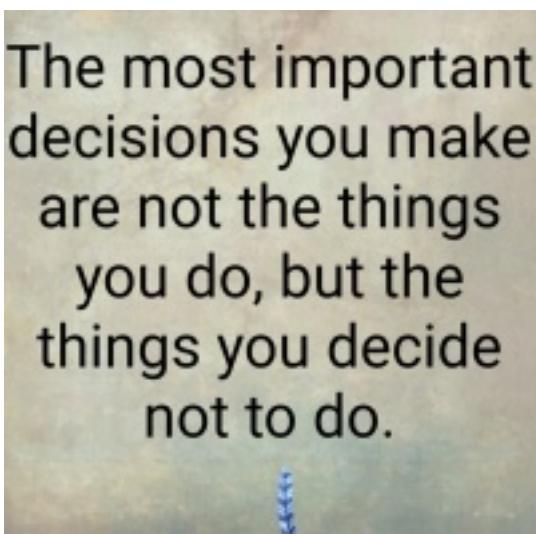
# Basic Words 7



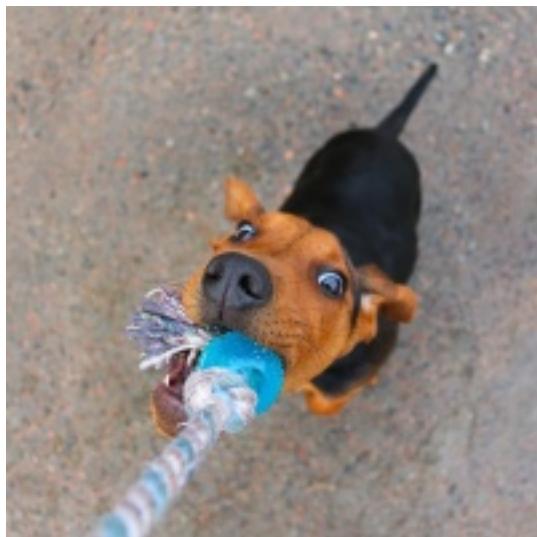
**abysmal**  
*adjective*  
extremely bad



**amply**  
*adjective*  
more than enough



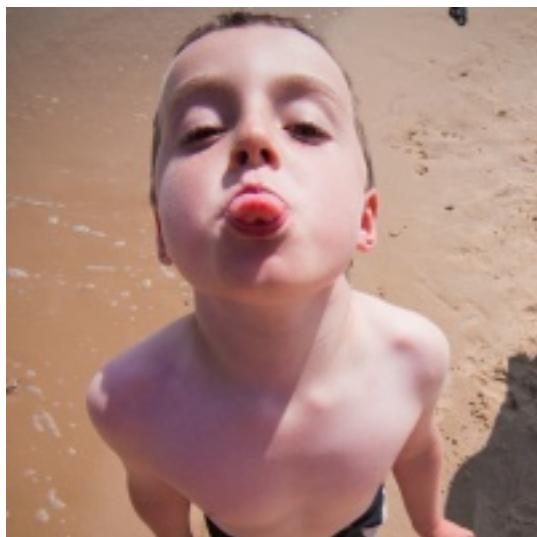
**aphorism**  
*noun*  
a pithy observation which contains a general truth



**balk**

*verb*

hesitate or be unwilling to accept an idea or undertaking, refuse to comply



**boorish**

*adjective*

rough and bad-mannered



**carping**

*adjective*

characterized by fussy or petulant faultfinding



**champion**

*verb*

vigorously support or defend the cause of



**chivalrous**

*adjective*

marked by honor, generosity, and courtesy,  
especially towards women



**colossal**

*adjective*

extremely large or great



**complementary**

*adjective*

mutually enhancing the qualities of each other



**constraint**

*noun*

a limitation or restriction



**cosmopolitan**

*adjective*

including people from many different countries

**creditable***adjective*

deserving praise but not necessarily outstanding or successful

**debunk***verb*

expose the falseness or hollowness of (an idea or belief)

**notes:**

MythBusters, an American TV Series attempting to debunk rumours, urban legends, and popular myths.

**decimation***noun*

the killing or destruction of a large proportion of a group

**dilapidated***adjective*

(of a building or object) in a state of ruin as a result of age or neglect

**discreet***adjective*

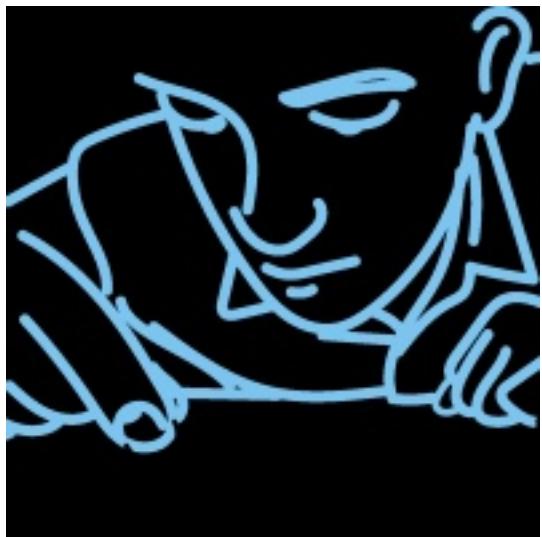
careful in one's speech or actions, especially to keep something confidential or to avoid embarrassment

**dispatch***verb*

deal with (a task or opponent) quickly and efficiently

*noun*

the property of being prompt and efficient



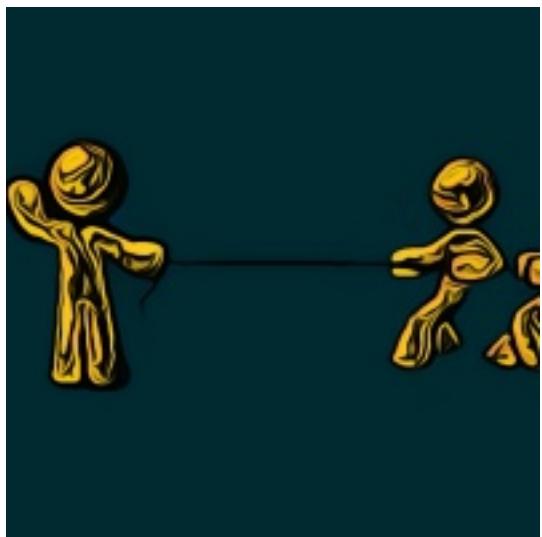
**enumerate**

*verb*

mention (a number of things) one by one

*verb*

to ascertain the number of



**futile**

*adjective*

incapable of producing any useful result



**hamper**

*verb*

hinder the movement or progress of

I have seen pictures of pretty birds far away  
but now I know it will be a gift from I don't  
know. I am not good with birds, and if I can't forget  
you as sister. - The great pink ones in  
the sky often a delusion, so that they  
are filled with the enjoyment. They make  
a lot of time for me, and do them their  
own way, like in one of them is another  
sort of fun, and with another kind of  
knowledge of a kind. It is a strange  
kind of purpose to talk to the student with  
face and separate knowledge, their purpose  
is that of a knowledge their values.  
but there was terrible emotional and  
financial worth of all kinds and even  
harm. - But I want to you this, and

### **inarticulate**

*adjective*

unable to express one's ideas or feelings clearly or  
easily



### **inkling**

*noun*

a slight knowledge or suspicion; a hint



### **malodorous**

*adjective*

smelling very unpleasant

**miscreant***noun*

a person who has done something wrong or unlawful

**misogynist***noun*

a person who dislikes, despises, or hates women

**notes:**

Misogynist urinal

**morph***verb*

to gradually change from one thing to another,  
undergo a transformation



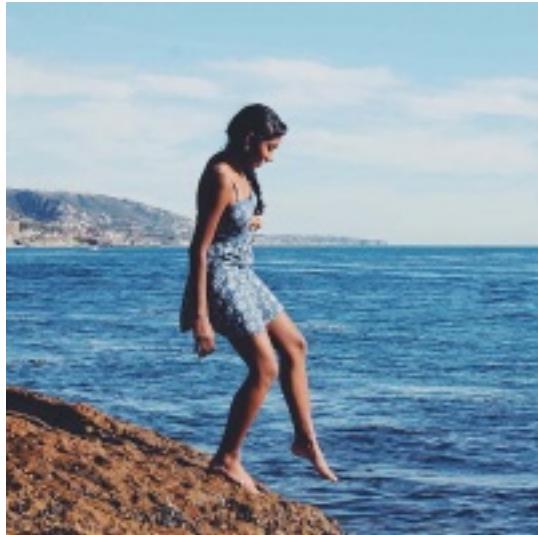
**obliging**  
*adjective*  
willing to do a service or kindness



**perquisite**  
*noun*  
a benefit which one enjoys or is entitled to on account of one's job or position



**provisional**  
*adjective*  
serving for the time being, likely to change later

**qualm***noun*

an uneasy feeling of doubt, worry, or fear, especially about one's own conduct

**resignation***noun*

the acceptance of something undesirable but inevitable

**snub***verb*

to treat with disdain or contempt, especially by ignoring



**sordid**

*adjective*

involving immoral or dishonourable actions and motives



**staid**

*adjective*

characterized by respect and propriety, serious and rather boring



**stymie**

*verb*

prevent or hinder the progress of

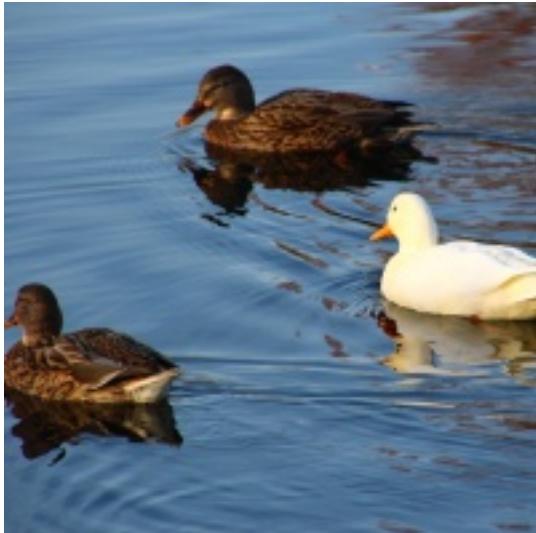


**vanquish**  
*verb*  
defeat thoroughly



**vie**  
*verb*  
compete eagerly with someone in order to do or achieve something

# Common Words 1



**aberration**

*noun*

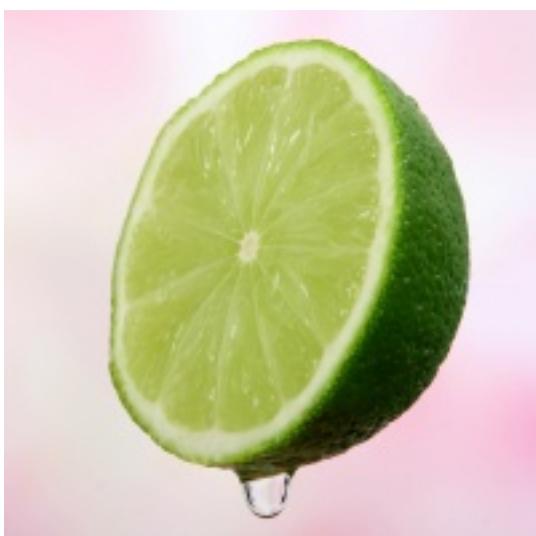
a deviation from what is normal or expected



**acrimonious**

*adjective*

(typically of speech or discussion) angry and bitter



**acrimony**

*noun*

bitterness and ill feeling



**amalgam**

*noun*

a mixture of multiple things



**ambiguous**

*adjective*

open to more than one interpretation

**yes**

**no**

**maybe**



**ambivalent**

*adjective*

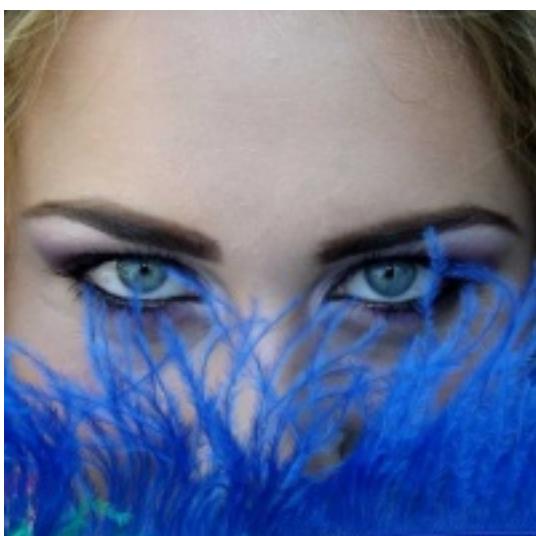
having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone



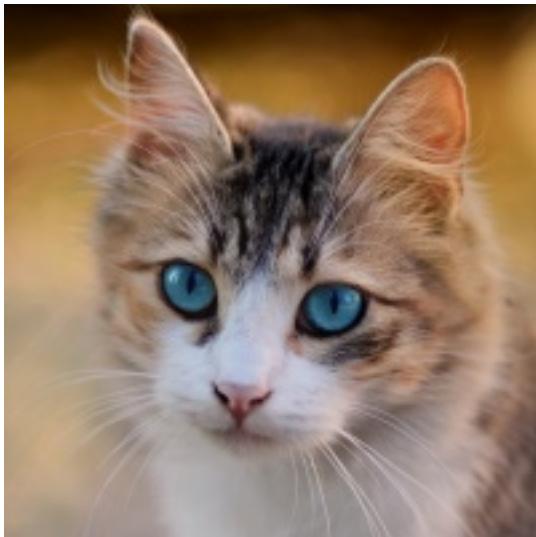
**amenable**  
*adjective*  
easily persuaded or controlled



