

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

A hand is shown writing the equation $2+2=5$ on a whiteboard. The hand is holding a piece of chalk and has just finished writing the equals sign.

err

verb

make a mistake



erratic

adjective

not even or regular in pattern or movement



hound

verb

harass, persecute, or pursue relentlessly



indict

verb

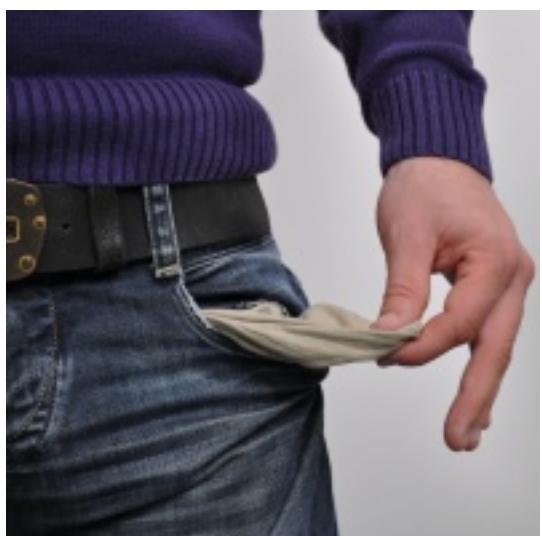
formally accuse of or charge with a crime



indigenous
adjective
originating naturally in a particular place



indignant
adjective
feeling or showing anger because of something unjust or unworthy



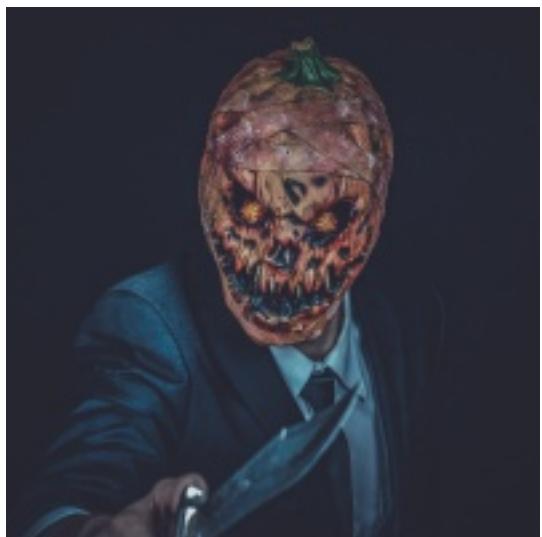
insolvent
adjective
unable to pay debts owed



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:

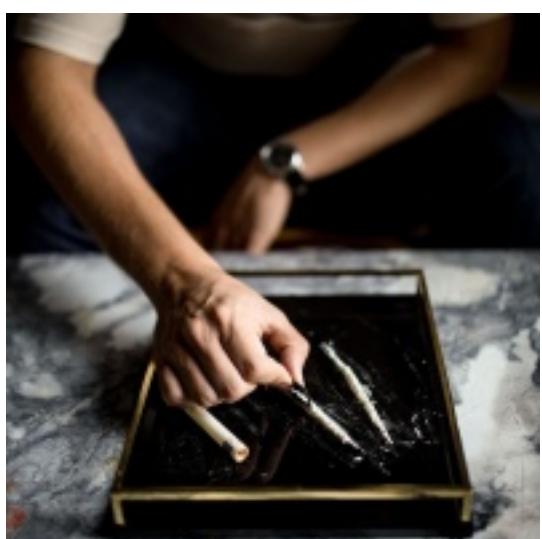
Gold ceiling lighting.



remiss

adjective

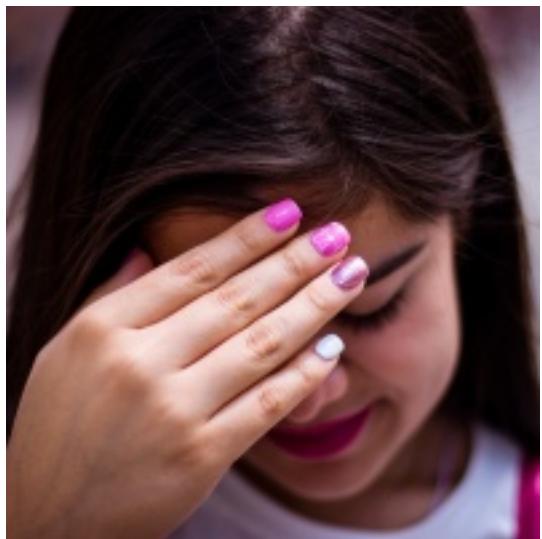
lacking care or attention to duty



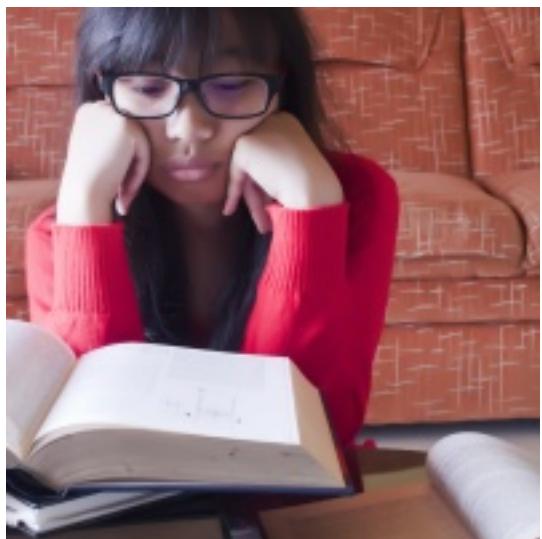
reprobate

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



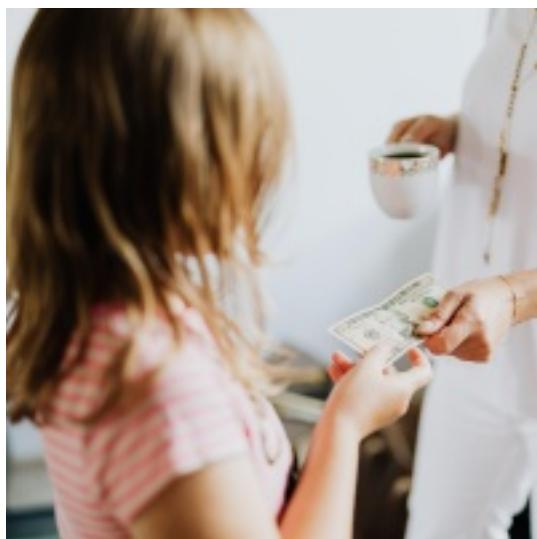
serendipity
noun
the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way

**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

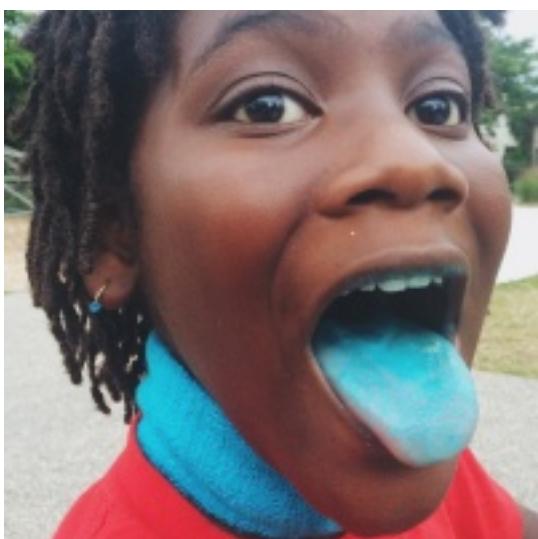
a meeting between heads of government



telling

adjective

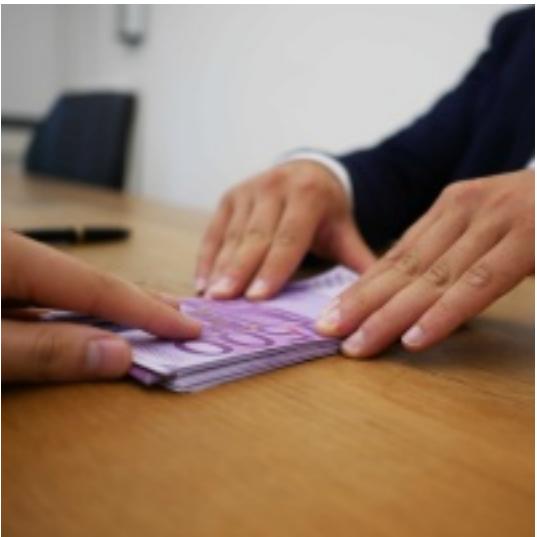
having a striking or revealing affect



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



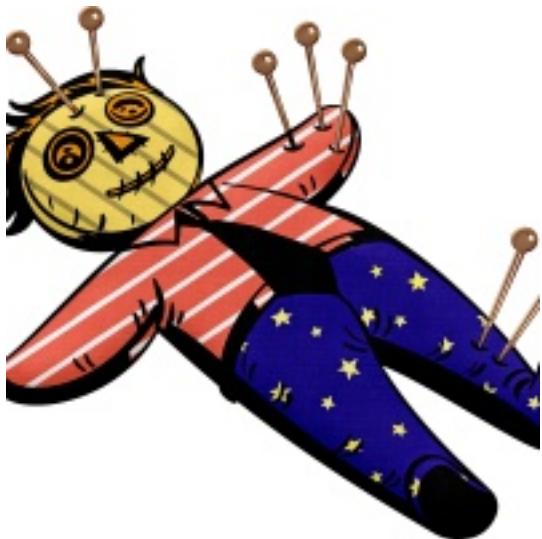
underwrite
verb
to provide financial support



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

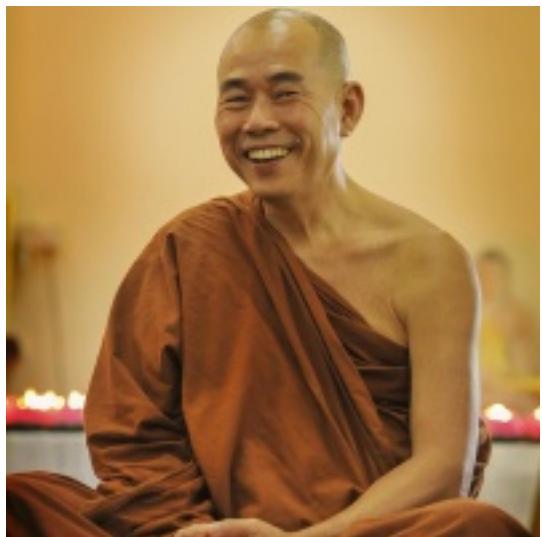
a strong feeling of dislike or hatred



avarice

noun

extreme greed for wealth or material gain



beatific

adjective

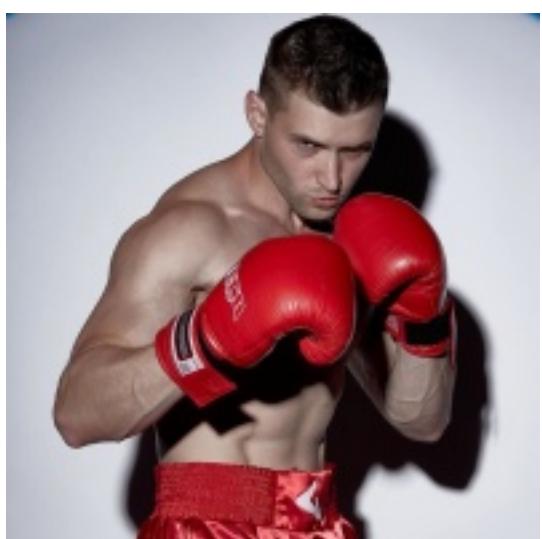
feeling or expressing blissful happiness, especially in a holy way



becoming

adjective

attractively suitable or appropriate



bellicose

adjective

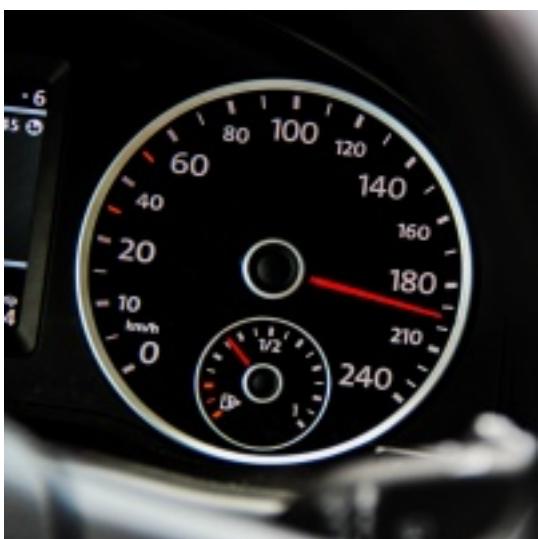
demonstrating aggression and willingness to fight



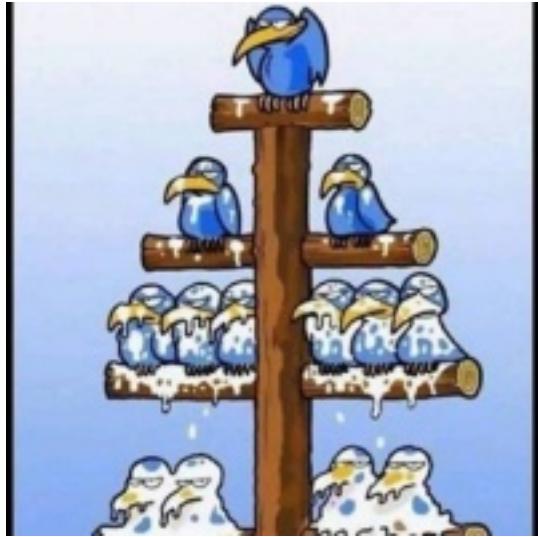
cadaverous
adjective
very pale, thin, or bony



cardinal
adjective
of the greatest importance



catalyst
noun
a person or thing that precipitates an event



chauvinist

adjective

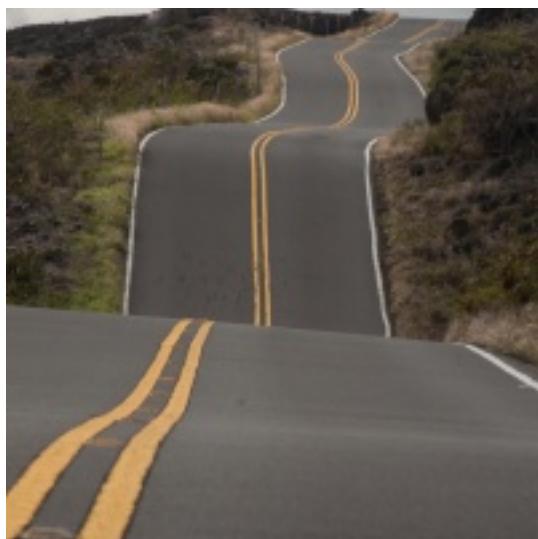
a person who believes in the superiority of his cause or people



check

verb

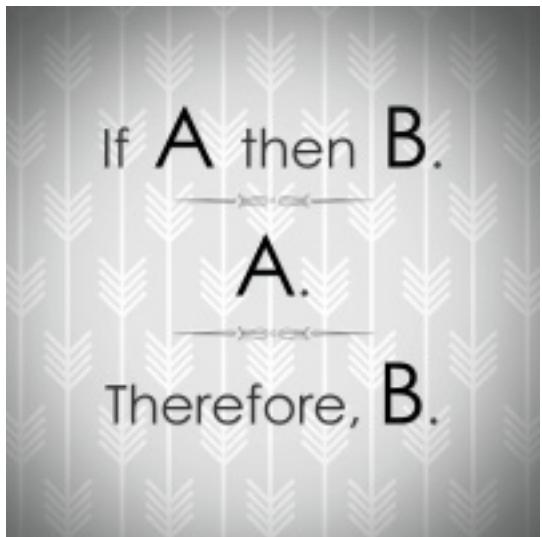
stop or slow the progress of (something, typically something undesirable)



chequered

adjective

having had both successful and unsuccessful periods in your past



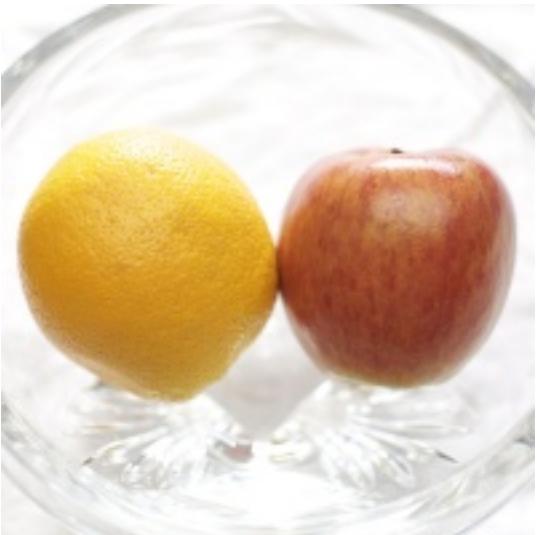
cogent
adjective
(of an argument or case) clear, logical, and convincing



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



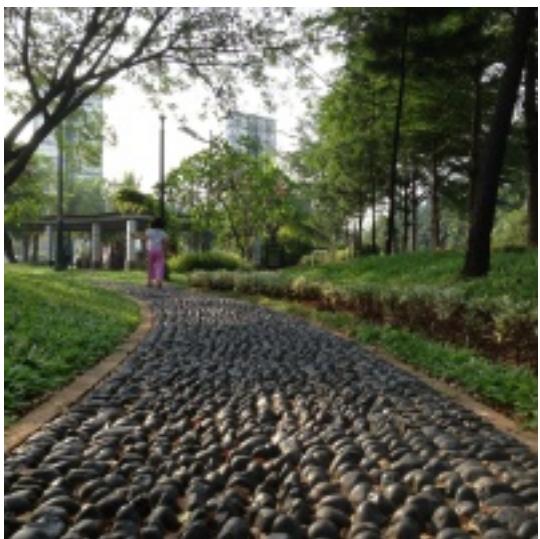
desecrate
verb
treat (a sacred place or thing) with violent disrespect
notes:
Destroyed nandi idol.



disparate

adjective

essentially different in kind, not able to be compared



errant

adjective

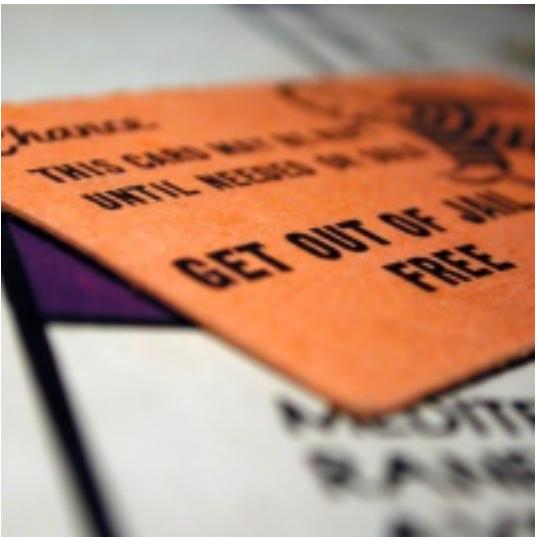
deviating from the regular or proper course



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

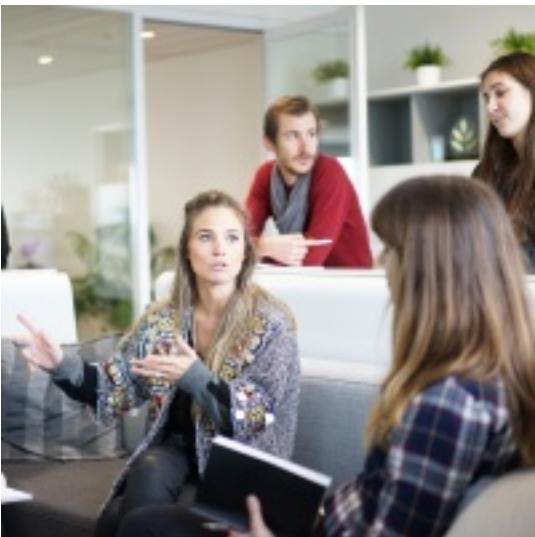
importance in influence or effect



pittance

noun

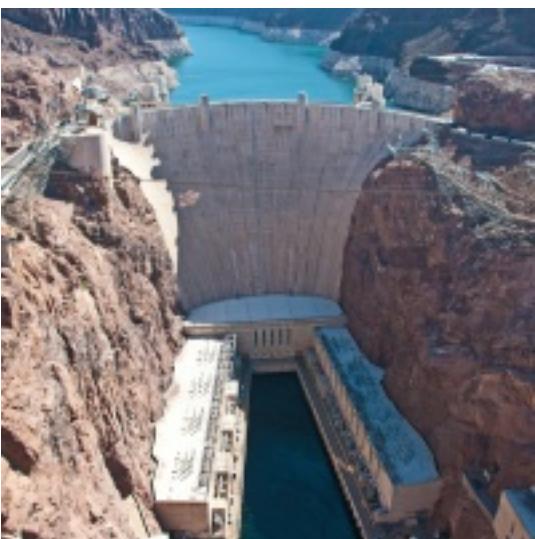
a very small or inadequate amount of money



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

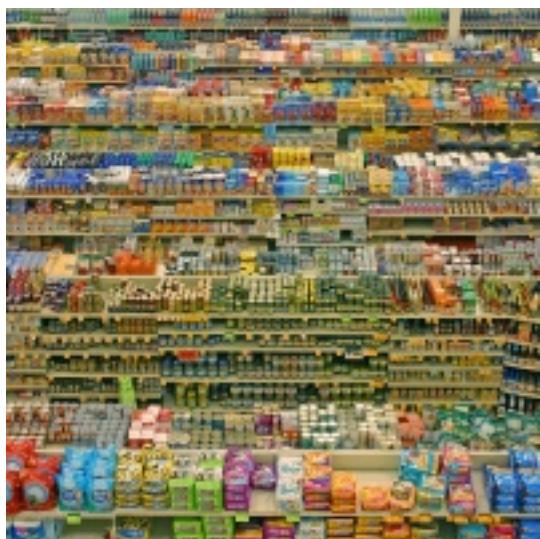
eager or quick to argue, quarrel, or fight



raft

noun

a large amount of something



replete

adjective

filled or well-supplied with something



sanctimonious

adjective

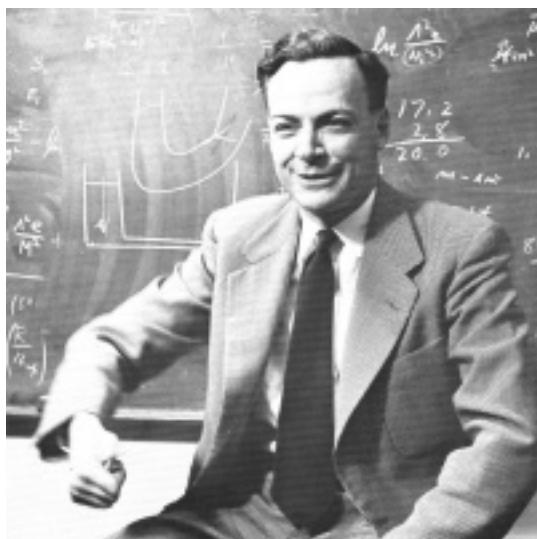
making a show of being morally superior to other people



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

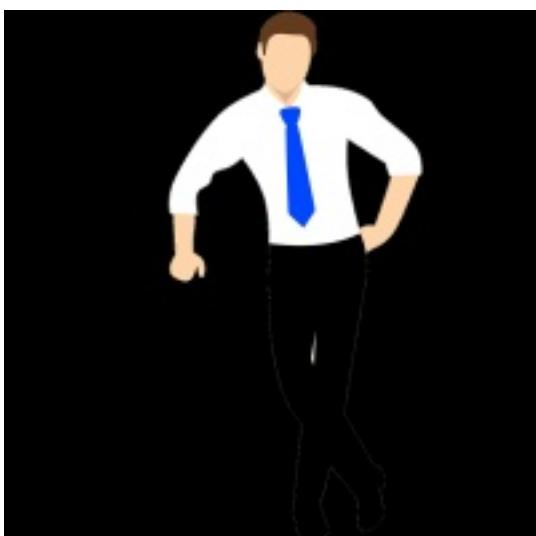
large or important enough to be noticed



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



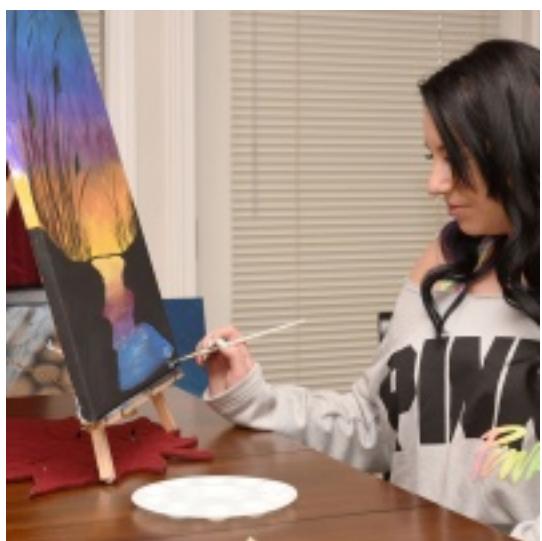
boon

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



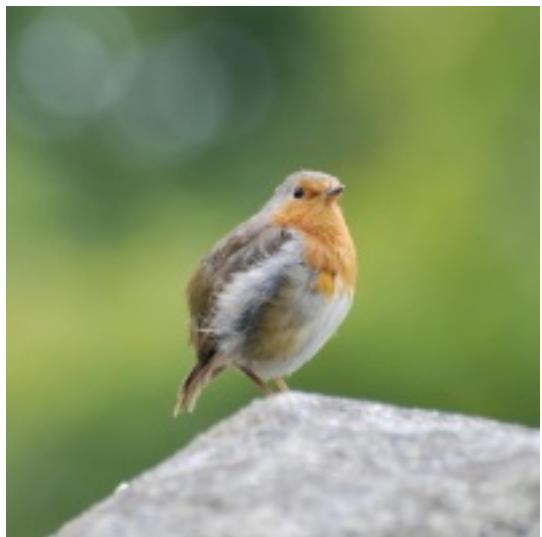
fete

verb

honour or entertain (someone) lavishly

notes:

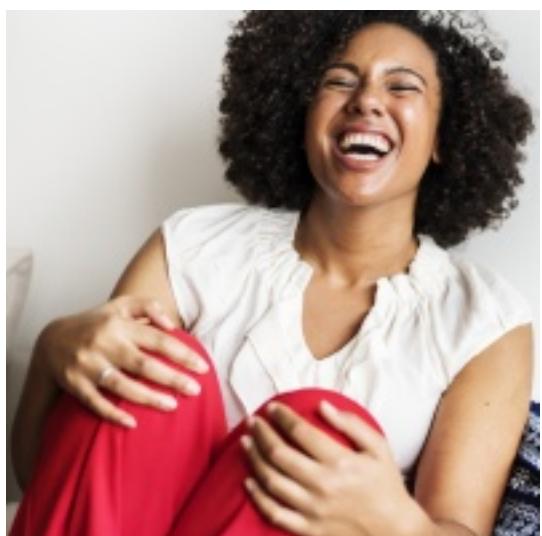
Miss Universe 2008, Dayana Mendoza.

**fledgling***adjective*

young, inexperienced, or underdeveloped

**flounder***verb*

to struggle clumsily or helplessly

**guffaw***verb*

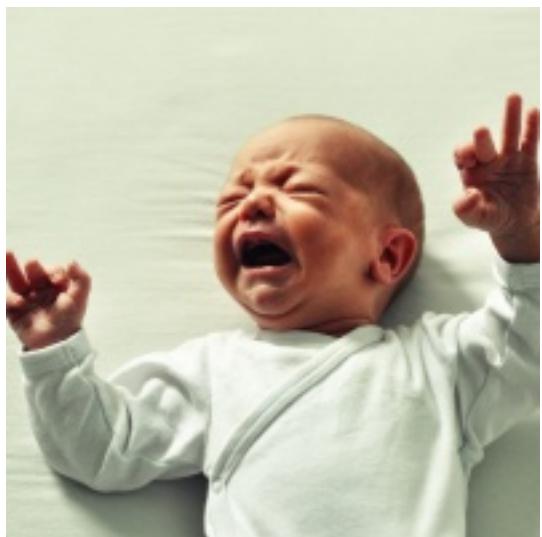
laugh loudly and heartily



impermeable

adjective

not allowing fluid to pass through



incessant

adjective

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



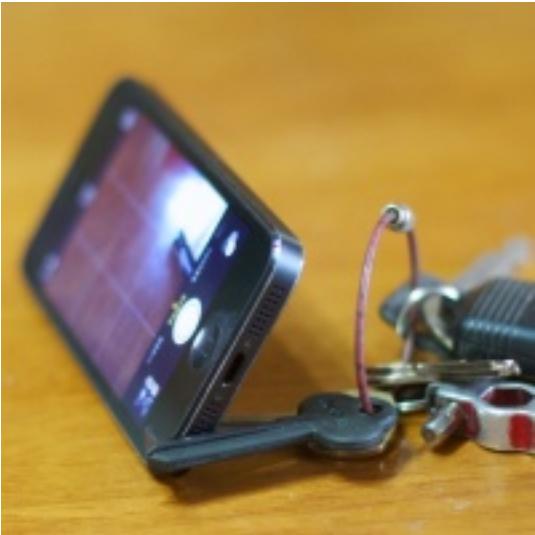
inclement

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.



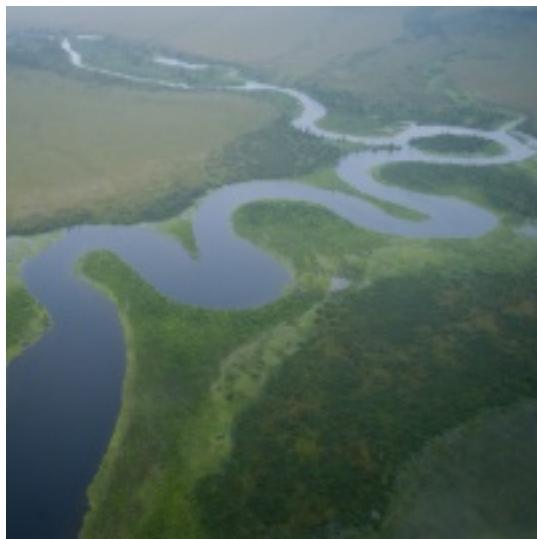
malleable

adjective

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

adjective

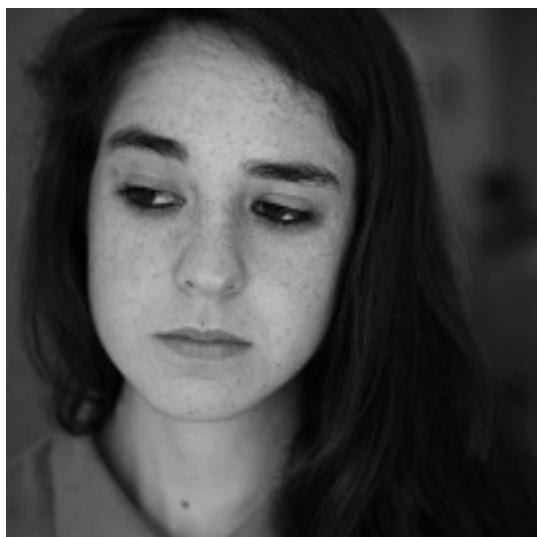
easily influenced



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

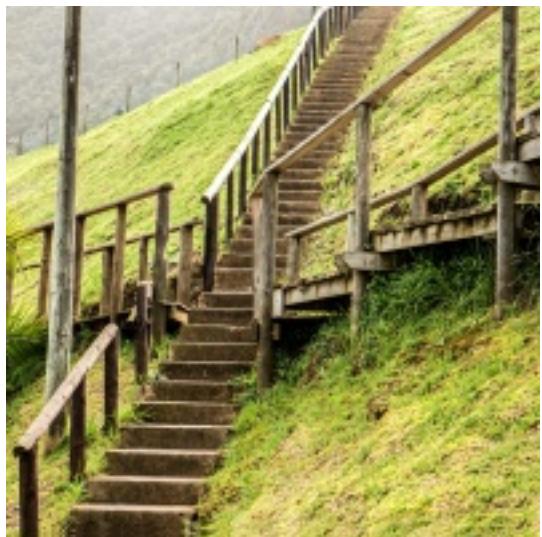
slow, continuous, and not exciting



proponent

noun

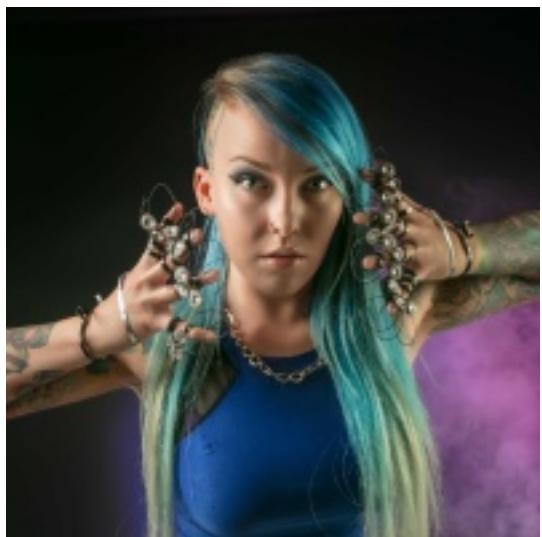
a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea



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

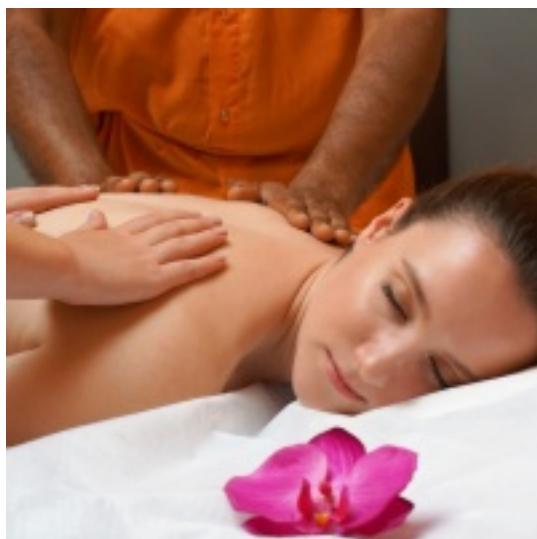
unselfish concern for the well-being of others,
even if it may be harmful for yourself



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

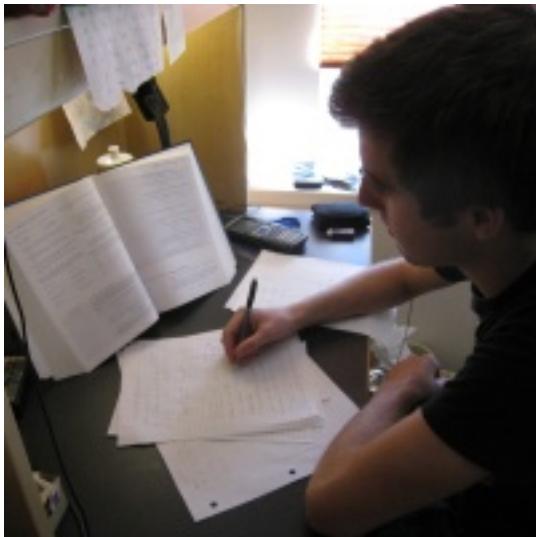
(of a disease) not harmful in effect



commendable

adjective

deserving praise



conducive

adjective

making a certain situation or outcome likely



cornucopia

noun

an abundant, overflowing supply



credence

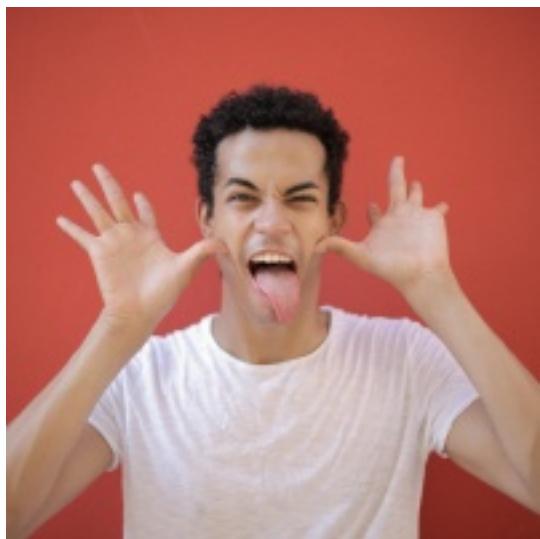
noun

belief in or acceptance of something as true

debase

verb

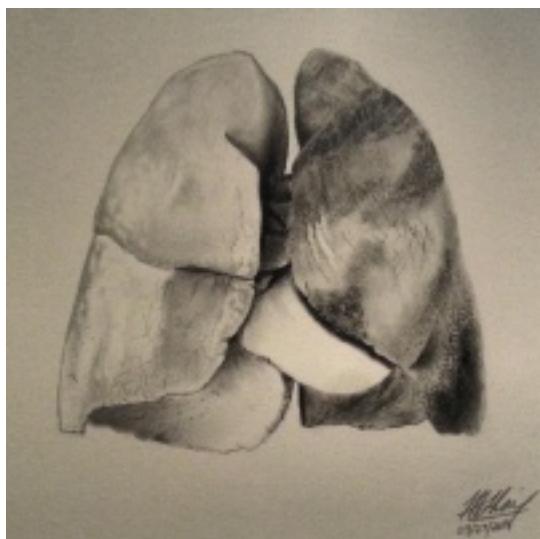
reduce (something) in quality or value



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:

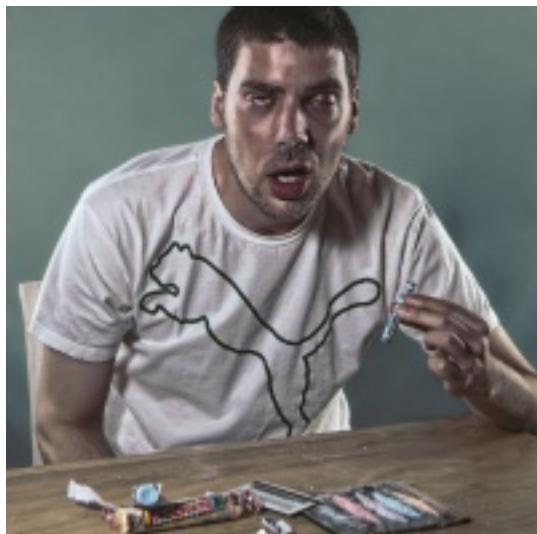
Brian Baumgartner from the American sitcom television, the Office.