**amorphous**  
*adjective*  
without a clearly defined shape or form;  
shapeless



**anomalous**  
*adjective*  
deviating from what is standard, normal, or  
expected



**anomaly**

*noun*

something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected



**artful**

*adjective*

showing creative skill

*adjective*

clever in a cunning way



**auspicious**

*adjective*

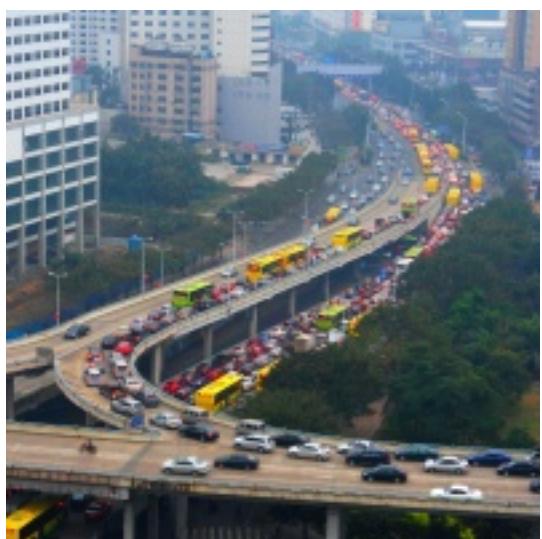
conducive to success



**believe**  
*adjective*  
fail to give a true impression of (something)



**betray**  
*verb*  
unintentionally reveal; be evidence of



**bottleneck**  
*noun*  
a situation that causes a delay in a process



**calumny**

*noun*

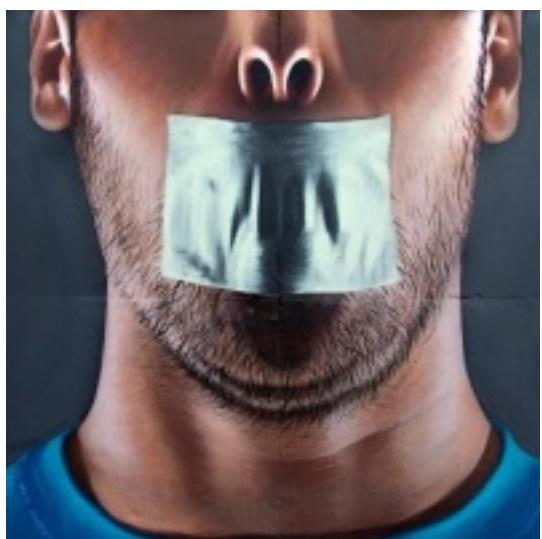
making of a false statement meant to injure a person's reputation



**castigate**

*verb*

reprimand (someone) severely



**censure**

*verb*

express severe disapproval of (someone or something), especially in a formal statement



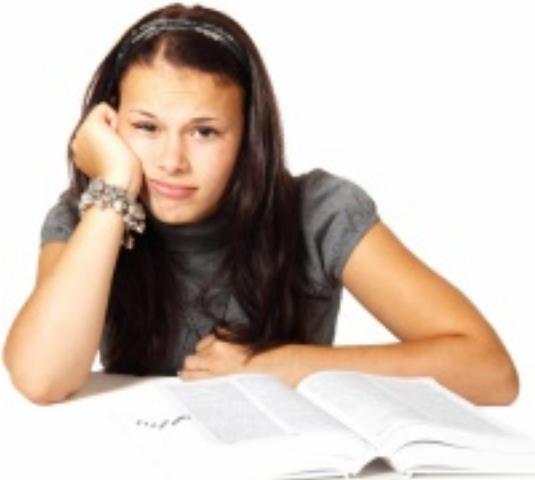
**chastise**  
*verb*  
reprimand severely



**commensurate**  
*adjective*  
corresponding in size or degree



**demur**  
*verb*  
raise objections or show reluctance



**disinterested**

*adjective*

not influenced by considerations of personal advantage



**egregious**

*adjective*

outstandingly bad or shocking in an obvious way



**enervate**

*verb*

make (someone) feel drained of energy or vitality

*adjective*

lacking in energy or vitality



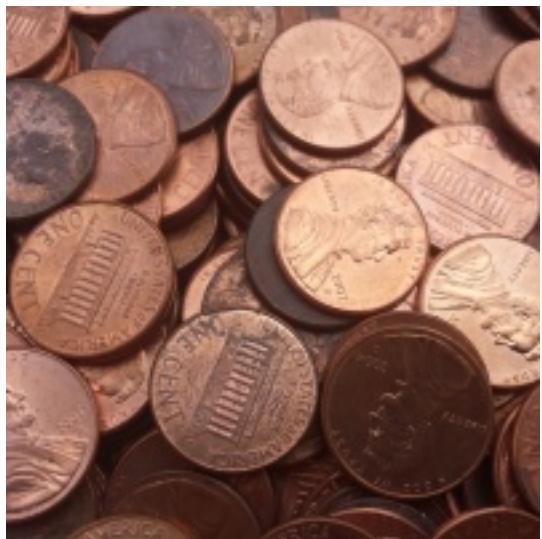
**equivocal**  
*adjective*  
open to more than one interpretation



**evasive**  
*adjective*  
tending to avoid commitment, especially by responding only indirectly



**extant**  
*adjective*  
still in existence (usually refers to documents)



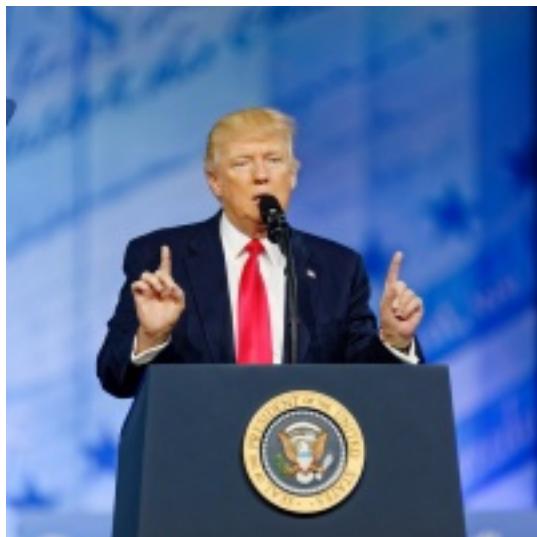
**frugal**  
*adjective*  
not spending much money (but spending wisely)



**galvanize**  
*verb*  
excite or inspire (someone) into taking action



**gregarious**  
*adjective*  
to be likely to socialize with others

**harangue***noun*

a lengthy and aggressive speech

*verb*

lecture (someone) at length in an aggressive and critical manner

**iconoclast***noun*

a person who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions

**impertinent***adjective*

not showing proper respect



**ingenuous**

*adjective*

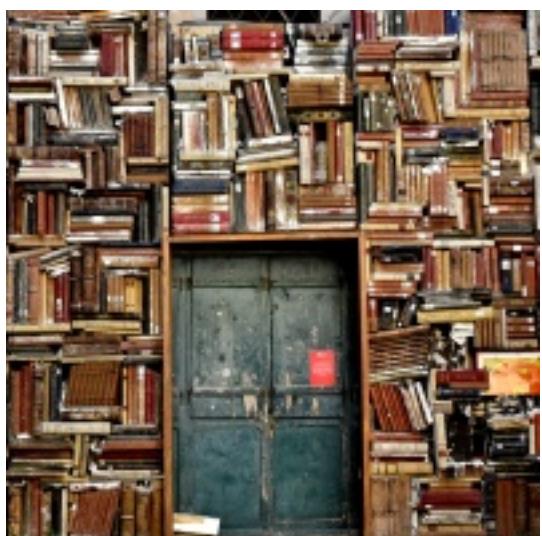
(of a person or action) innocent and naive



**innocuous**

*adjective*

not harmful or offensive



**intimate**

*verb*

to suggest (something) subtly

*adjective*

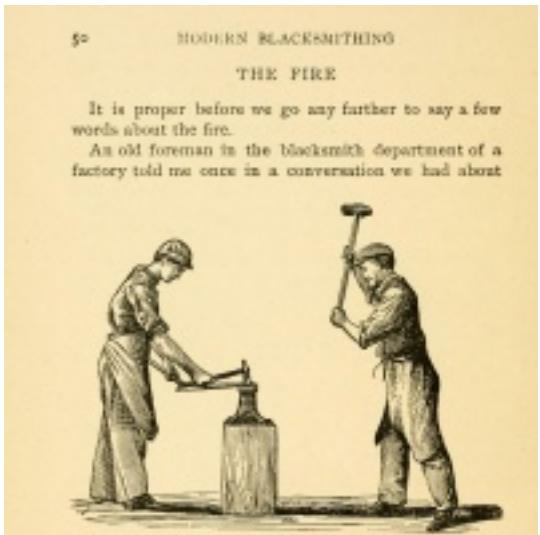
closely acquainted

*adjective*

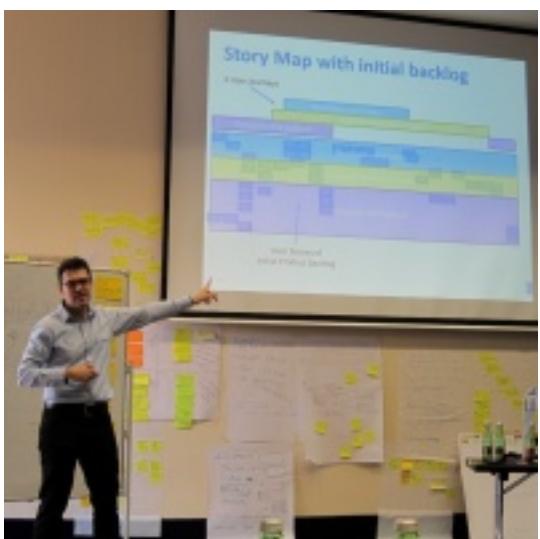
(of knowledge) obtained from a lot of studying or experience



**involved**  
*adjective*  
difficult to understand



**laconic**  
*adjective*  
(of a person, speech, or style of writing) using very few words



**maintain**  
*verb*  
state something strongly to be the case



**mercurial**

*adjective*

(of a person) prone to sudden or unpredictable changes in mood



**miser**

*noun*

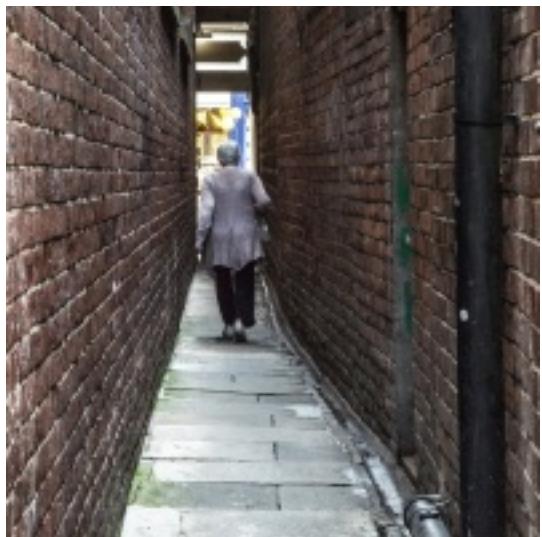
a person who hoards wealth and spends as little money as possible



**mutation**

*noun*

the way in which genes change and produce permanent differences



**parochial**  
*adjective*  
narrowly restricted in scope or outlook



**parsimonious**  
*adjective*  
very unwilling to spend money or use resources



**prevaricate**  
*verb*  
speak or act in an evasive way



**prodigal**

*adjective*

spending money or resources recklessly



**profligate**

*adjective*

recklessly extravagant or wasteful in the use of resources

*noun*

someone who spends money recklessly or wastefully



**qualify**

*verb*

make (a statement or assertion) less absolute



**restive**  
*adjective*  
(of a person) restless



**tirade**  
*noun*  
a long, angry speech of criticism or accusation



**undermine**  
*verb*  
lessen the effectiveness gradually or insidiously

**upbraid**  
*verb*  
find fault (with someone)



**venal**  
*adjective*  
showing or motivated by susceptibility to bribery



**venerate**  
*verb*  
regard with great respect

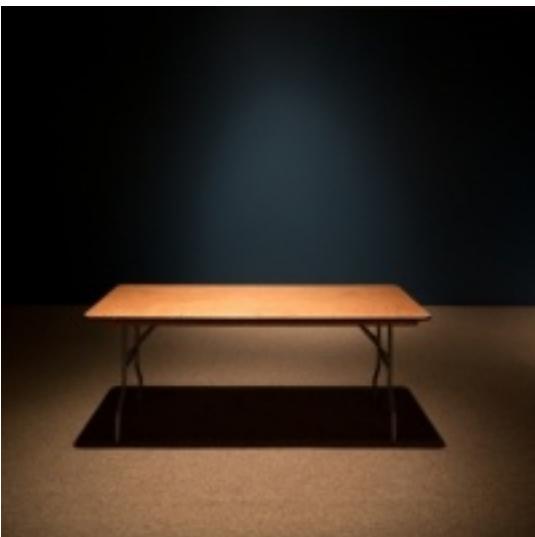




**veracious**  
*adjective*  
speaking the truth

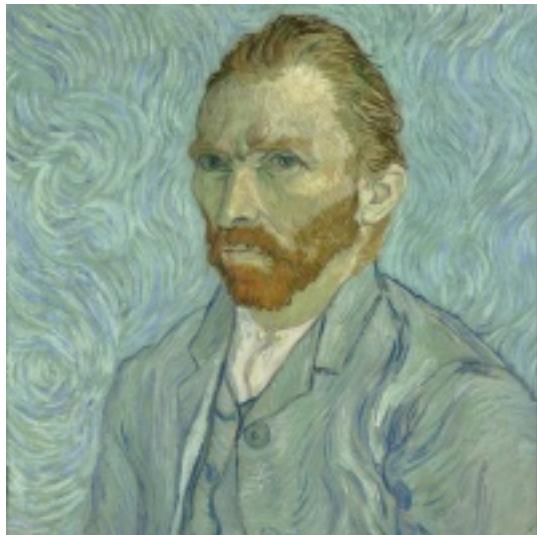


**vindicate**  
*verb*  
clear (someone) of blame or suspicion with supporting proof



**wanting**  
*adjective*  
lacking in a required quality

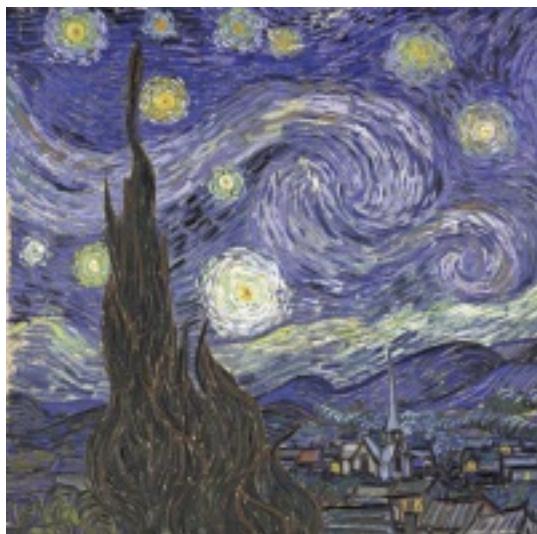
# Common Words 2



**aesthete**

*noun*

a person who is appreciative of art and beauty



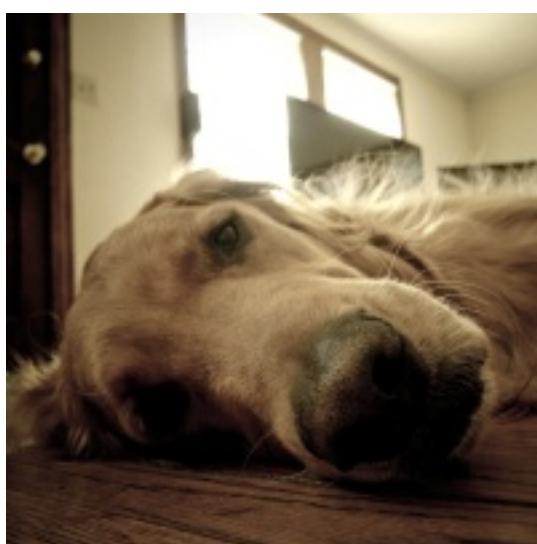
**aesthetic**

*adjective*

concerned with the appreciation of beauty

*noun*

a set of principles underlying the work of a particular artist or artistic movement



**apathetic**

*adjective*

marked by lack of interest or enthusiasm



**assertion**

*noun*

a confident and forceful statement of fact or belief



**audacious**

*adjective*

showing a willingness to take bold risks



**banal**

*adjective*

repeated too often, overfamiliar through overuse



**bucolic**

*adjective*

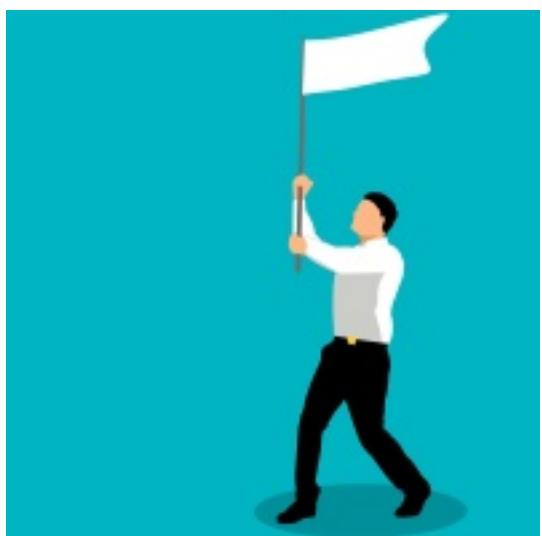
relating to the pleasant aspects of the country



**chortle**

*verb*

laugh in a noisy, joyful, partly muffled way, often at someone else's bad luck



**concede**

*verb*

admit or agree something is true after denying it

*verb*

admit (to wrongdoing)

*verb*

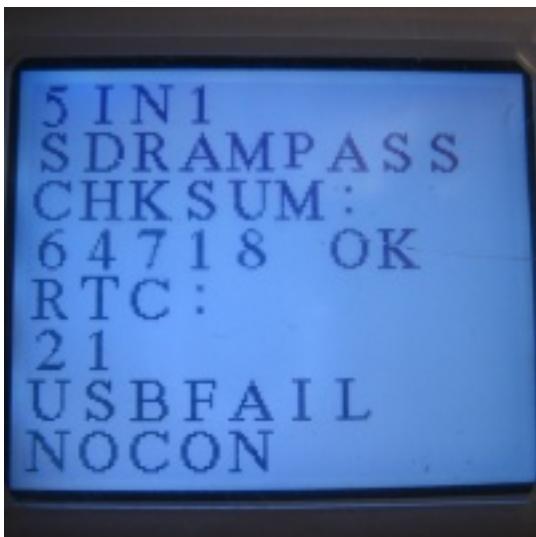
surrender or yield (a possession, right, or privilege)



**conspicuous**

*adjective*

clearly visible, without any attempt at concealment



**cryptic**

*adjective*

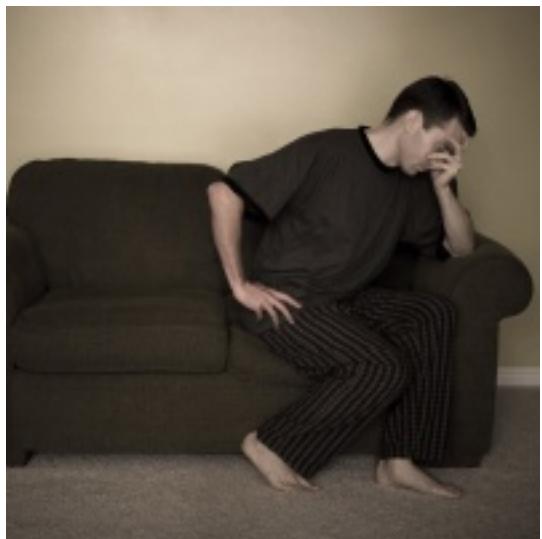
having a meaning that is mysterious or obscure, usually intentionally



**culminate**

*verb*

reach a climax or point of highest development

**culpability***noun*

responsibility for a fault or wrong, a state of guilt

**curator***noun*

a keeper or custodian of a museum or other collection

**decorous***adjective*

characterized by good taste in manners and conduct



**deferential**  
*adjective*  
showing respect



**dictatorial**  
*adjective*  
expecting unquestioning obedience,  
characteristic of an absolute ruler



**didactic**  
*adjective*  
intended to teach people a moral lesson



**diffident**

*adjective*

modest or shy, lack of self-confidence



**dogmatic**

*adjective*

highly opinionated, not accepting that one's own beliefs may not be correct



**engender**

*verb*

cause or give rise to (a feeling or situation)



**entrenched**

*adjective*

(of a habit or belief) firmly established or unlikely to change



**eschew**

*verb*

deliberately avoid using



**exacerbate**

*verb*

make (a bad situation or negative feeling) worse



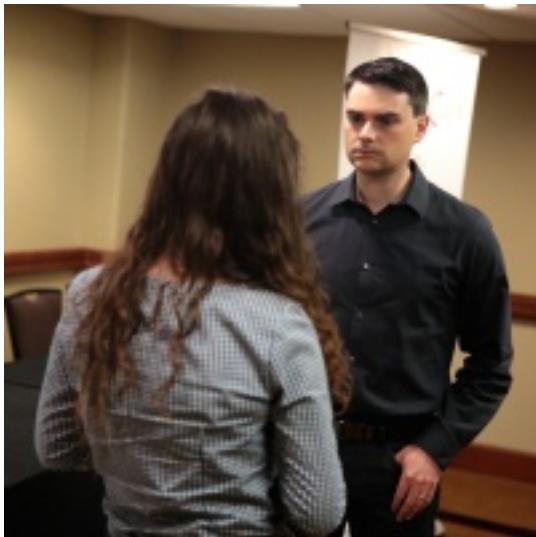
**forsake**  
*verb*  
abandon or leave



**fortuitous**  
*adjective*  
happening by lucky chance rather than intention



**frivolous**  
*adjective*  
not serious in content or attitude or behaviour



**gainsay**

*verb*

deny or contradict (a fact or statement)



**gall**

*noun*

bold and impudent behaviour

*noun*

a feeling of deep and bitter anger and ill-will



**germane**

*adjective*

relevant to a subject under consideration



**glut**

*noun*

an excessive supply of something

*verb*

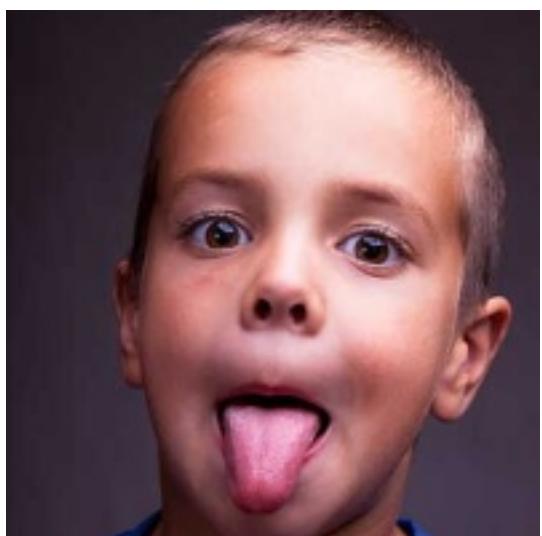
supply or fill to excess



**gossamer**

*adjective*

very delicate and light



**impudent**

*adjective*

not showing respect



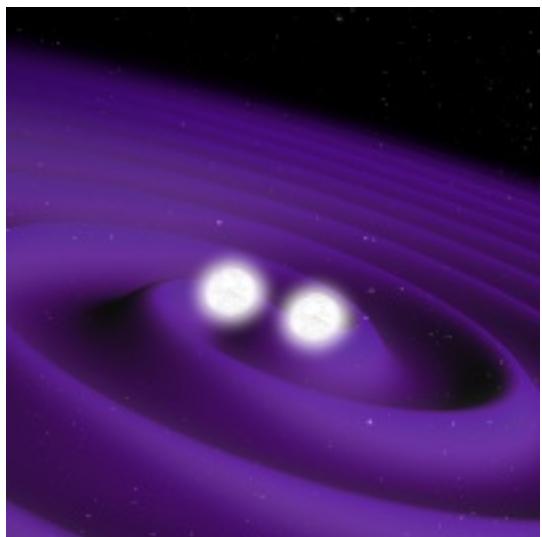
**incisive**

*adjective*

(of a person or mental process) intelligently analytical and clear-thinking

**notes:**

Terence Tao, a mathematician with an estimated IQ of 230



**inexorable**

*adjective*

impossible to stop or prevent

**notes:**

colliding neutron stars



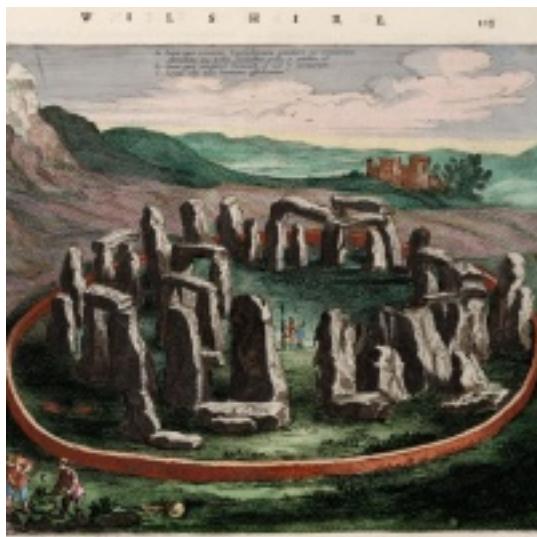
**lambast**

*verb*

criticize (someone or something) harshly

**lawsuit***noun*

a claim or dispute brought to a law court to obtain a legal decision by a person or organization

**locus***noun*

a particular position or place where something occurs or is situated

**mawkish***adjective*

sentimental in an exaggerated or false way

**meticulous***adjective*

showing great attention to detail, very careful and precise

**mitigate***verb*

make (something bad) less severe or painful

*verb*

lessen the gravity of (an offence)

**monopoly***noun*

the exclusive possession or control of the supply or trade in a commodity or service



**obscure**

*verb*

make unclear and difficult to understand

*adjective*

not known about



**patronize**

*verb*

treat in a way that is apparently kind or helpful  
but betray a feeling of superiority



**perfidy**

*noun*

an act of deliberate betrayal; a breach of trust



**platitude**

*noun*

an obvious remark or statement



**preclude**

*verb*

prevent from happening, make impossible



**predilection**

*noun*

a strong liking

**notes:**

Android vs. Apple, for which one do you predilection?



**prescience**

*noun*

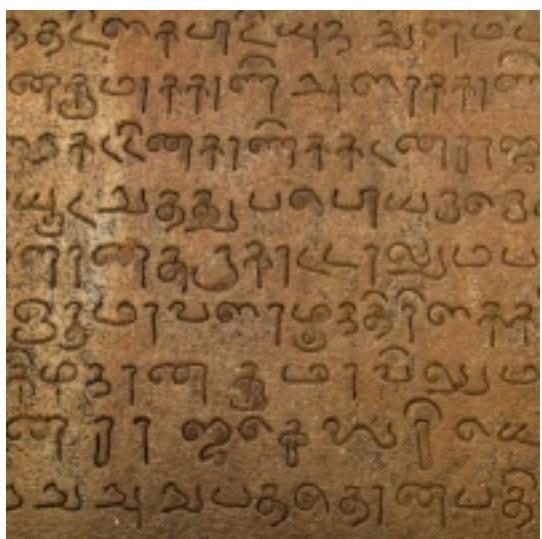
the fact of knowing something in advance