**grovel***verb*

show submission or fear

**hamstrung***verb*

to render powerless or useless



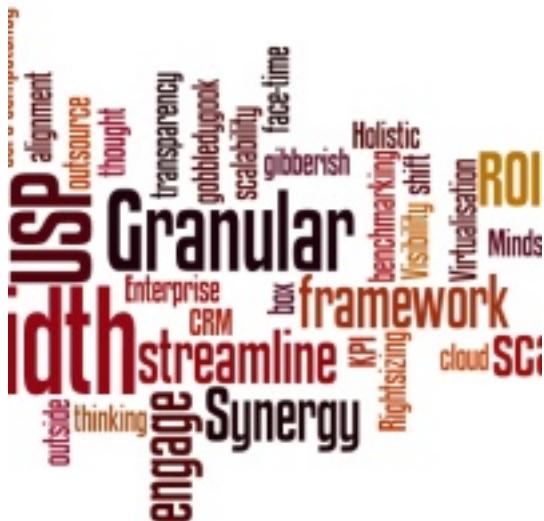
illicit
adjective
contrary to or forbidden by law



impeccable
adjective
in accordance with the highest standards



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



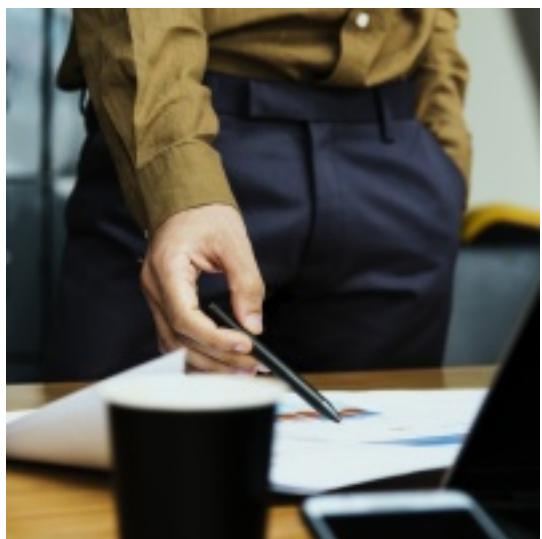
perpetuate

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



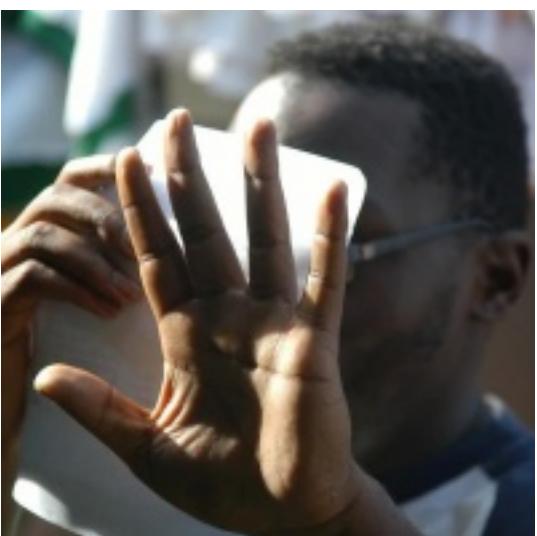
smattering

noun

a slight superficial knowledge of a language or subject

noun

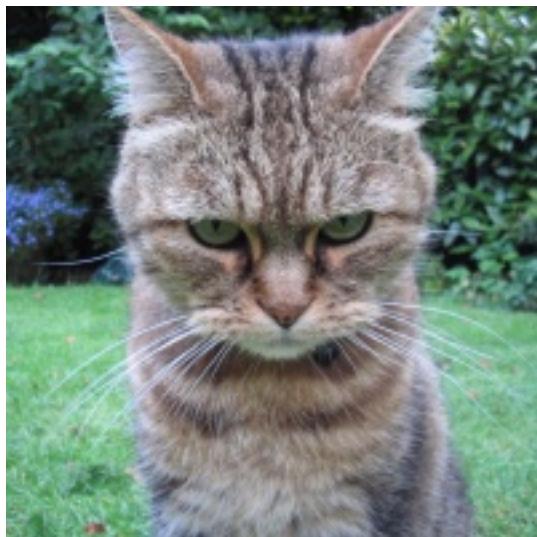
a small amount of something



spurn

verb

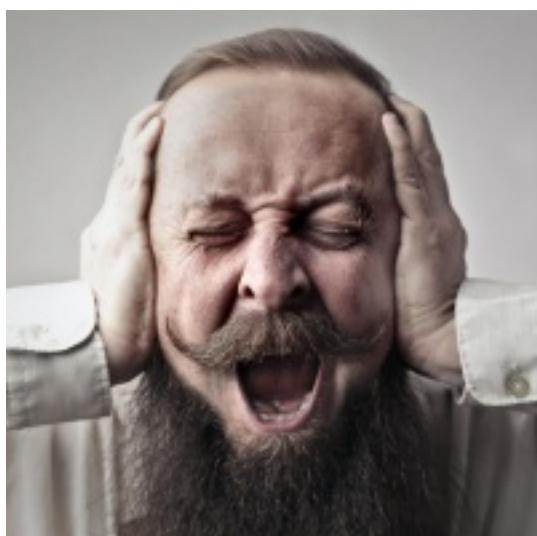
reject with disdain or contempt



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.



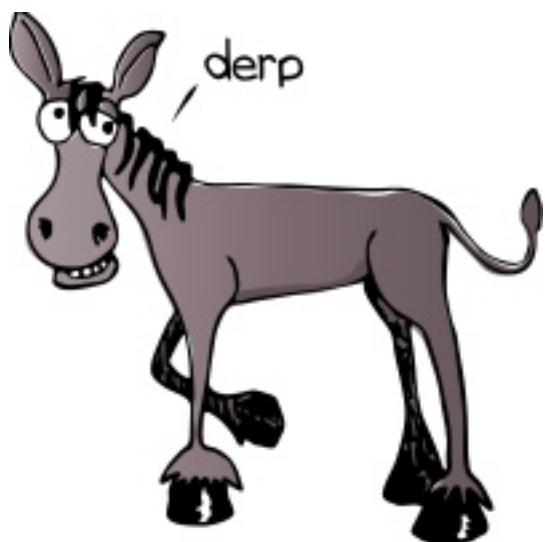
uncompromising
adjective
showing an unwillingness to make concessions to others, especially by changing one's ways or opinions



unruly

adjective

not readily ruled, disciplined, or managed



vacuous

adjective

lacking in ideas or intelligence

Basic Words 5



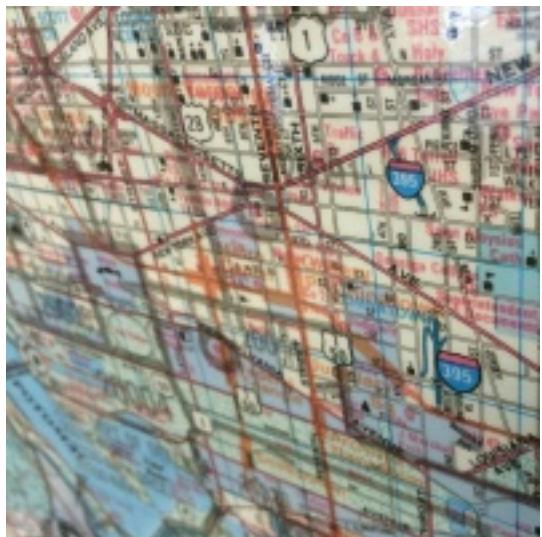
brusquely
adverb
in a blunt direct manner



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

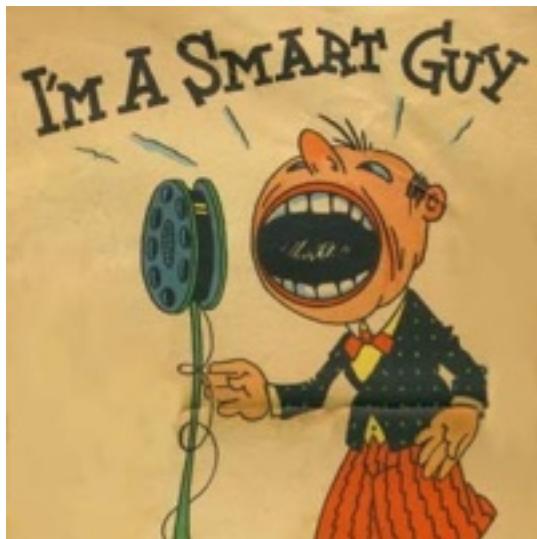
not easily upset or excited



ploy

noun

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



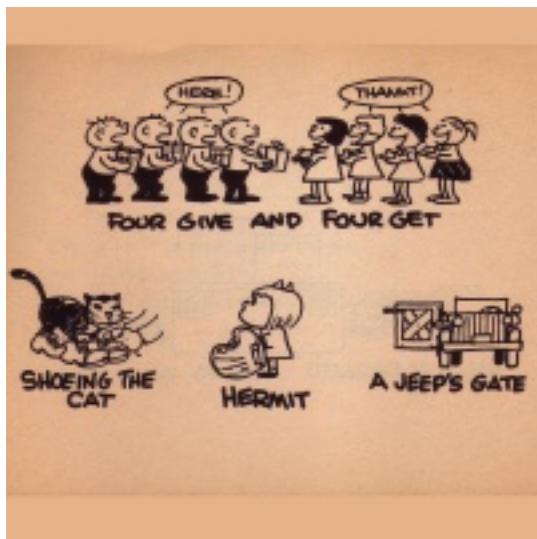
presumption

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

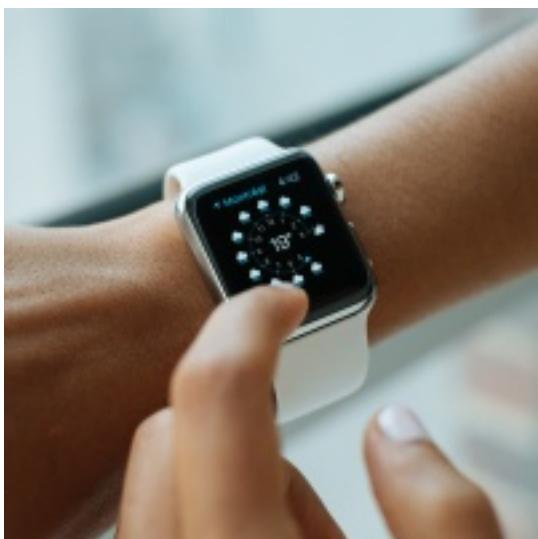
acting or done without careful consideration of the possible consequences

**reservation***noun*

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

**retract***verb*

to draw or pull back

**savvy***noun*

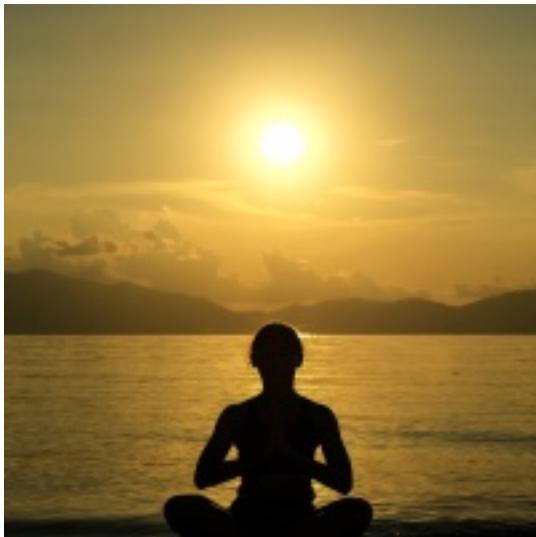
shrewdness and practical knowledge; the ability to make good judgements

adjective

shrewd and knowledgeable; having common sense and good judgement

verb

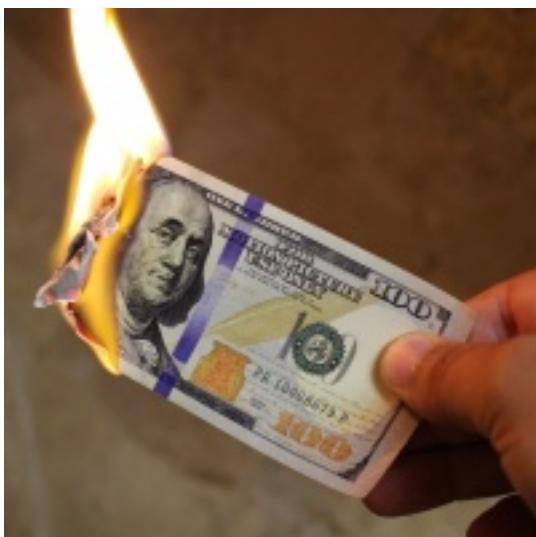
know or understand



serene
adjective
calm, peaceful, and untroubled



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

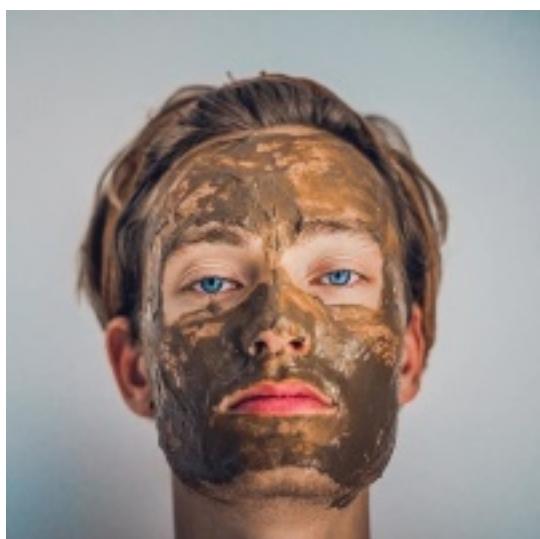


squander
verb
waste (something, especially money or time) in a reckless and foolish manner

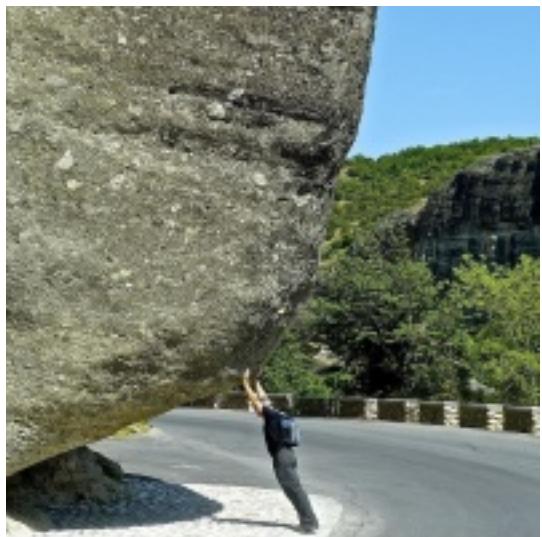
steadfast
adjective
firm in belief, determination, or resolution



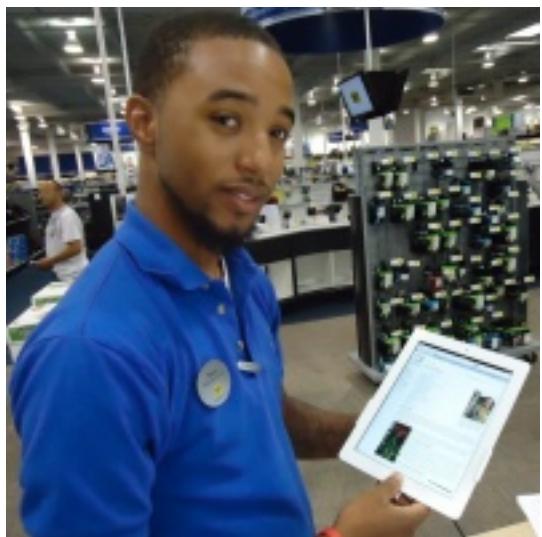
tact
noun
skill and sensitivity in dealing with others and avoiding giving offense