**querulous**

*adjective*

habitually complaining in a whining manner



**recondite**

*adjective*

(of a subject or knowledge) little known and difficult to understand



**reticent**

*adjective*

not revealing one's thoughts or feelings



**rustic**

*adjective*

characteristic of rural life, awkwardly simple and provincial



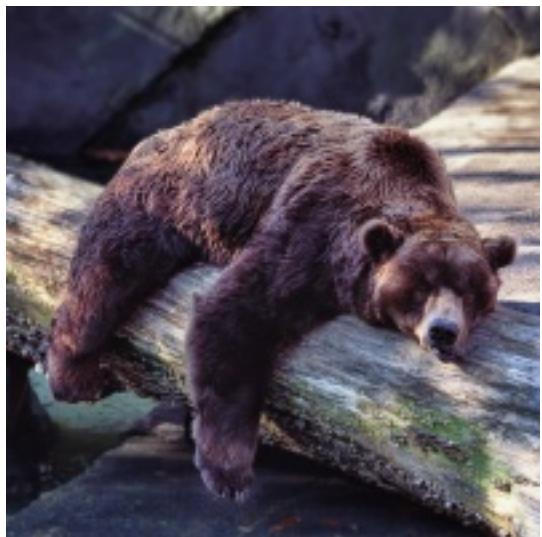
**superfluous**

*adjective*

serving no useful purpose

*adjective*

unnecessary, especially through being more than enough



**torpor**

*noun*

a state of physical and mental inactivity



**trite**

*adjective*

(of a remark or idea) lacking originality or freshness



**vociferous**

*adjective*

characterized by vehement opinions, conspicuously loud



**voluble**

*adjective*

(of a person) talking fluently, with confidence and enthusiasm

# Common Words 3



**aberrant**

*adjective*

departing from an accepted standard



**abstain**

*verb*

restrain oneself from doing or enjoying something



**acerbic**

*adjective*

harsh in tone



**ameliorate**

*verb*

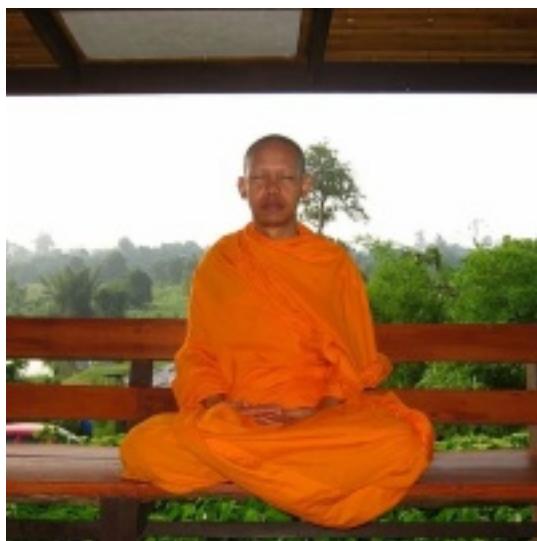
make (something bad or unsatisfactory) better



**apathy**

*noun*

an absence of emotion or enthusiasm



**ascetic**

*adjective*

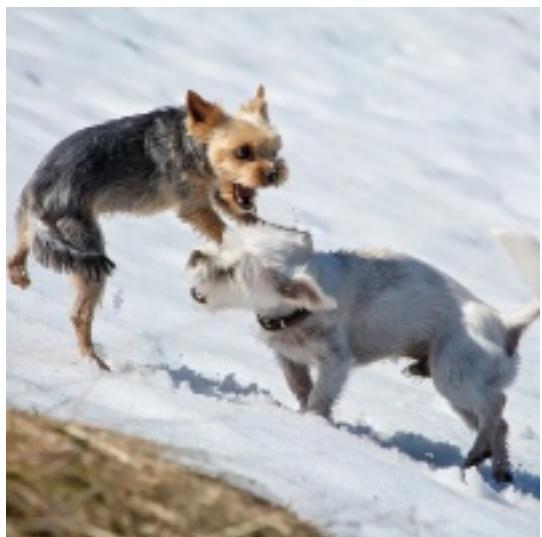
avoiding physical pleasures and living a simple life, often for religious reasons

*noun*

a person who follows an ascetic life



**avaricious**  
*adjective*  
excessively greedy



**belligerent**  
*adjective*  
characteristic of one eager to fight, hostile and aggressive



**circumvent**  
*adjective*  
to avoid something, especially cleverly or illegally

**construe***verb*

interpret (a word or action) in a particular way

**contrive***verb*

to pull off a plan or scheme, usually through skill or trickery

**delineate***verb*

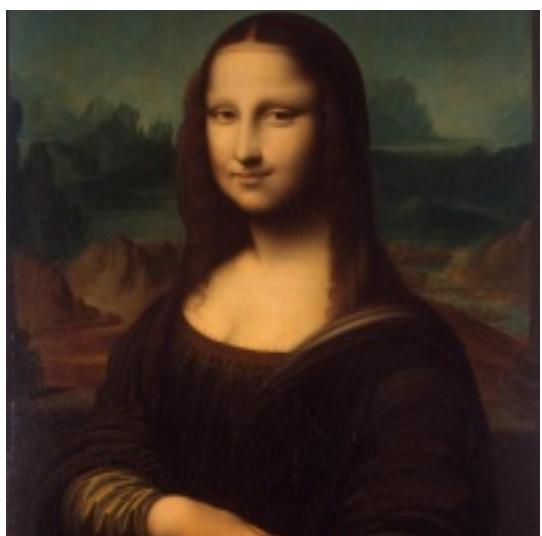
describe or portray (something) precisely



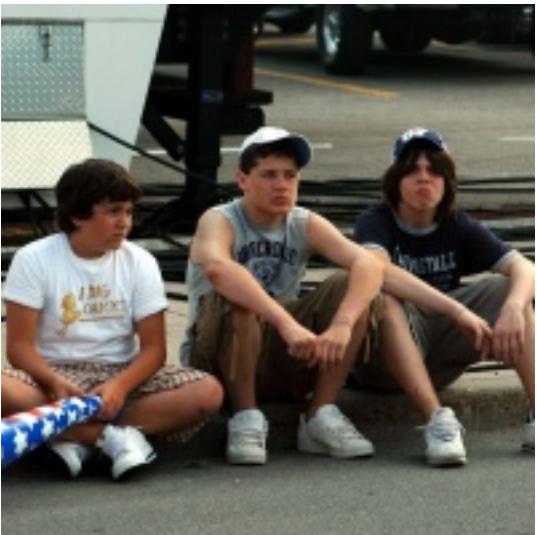
**denote**  
*verb*  
be a sign of



**derivative**  
*adjective*  
imitative of the work of another artist, writer, etc., and usually disapproved of for that reason



**derive**  
*verb*  
obtain something from (a specified source)  
*verb*  
reason by deduction



**disaffected**

*adjective*

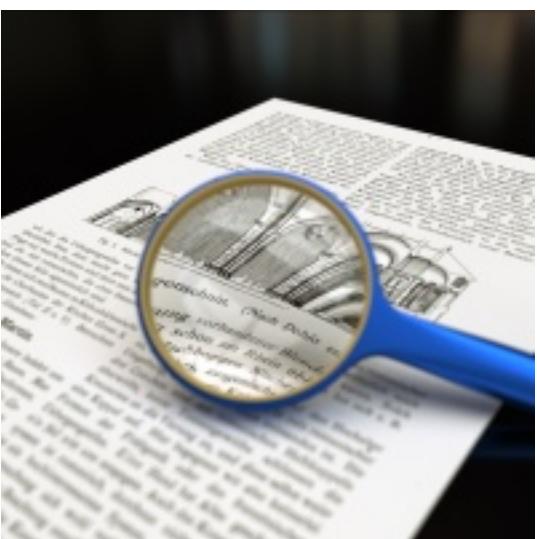
dissatisfied, especially with people in authority or a system of control



**eclectic**

*adjective*

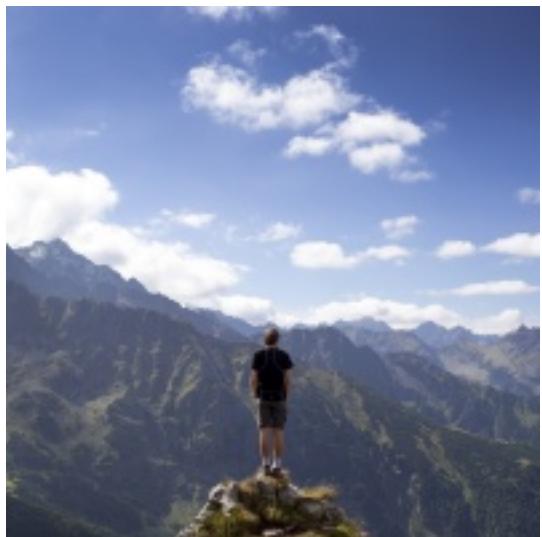
comprising of a variety of styles or ideas



**elucidate**

*verb*

make (something) clear



**eminent**

*adjective*

standing above others in quality or position



**ephemeral**

*adjective*

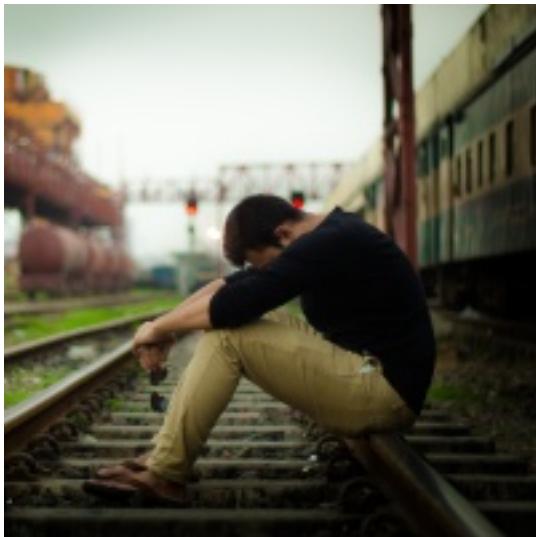
lasting for a very short time

$$2+2=5$$

**fallacious**

*adjective*

based on a mistaken belief

**forlorn***adjective*

pitifully sad and abandoned or lonely

*adjective*

(of an aim or endeavour) unlikely to succeed or be fulfilled

**frustrate***verb*

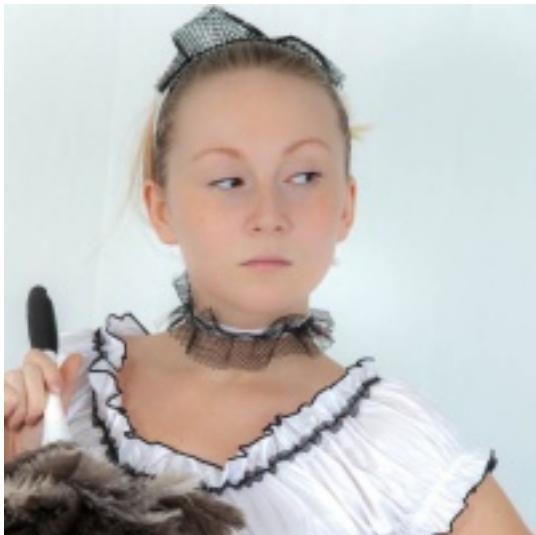
prevent (a plan or action) from succeeding

*verb*

cause (someone) to feel upset or annoyed from being unable to achieve something

**guileless***adjective*

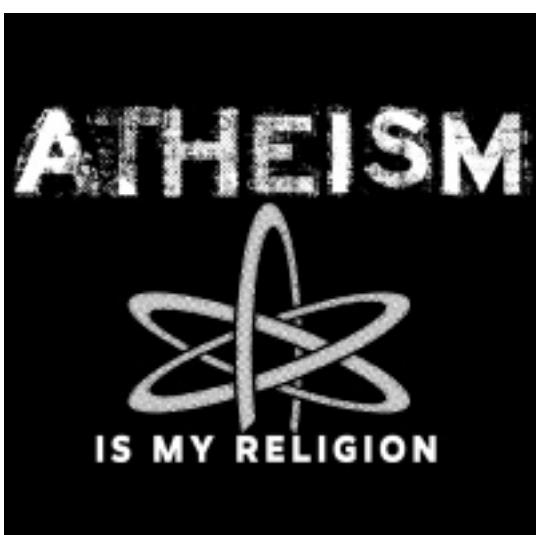
devoid of guile; innocent and without deception



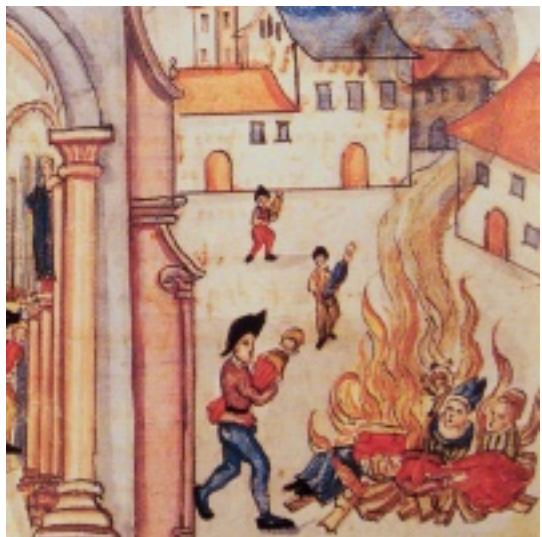
**haughty**  
*adjective*  
arrogantly superior and disdainful



**heresy**  
*noun*  
belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious doctrine or what is generally accepted



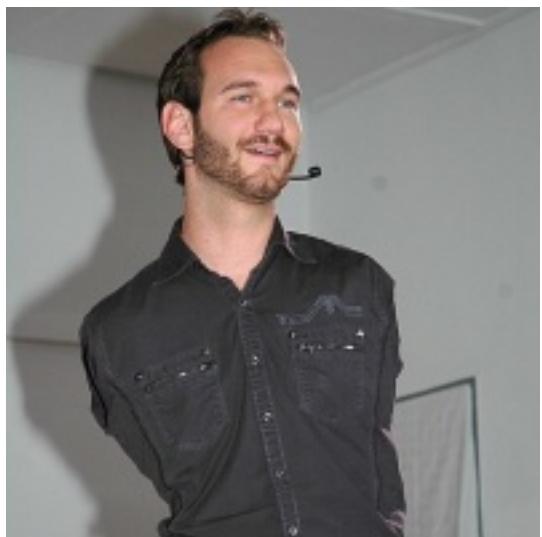
**heretic**  
*noun*  
a person who holds unorthodox opinions in any field (not merely religion)



**iconoclastic**

*noun*

a person who strongly opposes generally accepted beliefs and traditions



**immutable**

*adjective*

unable to be changed



**incongruous**

*adjective*

not in harmony or with the surroundings or other aspects of something



**ingratiate**

*verb*

bring oneself into favour with someone by flattering or trying to please them



**insidious**

*adjective*

proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects



**itinerant**

*adjective*

travelling from place to place, usually to work for a short period



**jingoism**

*noun*

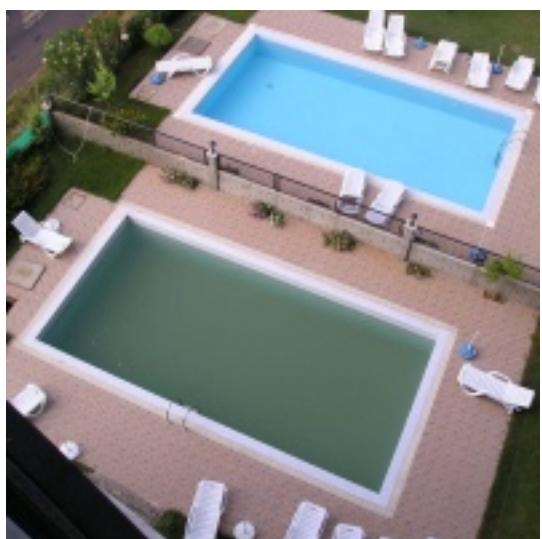
extreme patriotism, especially in the form of aggressive or warlike policy