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

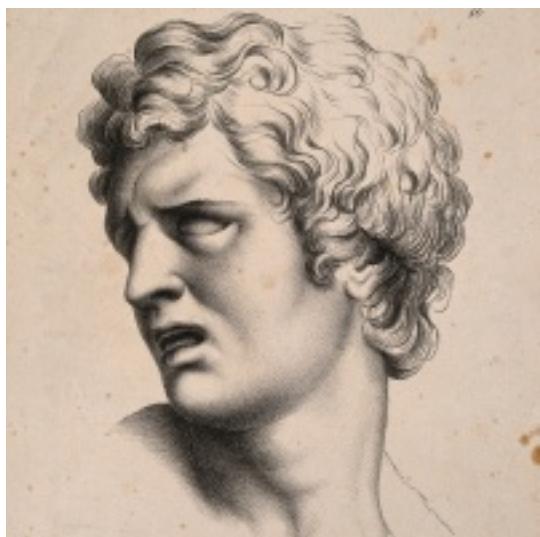
precede in time; come before (something) in date



ascribe

verb

to believe or say that something is caused by something else



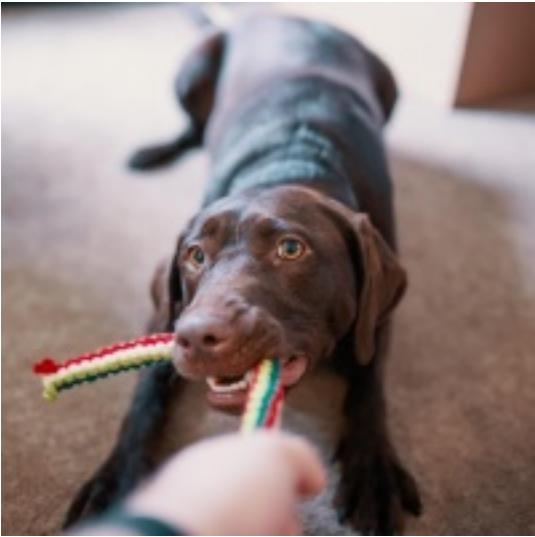
avert

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

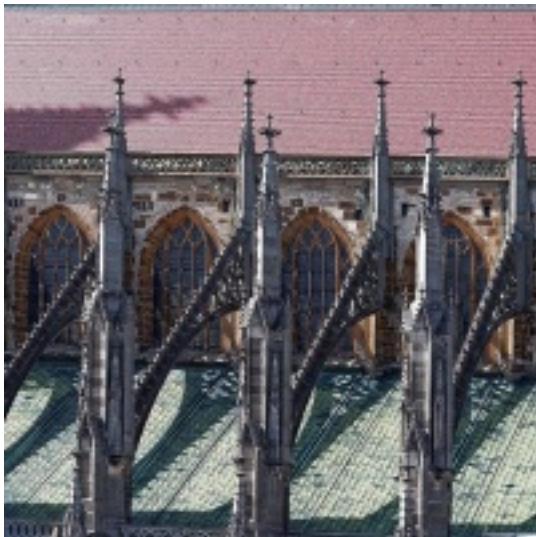
give reluctantly or resentfully

**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

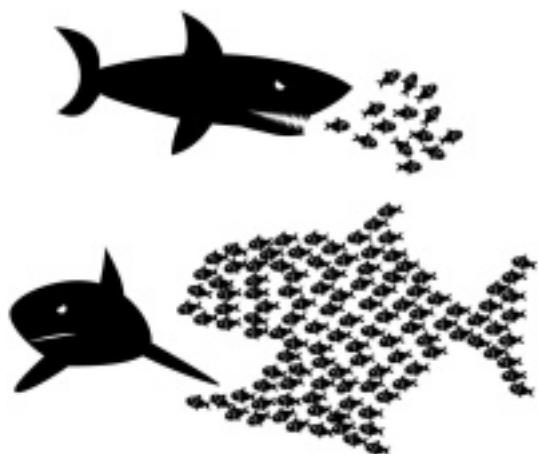
kindness when giving a punishment

**coalesce***verb*

come together to form one mass or whole

notes:

Rivers merging together

**cohesive***adjective*

united and working together effectively

**consecrate***verb*

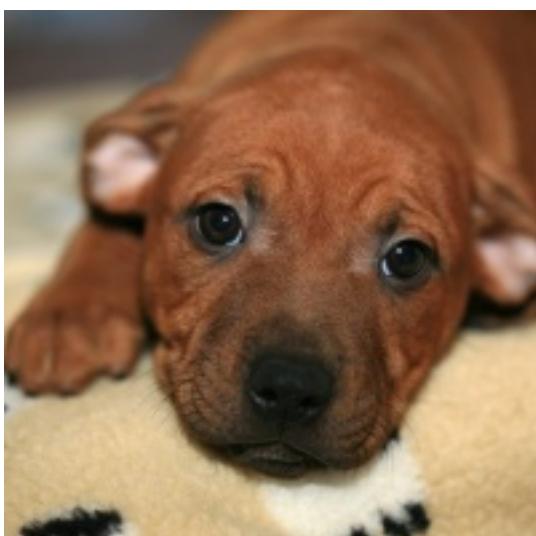
make or declare (something, typically a church) sacred; dedicated formally to a religious purpose

**conundrum***noun*

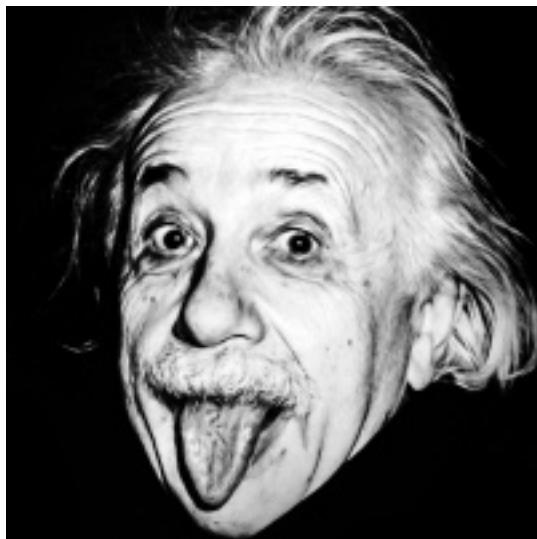
a confusing and difficult problem

**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*

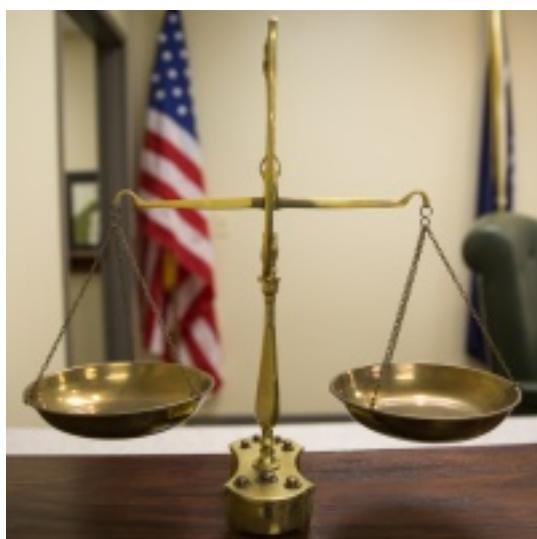
(of a person or their behaviour) unconventional and slightly strange

**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



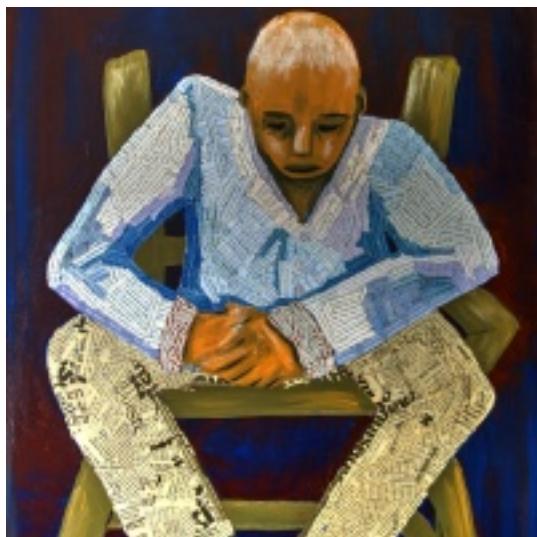
foolhardy

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*

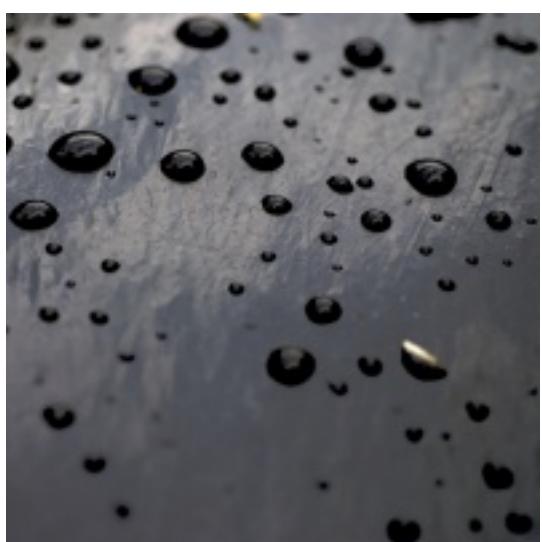
necessary for (someone) as a duty or responsibility



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

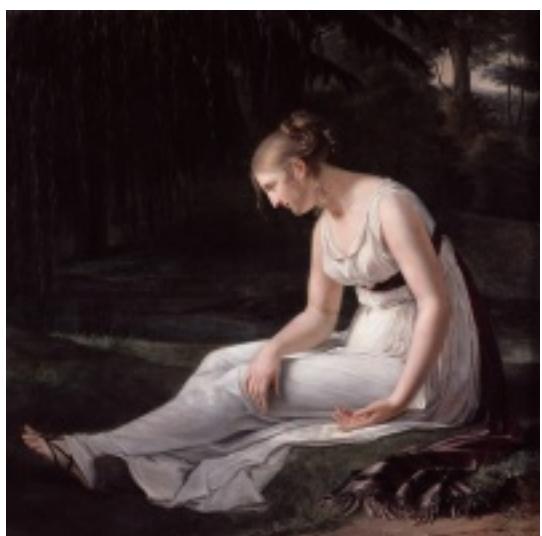
having or showing a tendency to be easily angered



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



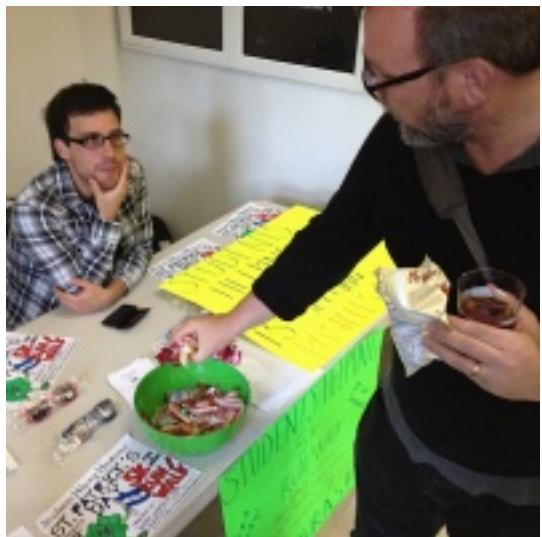
preempt

verb

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

notes:

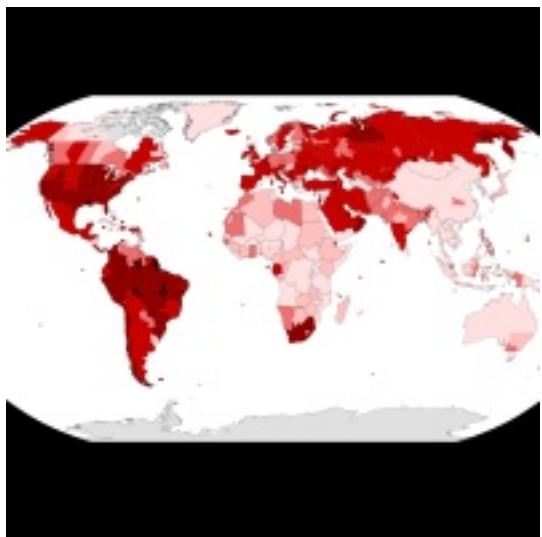
Horses have been replaced by automobiles



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

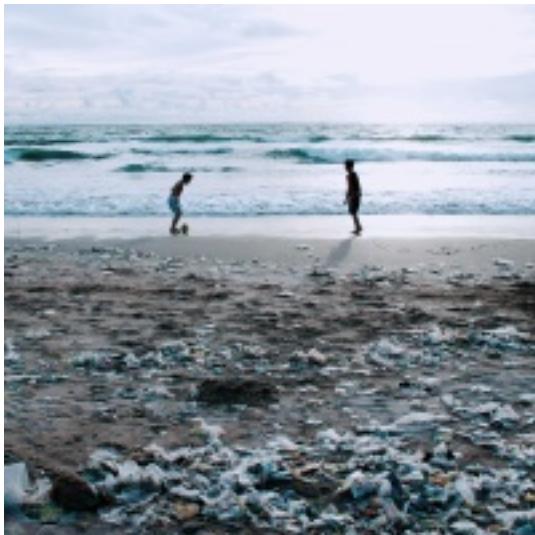


wanton

adjective

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

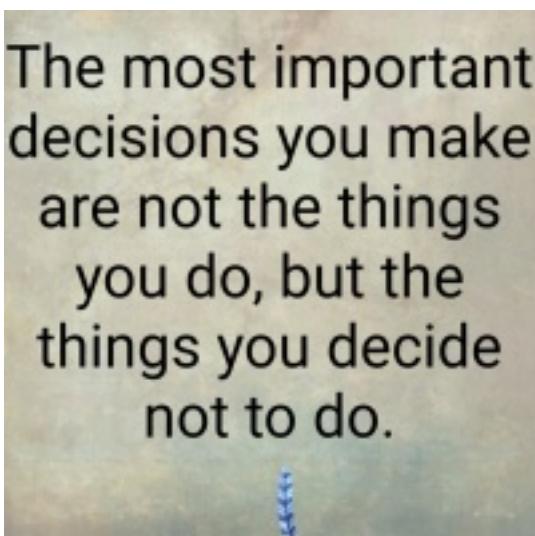
Basic Words 7



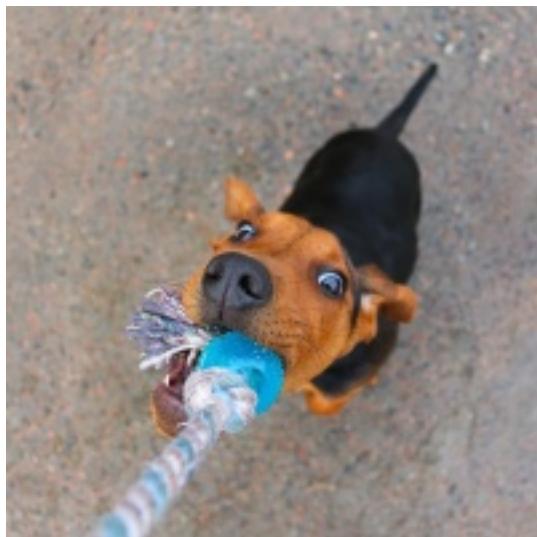
abysmal
adjective
extremely bad



amply
adjective
more than enough



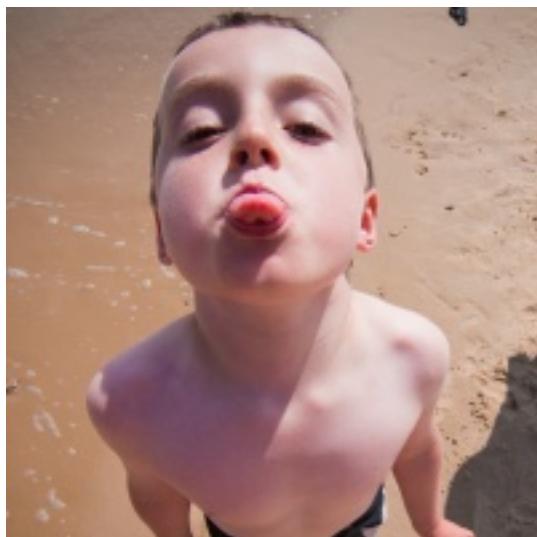
aphorism
noun
a pithy observation which contains a general truth



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*

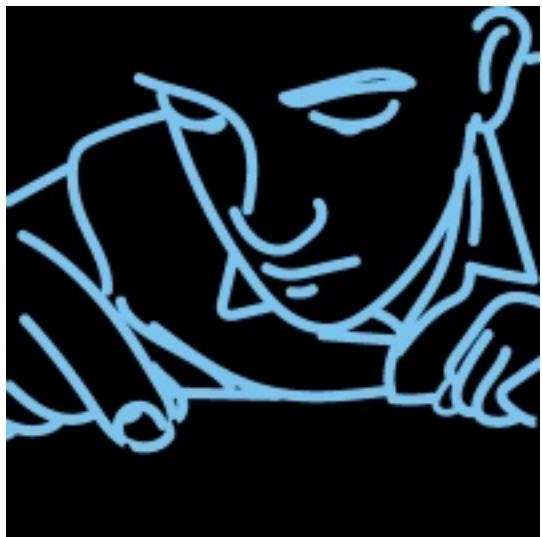
careful in one's speech or actions, especially to keep something confidential or to avoid embarrassment

**dispatch***verb*

deal with (a task or opponent) quickly and efficiently

noun

the property of being prompt and efficient



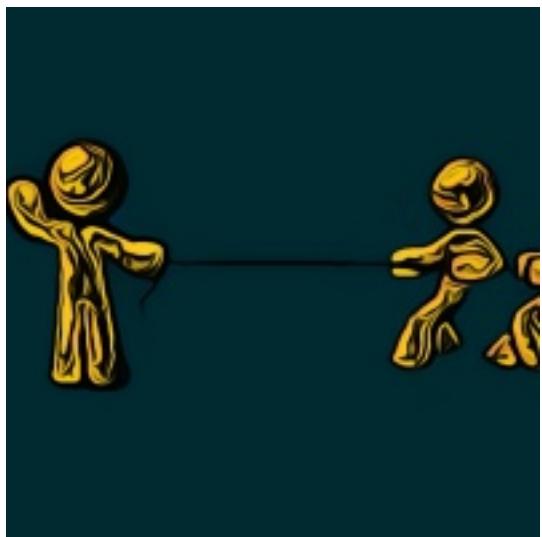
enumerate

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

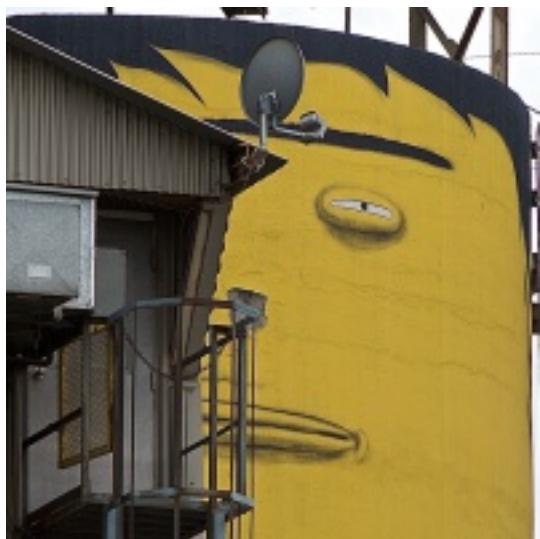
hinder the movement or progress of

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 are terrible commercial 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

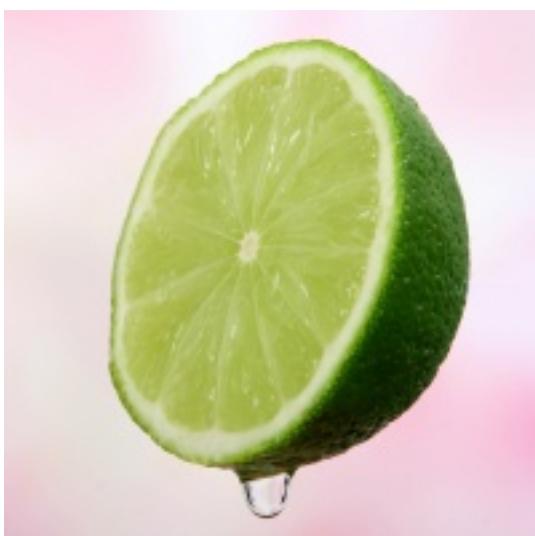
a deviation from what is normal or expected