**jubilant**

*adjective*

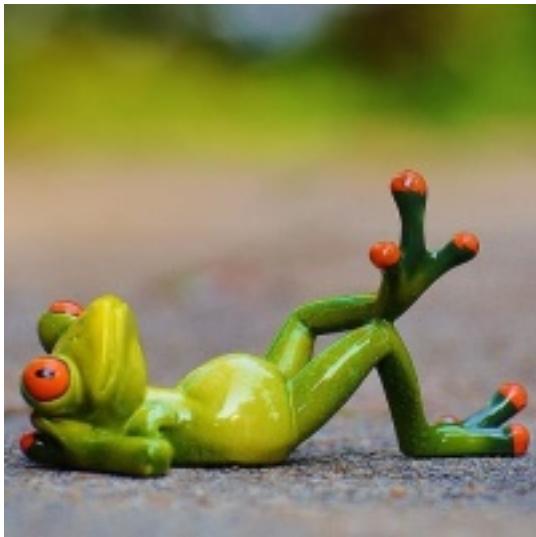
feeling or expressing great happiness, especially because of triumph or success



**juxtapose**

*verb*

place side by side for contrast



**languid**

*adjective*

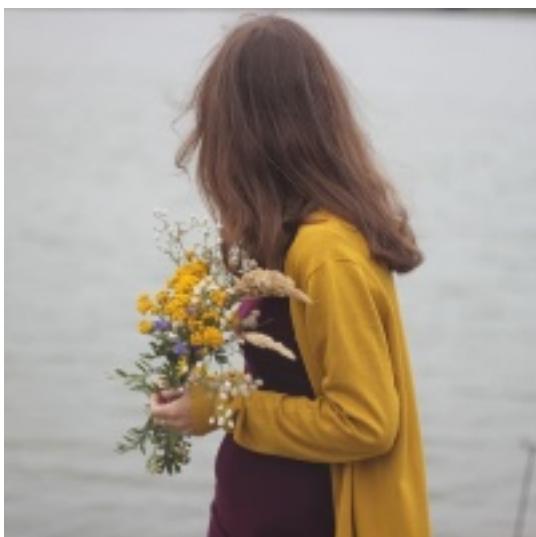
(of a person, manner, or gesture) showing disinclination for physical exertion or effort; slow and relaxed



**magnanimous**

*adjective*

generous or forgiving, especially towards a rival or less powerful person



**mollify**

*verb*

to make someone angry less angry



**negligible**

*adjective*

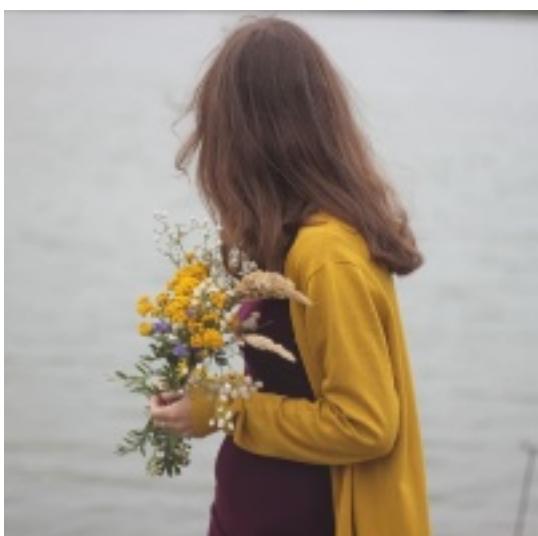
so small as to be not worth considering



**panache**

*noun*

flamboyant confidence of style or manner that makes people admire you



**placate**

*verb*

make (someone) less angry or hostile

**precocious***adjective*

(of a child) showing mental development or achievement at an earlier age than is usual

**pundit***noun*

an expert in a particular subject who is frequently called upon to give their opinion

**notes:**

Neil deGrasse Tyson (on the left), an American astrophysicist.

**quotidian***adjective*

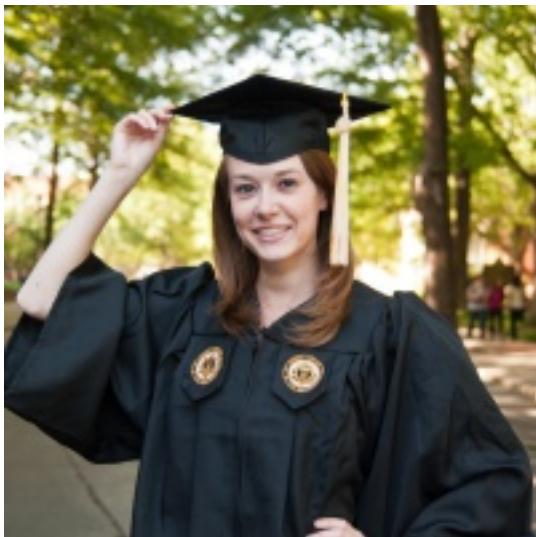
of or occurring every day



**rudimentary**

*adjective*

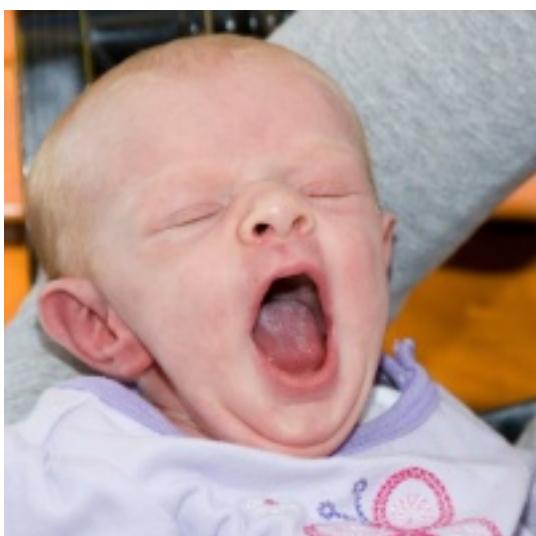
involving or limited to basic principles, relating to an undeveloped or basic form



**scholar**

*noun*

a person who is highly educated or has an aptitude for study



**soporific**

*adjective*

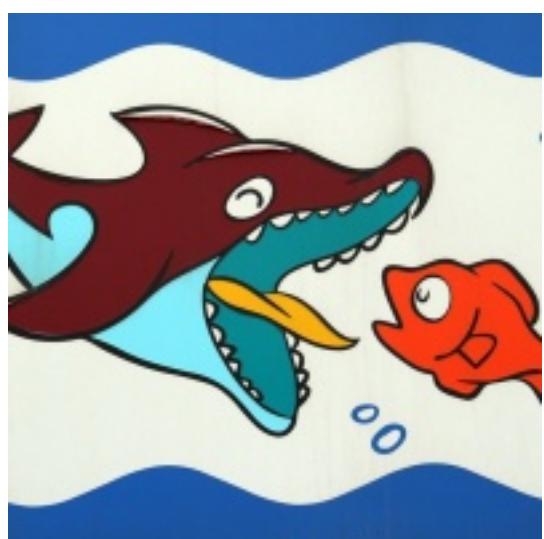
tending to induce drowsiness or sleep



**spurious**  
*adjective*  
plausible but false



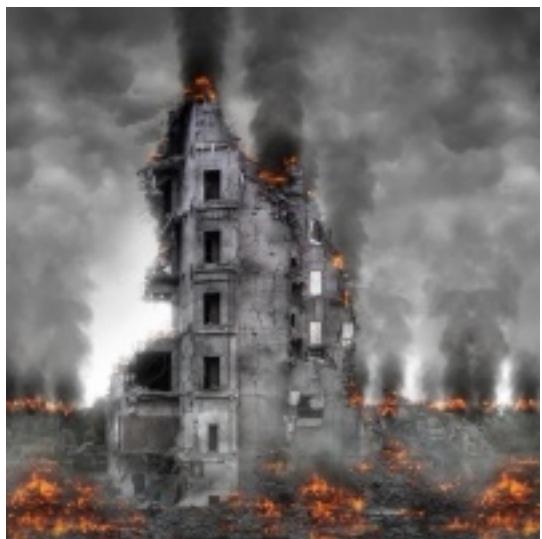
**staunch**  
*adjective*  
very loyal and committed in attitude



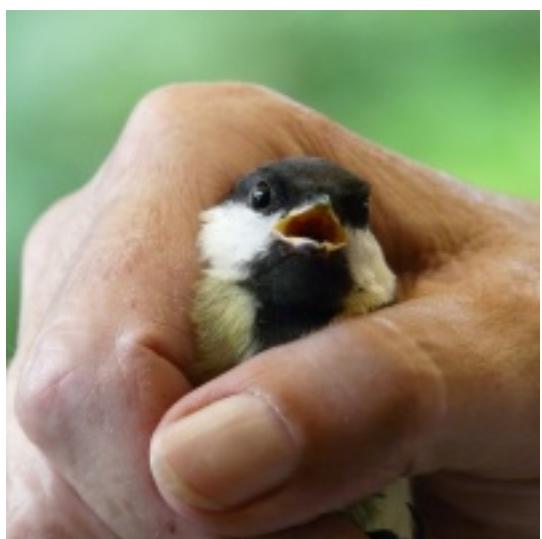
**subsume**  
*verb*  
to include (something or someone) as part of a larger group



**supplant**  
*verb*  
supersede and replace



**tantamount**  
*adjective*  
equivalent in seriousness to (usually something bad)



**tenacious**  
*adjective*  
tending to keep a firm hold of something



**travesty**

*noun*

an absurd representation of something



**treacherous**

*adjective*

guilty of betrayal or deception

*adjective*

(of conditions) presenting hidden or unpredictable dangers



**unequivocal**

*adjective*

leaving no doubt



**unorthodox**

*adjective*

contrary to what is usual, traditional, or accepted



**vehement**

*adjective*

showing strong feeling or forceful energy

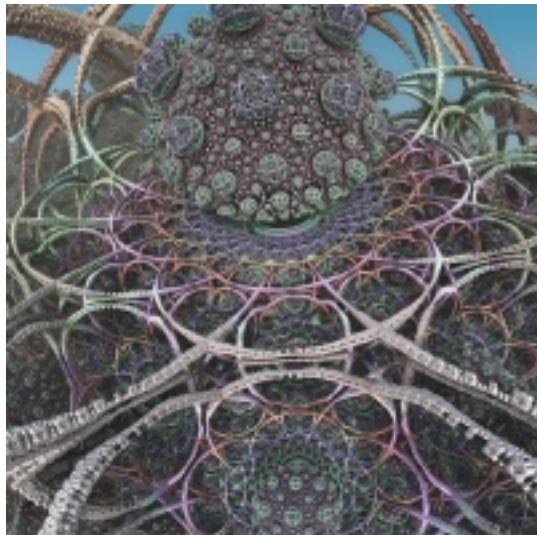


**vilify**

*verb*

spread negative information about (someone or something)

# Common Words 4



**abstruse**

*adjective*

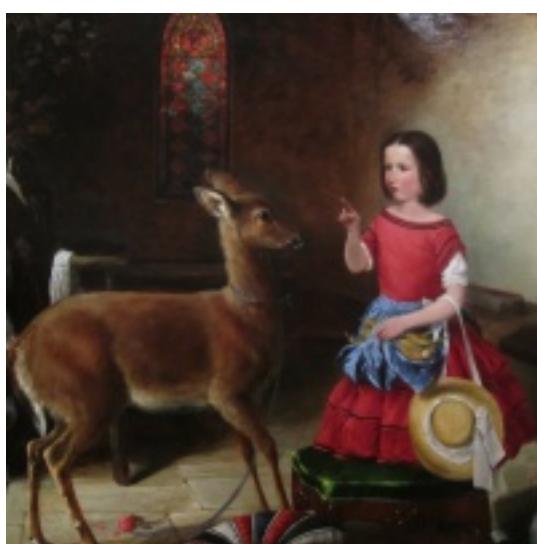
difficult to understand



**adamant**

*adjective*

refusing to be persuaded or to change one's mind



**admonish**

*verb*

warn or reprimand someone firmly



**admonitory**

*adjective*

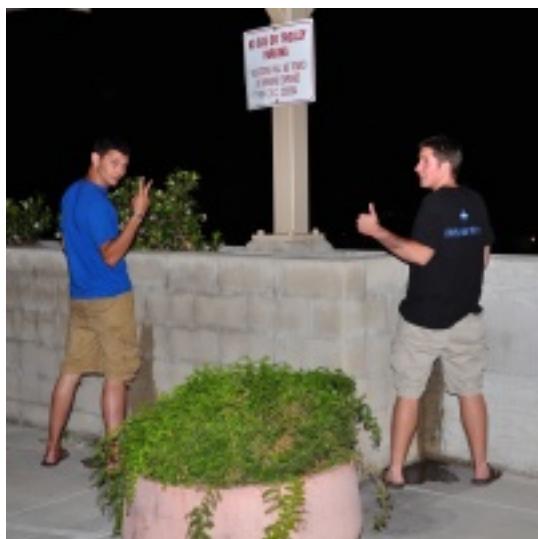
giving or conveying a warning or reprimand



**apocryphal**

*adjective*

(of a story or statement) of doubtful authenticity, although widely circulated as being true