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

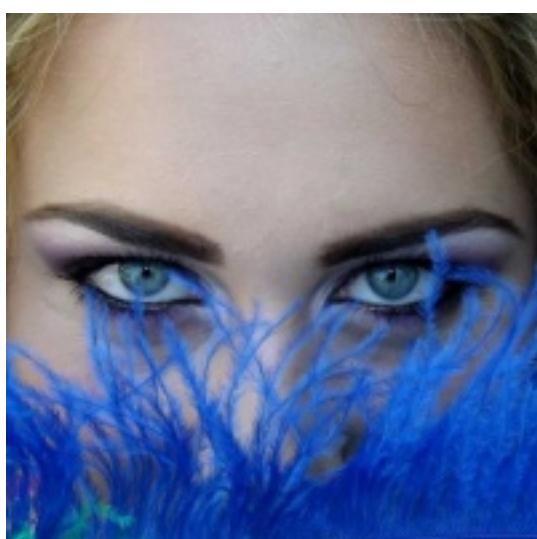
having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone



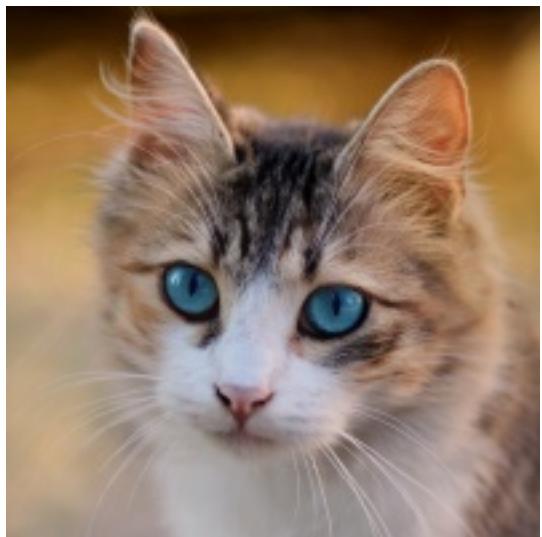
amenable
adjective
easily persuaded or controlled



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



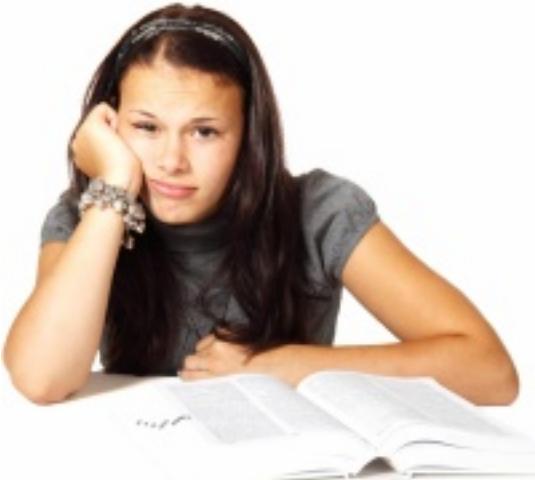
chastise
verb
reprimand severely



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



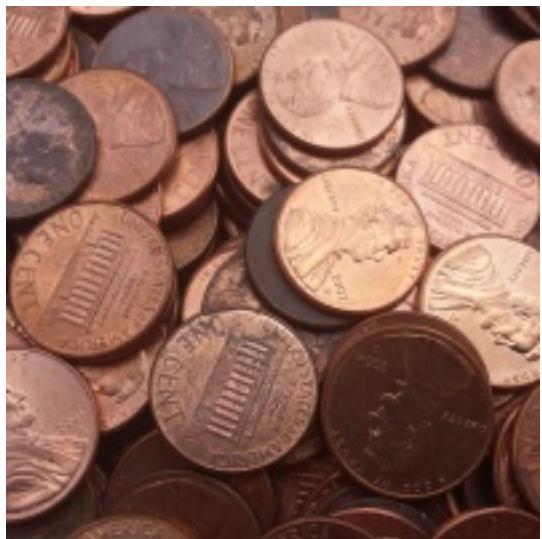
equivocal
adjective
open to more than one interpretation



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



extant
adjective
still in existence (usually refers to documents)



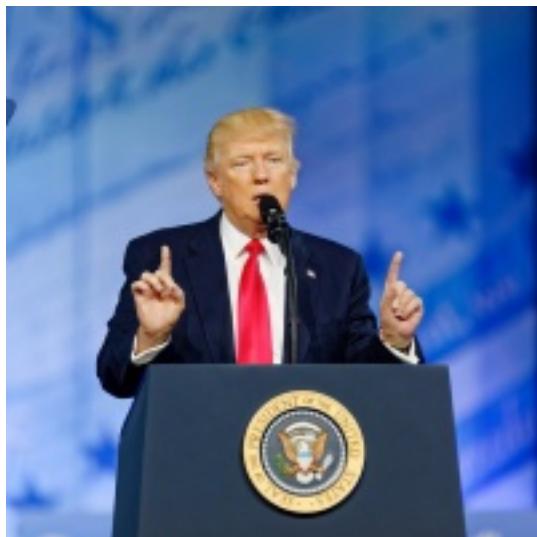
frugal
adjective
not spending much money (but spending wisely)



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

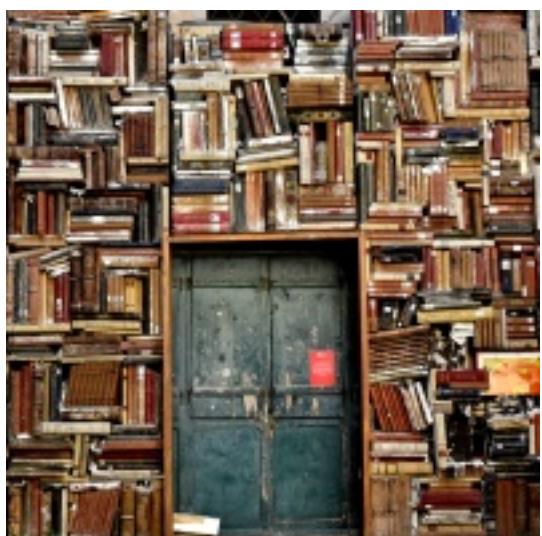
(of a person or action) innocent and naive



innocuous

adjective

not harmful or offensive



intimate

verb

to suggest (something) subtly

adjective

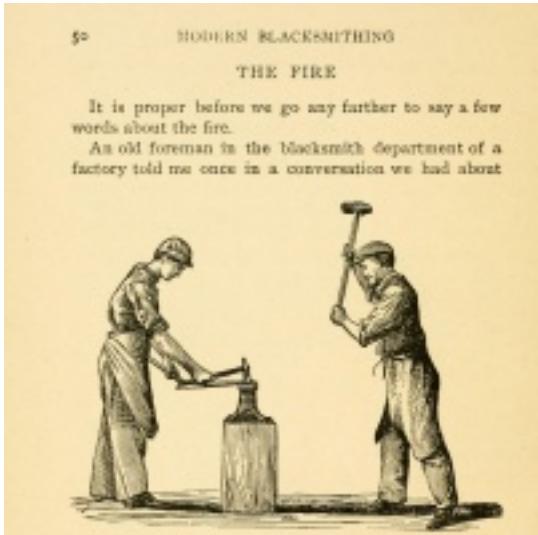
closely acquainted

adjective

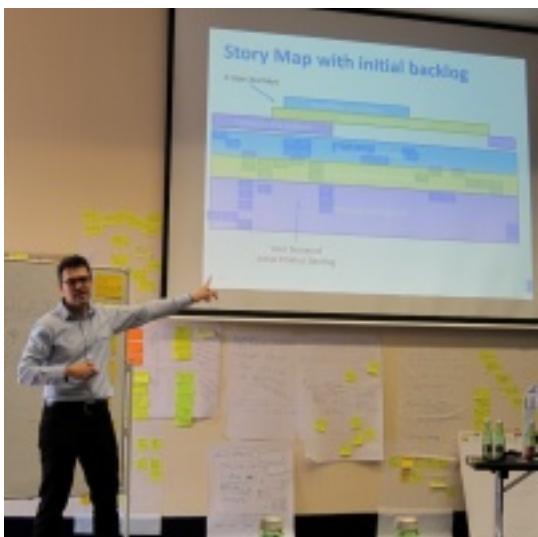
(of knowledge) obtained from a lot of studying or experience



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*

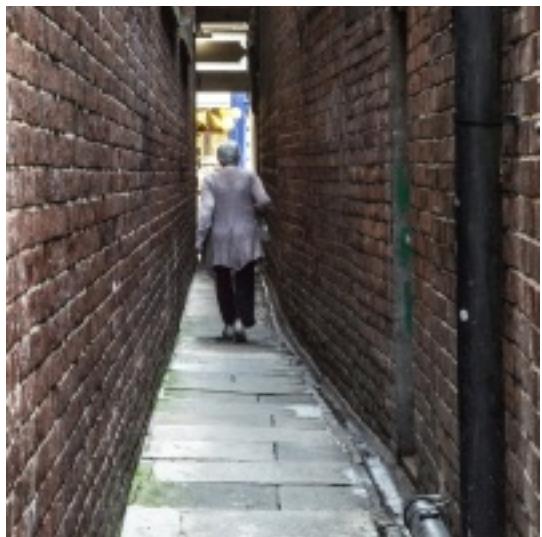
(of a person) prone to sudden or unpredictable changes in mood

**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

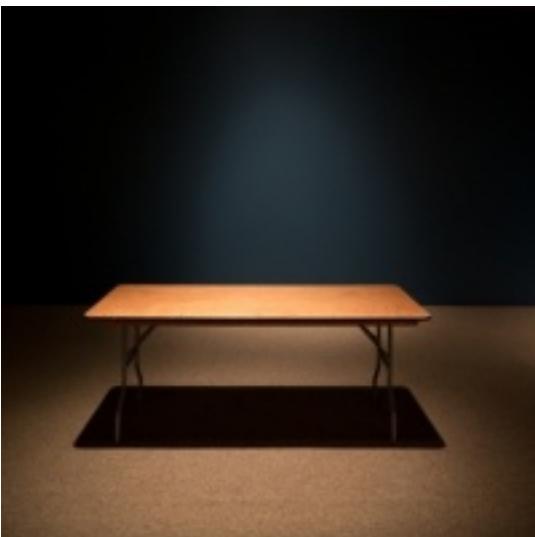




veracious
adjective
speaking the truth

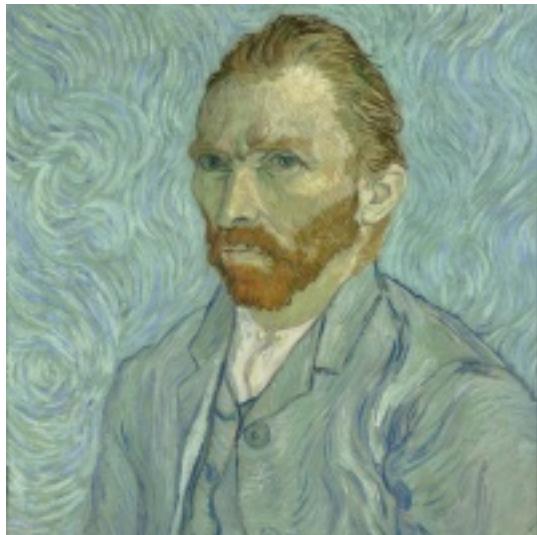


vindicate
verb
clear (someone) of blame or suspicion with supporting proof



wanting
adjective
lacking in a required quality

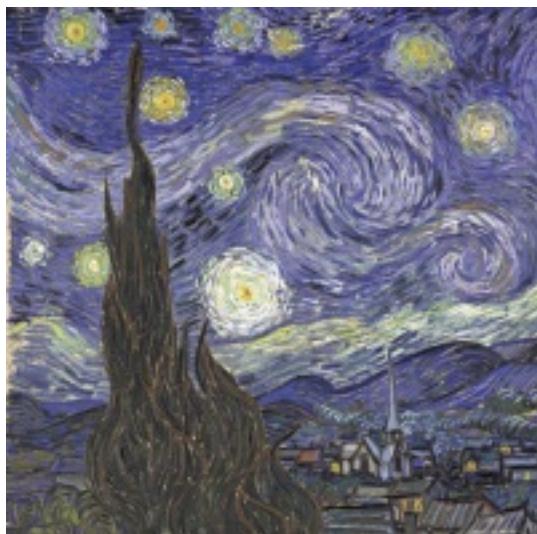
Common Words 2



aesthete

noun

a person who is appreciative of art and beauty



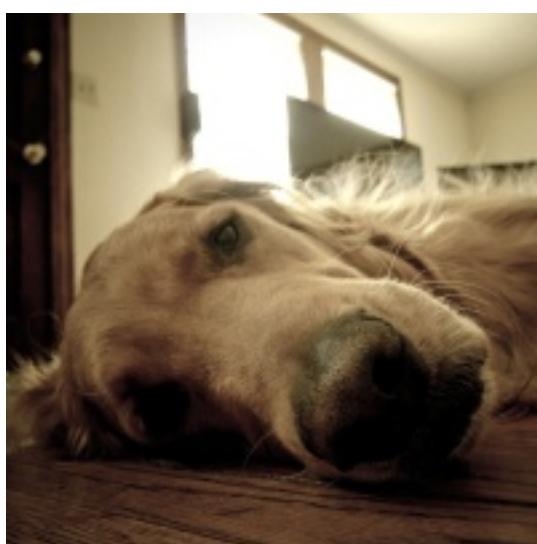
aesthetic

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

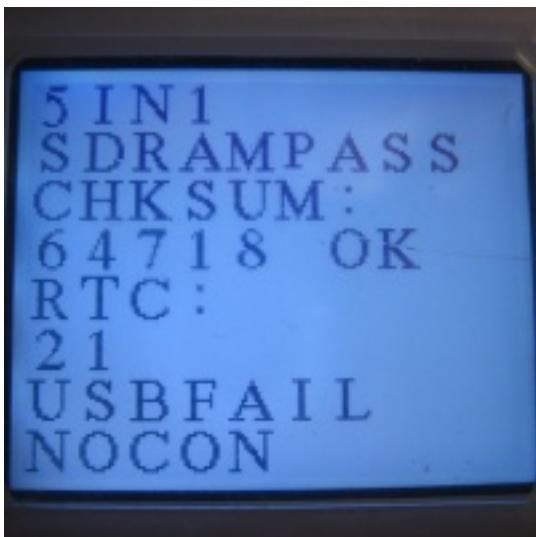
surrender or yield (a possession, right, or privilege)



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



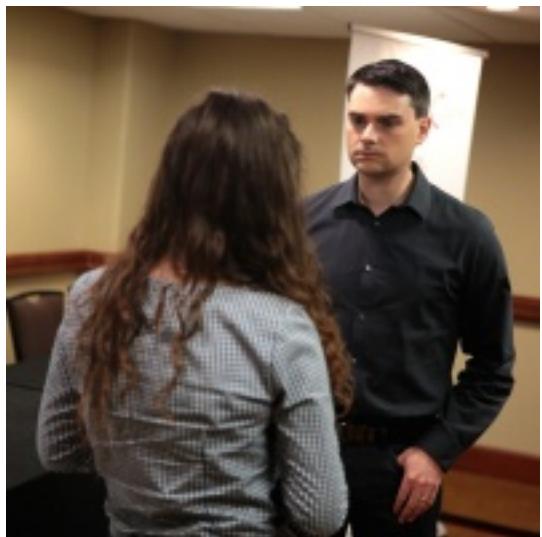
forsake
verb
abandon or leave



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)



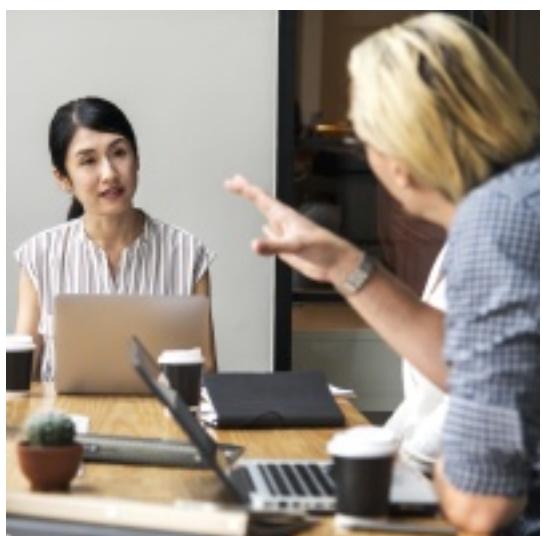
gall

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



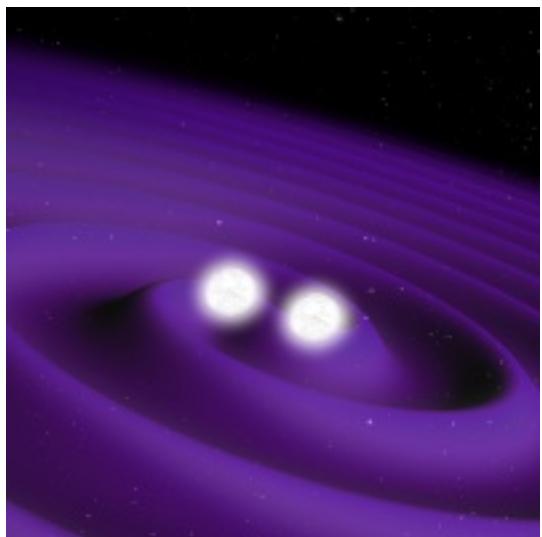
incisive

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

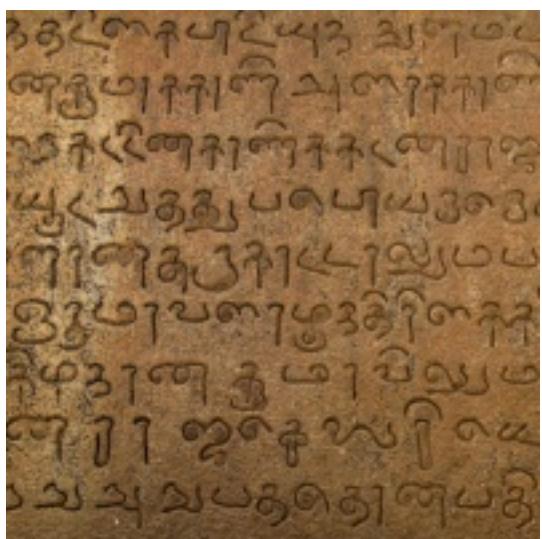
the fact of knowing something in advance



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



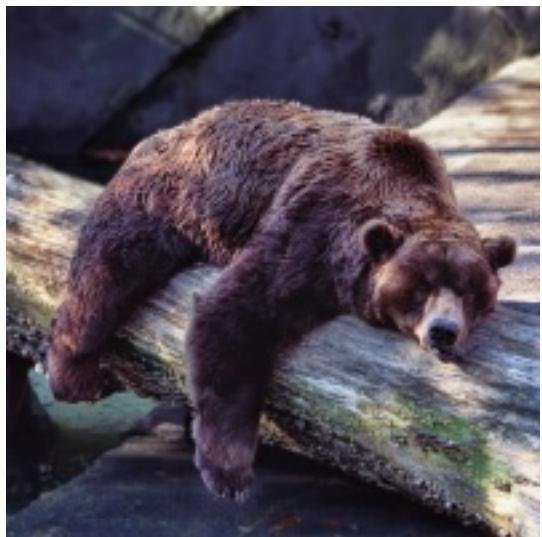
superfluous

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





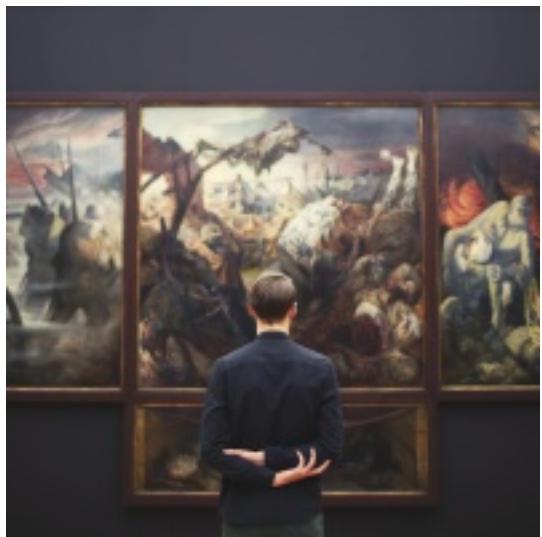
avaricious
adjective
excessively greedy



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*

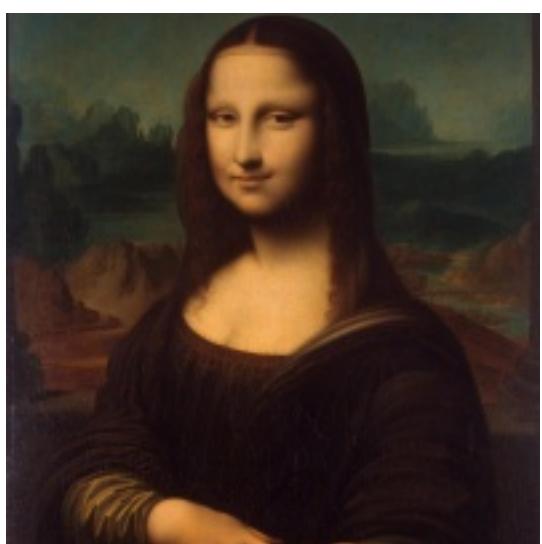
describe or portray (something) precisely



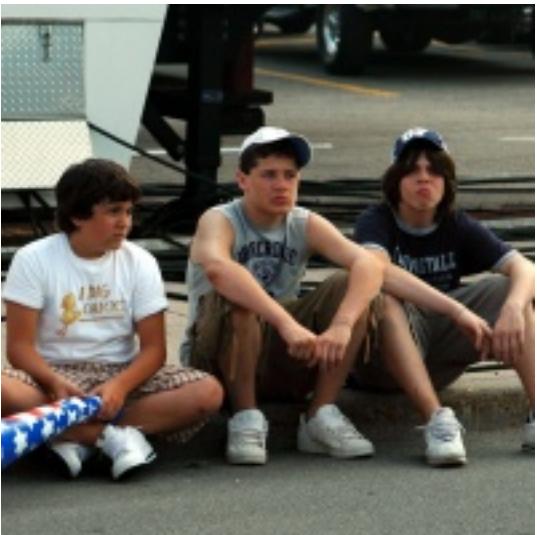
denote
verb
be a sign of



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

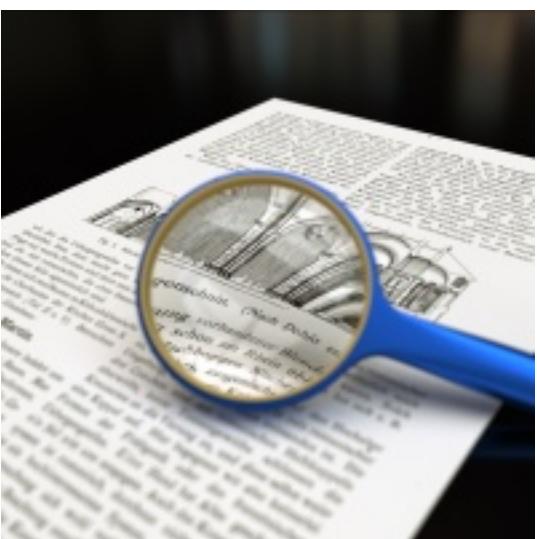
dissatisfied, especially with people in authority or a system of control



eclectic

adjective

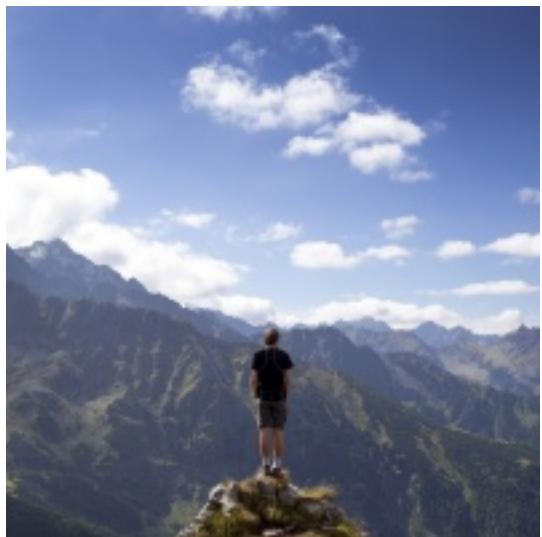
comprising of a variety of styles or ideas



elucidate

verb

make (something) clear



eminent

adjective

standing above others in quality or position



ephemeral

adjective

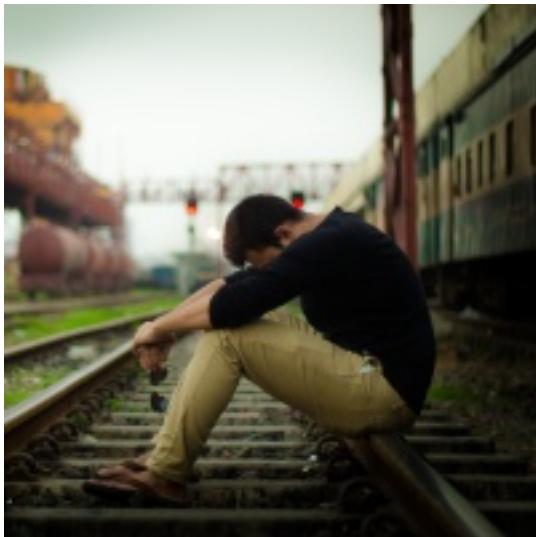
lasting for a very short time

$$2+2=5$$

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*

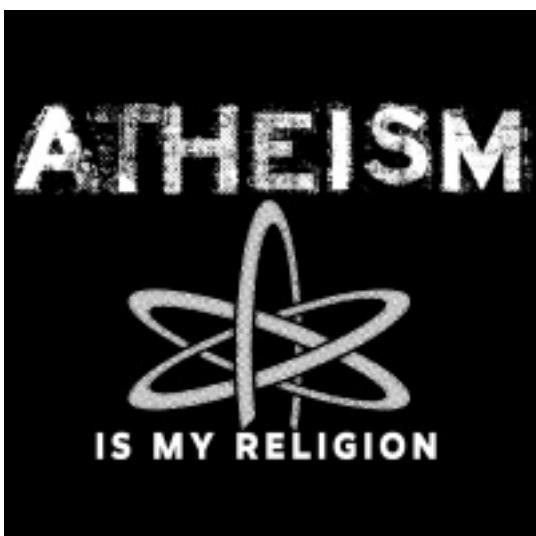
devoid of guile; innocent and without deception



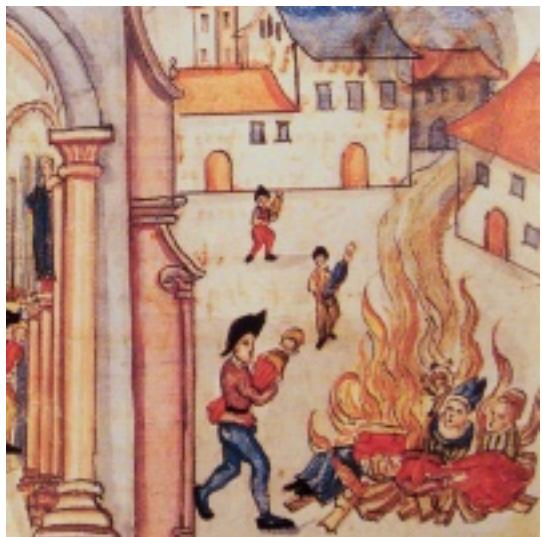
haughty
adjective
arrogantly superior and disdainful



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



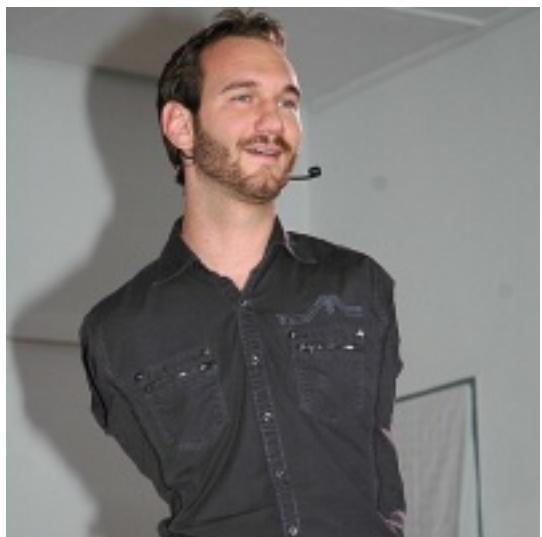
heretic
noun
a person who holds unorthodox opinions in any field (not merely religion)



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*

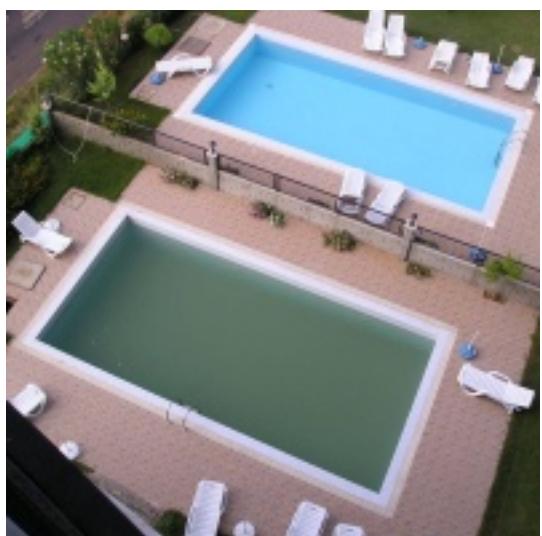
travelling from place to place, usually to work for a short period

**jingoism***noun*

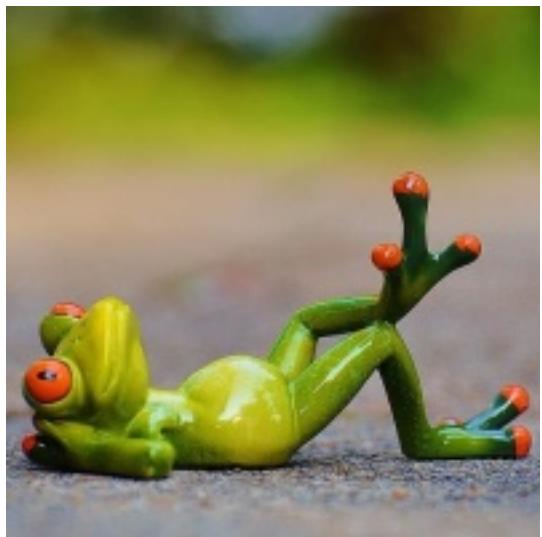
extreme patriotism, especially in the form of aggressive or warlike policy

**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*

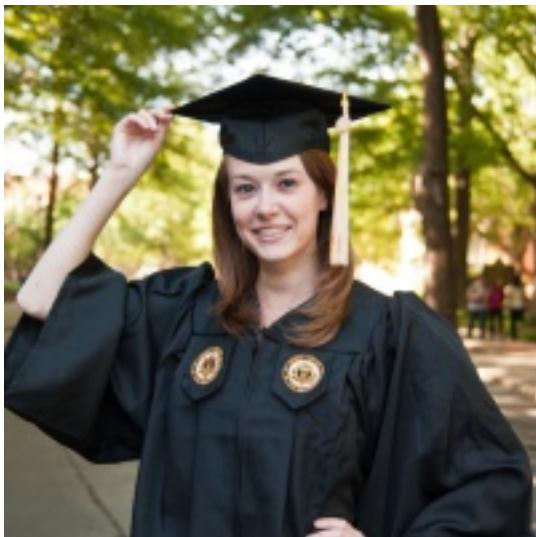
of or occurring every day



rudimentary

adjective

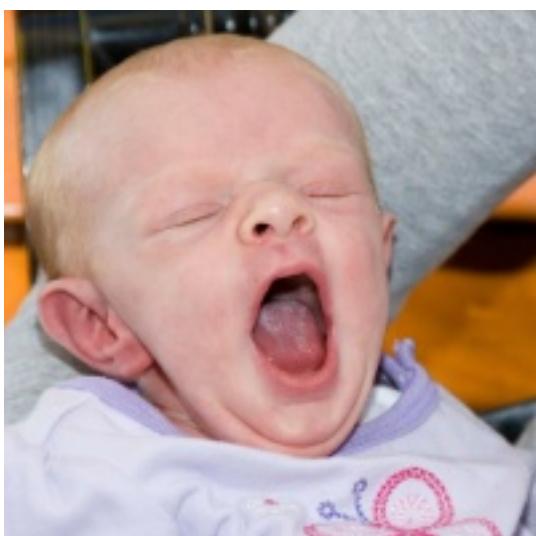
involving or limited to basic principles, relating to an undeveloped or basic form



scholar

noun

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



soporific

adjective

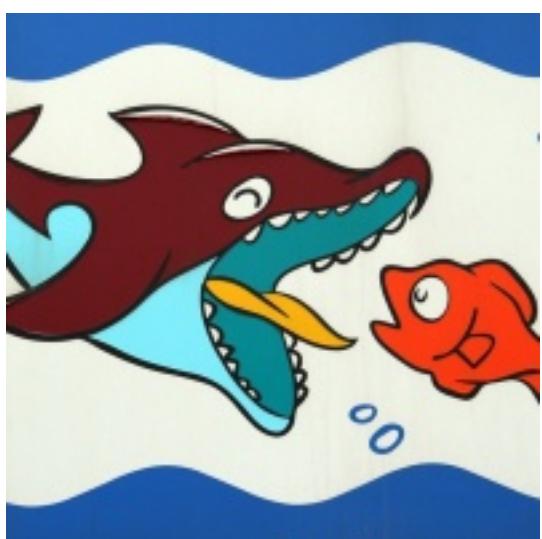
tending to induce drowsiness or sleep



spurious
adjective
plausible but false



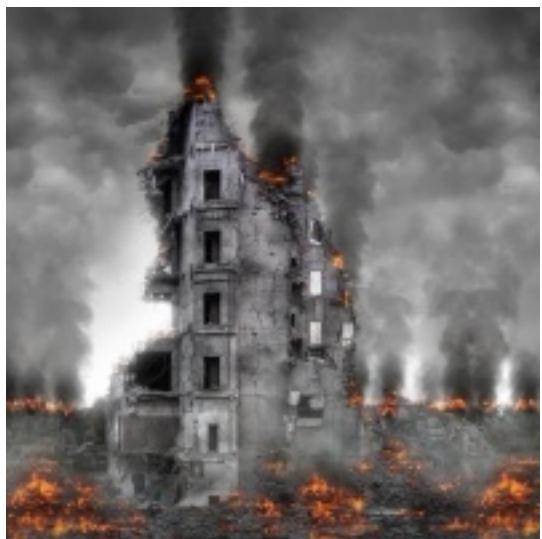
staunch
adjective
very loyal and committed in attitude



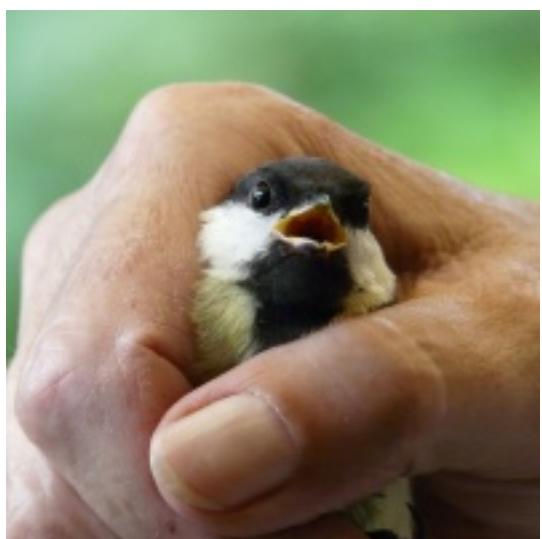
subsume
verb
to include (something or someone) as part of a larger group



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

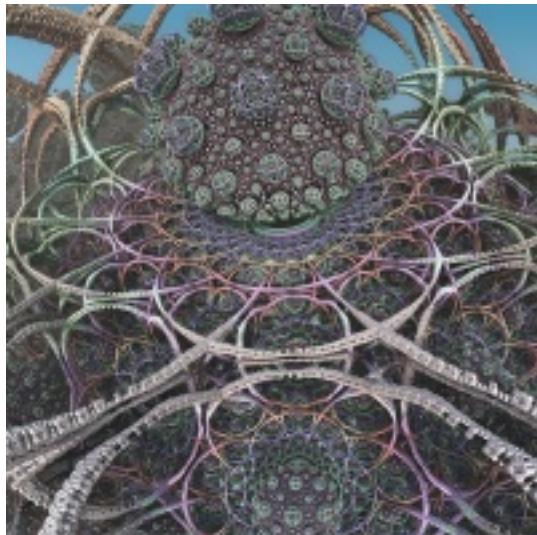


vilify

verb

spread negative information about (someone or something)