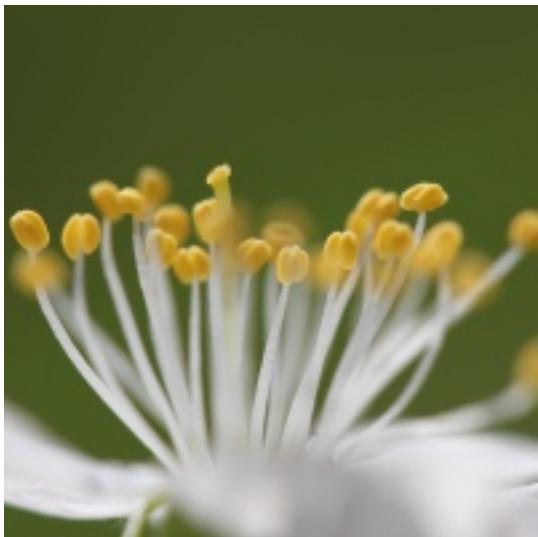
**blatant**

*adjective*

(of bad behaviour) done openly and unashamedly



**bumbling**  
*adjective*  
acting in a confused way



**burgeon**  
*verb*  
begin to grow or increase rapidly



**confound**  
*verb*  
cause surprise or confusion in (someone), especially by not according to their expectations  
*verb*  
mix up (something) with something else



**contingent**

*noun*

subject to chance

*noun*

a group of people sharing a common feature,  
forming part of a larger group



**copious**

*adjective*

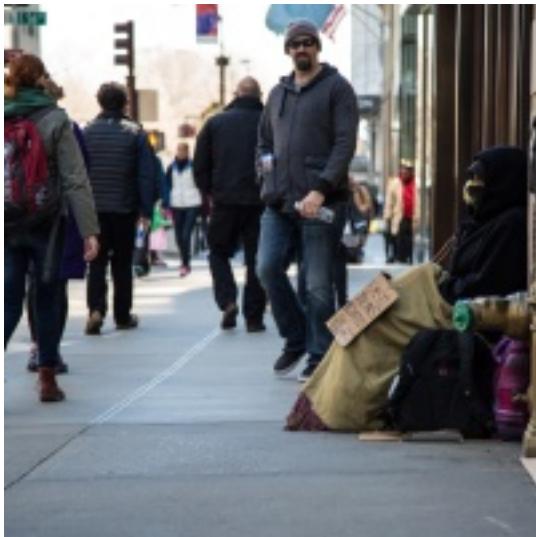
abundant in supply or quantity



**decorum**

*noun*

propriety in manners and conduct



**denigrate**

*verb*

to treat as lacking in value or importance

*verb*

criticize in a derogatory manner



**derogative**

*adjective*

expressed as worthless or low opinion



**discrete**

*adjective*

individually separate and distinct



**eradicate**

*verb*

destroy completely; put an end to



**espouse**

*verb*

adopt or support (a cause or idea)



**exacting**

*adjective*

demanding a lot of effort, care, or attention

**exalt***verb*

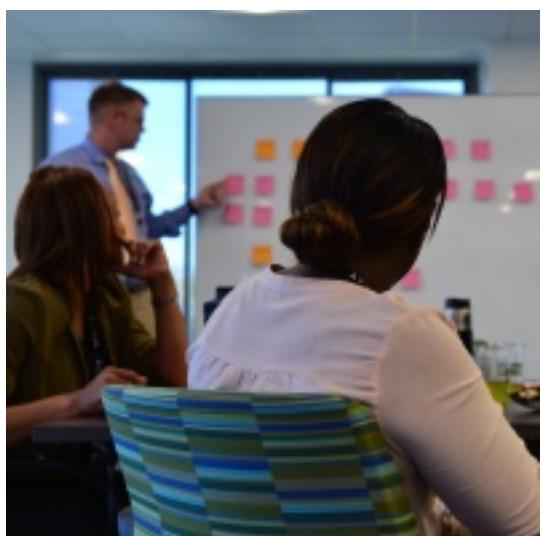
think or speak very highly of (someone or something)

**exonerate***verb*

pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

**notes:**

Officer pronounced not guilty after shooting Philando Castile. Justice continues to be denied.

**expound***verb*

present and explain (a theory or idea) in detail



**forthcoming**

*adjective*

about to happen or appear

*adjective*

ready or made available when needed

*adjective*

willing to divulge information



**hackneyed**

*adjective*

(of a phrase or idea) having been overused



**idiosyncrasy**

*noun*

a mode of behaviour or way of thought peculiar to an individual



**ignoble**  
*adjective*  
not honourable in character or purpose



**ignoramus**  
*noun*  
an ignorant or stupid person



**implacable**  
*adjective*  
unable to be appeased or placated



**implausible**

*adjective*

(of an argument or statement) not seeming reasonable; failing to convince



**incorrigible**

*adjective*

(of a person or behaviour) not able to be changed or reformed; impervious to correction



**indifference**

*noun*

lack of interest, concern, or sympathy

**injunction***noun*

an authoritative warning or order

**intransigent***adjective*

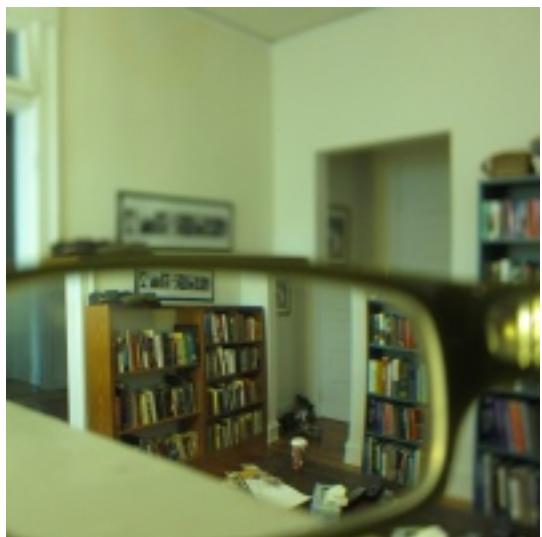
unwilling or refusing to change one's views or to agree about something

**largess***noun*

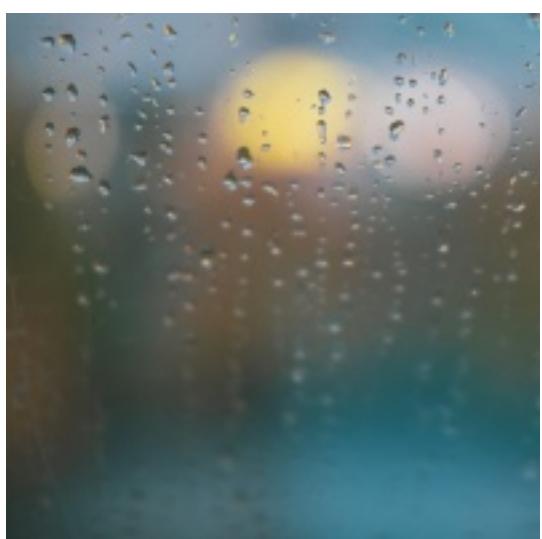
generosity in bestowing money or gifts upon others



**laudable**  
*adjective*  
(of an action, idea, or aim) deserving praise and commendation



**myopic**  
*adjective*  
lacking foresight or imagination



**opaque**  
*adjective*  
not able to be seen through



**ostentatious**

*adjective*

intended to attract notice and impress others



**pedantic**

*excessively concerned with minor details or rules*

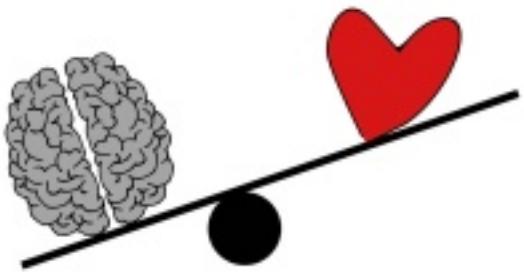


**petulant**

*adjective*

(of a person or their manner) childishly sulky or bad-tempered

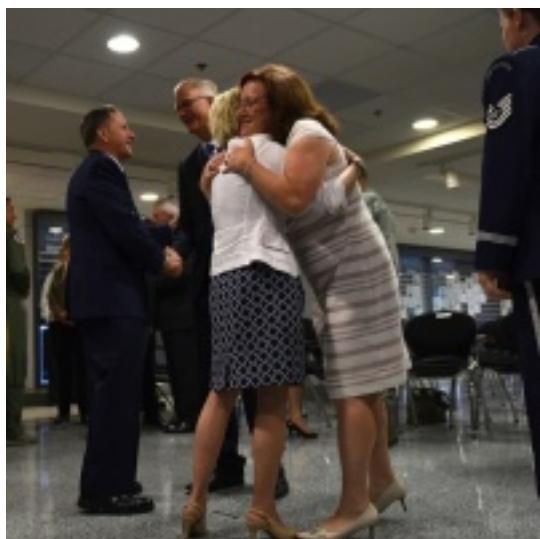
**pragmatic**  
*adjective*  
guided by practical experience and observation  
rather than theory

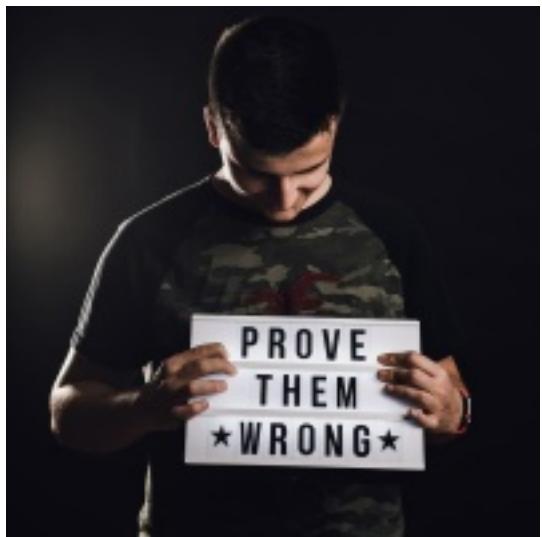


**provincial**  
*adjective*  
characteristic of limited perspective,  
unsophisticated and narrow-minded



**reconcile**  
*verb*  
restore friendly relations between





**refute**

*verb*

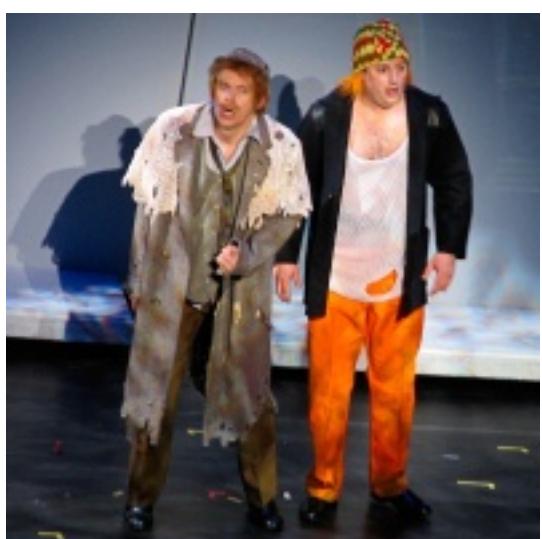
prove (a statement or theory) to be false or wrong



**scrupulous**

*adjective*

(of a person or process) careful and extremely attentive to details



**tawdry**

*adjective*

showy but cheap and of poor quality



**temperance**

*adjective*

control of your own behaviour, such as not drinking or eating too much



**tortuous**

*adjective*

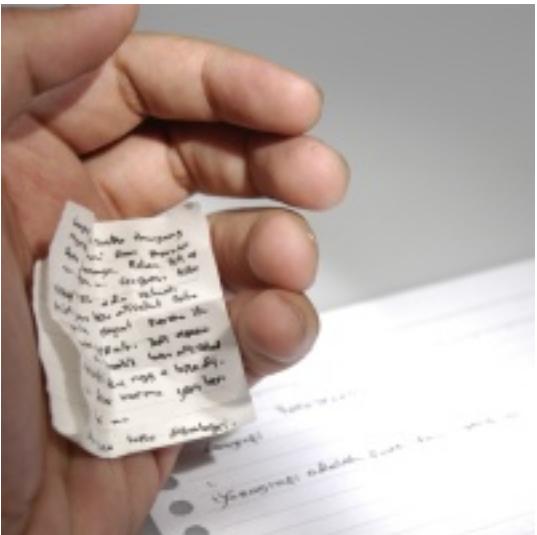
full of twists and turns; excessively lengthy



**underscore**

*verb*

give extra weight to



**unscrupulous**  
*adjective*  
showing no moral principles  
**notes:**  
Cheating in school exam.

# Common Words 5



**accolade**

*noun*

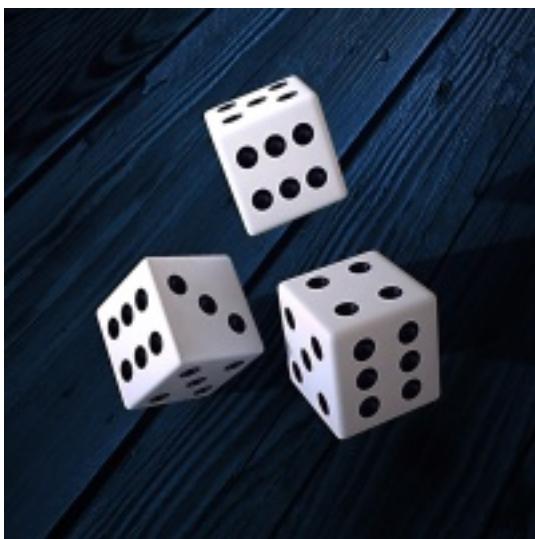
an award or privilege granted as a special honour or as an acknowledgement of merit



**antithetical**

*adjective*

sharply contrasted in character or purpose



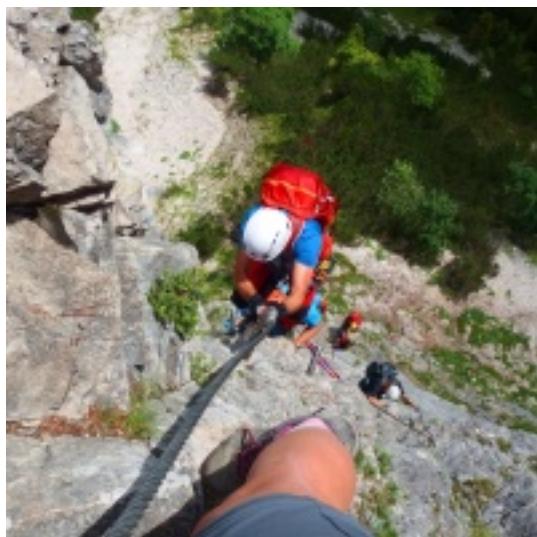
**arbitrary**

*adjective*

based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system



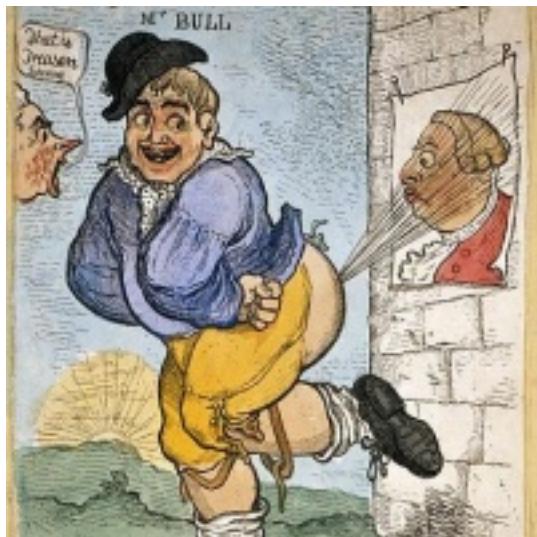
**arcane**  
*adjective*  
understood by few  
**notes:**  
A moai statue, very few people have an understanding of the stone heads.