Common Words 4



abstruse

adjective

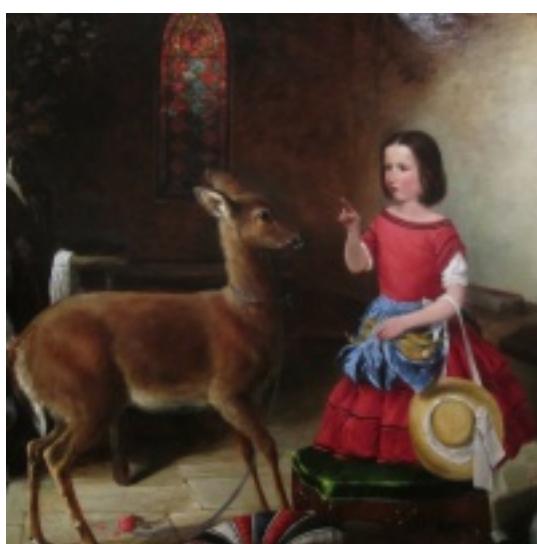
difficult to understand



adamant

adjective

refusing to be persuaded or to change one's mind



admonish

verb

warn or reprimand someone firmly



admonitory

adjective

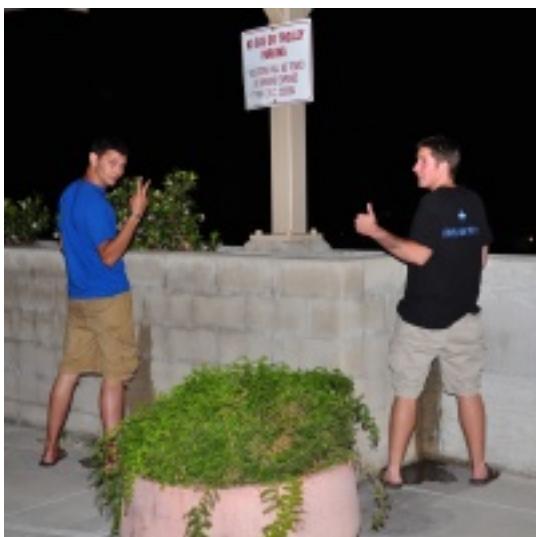
giving or conveying a warning or reprimand



apocryphal

adjective

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



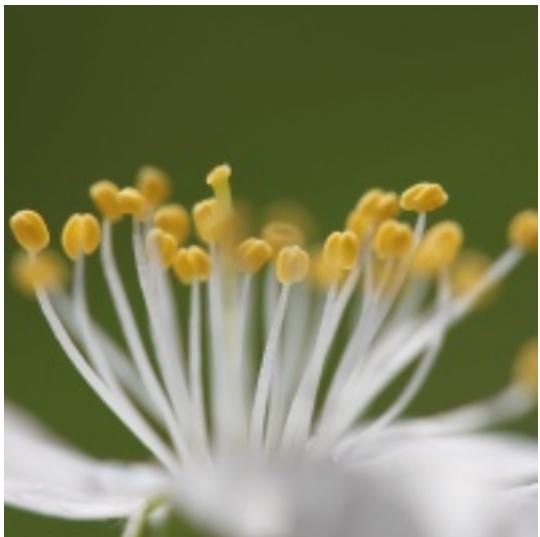
blatant

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

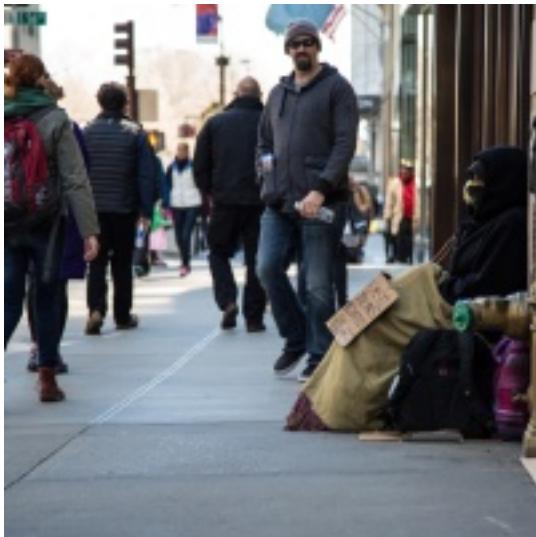
abundant in supply or quantity



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)



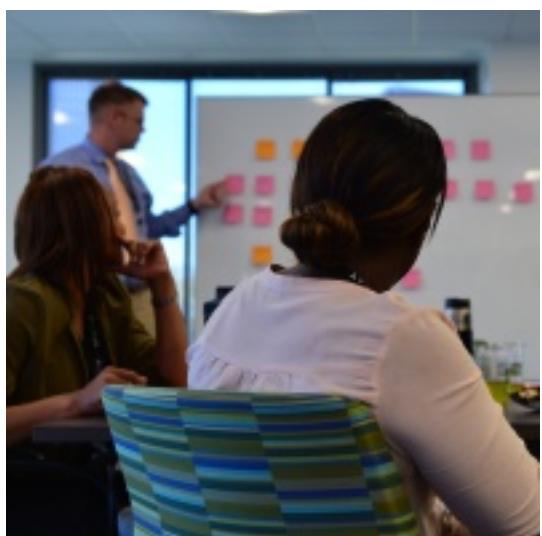
exonerate

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

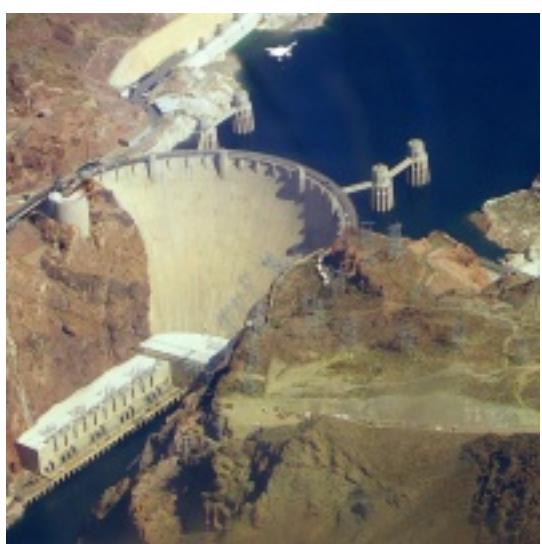
a mode of behaviour or way of thought peculiar to an individual



ignoble
adjective
not honourable in character or purpose



ignoramus
noun
an ignorant or stupid person



impervious
adjective
not allowing fluid to pass through
adjective
unable to be affected by



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

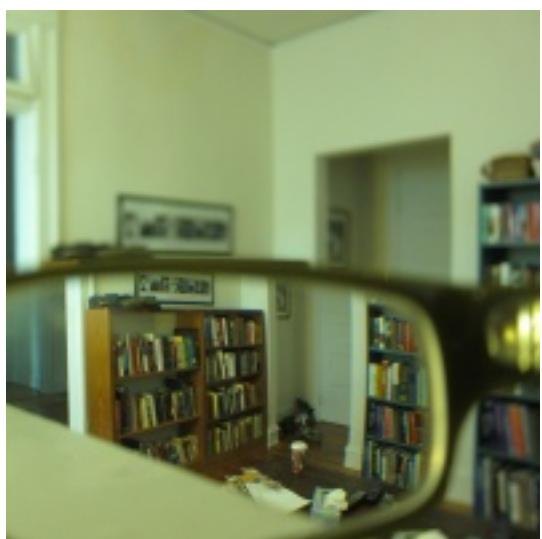
generosity in bestowing money or gifts upon others



laudable

adjective

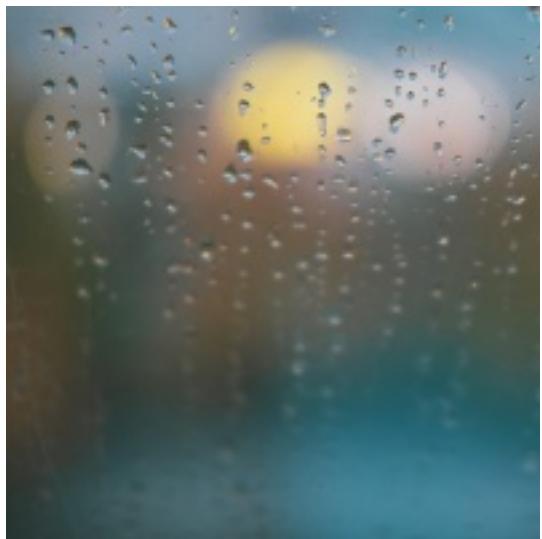
(of an action, idea, or aim) deserving praise and commendation



myopic

adjective

lacking foresight or imagination



opaque
adjective
not able to be seen through



ostentatious
adjective
intended to attract notice and impress others



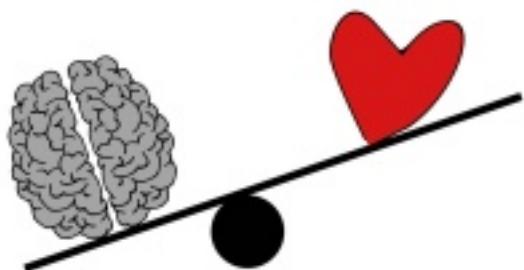
pedantic
excessively concerned with minor details or rules



petulant

adjective

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



pragmatic

adjective

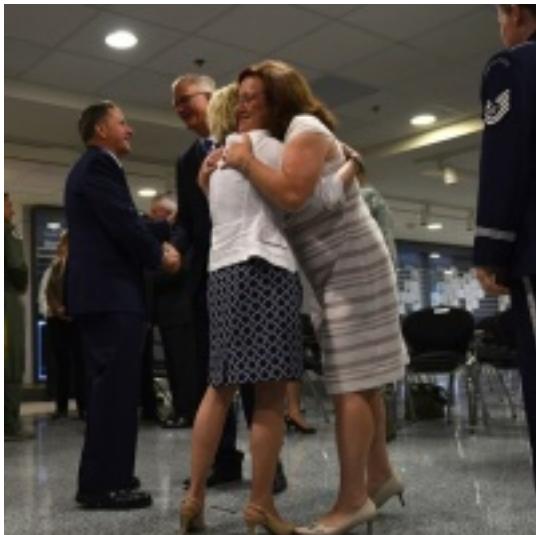
guided by practical experience and observation rather than theory



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



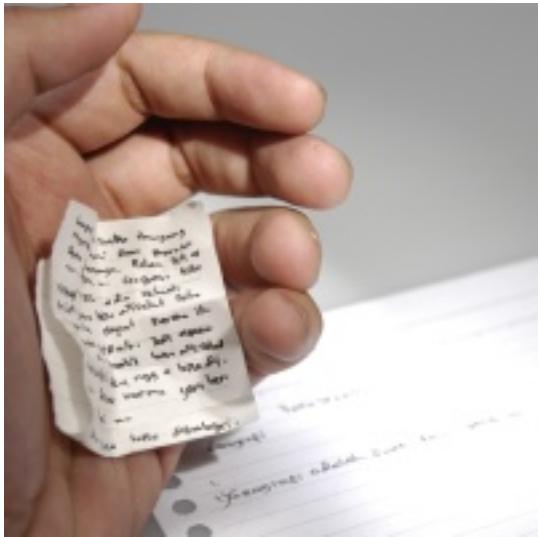
temperance
adjective
control of your own behaviour, such as not drinking or eating too much



tortuous
adjective
ful 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

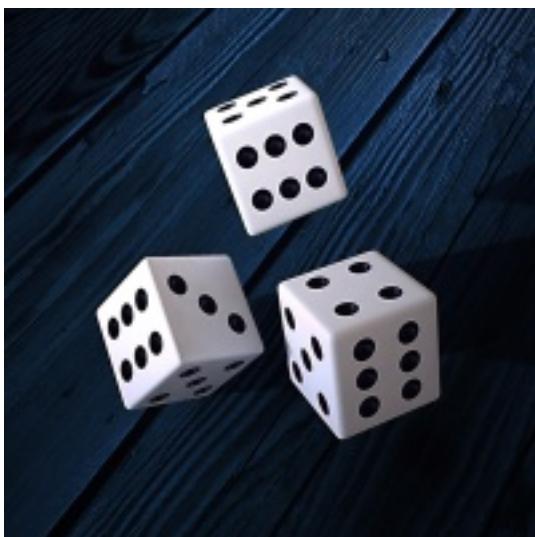
an award or privilege granted as a special honour or as an acknowledgement of merit



antithetical

adjective

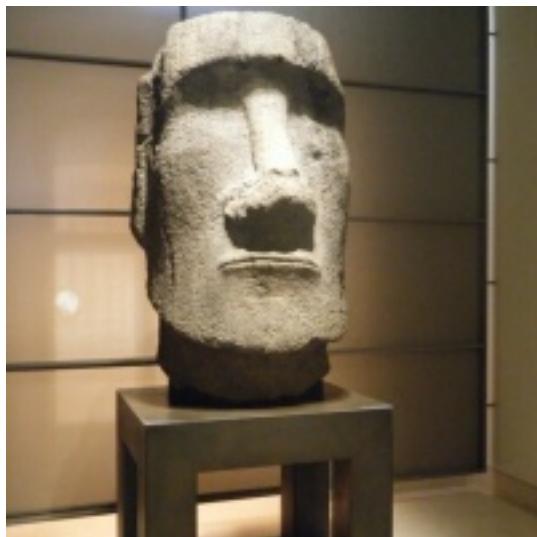
sharply contrasted in character or purpose



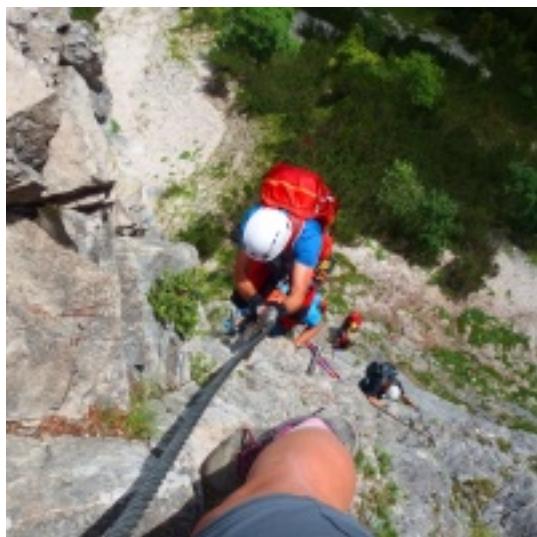
arbitrary

adjective

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



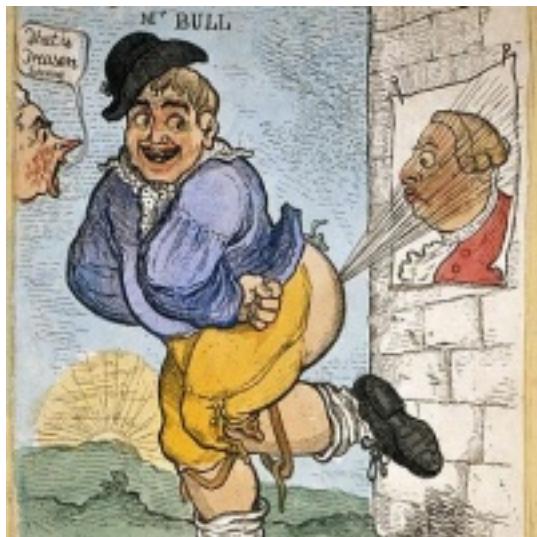
arcane
adjective
understood by few
notes:
A moai statue, very few people have an understanding of the stone heads.



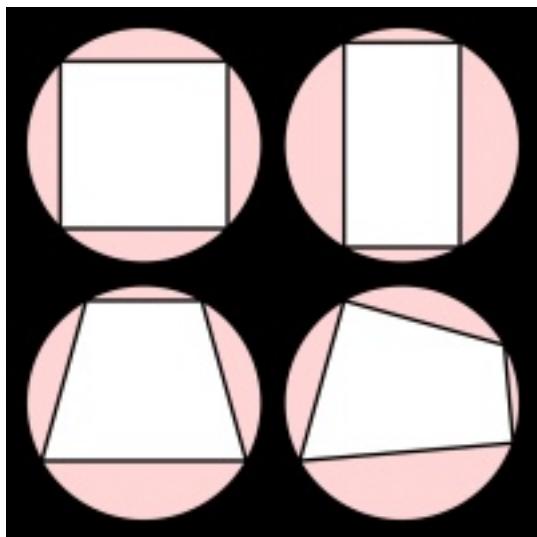
audacity
noun
a willingness to take bold risks
noun
rude or disrespectful behaviour



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

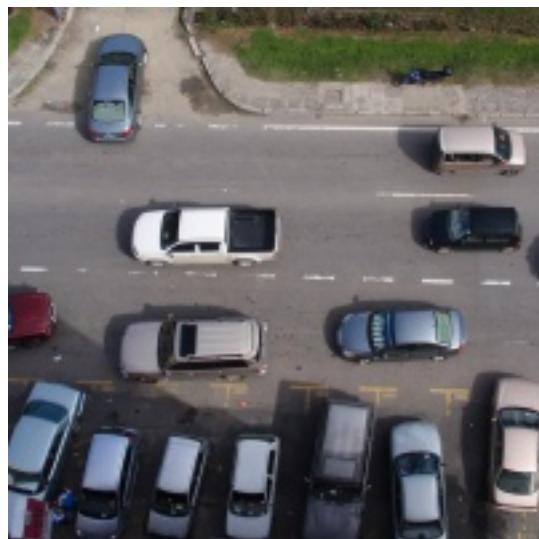


garrulous

adjective

excessively talking, especially on trivial matters

gauche
adjective
unsophisticated and socially awkward



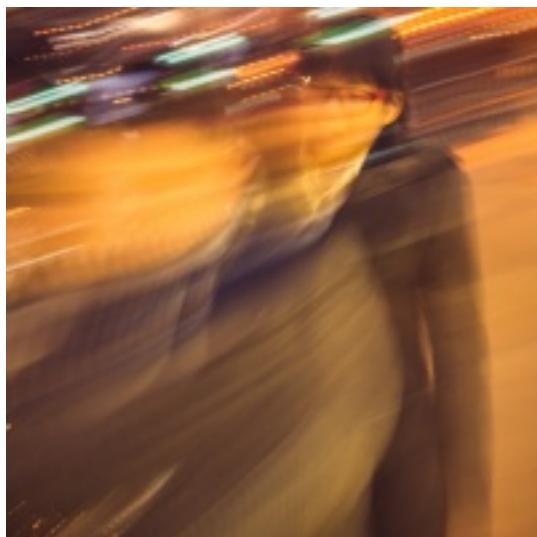
haphazard
adjective
lacking any obvious principle of organization,
marked by great carelessness



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



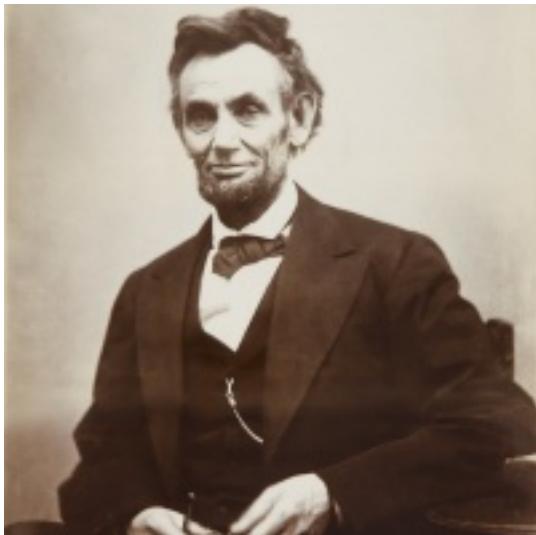
intrepid
adjective
fearless



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:

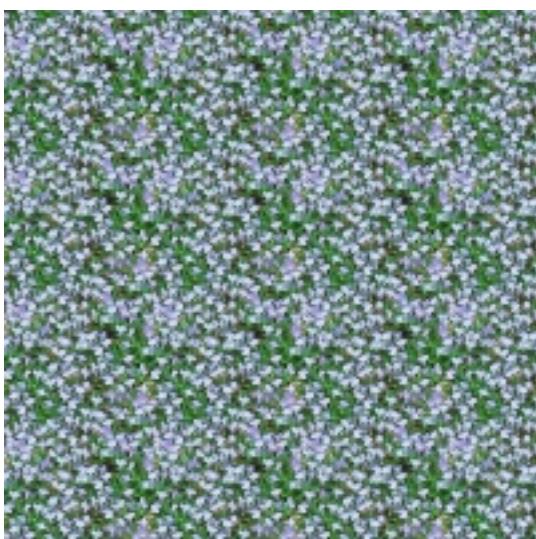
Abraham Lincoln, the photograph was taken on 5 February 1865.