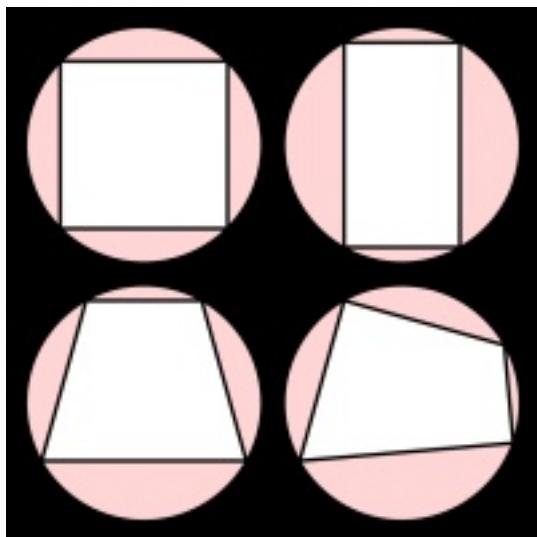
**audacity**  
*noun*  
a willingness to take bold risks  
*noun*  
rude or disrespectful behaviour



**austere**  
*adjective*  
(way of life) having no comforts or luxuries



**brazen**  
*adjective*  
bold and without shame



**circumscribe**  
*verb*  
restrict (something) within limits



**constituent**  
*noun*  
a component part of something  
*noun*  
a citizen which elects a representative to a legislative body



**dilettante**

*noun*

a person who cultivates an area of interest, such as the arts, without real commitment or knowledge



**foment**

*verb*

stir up a violent sentiment

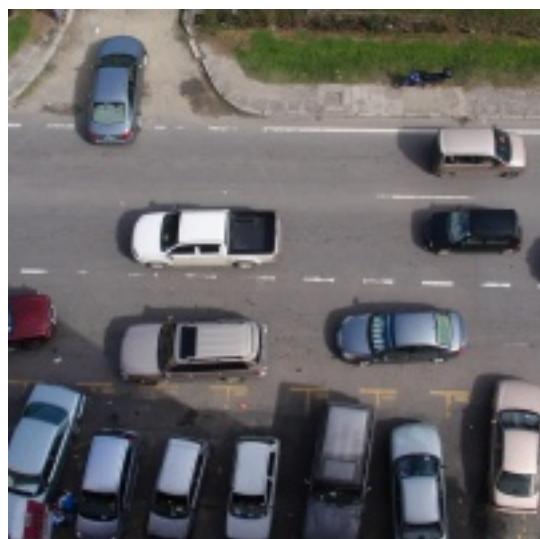


**garrulous**

*adjective*

excessively talking, especially on trivial matters

**gauche**  
*adjective*  
unsophisticated and socially awkward



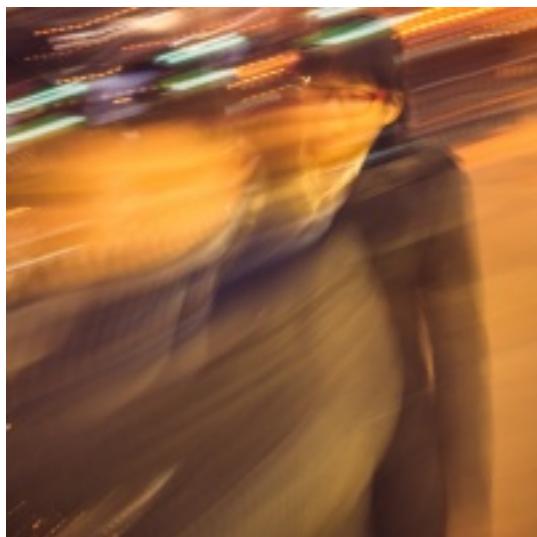
**haphazard**  
*adjective*  
lacking any obvious principle of organization,  
marked by great carelessness



**hegemony**  
*noun*  
leadership or dominance, especially by one state  
or social group over others



**inimical**  
*adjective*  
tending to obstruct or harm



**inscrutable**  
*adjective*  
impossible to understand or interpret  
**notes:**  
The image is inscrutable.



**insolent**  
*adjective*  
showing a rude arrogant lack of respect



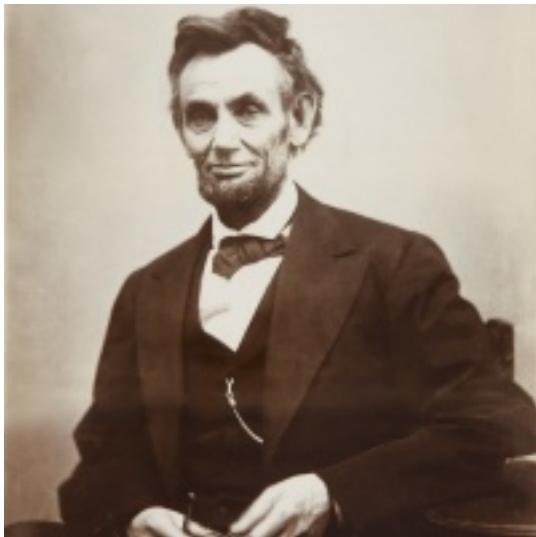
**intrepid**  
*adjective*  
fearless



**inveterate**  
*adjective*  
having a particular habit that is unlikely to change



**irrevocable**  
*adjective*  
not able to be changed  
**notes:**  
Blindness and deafness are irrevocable but it did not stop Helen Keller from earning a Bachelor of Arts degree.

**lionize***verb*

give a lot of public attention and approval to (someone)

**notes:**

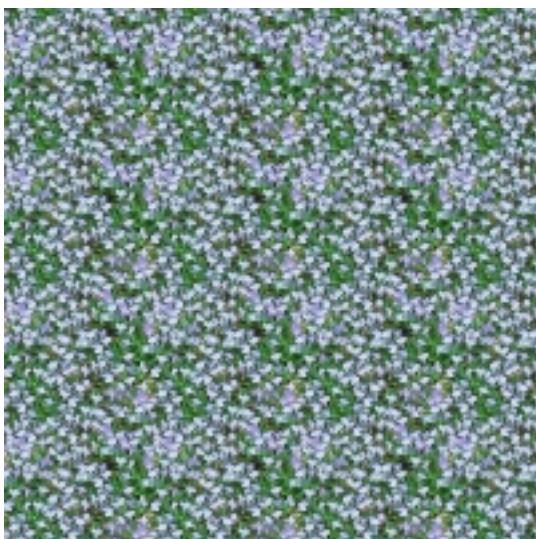
Abraham Lincoln, the photograph was taken on 5 February 1865.

**munificent***adjective*

displaying great generosity

**notes:**

Children's hospital foundation colorado receiving a US \$1000 donation.

**myriad***noun*

an extremely great number of people or things



**obsequious**

*adjective*

showing servile obedience, attempting to win favour from influential people by flattery



**ostracize**

*verb*

exclude from a society or group



**pedestrian**

*adjective*

lacking inspiration or excitement



**pernicious**

*adjective*

having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual subtle way



**poignant**

*adjective*

evoking a keen sense of sadness

**notes:**

Afghan mother comforting her crying child.



**precipitous**

*adjective*

(of an action) done suddenly and without careful consideration

**notes:**

Woman buried hastily thinking she died.



**prodigious**

*adjective*

remarkably great in extent, size, or degree



**prolific**

*adjective*

producing a great number or amount of something

**notes:**

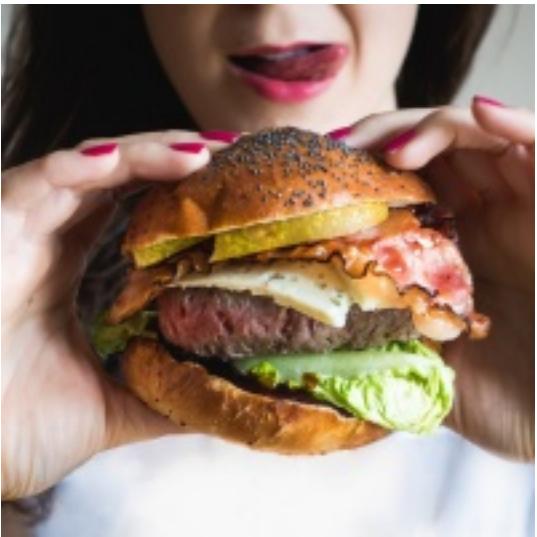
Beehive with hundreds of bees at work.



**propitious**

*adjective*

indicating a good chance of success



**ravenous**  
*adjective*  
extremely hungry



**repudiate**  
*verb*  
refuse to accept



**rescind**  
*verb*  
cancel (an order or agreement)



**resurgent**

*adjective*

increasing or reviving after a period of time



**reverent**

*adjective*

feeling or showing deep respect



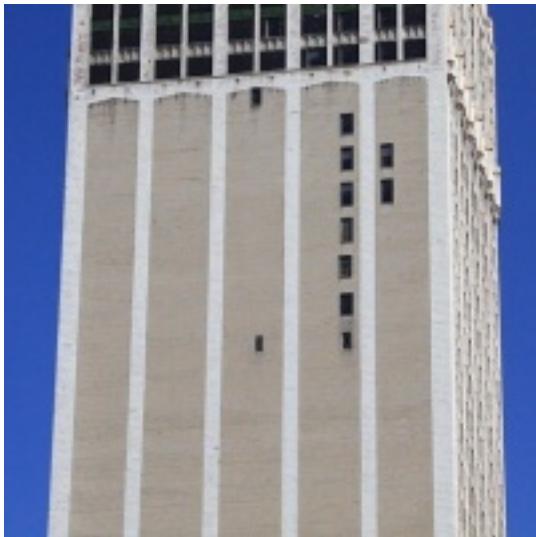
**sanction**

*verb*

give official permission or approval

*noun*

a penalty for disobeying a law or rule



**sporadic**  
*adjective*  
occurring at irregular intervals



**stale**  
*adjective*  
no longer fresh, usually as a result of being kept for too long



**subversive**  
*adjective*  
tending to destroy or damage something, especially an established political system



**sycophant**

*noun*

someone who praises powerful people in order to gain a personal advantage



**taciturn**

*adjective*

(of a person) uncommunicative in speech



**temper**

*verb*

to soften or tone down



**tractable**

*adjective*

(of a person) easy to control or influence



**vacillate**

*verb*

waver between different opinions or actions



**winsome**

*adjective*

pleasing often because of a childlike charm and innocence

# Common Words 6



**antipathy**

*noun*

a feeling of strong dislike



**appease**

*verb*

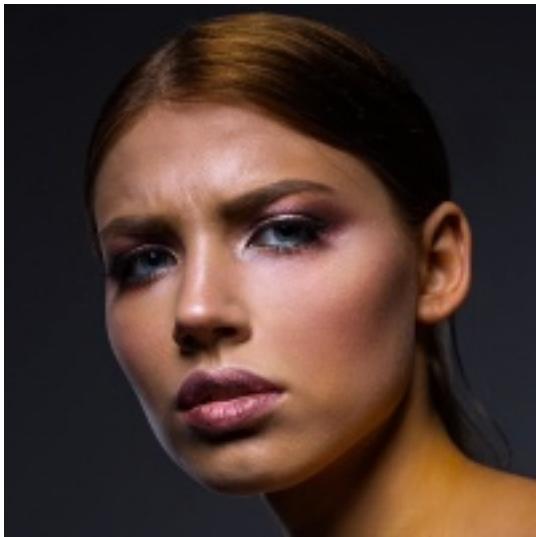
pacify (someone) by acceding to their demands



**arduous**

*adjective*

difficult, needing a lot of effort and energy

**askance***adverb*

to look at or think about someone with doubt or disapproval

**banality***noun*

something that lacks originality, freshness, or novelty

**bolster***verb*

support or strengthen

**notes:**

The pillars support the weight of the building.

**capricious***adjective*

changing mood or behaviour suddenly and unexpectedly

**compulsory***adjective*

required by law or a rule

**notes:**

Due to COVID-19, wearing a mask is compulsory when going out.

**contrition***noun*

the feeling of guilt that comes from doing something bad



**craven**  
*adjective*  
lacking the least bit of courage



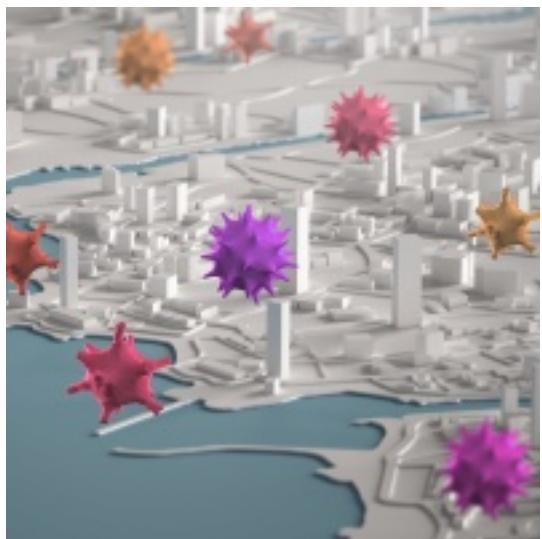
**deleterious**  
*adjective*  
causing harm or damage



**dilatory**  
*adjective*  
intended to cause delay

**dispassionate***adjective*

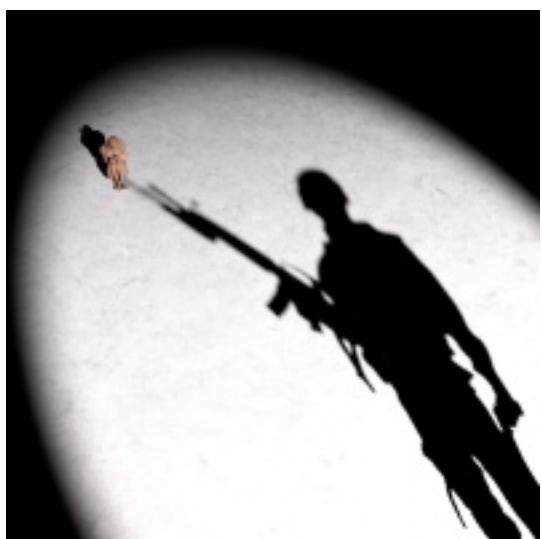
not influenced by strong feeling, and so able to be rational

**disseminate***verb*

spread (something) widely

**notes:**

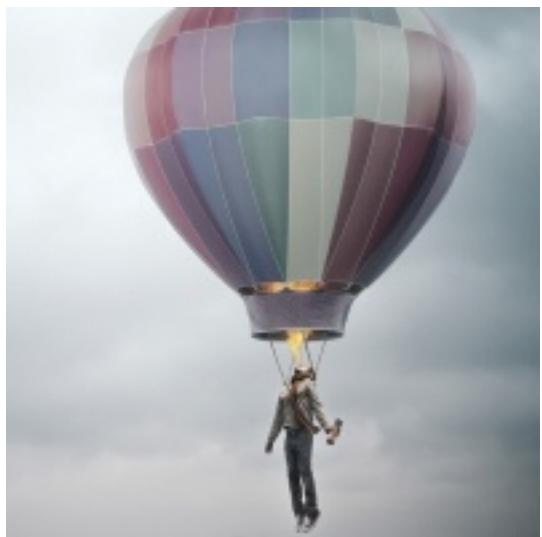
Virus spreading across city.

**duress***noun*

threats used to force a person to do something



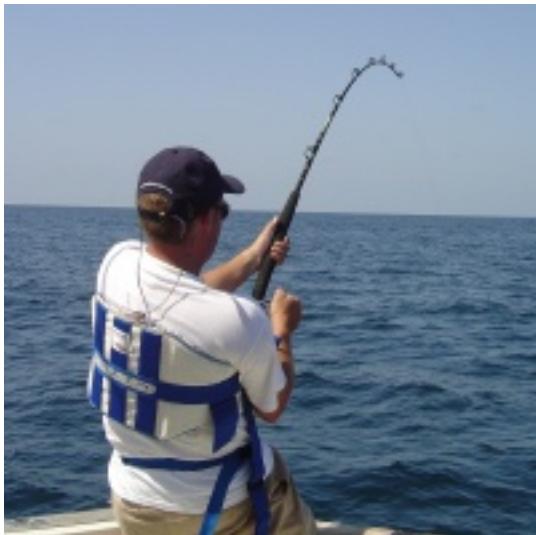
**economical**  
*adjective*  
marked by careful and efficient use of resources



**edifying**  
*adjective*  
enlightening or uplifting so as to encourage  
intellectual or moral improvement



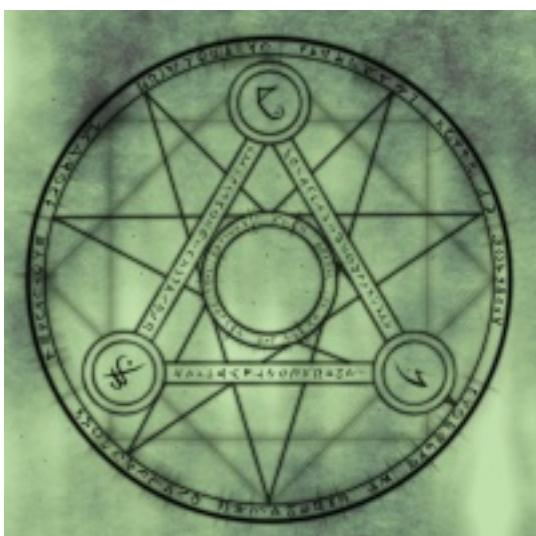
**efficacious**  
*adjective*  
successful in producing a desired or intended  
result

**elicit***adjective*

to call forth or draw out (something, such as information or a response)

**erudite***adjective*

having or showing great knowledge or learning

**esoteric***adjective*

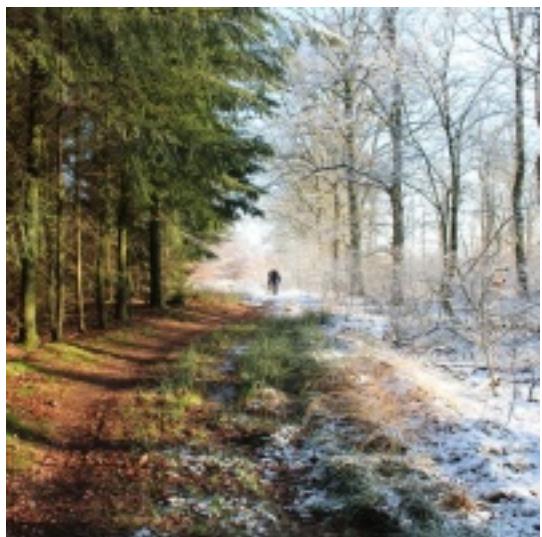
understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest

**notes:**

Rune letters which were used to write Germanic languages.

**fastidious***adjective*

giving too much attention to small details and wanting everything to be correct and perfect

**flux***noun*

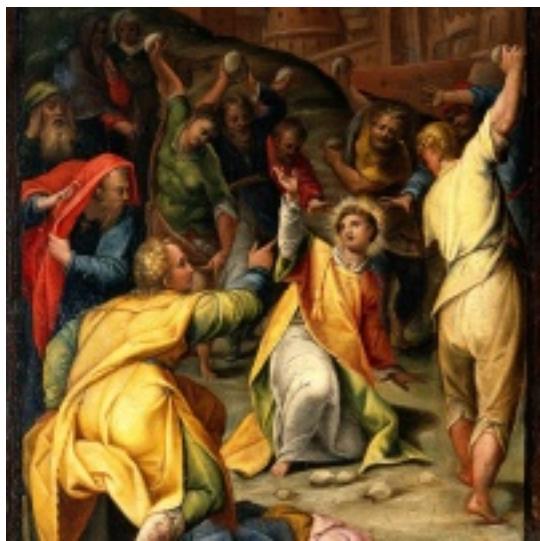
continuous change

**furtive***adjective*

attempting to avoid notice or attention, typically because discovery would lead to trouble

**harried***adjective*

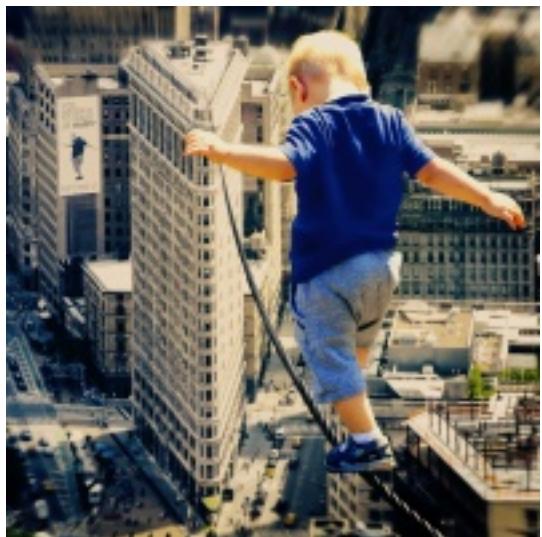
worried and angry, especially because people keep wanting things from you

**ignominious***adjective*

deserving or causing public disgrace or shame

**impartial***adjective*

not biased partial or biased, treating all equally



**imprudent**  
*adjective*  
lacking wisdom or good judgement



**indecorous**  
*adjective*  
not in keeping with good taste and propriety



**joyful**  
*adjective*  
cheerful and friendly



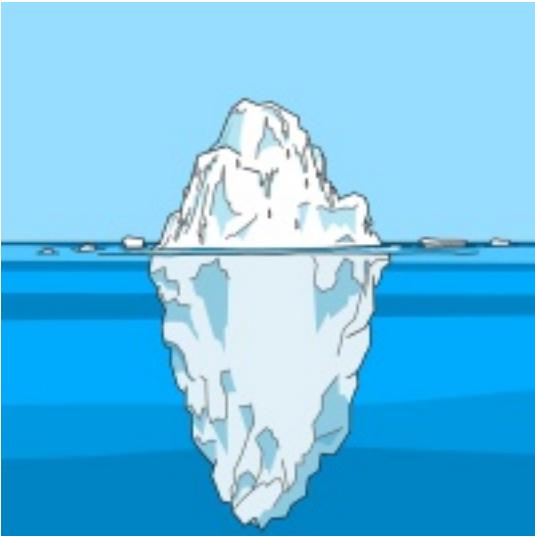
**maladroit**  
*adjective*  
lacking adroitness



**maverick**  
*adjective*  
an independent-minded person, often behaving differently from the expected or usual way



**mendacity**  
*adjective*  
the act of not telling the truth

**misconstrue***verb*

interpret (a person's words or actions) wrongly

**mundane***adjective*

lacking interest or excitement

*adjective*

of this earthly world rather than a heavenly or spiritual one

**nonplussed***adjective*

so surprised and confused that one is unsure how to react



**nuance**

*noun*

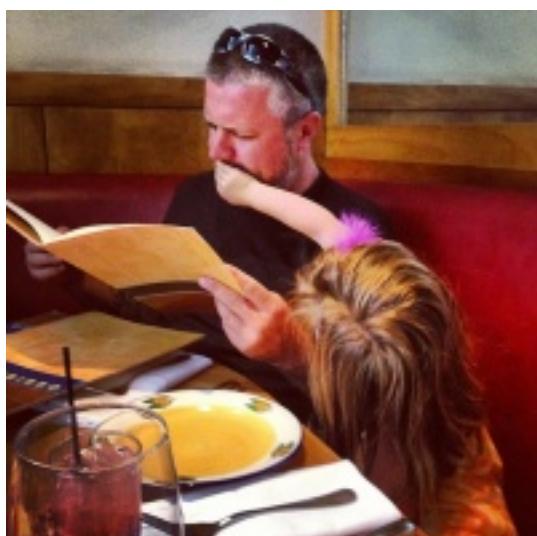
a subtle difference in meaning, expression, or sound



**opulence**

*noun*

great wealth or luxuriousness



**pejorative**

*adjective*

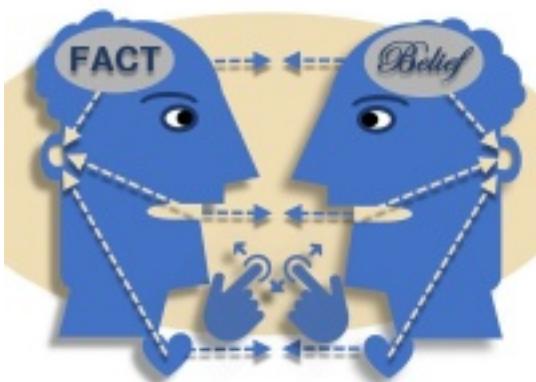
expressing contempt or disapproval



**polemic**

*noun*

a strong verbal or written attack on someone or something



**posit**

*verb*

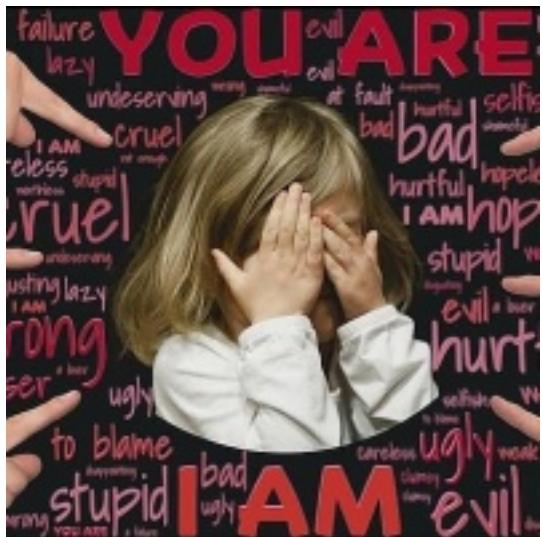
assume as fact or as a basic for argument



**rebuke**

*verb*

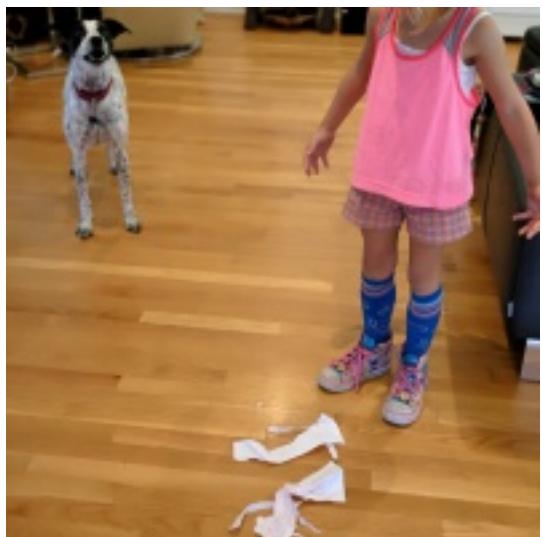
express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behaviour or actions



## reproach

verb

**verb** to criticize someone, especially for not being successful or not doing what is expected



## **specious**

## *adjective*

superficially plausible, but actually wrong

## notes:

The classic "my dog ate my homework".



### **stringent**

*adjective*

**adjective**  
marked by rigor, strictness, or severity especially with regard to rule or standard



**sullen**  
*adjective*  
bad-tempered and sulky



**timorous**  
*adjective*  
showing or suffering from nervousness or a lack of confidence



**transient**  
*adjective*  
lasting only for a short time



**truncate**

*verb*

to make something shorter or quicker, especially by removing the end of it