**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

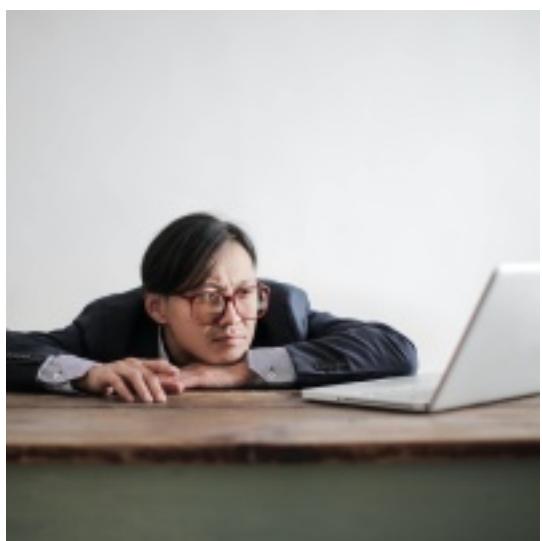
showing servile obedience, attempting to win favour from influential people by flattery



ostracize

verb

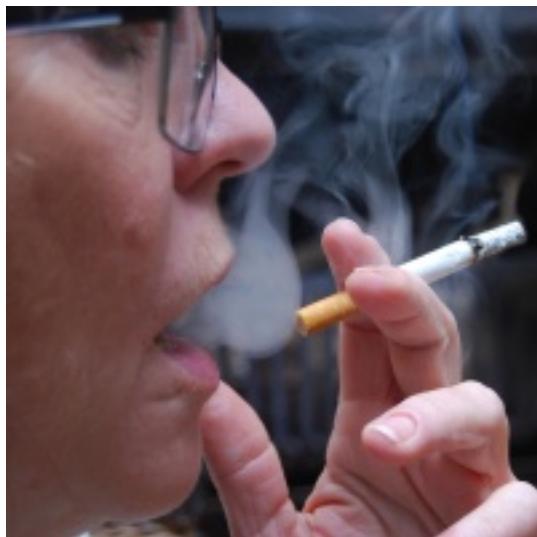
exclude from a society or group



pedestrian

adjective

lacking inspiration or excitement



pernicious

adjective

having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual subtle way



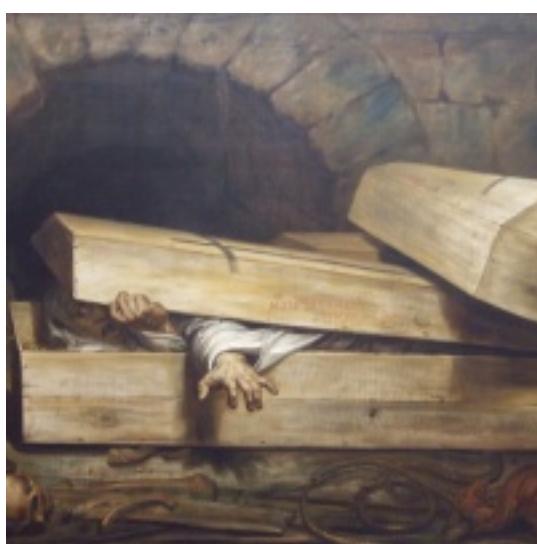
poignant

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



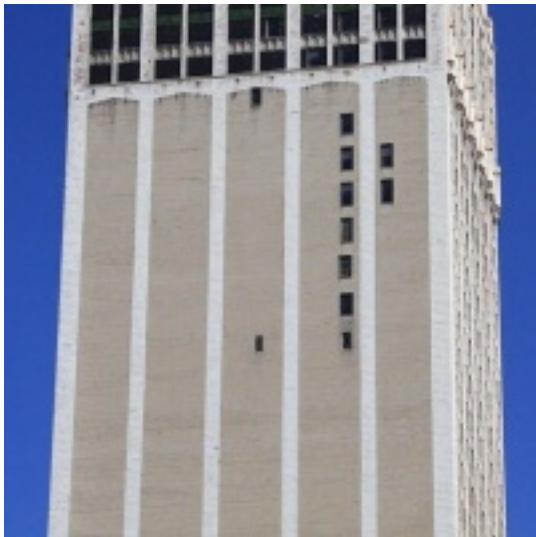
sanction

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

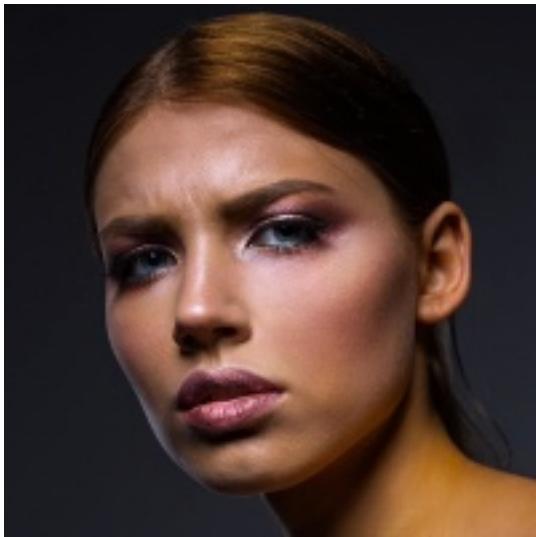
pacify (someone) by acceding to their demands



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



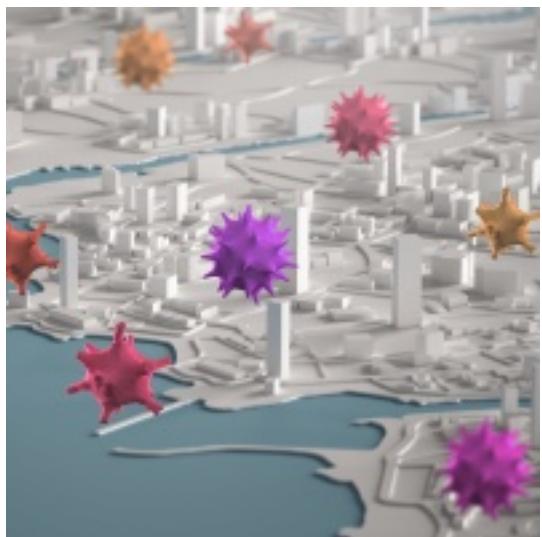
deleterious
adjective
causing harm or damage



dilatory
adjective
intended to cause delay

**dispassionate***adjective*

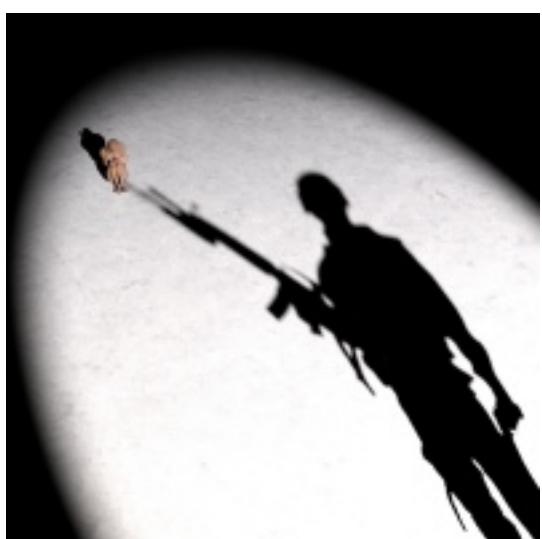
not influenced by strong feeling, and so able to be rational

**disseminate***verb*

spread (something) widely

notes:

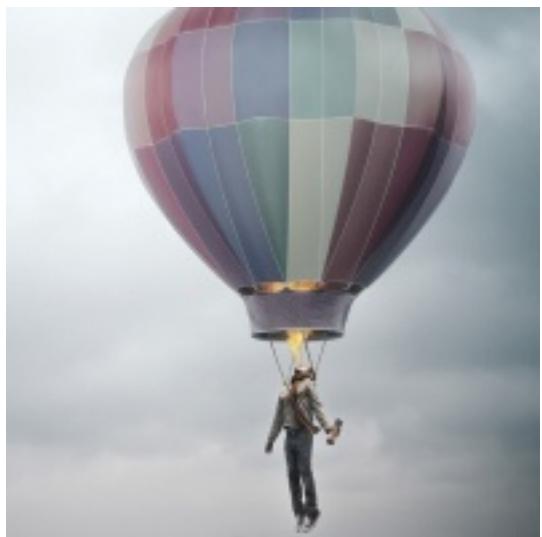
Virus spreading across city.

**duress***noun*

threats used to force a person to do something



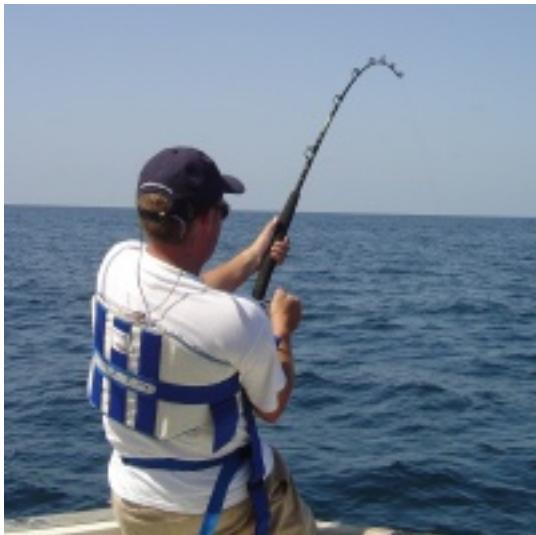
economical
adjective
marked by careful and efficient use of resources



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*

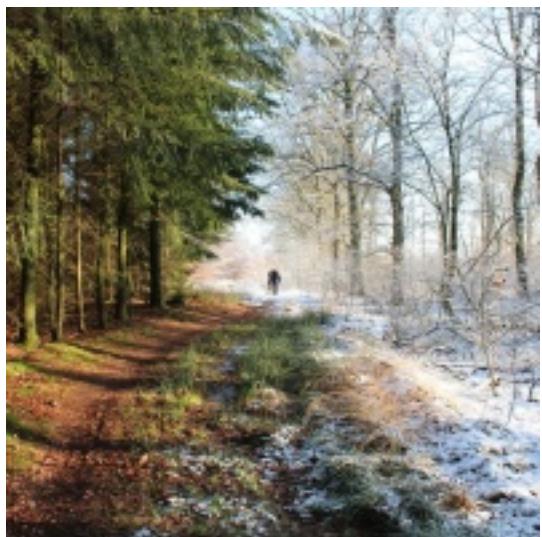
understood by only a small number of people with specialized knowledge or interest

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*

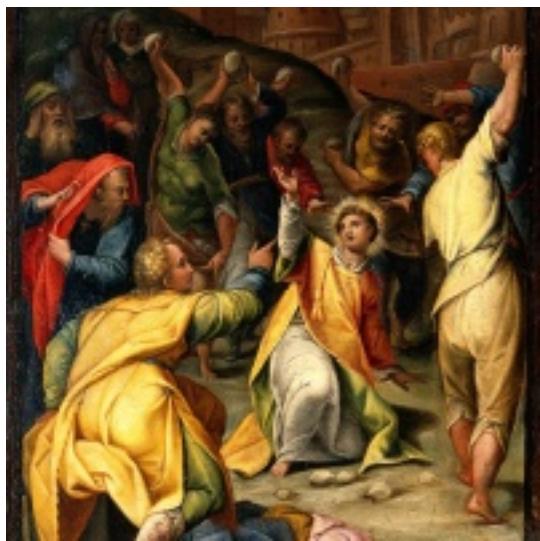
attempting to avoid notice or attention, typically because discovery would lead to trouble



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



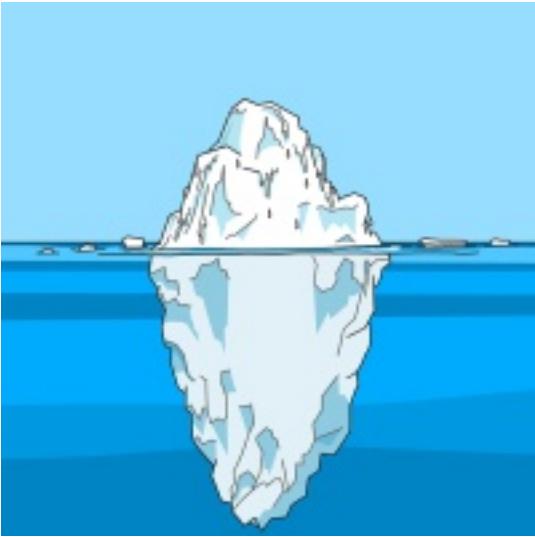
maladroit
adjective
lacking adroitness



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

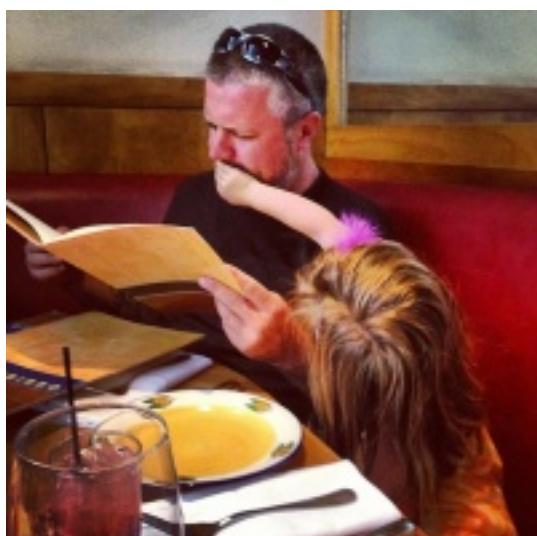
a subtle difference in meaning, expression, or sound



opulence

noun

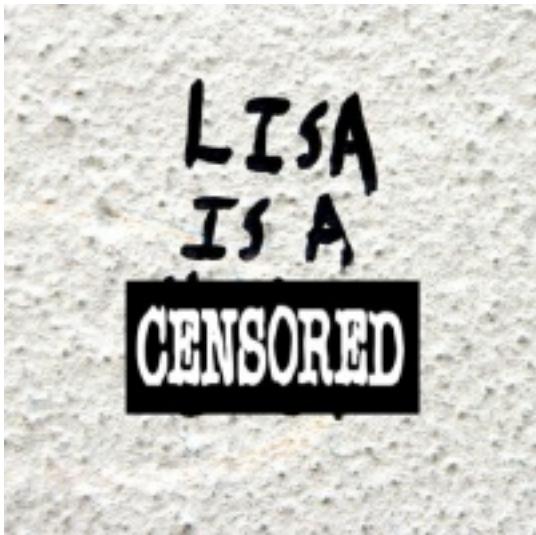
great wealth or luxuriousness



pejorative

adjective

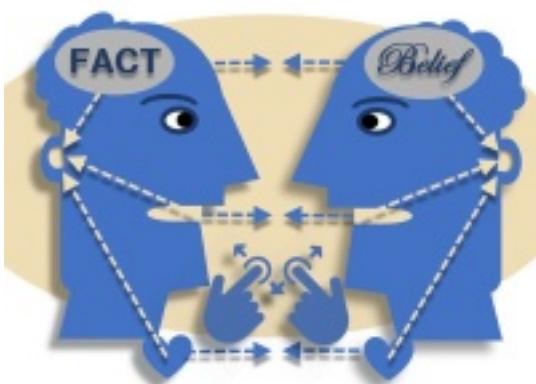
expressing contempt or disapproval



polemic

noun

a strong verbal or written attack on someone or something



posit

verb

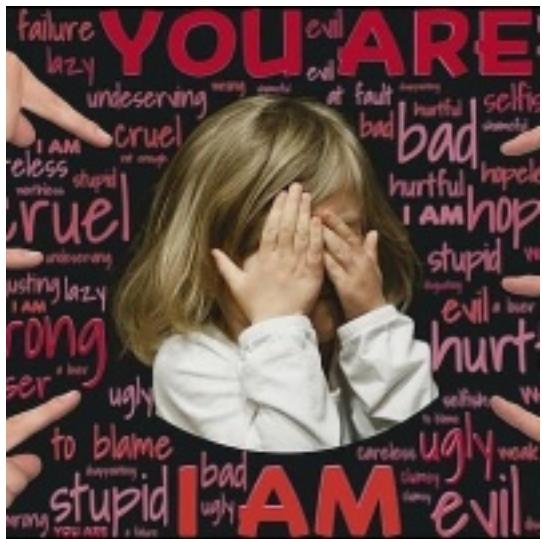
assume as fact or as a basic for argument



rebuke

verb

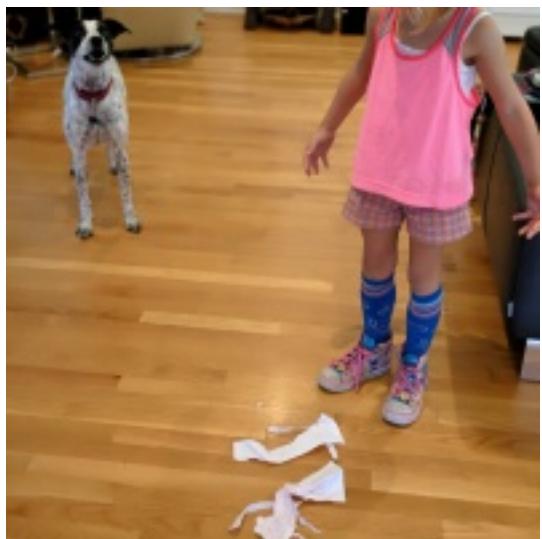
express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behaviour or actions



reproach

verb

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

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